

Mr. Ronnie Morris, President

B E S E



**BOARD
of
ELEMENTARY
and
SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide leadership and create policies for education that expand opportunities for children, empower families and communities, and advance Louisiana in an increasingly competitive global market.

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of March 12, 2025

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

March 12, 2025

**The Louisiana Purchase Room
Baton Rouge, LA**

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in regular session on March 12, 2025, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Board President Ronnie Morris.

Board members present were Mr. Conrad Appel, Dr. Judy Armstrong, Mr. Kevin Berken, Mr. Preston Castille, Ms. Simone Champagne, Dr. Sharon Clark, Mr. Lance Harris, and Mr. Ronnie Morris.

Mr. Paul Hollis, Ms. Sandy Holloway, and Ms. Stacey Melerine were not in attendance.

Mr. Michael Campagna, Healing Place Church, led the opening prayer, and Dr. Arkeia Thomas, Jefferson Parish School System, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

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| Agenda
Item 2. | <u>Approval of the Agenda</u> | (Schedule 1) |
| 2.1 | On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the agenda. | |
| Agenda
Item 3. | <u>Recognition of Guests</u> | |
| 3.1 | On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board recognized the Community Service endorsement honorees. | |
| Agenda
Item 4. | <u>Approval of the Minutes</u> | |
| 4.1 | On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the minutes of January 10, 2025. | |
| 4.2 | On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the minutes of February 21, 2025, Special Called Meeting. | |

Agenda
Item 5.

Report by the State Superintendent of Education

State Superintendent of Education Brumley highlighted the following in his report to the Board:

- A recent school site tour was completed across the state to speak with school systems regarding tutoring efforts and differentiated pay;
- The Fast Forward Summit was a great success with over 800 in attendance; and
- Louisiana Student of the Year finalists to go on for consideration for the overall winner.

Agenda
Item 6.

Report(s) from members of BESE (Statutory and Legislative Task Force/Council Appointees)

- Mr. Morris, representing BESE on the LaSTEM Advisory Council, informed members of significant achievements across regional STEM centers including the expansion of NASA Astro Camps; growing participation in SeaPurch programs; and the renewal of Department of Defense grant that guarantees continued growth.

Agenda
Item 7.1.

Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee

(Schedule 2)

- 7.1.1 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board recognized Community Partners.
- 7.1.2 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board recognized Dr. Calvin Mackie.
- 7.1.3 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the revised 2025-2026 Nonpublic Schools Academic Classifications.
- 7.1.4 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the Nonpublic School Classification for the 2025-2026 school year for Ascension Classical School in Caddo Parish: non-accredited approved, as recommended by the LDOE.
- 7.1.5 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the Nonpublic School Classification for the 2025-2026 school year for Bethany Christian School South Campus in East Baton Rouge Parish: accredited approved, as recommended by the LDOE.

- 7.1.6 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board granted Brumfield vs. Dodd approval for the 2025-2026 school year for the following school:
- a. Runnels Secondary in East Baton Rouge Parish.
- 7.1.7 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board deleted: "Consideration of requests from Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for waivers of policy contained in Bulletins, submitted by the State Superintendent of Education" from the Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee agenda.
- 7.1.8 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the report regarding the Education Recovery Scorecard.
- 7.1.9 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the report regarding 2024 Louisiana results for The Nation's Report Card.
- 7.1.10 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the report regarding key performance indicators (KPIs) for high school opportunities.
- 7.1.11 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the addition of creative writing as an art equivalent for the TOPS University course requirements beginning with incoming freshmen for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.
- 7.1.12 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the report regarding the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP).
- 7.1.13 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Judy Armstrong, a representative of approved nonpublic schools with publicly-funded early childhood care and education programs, to the membership of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.
- 7.1.14 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the minutes of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council meeting held February 12, 2025.

