

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 309

BY SENATOR DONAHUE

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Provides relative to school improvement plans and requires trend data profiles to be provided to the governing authorities of public schools. (8/1/12)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:10.2 and to repeal R.S. 17:7(19), relative to the school and

3 district accountability system; to provide relative to certain requirements for

4 educational improvement plans; to remove certain requirements relative to

5 submission of school improvement plans; to require the Department of Education to

6 provide trend data reports to the governing authority of each public school; to repeal

7 provision relative to implementation of a school improvement pilot program; and to

8 provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:10.2 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §10.2. ~~School and district responsibilities; preparation for the school~~**School** and

12 district accountability system; **trend data profiles**; employee

13 incentive awards

14 ~~A. In preparation for the school and district accountability system, each~~

15 ~~school and each school district shall develop, modify, or both, any existing~~

16 ~~educational improvement plans for academic achievement by no later than April 1,~~

17 ~~1998, as follows:~~

1 (1) Each school shall provide for a plan for improving academic achievement
2 which shall be developed by educators, parents, and other community
3 representatives, based on a self-examination of previous trend data including student
4 test scores on the state norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests, student and
5 teacher attendance, dropout rate, and any other additional indicators deemed
6 appropriate.

7 (2) Based on the data, each school shall set specific goals or growth targets
8 for improving all or some of these factors by the end of the 1998-1999 school year
9 using information collected during school year 1996-1997 as their initial baseline.

10 (3) Each plan shall include those strategies that will be implemented to
11 improve academic achievement and are designed to help the school meet the growth
12 targets that each school has set. Each plan shall also identify any local or state policy
13 or state law modifications which would be beneficial in helping the school
14 implement its strategies for improvement.

15 (4) Each school shall submit its school improvement plan to its local school
16 board for review and approval by no later than May 1, 1998.

17 B. Each school board shall ensure that each school develops an improvement
18 plan focused on academic achievement which meets the requirements of this Section
19 by doing each of the following:

20 (1) Providing for assistance to every school for the development and
21 implementation of their school improvement plans.

22 (2) Reviewing and approving each school plan.

23 (3) Selecting at least twenty percent of the schools in each district which
24 shall consist of the lowest achieving schools in the district and providing those
25 schools additional assistance with their strategies designed to improve academic
26 achievement to meet their identified growth targets.

27 (4) Reviewing and considering modifications of local policies which schools
28 have identified in their school improvement plans.

29 (5) Reviewing and considering seeking a waiver from the State Board of

1 ~~Elementary and Secondary Education regarding any identified state policies, and~~
2 ~~compiling a list of requested state law changes and presenting this list to the state~~
3 ~~board.~~

4 ~~C.A.~~ By ~~October 1, 1997, the~~ **The** state Department of Education shall
5 provide to **the governing authority of** each **public** school a profile of its trend data
6 as gathered by the state pursuant to R.S. 17:3911 ~~beginning with school year 1994-~~
7 ~~1995.~~ The department shall ensure that all future reports as required pursuant to R.S.
8 17:3912 contain trend data for at least three years.

9 ~~D.B.~~(1) A city or parish school board may adopt written policies and
10 procedures to establish and implement for such employees of the board as it deems
11 appropriate an incentive compensation program providing for monetary awards
12 based on performance which meets or exceeds standards established for a school or
13 the school district, or both, pursuant to R.S. 17:10.1 and applicable policy of the
14 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education relative to the school and
15 district accountability system.

16 (2)(a) The amount of any monetary award provided to a school board
17 employee pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection shall be exempt from any
18 limitation in law prohibiting the amount paid to the employee in any school year
19 from being reduced below the amount paid during the previous school year or
20 prohibiting the amount paid to the employee from being reduced at any time during
21 the year, including but not limited to any such limitations in R.S. 17:421.3, 422.6,
22 and 431.

