

Kevin P. Reilly, Sr.

Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund

Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education



2019-20

8(g) Annual Report

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Student Enhancement Block Projects

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Ms. Susan Morrow
Mr. Bryan Staton
Ms. Gwendolyn Thomas

Statewide Programs

Ms. Anna Bernard
Dr. Marilyn Seibert

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8(g)

The BESE 8(g) Grant Program

1986 – 2020

Program Overview

History

Constitutional Regulations

Funding Methods



Program Overview

In 1986, the Louisiana voters approved a constitutional amendment dedicating the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act money to improve the quality of education by establishing the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund, more commonly known as 8(g). From this permanent fund 50 percent of the support fund is appropriated and allocated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). The 8(g) funds administered by BESE are utilized for the support and enhancement of elementary and secondary education in all public schools, as well as approved nonpublic systems/schools.

BESE awards grants on an annual basis, using three funding methods – block, competitive, and statewide grants – and focuses its endowments on improving classroom teaching and learning. Local schools and school systems submit project proposals that are written according to published guidelines and funded through a review process. Through innovative programming, BESE strives to:

- build expectations of academic excellence;
- require accountability of performance;
- provide superior instruction/state-of-the-art technology; and
- enhance educational leadership.

Each year, a percentage of the funded projects are evaluated for program effectiveness. Independent evaluators are hired by BESE to make site visits and to assess the projects’ adherence to 8(g) guidelines. Student performance results and project goal attainment are reported by program administrators at year-end. Each project selected for evaluation receives a rating from 0-150 indicating appropriateness of activities, adherence to timelines, and evidence of impact at the local level.

8(g) Operates in 3 Fiscal years

Prior Year

BESE 8(g) conducts financial audits of prior year projects.

Current Year

BESE 8(g) oversees the implementation of projects funded for the current year.

Upcoming Year

BESE 8(g) plans the program and budget for the upcoming year.

8(g) History

Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF) Origin

In the mid-1900s, major oil and gas deposits discovered in the outer continental shelf lands were the source of controversy between the federal government and the coastal states. Louisiana first began drilling offshore in 1947, and the federal government immediately challenged the state's claim to the area. It was generally acknowledged that the first three miles of the continental shelf, a shallow, flat portion of the continent that is underwater, belongs to the state, while the rest of the shelf is federally owned. It was the first three miles of the federal portion that was involved in the controversy.

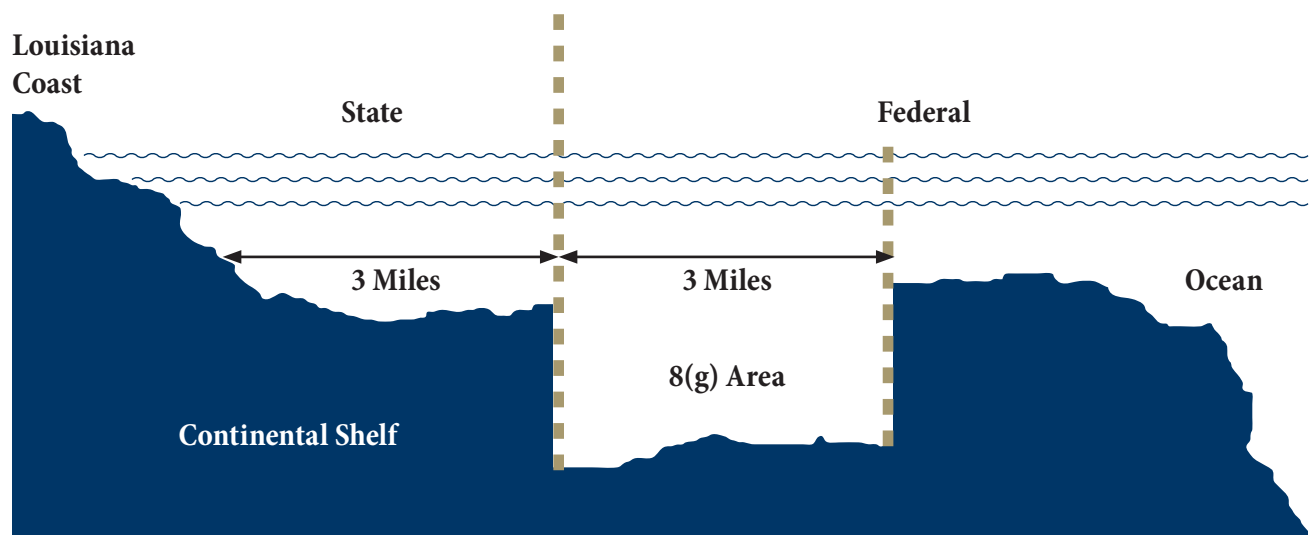
Since 1986...

