Last Wednesday, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) took several actions that directly impact the activities of or are significant interest to local education agencies. A summary is provided below.

For more information or questions, please contact Ryan Gremillion.

**Approval of the Louisiana K-12 Content Standards for Science**

[Louisiana Revised Statute 17:24.4](https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=80356) requires BESE to develop state academic content standards to be taught in the Louisiana public elementary and secondary schools for required subjects. In June 2016, BESE approved a plan for the review of academic content standards in science. Committees and workgroups comprised of representatives from local education agencies (LEAs), professional associations, postsecondary education, parents, and business and industry began the science standards review process in August 2016 and, in February 2017, developed final recommendations for BESE’s consideration. At its March meeting, BESE approved as Notice of Intent the Louisiana K-12 Content Standards for Science.

[Click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AK9M2U592E34/%24file/AGII_6.3_B1962_Amended_mar_2017.pdf) for the proposed Louisiana K-12 Content Standards for Science.

**Revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, Bulletin 741 (Nonpublic), *Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*, relative to science requirements for the TOPS University Diploma pathway**

[House Resolution 154 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session](http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1005811) requested that the LDE, in consultation with the Board of Regents (BoR) and the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LSFAC), study and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of allowing a course in Human Anatomy and Physiology to serve as a science course for purposes of satisfying high school graduation requirements and for determining student eligibility to receive a Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award. In December 2016, BESE and the BoR approved Human Anatomy and Physiology for TOPS scholarship eligibility. At its March meeting, BESE approved revisions to bulletins to include Human Anatomy and Physiology as an approved science course for purposes of satisfying TOPS University diploma requirements. These revisions provide for full alignment of the TOPS University diploma, BoR admissions, and the TOPS scholarship.

[Click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AJSQJ9682E13/%24file/BESE_Human%20Anatomy%20and%20Physiology_B741%20%28public%29%20Policy%20Update.pdf) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, and [click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AJSQJ7682DF7/%24file/BESE_Human%20Anatomy%20and%20Physiology_B741%20%28non-public%29%20Policy%20Update.pdf) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741 (Nonpublic), *Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*.

**Revisions to Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*, related to early childhood tax credits and federal mandates within the Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund State Plan**

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*, to align the Louisiana School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC) with the universal rating system and new child care teacher credential in order to increase kindergarten readiness.

[Click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AJSUKA7C63FD/%24file/AGII_5.1_B139_Mar_2017.pdf) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 139, Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs.

**Approval of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Formula for FY 2017-2018**

The Board approved the proposed FY 2017-2018 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula. This proposed formula will be considered in the upcoming regular legislative session. [Click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AK4SQJ73C8D3/%24file/AF_4.1_Proposed_FY2017_18_MFP_Resolution_%28FINAL%29.pdf) to view the proposed formula.

**Approval of Allocations**

The Board approved several allocations of funding to local school systems at last week’s meeting, including funding for Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood, school redesign planning, teacher preparation support, and flood impacted LEAs.

[Click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/AK48F81E0E77/%24file/AF_5.1_March_CHART-Comp_and_Other_updated.pdf) to view the list of allocations approved at last week’s meeting.