- 7.1.15 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the appointment of Ms. Zanovia Curtis, a representative of a Head Start program operated by a local education agency, to the membership of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council to serve a term from 2024 to 2026.
- 7.1.16 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the report regarding the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Content Standards Review Committee applicant selection process.
- 7.1.17 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the membership to the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Content Standards Review Committee, as outlined.
- 7.1.18 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the minutes of the Nonpublic School Council (NPSC) meeting held February 3, 2025.
- 7.1.19 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the minutes of the Superintendents' Advisory Council (SAC) meeting held February 20, 2025.
- 7.1.20 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*: §5901. Statement of Purpose; §5903. Definitions; §5907. Agency Administrative Participation; and §5909. State BESE-Approved Instruments.
- 7.1.21 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §325. Kindergarten and Prekindergarten.
- 7.1.22 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 741 (Nonpublic), *Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*: §121. Emergency Planning and Procedures; §1311. Bullying; §3001. General Requirements; §3003. Policies and Procedures Related to Children; §3005. Children's Records; §3007. Required Staff; §3009. Personnel Records; §3011. Required Staff Development and Training; §3013. Required Child/Staff Ratios; and §3017. Health Service to the Child.

7.1.23 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 1530, *Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities: §505*. Alternate Assessment Participation Criteria.

7.1.24 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 1964, *Louisiana Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Grade Level Expectations for Social Studies: §1103*. Standards; and §1303. Standards.

7.1.25 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board recognized Mr. Blake Grabert, 2024-2025 Student Representative for the BESE Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee, and introduce Ms. Beija Lopes-Morgan, 2025-2026 Student Representative.

Agenda Item 7.2. **Board Administration and Education Finance Committee** (Schedule 3)

7.2.1 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the report from the LDOE Director of Internal Audit.

7.2.2 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the audit report regarding the “LaCarte” Purchasing and Travel Card Program.

7.2.3 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the report regarding LDOE contracts \$50,000 or less approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

7.2.4 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the report on the 8(g) monitoring visits conducted by Board staff.

7.2.5 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board ratified the Super Bowl LIX tickets gifted to Ms. Elise Boutin, 2025 Louisiana State Teacher of the Year, as the recipient of the Norma Hunt Super Bowl Champion of Education Award.

7.2.6 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the 2025-2026 MFP formula and directed the LDOE to make technical edits as necessary.

7.2.7 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the following LDOE contract amendment:

Contractor:	Primary Class Inc. DBA Odyssey
Contract Period:	01/25/2024 – 06/30/2026
Original Amount:	\$910,000.00
Amended Amount:	\$1,934,917.00
Contract Amount:	\$2,844,917.00
Fund:	State
Competitive Process:	Non-Competitive

Description of Service: Per the amendment terms, the contractor will provide training tools and videos; a rating system for users to evaluate vendors, products, and services; a management system work plan; and account administration in addition to the original contract terms of providing preparation and delivery of an all-inclusive Education Scholarship Account Program Management System to support LA GATOR.

7.2.8 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	CCAP B-3 Seats (FY25)
Type:	Competitive
Amount:	\$11,444,061.00
Period:	07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025
Source of Funds:	State General Fund

Purpose: The purpose of the CCAP B-3 Seats Pilot Program allocation is to provide funding for birth through three-year-old seats for children who meet CCAP eligibility requirements. In the 2024-2025 year, this program will serve over 4,000 children. The funding will be allocated to Ready Start Networks and Community Network Lead Agencies that will administer these funds.

Basis of Allocation: The LDOE allocations are based on a combination of the current enrollment of children in CCAP B-3 Seats by Community Network Lead Agencies in the first months of the program and the network's anticipated enrollment for the fourth quarter. The amount of allocation is to fund the first quarter of the academic year and is based on each age group, inclusive of an estimated CCAP bonus. The annual calculation is based on the following rates: infants are funded at \$18,940 per requested seat, toddlers at \$11,700 per requested seat, and three year olds at \$10,670 per seat.

7.2.9 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: EDL Alternative Pathway Boot Camp
Type: Other
Amount: \$8,500.00
Period: 01/06/2025 – 06/15/2025
Source of Funds: State – 8(g)

Purpose: The EDL Alternative Pathway 4 Boot Camp was recently implemented into policy and requires the LDOE to provide support and direction for individuals holding either an MBA, MPA, or JD or be honorably discharged commissioned officers from a US Military Branch to become EDL Level 1 certified. The inaugural boot camp will be held in January, and 17 prospective participants will attend. Additionally, eight current principals will serve as mentors for those participants. Participants will have three in-person LDOE-led days of lectures and activities and two days of follow-up with on-campus site visits at their mentor schools. Once completing all five days of activities, participants will complete a review of their progress with their mentor. If prepared, they will demonstrate their comprehension and knowledge of the Louisiana Educator Rubric and Louisiana Leader Rubric using Canopy. Once they complete this review and the School Leader Licensure Exam, they may apply for certification from the LDOE to serve as a school leader within Louisiana Public Schools.