More than
9,300 projects
approved

More than
\$995 million
allocated

As a result of this conflict, the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act was passed to regulate offshore leasing and to determine state and federal participation. After major oil and gas discoveries were made off the coast of New Jersey in 1978, several east coast states, in an effort to protect their resort and fishing industries, led a successful fight to reform the 1953 act. As a result, states gained more control over offshore activities through an amendment to the original act numbered 8(g).

The 8(g) amendment is what gives coastal states a “fair and equitable” share of the money made from offshore development. A final settlement was reached in 1986, which gives Louisiana 27 percent of the money made from the 8(g) area of the continental shelf. With the state's portion of the 8(g) resources, Louisiana voters chose to establish a trust fund for education, the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF), through a state constitutional amendment which allows the earnings of the Trust Fund to be spent for education purposes.



LEQTF Timeline

► 1978

A U.S. Constitutional Amendment to the federal Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, number 8(g), was included on behalf of Louisiana and six other coastal states.

Each state received a “fair and equitable” share of mineral revenues from the act. Litigation occurred over the definition of “fair and equitable.”

► 1986

Louisiana received an initial payment of \$540 million in October of 1986.

Deferred payments, totaling \$84 million, were designated to be paid over the next 15 years.

Ongoing annual payments of \$5-15 million were to be paid for current oil and gas production.

The voters of Louisiana dedicated 8(g) funds for education.

The Louisiana State Office of the Treasury set up an education trust fund for 8(g).

► 1990

Constitutional amendment restricted administrative costs, clarified the oversight role of the Legislature, and strengthened the clause on supplanting.

► 1994

Constitutional amendment broadened the investment authority of the State Treasury.

► 1995

Consent judgment 90-880-A restricted certain expenditures for pervasively sectarian entities.

► 2002

Constitutional amendment allows the Commissioner of Administration, as directed by the Governor, to eliminate a deficit by reducing appropriations or allocations from the state general fund and dedicated funds, including any which are constitutionally protected or mandated, by an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the total amount allocated from that fund.

► 2006

Legislative act allows administrative costs associated with managing the funds to be limited to 3 percent of the average amount of actual expenditures for the most recent three previous fiscal years.

Funding Requirements

Constitutional Categories

BESE is constitutionally mandated to allocate funds for any or all of the following purposes:

- A. To provide compensation to city or parish school board professional instructional employees;
- B. To ensure an adequate supply of superior textbooks, library books, equipment, and other instructional materials;
- C. To fund exemplary programs in elementary or secondary schools designed to improve elementary or secondary student academic achievement or vocational-technical skill;
- D. To fund carefully defined research efforts, including pilot programs, designed to improve elementary and secondary student academic achievement;
- E. To fund school remediation programs and preschool programs;
- F. To fund the teaching of foreign languages in elementary and secondary schools; and
- G. To fund an adequate supply of teachers by providing scholarships or stipends to prospective teachers in academic or vocational-technical areas where there is a critical teacher shortage.

BESE 2015-2020 Strategic Plan Goals

- Expand high-quality P-12 college- and career-ready pathways that align to workforce demands;
- Develop a talent system that recruits, prepares, supports, retains and continuously builds the capacity of teachers and leaders to ensure student success;
- Maintain a system of high-quality and accountable educational options for students and families; and
- Use limited resources in the most strategic and equitable ways possible to increase and support student achievement.

BESE 2019-2020 Priority Areas

- High-Quality Early Childhood Education
- Leadership Development
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- College and Career Readiness
- Technology and Innovation

Funding Methods

Student Enhancement Block Grant Program

The Elementary/Secondary Block Grant Program provides funds for projects that serve as catalysts for student academic or vocational-technical skill improvement. Participants select from designated focus areas in accordance with local priorities. Eligible participants are limited to public and nonpublic systems, public independent schools, and nonpublic independent schools meeting eligibility requirements.

Block grant guidelines and application packets are published in the spring, and proposals are due for BESE approval in the fall. Based on a per pupil allocation, eligible systems and schools receive block grant funding according to enrollment figures from the previous year. Agencies may apply for block grant funds for all Board-focused projects for up to four consecutive years.

Selected block grant projects are evaluated by independent evaluators selected by BESE. Evaluators conduct site visits to the schools being served and report on the strengths and weaknesses of the project design as well as the impact on student learning.

