

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met October 17 and 18. A summary of board actions that directly impact the activities of local education agencies are listed below. Any bulletin revisions, with the exception of emergency rules, must run in the Louisiana Register as a Notice of Intent for 90 days and complete the rulemaking process before becoming rule and appearing in the bulletins on the BESE website. For more information or questions on any of these policy changes, please contact [Ryan Gremillion](#).

**Revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*, and Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*, relative to school and district accountability and student assessment**

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*, and Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices* to codify Louisiana's education plan pursuant to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System* and [here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*. These documents contain final revisions approved during the BESE meeting relative to points for students scoring at Basic and the transition to new science standards and assessments.

**Revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, relative to required minimum instructional time and end-of-course exams**

During the 2017 Regular Legislative Session, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, [Act 365](#) to allow the BESE and the state superintendent of education to approve waivers of required instructional minutes for schools that temporarily shared facilities, each holding school for part of the school day, due to the impact of a declared natural disaster or emergency. The law, while passed in 2017, was enacted to include schools eligible during the 2016-2017 school year. The Board approved revisions which align policy with Act 365 as well as waivers for qualifying schools in Ascension and Livingston parishes. [Click here](#) to view the form that eligible LEAs must complete to apply for this waiver going forward.

Approved revisions to Bulletin 741 also authorize local education agencies (LEAs) to determine, for spring 2018, whether English I, English II, algebra I, and geometry LEAP 2025 assessment scores shall be incorporated as a percentage of student final grades, and if so, shall be outlined in the LEA's Pupil Progression Plan.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*.

**Revisions to Bulletin 1566, *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures*, relative to student promotion**

Over the past few years, BESE and the Louisiana Legislature have enabled LEAs to make decisions relative to student promotion and remediation, based on a preponderance of evidence of student learning, rather than based solely on LEAP results. Those temporary policies are set to expire beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Therefore, BESE approved revisions to Bulletin 1566 that continue to support LEA flexibility with regard to student promotion while ensuring that struggling students have plans in place to address their academic weaknesses.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 1566, *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures*. The Department will release an updated Pupil Progression Plan template in next week's newsletter.

**Approval of Allocations**

The Board approved twelve allocations of funding to local school systems at last week's meeting, including funding to support the development of Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs, funding to support the design of competency-based teacher preparation programs, funding to prepare students with disabilities for employment and post-secondary educational opportunities, funding that directly supports and empowers districts to pursue high-quality initiatives that will transform educational opportunities for students attending Louisiana's lowest-performing schools, funding to support early childhood ancillary certificate programs, funding to support competitive athletic events for school-age students with disabilities, and funding to provide direct services to disabled and at-risk students in state operated programs. [Click here](#) to view a list of allocations approved by the Board.