Basis of Allocation: Individuals selected to serve as mentors are current principals or principal supervisors with a demonstrated history of success within school leadership. A number of mentors were selected to participate as mentors, but only those matching the necessary components (common grade band, experiences, location) were paired with participants. Each mentor receives a specific amount depending on the number of participants they support (1 participant = \$750; 2 participants = \$1000; 3 participants = \$1500). Allocations originated in the 8(g) budget and will be distributed to the employing systems for disbursement to principal mentors.

7.2.10 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Grants to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Type: Other
Amount: \$54,250.00
Period: 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025
Source of Funds: Federal – IDEA

Purpose: This allocation supports activities described in Louisiana's IDEA Part B State Activities Grant and assists with providing regional technical assistance to support families of students with disabilities through Louisiana's family support network. The network, located throughout the state, provides information, peer support, and links families with community resources as well as encourages engagement in their children's education. The network is uniquely positioned to provide support for families of children with disabilities because center administrators and staff also have family members with disabilities.

Basis of Allocation: The funding for this allocation is established by Louisiana's IDEA Part B State Activities Grant. This allocation is diverting the original allocation of Families Helping Families Greater New Orleans, which closed, to The Arc of Louisiana to support families in that region.

7.2.11 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved 8(g) program and budget revisions for the Statewide Grant programs, Louisiana School for the Deaf and Louisiana Retention and Recruitment Program, for FY 2024-2025.

7.2.12 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the following reports:

- R.S. 17:3921.2 regarding the Statewide Educational Technology Plan;
- R.S. 17:410.11 Louisiana Literacy Advisory Council Report;
- SCR 20 (2024) regarding apprenticeships and work-based learning;
- R.S. 17:24.8 Pre-K Program Report;
- HCR 72 (2024) Study on school start times; and
- ACT 542 (2022) Child Care Assistance Program.

7.2.13 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the reports in response to legislation and directed the LDOE to submit the following reports to the House Committee on Education:

- HR 156 (2024) Metal Detectors in Public Schools; and
- HR 101 (2024) Role of ACT and WorkKeys in Accountability.

Agenda Item 7.3. **Educator Effectiveness Committee** (Schedule 4)

7.3.1 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the presentation from Louisiana State University (LSU).

7.3.2 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved Ms. Glenda Hembree, representing LACTE, to the membership of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council.

7.3.3 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board deleted: "Consideration of executive session regarding discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person" from the Educator Effectiveness Committee agenda.

7.3.4 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board deleted: "Consideration of the revocation of the Louisiana Level 1 teaching certificate #647230 issued to Mr. Johnnie Butler, Jr" from the Educator Effectiveness Committee agenda.

7.3.5 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana teaching authorization (TA) #611484 issued to Mr. James Davis.

7.3.6 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 teaching certificate #429238 issued to Mr. John Didier.

7.3.7 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 1 #647230 and CTTIE Level 2 #647840 teaching certificates issued to Ms. Jennifer Edwards.

7.3.8 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Type B teaching certificate #509026 issued to Ms. Paulette Eilers.

- 7.3.9 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Type A teaching certificate #487648 issued to Mr. Keith Fletcher.
- 7.3.10 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate #666307 issued to Ms. Angela Foret.
- 7.3.11 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 3 teaching certificate #560843 issued to Mr. John Grafton.
- 7.3.12 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana teaching authorization (TA) #605740 issued to Mr. Derrick Gear.
- 7.3.13 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate #679910 issued to Ms. Amanda Grigsby Bradley.
- 7.3.14 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board deferred: "Consideration of the revocation of the Louisiana Level 3 teaching certificate #592393 issued to Ms. Marcia Hardy" for a period of six months following the receipt of the Attorney General's Opinion.
- 7.3.15 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana temporary teaching certificate (T) #100888 issued to Ms. Sylvia Jones.
- 7.3.16 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) #565189 issued to Ms. Priscilla Kyser.
- 7.3.17 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Type A teaching certificate #040696 issued to Mr. Andre Lewis.
- 7.3.18 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 3 teaching certificate #532121 issued to Mr. Derrick Nesby.
- 7.3.19 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana teaching authorization (TA) #591357 issued to Mr. Carl Simon.