Since 1988,
BESE 8(g) has funded
over \$245 million
in pre-kindergarten
programs



Statewide Grant Programs

The Statewide Programs are administered by state agencies, usually the Department of Education, to provide goods (such as equipment), services (such as staff development), or flow-through dollars to schools or school systems. The programs target specific participants and/or focus on common goals determined by the administering agency. Some Statewide Programs are implemented on a pilot basis with selected sites, while others impact large numbers of schools and students throughout Louisiana.

Independent evaluators, selected by BESE, conduct visits to local program sites around the state. Evaluators interview teachers, administrators, and central office supervisors to determine how well the program is operating and whether it is meeting specific performance objectives.

Each year BESE allocates a percentage of the overall 8(g) budget for Statewide Grant Programs, and the program design and budgets are approved by BESE. The agencies administering the Statewide Programs have their own system for funding, identifying, and notifying participants, and districts or independent schools apply directly to these agencies for program guidelines and funding methods.

8(g) The Annual 8(g) Report of Results

FY 2019 – 2020

Program Summary
Program and Budget
Grants



Program Summary

Total 2019-20 Allocation:
\$23,500,000

151 Student Enhancement Block
6 Statewide

157 Total Grants

Student Enhancement Block and Competitive Project Results

Program evaluators conducted site visits and overall project evaluations for assigned projects, using forms and procedures prescribed by the BESE - 8(g) Office. Projects were evaluated in six categories: 1) Purpose; 2) Activities; 3) Personnel; 4) Resources; 5) Objectives and Evaluation; and 6) Results. All projects submitted an End of Year Report of results to the BESE - 8(g) Office. After reviewing the End of Year Reports, program evaluators assigned final evaluation scores out of 150 possible points.

Block and competitive projects receiving a final evaluation score of below 100 for two consecutive years were ineligible to receive continued funding. For projects scoring below 100, the agency was required to submit a written explanation of implementation problems and a plan for corrective action.

Statewide Program Results

All Statewide Grant Programs were evaluated in 2019-20. Each project submitted an End of Year Report of results to the BESE - 8(g) Office, detailing the regions served as well as the number of participating school districts, public and nonpublic schools. 8(g) program evaluators conducted site visits and overall program evaluations for assigned programs using forms and procedures prescribed by the BESE - 8(g) Office. Programs were evaluated in six categories: 1) Participants; 2) Personnel; 3) Activities; 4) Constitutional Category; 5) Objectives and Evaluation; and 6) Results. After reviewing the End of Year Reports, program evaluators assigned final evaluation scores out of 150 possible points. Evaluators also offered program observations and recommendations, based on their overall evaluation of the programs.

<i>Evaluation Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>
145-150	Excellent
130-144	Very Good
115-129	Good
100-114	Satisfactory
Below 100	Unsatisfactory



Program and Budget, Fiscal Year 2019-20

APPROVED OCTOBER 17, 2018

I. Block Allocation (48.1%)	\$11,315,000
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II. Statewide Allocation (48.1%)	\$11,315,000
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III. Review, Evaluation, and Assessment of Proposals; Management & Oversight (3.6%)	\$870,000
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Total	\$23,500,000
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Student Enhancement Block Grant Programs

FY 2019 – 2020

BESE Allocation: \$11,315,000

Percent of Total Allocation: 48.1%

Programs Funded: 151

Students Served: 33,825

Formula Basis:

\$55,000 base for public LEAs

\$9.13 per student for all agencies

Pre-Kindergarten Programs for At-Risk 4-Year Olds

65 Projects

Public school districts offered programs in this category that were developmentally appropriate to improve the readiness of at-risk 4-year olds and/or intervention strategies for children.

Priority Areas

86 Projects

- High-Quality Early Childhood Education
- College and Career Readiness
- Leadership Development
- Technology and Innovation
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

Due to COVID-19-related school closures, agencies were unable to report results for the 2019-20 program year.



Statewide Grant Programs

FY 2019 – 2020

BESE Allocation: \$11,315,000

Percent of Total Allocation: 48.1%

Programs Funded: 6

Constitutional Category

To fund exemplary programs in elementary or secondary schools designed to improve elementary or secondary student academic achievement or vocational-technical skill

- Early Childhood Care and Education Network Expansion
- Educator Career Opportunity Expansion
- LEAP for the 21st Century

Constitutional Category

To ensure an adequate supply of superior textbooks, library books, equipment, and other instructional materials

- Academic/Vocational Enhancement of BESE Special Schools (LSVI)
- Academic/Vocational Enhancement of BESE Special Schools (LSD)

Constitutional Category

To fund the teaching of foreign languages in elementary and secondary schools

- International Choices for Career and Career Education (IC3E)

Due to COVID-19-related school closures, agencies were unable to report results for the 2019-20 program year.



Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

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