

2019 Regular Session

The Louisiana Legislature adjourned the 2019 Regular Legislative Session on June 6, 2019. Below are summaries of new laws and legislative resolutions relative to early childhood and K-12 education policy. To search for other legislative instruments, please visit www.legis.la.gov. Contact erin.bendily@la.gov with any questions.

Academic Planning

[Act 116](#) (HB 239) by Rep. J. Harris: Requires instruction on the process and responsibilities, including repayment and default, of borrowing money to fund postsecondary education opportunities as part of financial literacy instruction.

[Act 236](#) (HB 482) by Rep. G. Carter: Provides for the development and presentation of academic improvement plans. Requires schools to consult with parents relative to plan development, revises the annual deadline for plan presentation, and requires the local superintendent to report the presentation date annually to the state Department of Education.

[Act 395](#) (HB 266) by Rep. Emerson: Provides for pupil progression, removing requirements that remediation be offered during the summer (although summer remediation may be offered voluntarily), and requires that pupil progression plans be made publicly available.

Charter Schools

[Act 377](#) (HB 156) by Rep. Pugh: Provides for regulations and standards for the construction, design, equipment, and operation of school buses and provides for the use of certain radio telecommunication devices by school bus operators.

[Act 431](#) (HB 225) by Rep. Edmonds: Provides for the sale or transfer of charter school facilities financed through tax-exempt bonds.

Early Childhood

[Act 51](#) (SB 76) by Sen. Tarver: Provides for child passenger restraint systems by increasing the age a child shall be restrained in safety seats, seat belts, and in the rear of a motor vehicle.

[Act 223](#) (HB 395) by Rep. S. Carter: Provides relative to a special fund for the purpose of funding early childhood care and education.

Finance

[Act 183](#) (SB 37) by Sen. Peacock: Authorizes the Office of Debt Recovery to collect delinquent debts on behalf of local government subdivisions, including public school systems.

[Act 422](#) (HB 208) by Rep. Brass: Provides relative to educational facilities improvement districts and the taxing authority of such districts.

[HB 62](#) (Const. Amendment) by Rep. S. Carter: Provides for appropriations from the Education Excellence Fund for Thrive Academy, laboratory schools operated by public postsecondary education institutions, and the Louisiana Education Television Authority.

[SCR 3](#) by Sen. Morrish: Provides for the legislative approval of the Minimum Foundation Program formula for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. (Note: See guidance sent to LEA business managers regarding this new MFP, including pay increases.)

School Personnel

[Act 90](#) (HB 20) by Rep. Pearson: Allows certain members of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System to withdraw from the system and leave accumulated contributions in the system until age 62.

[Act 387](#) (HB 618) by Rep. L. Harris: Revises requirements for certification, hiring, and dismissal of teachers and other school employees with respect to criminal history.

[Act 388](#) (HB 620): Provides relative to requirements for teacher certification (entry into post-baccalaureate programs).

School Safety

[Act 44](#) (SB 43) by Sen. Appel: Provides for student input in the annual review of school crisis management and response plans for high schools.

[Act 148](#) (HB 160) By Rep. Bouie: Requires LEAs to annually collect and report to the Department of Education certain information relative to school safety and discipline, including the numbers of school resources officers and student suspensions, expulsions, removals to alternative settings, referrals to law enforcement, and school-related arrests, and requires the Department to post such information on its website. (Note: LDOE data management staff will provide further guidance to LEAs about these reporting requirements.)

[Act 209](#) (HB 193) by Rep. Bacala: Revises procedures relative to students investigated for threats of violence or terrorism.

Special Education and Behavioral Supports

[Act 117](#) (HB 320) by Rep. Simon: Provides for access to applied behavior analysis providers in schools and requires public school governing authorities to adopt and make their policies on behavioral health services for students available to the public.

[Act 215](#) (HB 336) by Rep. Lyons: Exempts certain school-based behavioral health service providers from the Behavioral Health Services Provider Licensing Law

[Act 274](#) (SB 158) by Sen. Donahue: Requires each local public school superintendent and the administrative head of each charter school to create a special education advisory council.

