

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 138

BY SENATOR MORRISH

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED. Provides relative to student eligibility for the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4013(2)(a), relative to the Student Scholarships for

3 Educational Excellence Program; to provide with respect to eligibility of students

4 entering kindergarten in the voucher program; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:4013(2)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §4013. Definitions

8 As used in this Chapter, unless otherwise clearly indicated, the following

9 terms mean:

10 \* \* \*

11 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who resides in Louisiana, is a member

12 of a family with a total income that does not exceed two hundred fifty percent of the

13 current federal poverty guidelines as established by the federal office of management

14 and budget, and who meets any one of the following criteria:

15 (a) Is entering kindergarten **and any of the following applies to the**

16 **student:**

17 **(i) Is in a public school system that assigns students to schools based**

1           ~~upon attendance zones and has enrolled in the local school system in which the~~  
2           ~~public school he would have otherwise attended is located~~ **received a letter grade**  
3           ~~of "D" or "F" or any variation thereof for the most recent year pursuant to the~~  
4           ~~school and district accountability system, or the student is in a public school~~  
5           ~~system that does not assign students to schools based upon attendance zones. or~~  
6           ~~in a school under the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District. Each local school~~  
7           ~~system or the Recovery School District shall conduct its annual kindergarten~~  
8           ~~enrollment process and shall report such enrollment to the department prior to the~~  
9           ~~program enrollment process.~~

10                   **(ii) Is the sibling of a scholarship recipient.**

11                   **(iii) Was enrolled in the Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development**  
12           **program at the school in which he is entering kindergarten.**

13   \*       \*       \*

14           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
15           signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
16           by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
17           vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
18           effective on the day following such approval.

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

---

#### DIGEST

SB 138 Original

2016 Regular Session

Morrish

Present law establishes a voucher program known as the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program.

Present law provides that to be eligible for a voucher a student shall reside in La., be a member of a family with a total income that does not exceed 250% of the current federal poverty guidelines, and shall meet any one of several criteria.

Present law provides that an entering kindergarten student is eligible for the voucher program if he has enrolled in the local school system in which the public school he would have otherwise attended is located or in a school under the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District.

Proposed law provides that an entering kindergarten student who meets any of the following criteria is eligible for a voucher:

- (1) Is in a public school system that assigns students to schools based on attendance zones and the public school he would have attended received a letter grade of "D" or "F" or the student is in a public school system that does not assign students to schools based upon attendance zones.
- (2) Is the sibling of a scholarship recipient.
- (3) Was enrolled in the Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development program at the school in which he is entering kindergarten.

Present law provides that each local school system or the Recovery School District shall conduct its annual kindergarten enrollment process and shall report such enrollment to the department prior to the program enrollment process.

Proposed law removes present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:4013(2)(a))