- 7.3.20 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) #623071 issued to Ms. Sinetra Williams.
- 7.3.21 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board granted the issuance of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Ashley Carrier.
- 7.3.22 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board granted the issuance of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Margaret Dumas.
- 7.3.23 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board granted the reinstatement of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Angela Foret.
- 7.3.24 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board granted the issuance of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Chasity Stringer.

Agenda Item 7.4. **Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee** (Schedule 5)

- 7.4.1 On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the report regarding the Legislative Auditor report regarding Seclusion, Restraint, and Abuse/Mistreatment of Children with Disabilities in Public Schools.
- 7.4.2 On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board:
- proposed amendments to R.S. 17:416.21.N.(3), to grant the LDOE authority to monitor school systems' use of seclusion and restraint;
 - proposed an amendment to R.S. 17:1948 clarifying the responsibility of the LDOE to review school systems' camera policies and requiring school systems to notify parents via website of the parent's rights to request cameras in self-contained classrooms; and
 - will work to identify and secure a suitable author in the Louisiana State Legislature to sponsor the amendments at the earliest Legislative Session available.
- 7.4.3 On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the report regarding the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

7.4.4 On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the report regarding the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund-8(g) Program.

Agenda **School Innovation and Turnaround Committee** (Schedule 6)
Item 7.5.

7.5.1 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the material amendment submitted by Academy of Collaborative Education, a Type 2 charter school in Ouachita Parish, to expand the current grade configuration to include grades six through eight, effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

7.5.2 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the material amendment submitted by GEO Prep Mid-City, a Type 2 charter school in East Baton Rouge Parish, operated by GEO Academies EBR, to add a second campus at 555 Julia Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

7.5.3 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the material amendment submitted by Louisiana Key Academy for Type 2 charter schools located in East Baton Rouge, St. Tammany, and Caddo Parishes, to eliminate high school grades 9 through 12 at the Baton Rouge campus and to remove kindergarten from the school model at all three campuses, effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

7.5.4 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the material amendment submitted by Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle-Orleans, a Type 2 charter school in Orleans Parish, operated by Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle-Orleans, to amend the current PK-5 charter to combine the locations of the McNair Early Learning Center-1607 S. Carrollton Ave, New Orleans, LA 70118, and the Elementary Campus-5951 Patton St, New Orleans, LA 70115. The schools will be combined to service students in PK-5 at 721 St. Philip St, New Orleans, LA 70116, effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

7.5.5 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the material amendments submitted by Acadiana Renaissance Charter Academy (ARCA) and Lafayette Renaissance Charter Academy (LRCA), Type 2 charter schools in Lafayette Parish, operated by Lafayette Charter Foundation, to:

- revise the Management Agreement regarding the method of calculating fees due to Charter Schools USA based upon the purchase of school facilities without the land via tax-free bonds; and
- increase enrollment at LRCA from 2925 to 3575 students, effective beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

7.5.6 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the Type 5 charter application submitted by GEO Academies Louisiana, operated by GEO Academies Louisiana, as recommended by the LDOE.

7.5.7 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the transfer of Baker Heights Elementary School and Baker Middle School from the City of Baker School District to the Recovery School District (RSD), effective May 27, 2025.

Mr. Castille was recorded as being opposed to the motion.

7.5.8 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the assignment of the Type 5 charter contract with GEO Louisiana, Inc. as a direct operator for Baker Heights Elementary School and Baker Middle School as a K-8 Type 5 charter school, effective May 27, 2025 and contingent upon the following:

- complete all pre-opening requirements as determined by the LDOE;
- address any conditions or special considerations set forth by BESE; and
- execute a charter contract prior to opening.

Mr. Castille was recorded as being opposed to the motion.

7.5.9 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the report regarding the LA GATOR scholarship program.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.