

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 953

BY REPRESENTATIVES LEGER, BADON, BROADWATER, BURRELL, CARMODY,  
DIXON, HUNTER, JEFFERSON, PIERRE, REYNOLDS, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN,  
AND WOODRUFF

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4) and (F)(1) and to enact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(2), relative to statewide content standards and assessments for required subjects; to provide relative to the definition and establishment of such standards; to provide for the collection and sharing of student assessment results and information by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide for the use of such results and information for specified purposes including for purposes of distributing school and district letter grades; to provide for the promulgation of rules by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education relative to measuring student growth; to require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish an academic support plan and determine interventions for certain failing public schools; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4) and (F)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:24.4(F)(2) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

A. As used in this Section, the following words, terms, and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

\* \* \*

(4) "The statewide content standards for required subjects" are statements that define what a ~~student~~ Louisiana public elementary and secondary students

1 should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a specific time period or grade  
2 level or at the completion of a course. Content standards shall represent the  
3 knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary  
4 education and the workplace, as determined by content experts, elementary and  
5 secondary educators and school leaders, postsecondary education leaders, and  
6 business and industry leaders.

7 \* \* \*

8 F.(1)(a) The Department of Education shall ~~begin implementation of~~  
9 implement a Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with the approval of the  
10 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

11 (b) Developmental readiness student screening for placement and ~~for~~  
12 planning instruction shall occur upon initial school entry into kindergarten.

13 (c) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,  
14 science, and social studies based on state content standards and rigorous student  
15 achievement standards set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade  
16 level nationally shall be implemented by the State Board of Elementary and  
17 Secondary Education. ~~Such tests~~ and shall be administered, at a minimum, in grades  
18 three through eleven.

19 (d) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, standards-based assessments  
20 implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in English  
21 language arts and mathematics shall be based on nationally recognized content  
22 standards that represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully  
23 transition to postsecondary education and the workplace and shall allow for  
24 comparison of student achievement with students in other states.

25 (e) Rigorous student achievement standards shall be set with reference to test  
26 scores of the same grade levels nationally.

27 ~~(e)~~(f) The rigor of each standards-based assessment, at a minimum, shall be  
28 comparable to national achievement tests, including but not limited to the National  
29 Assessment of ~~Education~~ Educational Progress.

1                   ~~(f)~~(g) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon initial  
2 implementation of the tests provided for in this Subsection, shall establish by rule  
3 adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act the adequate test score  
4 to determine successful performance of the student on each test provided for by this  
5 Subsection.

6                   (2)(a) The state board shall collect statewide results from the assessments  
7 administered to students in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years in order to  
8 define the basis for student achievement expectations to be used in the school and  
9 district accountability system pursuant to R.S. 17:10.1.

10                  (b) The state board shall comply with federal and state law in reporting  
11 student results from such assessments in 2015 and 2016. In 2016, the state board  
12 shall provide aggregate results from such assessments to an appropriately qualified  
13 faculty member at a Louisiana postsecondary education institution who shall analyze  
14 student performance and advise the board on the basis for achievement expectations.

15                  (c) For the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years:

16                  (i) The state board shall use the statewide results from the assessments  
17 administered in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 as the basis for a distribution of school  
18 and district letter grades that shall not vary from the distribution of letter grades  
19 resulting from the 2012-2013 assessment results unless schools or districts improve  
20 in their performance such that the overall distribution of letter grades is better than  
21 the 2012-2013 distribution.

22                  (ii) After assigning letter grades, the state board shall establish an academic  
23 support plan for each public school that concludes its third consecutive year of  
24 academic failure and shall require a change in school governance only after such a  
25 plan has been implemented in the school for at least one year.

26                  (iii) The state board shall not use the results of such assessments to require  
27 the use of value-added data in the evaluation of educators. The state board may  
28 promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to ensure that  
29 local public school systems have an accurate basis for measuring student growth in  
30 the absence of such data.

(e) The state board shall use such assessments based on nationally competitive standards to establish a statewide performance goal to be reached by 2025 and shall use such a goal as the basis for school and performance expectations.

\* \* \*

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.