Other/Miscellaneous New Laws

[Act 93](#) (HB 53) by Rep. Moss: Requires schools to report to the Department of Education their implementation of youth suicide prevention programs. Based on supporting documentation demonstrating compliance, the Department will designate such schools as Suicide Prevention Certified Schools and maintain a list of such schools on its website. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the governing authority of each public and state-approved non-public secondary school that issues student identification cards shall have printed on the cards the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number and a local suicide prevention hotline number, if available.

[Act 240](#) (HB 517) by Rep. Smith: Requires governing authorities of each public elementary and secondary school to adopt and publish on its website a policy for the assessment, collection, and use of fees charged to students or their parents or legal guardians and revise the policy annually as necessary.

[Act 316](#) (HB 403) by Rep. N. Landry: Provides that the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years shall be a holiday for public schools in certain parishes for the purpose of supporting elections.

[Act 355](#) (HB 184) by Rep. Henry: Establishes a crime of harassing school and recreational athletic contest officials.

[Act 398](#) (HB 321) by Rep. Simon: Authorizes public school governing authorities to adopt policies providing for student attendance at virtual schools for purposes related to habitual absence or tardiness.

[Act 420](#) (HB 100) by Rep. Gisclair: Provides for the maximum and minimum size of a school board in parish with a population of between ninety thousand and one hundred five thousand persons according to the most recent decennial census.

Urge and Request Resolutions

[HR 228](#) by Rep. McFarland: Urges and requests BESE to study challenges faced by rural school systems impacted by economic downturn resulting in decreased revenues and declining student populations.

[HCR 40](#) by Rep. Norton: Requests public school governing authorities to adopt policies requiring more extensive testing of the health of student athletes in Louisiana's secondary schools.

[HCR 62](#) by Rep. Duplessis: Requests BESE to study the feasibility of restructuring the MFP formula for the 2020-2021 school year to provide for differential funding for students with exceptionalities and report those findings.

[HCR 65](#) by Rep. Bishop: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to work with the Department of Education and the Louisiana School Boards Association to provide hunter education as a voluntary physical education elective in public high schools.

[HCR 108](#) by Rep. Simon: Urges and requests BESE to study the advantages and disadvantages of school calendar options for public schools.

[SR 7](#) by Sen. Mills: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Department of Education to coordinate an awareness effort to have children screened for scoliosis.

[SR 11](#) by Sen. Bishop: Requests the secretary of state and the state Department of Education to work together to develop age-appropriate, nonpartisan voter education materials to be used by all students in grades 3-12.

[SR 126](#) by Sen. Bishop: Requests the state Department of Education to develop materials for and promote implementation of programs to teach necessary, basic life skills to all public high school seniors.

[SCR 42](#) by Sen. Appel: Requests the Board of Regents, the Department of Education, the Workforce Commission and the Department of Economic Development to make recommendations for a large scale coordinated work-based learning model in Louisiana to bridge the gap between secondary and postsecondary education and the skills needed in the 21st century workplace.

[SCR 57](#) by Sen. Bishop: Urges and requests BESE to work with the governor and the legislature to develop a ten-year plan to increase teacher salaries to the level where Louisiana's average teacher salary is the highest in the nation.

Task Forces and Commissions

[Act 128](#) (SB 243) by Sen. Morrish: Creates the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force.

[HR 222](#) and [SR 182](#) by Rep. S. Carter and Sen. Donahue: Requests the Department of Education to establish the Louisiana Early Literacy Commission to study and make recommendations to develop and implement an aligned system to provide evidence-based reading instruction for children from birth through third grade.

[SCR 56](#) by Sen. Long: Requests the Office of the Attorney General to establish the Task Force on Protecting Children from Exposure to Pornography to study all issues related to the exposure of children to pornography and the impact it has on their lives.

[SR 226](#) by Sen. Boudreaux: Requests BESE to reconvene the Minimum Foundation Program Task Force to determine the actual cost of providing public education in Louisiana.