23 (b) The amount of any monetary award provided to a school board employee
24 pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection shall not be used in the calculation of
25 any other employee benefit provided for by law.

26 (3) For the purposes of this Subsection, "city or parish school board" shall
27 mean the governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school.

28 Section 2. R.S. 17:7(19) is hereby repealed.

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

DIGEST

Present law requires each school and each school district to develop and modify existing educational improvement plans for academic achievement by no later than April 1, 1998, in preparation for the school and district accountability system as follows:

- (1) Requires each school to provide for a plan for improving academic achievement to be developed by educators, parents, and other community representatives, based on a self-examination of previous trend data including student test scores on the state norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests, student and teacher attendance, dropout rate, and any other additional indicators deemed appropriate.
- (2) Requires each school, based on the data, to set specific goals or growth targets for improving all or some of these factors by the end of the 1998-1999 school year using information collected during school year 1996-1997 as their initial baseline.
- (3) Requires each plan to include those strategies that will be implemented to improve academic achievement and are designed to help the school meet the growth targets that each school has set. Provides for each plan to also identify any local or state policy or state law modifications which would be beneficial in helping the school implement its strategies for improvement.
- (4) Requires each school to submit its school improvement plan to its local school board for review and approval by no later than May 1, 1998.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law requires each school board to ensure that each school develops an improvement plan focused on academic achievement which meets the requirements of present law by doing each of the following:

- (1) Providing for assistance to every school for the development and implementation of their school improvement plans.
- (2) Reviewing and approving each school plan.
- (3) Selecting at least 20% of the schools in each district which shall consist of the lowest achieving schools in the district and providing those schools additional assistance with their strategies designed to improve academic achievement to meet their identified growth targets.
- (4) Reviewing and considering modifications of local policies which schools have identified in their school improvement plans.
- (5) Reviewing and considering seeking a waiver from the BESE regarding any identified state policies, and compiling a list of requested state law changes and presenting this list to the state board.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law requires the state Dept. of Education, by October 1, 1997, to provide to each school a profile of its trend data as gathered by the state pursuant to present law beginning with school year 1994-1995.

Proposed law requires the department to provide to the governing authority of each public school a profile of its trend data as gathered by the state pursuant to present law, and eliminates the time frames provided for in present law.

Present law requires the department to ensure that all future reports contain trend data for at least three years.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes a local school board to adopt written policies to implement for employees of the board an incentive compensation program providing for monetary awards based on performance which meets or exceeds standards established for a school or the school district, or both, pursuant to applicable state board policy relative to the school and district accountability system. Provides that the amount of any monetary award provided to a school board employee is exempt from any limitation in law prohibiting the amount paid to the employee in any school year from being reduced below the amount paid during the previous school year or prohibiting the amount paid to the employee from being reduced at any time during the year. Provides that the amount of any monetary award provided to a school board employee will not be used in the calculation of any other employee benefit provided for by law.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop, adopt, and by not later than the beginning of the 1994-1995 school year, provide for the implementation of a comprehensive school improvement pilot program in grades six through twelve. Requires the department to select six schools, based on criteria to be established by the department and approved by the board, for participation in the pilot program. Further requires each school selected for participation in the pilot program to formulate and develop a plan for improving overall school climate to enhance school organization and student outcomes. Requires such plan to include, but not be limited to, the following components:

- (1) Improvement of human relations skills, with primary focus on teacher-student relations, as well as student-student, teacher-teacher, and school-parent-community relations.
- (2) Issues relative to race, culture, class, and shared values.
- (3) Counseling for students who are in need of counseling.
- (4) Improvement of teaching and learning, including emphasis on multisensory approaches to learning, applied learning, interdisciplinary learning, heterogeneous grouping, and team-oriented cooperative learning situations.
- (5) Provisions for a school environment that is clean, attractive, safe, and comfortable.

Present law requires that the implementation of present law be subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 17:10.2; repeals 17:7(19))