



**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 August 19, 2026

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

August 19, 2026

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

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in regular session on August 19, 2026, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Board President Simone Champagne.

Board members present were Mr. Conrad Appel, Dr. Judy Armstrong, Mr. Kevin Berken, Mr. Joseph Cao, Mr. Preston Castille, Dr. Sharon Clark, Mr. Lance Harris, Ms. Sandy Holloway, Ms. Stacey Melerine, and Mr. Ronnie Morris.

Ms. Julianna Tan, Catholic Schools Student of the Year, led the opening prayer, and Mr. Sanil Thorat, LDOE Student of the year - Grade 5, 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 Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the agenda. | |
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| Agenda
Item 3. | <u>Recognition of Guests</u> | |
| 3.1 | On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board recognized the Community Service Endorsement recipients. | |
| 3.2 | On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board recognized the 2025-2026 Models of Excellence Honorees. | |
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| Agenda
Item 4. | <u>Approval of the Minutes</u> | |
| 4.1 | On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board approved the minutes of June 4, 2026 Special Called BESE meeting. | |
| 4.2 | On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board approved the minutes of June 10, 2026 BESE meeting. | |
| 4.3 | On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board approved the minutes of July 23, 2026 Special Called BESE meeting. | |

Agenda
Item 5.**Executive Session (Pursuant to LA R.S. 42:16 and 42:17)**

On motion of Dr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Cao, the Board went into Executive Session at 9:38 a.m. to discuss the annual evaluation of the State Superintendent of Education and the annual evaluation of the BESE Executive Director

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Mr. Appel, Dr. Armstrong, Mr. Berken, Mr. Cao, Mr. Castille, Ms. Champagne, Dr. Clark, Mr. Harris, Ms. Holloway, Ms. Melerine, and Mr. Morris.

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absences: None.

The roll call vote to go into executive session passed. It was noted that no votes would be taken while the Board was in executive session; all votes would be made in public.

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On motion of Dr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Cao, the Board reconvened into Regular Session at 11:02 a.m. and continued with the regular order of the agenda. A quorum was present.

No further action was taken on items 5.1 – 5.2.

Agenda
Item 6.**Report by the State Superintendent of Education**

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

- Thanks to the Board for continued support in improving educational outcomes in Louisiana.
- New school year brings excitement throughout the state, Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Mr. Trey Folse, and Dr. Brumley attended 7 stops throughout the state and visited with over 200 system leaders.
- More school visits will be happening throughout the fall and Board members will be made aware of the dates and locations of the visits as they become available.

Agenda
Item 7.**Report(s) from members of BESE (Statutory and Legislative Task Force/Council Appointees)**

- Ms. Holloway provided the following updates:
 - The next SEAP meeting is September 2nd at 9:00 am.
 - The SSD will meet September 8th at 9:00 am Board meeting followed by Board Retreat. A national search for a new superintendent is taking place, will invite BESE members to visit once new superintendent is hired.
 - The Accountability Commission meeting is September 21st at 1:00 pm.
 - The America 250 meeting is September 19th at noon.
 - BESE Tours 2.0 planning is underway, Members at Large will kick off the tour in September with school visits. Finalized dates are to come.
- Dr. Clark reminded the Board that September 10th is the first Power of Presence Advisory Council Meeting.

Agenda
Item 8.**Board Committee Reports**Agenda
Item 8.1.**Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee**

(Schedule 2)

- 8.1.1 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the request to waive policy contained in *Bulletin 1530—Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities*: §127. Three-Year Age Span for the following school systems:
- a. Jackson;
 - b. Special School District;
 - c. St. John the Baptist; and
 - d. St. Mary.
- 8.1.2 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the request to waive policy contained in *Bulletin 1706—Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act* §1904. Resource Room regarding the requirement to blend qualified high-potential students with gifted-identified students. Approval is contingent upon established admission, assessment, and monitoring criteria. For future waivers to be approved, the percentage of minorities participating in the gifted and talented program should continue to increase or remain the same.
- East Baton Rouge Parish: Audubon, Brownfields, Cedarcrest, Crestworth, LaSalle, Magnolia Woods, McKinley, Northeast,

(motion continues on page 4)

Parkview, Shenandoah, Twin Oaks, Wedgewood, Wildwood, and Woodlawn Elementary Schools; Glasgow, Westdale, and Woodlawn Middle Schools; and McKinley and Woodlawn High Schools

- St. Charles Parish: R.K. Smith Middle School and Albert Cammon Middle School

- 8.1.3 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the request to waive policy contained in *Bulletin 741—Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2313. Foreign Language regarding the requirement that foreign language be taught in elementary grades for the following schools:
- a. Allen;
 - b. East Baton Rouge;
 - c. Iberville;
 - d. Natchitoches;
 - e. St. Charles;
 - f. Vermilion;
 - g. Vernon;
 - h. West Baton Rouge;
 - i. West Feliciana; and
 - j. Zachary.
- 8.1.4 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Judy Armstrong (BESE Member-at Large) and Dr. James Gray (Superintendent, Jefferson Parish) to the Louisiana Commission on Foundational Education.
- 8.1.5 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the report regarding literacy instruction and the Science of Reading and key performance indicators (KPIs).
- 8.1.6 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the course offerings for FY 2026-2027 for the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA).
- 8.1.7 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the minutes of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission meeting held July 29, 2026.
- 8.1.8 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meeting held June 17, 2026.

- 8.1.9 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the minutes of the Nonpublic School Council (NPSC) meeting held July 14, 2026.
- 8.1.10 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the minutes of the Superintendents' Advisory Council (SAC) meeting held July 30, 2026.
- 8.1.11 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the technical edit to *Bulletin 741 (Nonpublic)—Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, §116. Prekindergarten Program Monitoring.
- 8.1.12 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 135—Health and Safety*, §701. Definitions, §703. Behavioral Health Services for Students, and §705. Behavioral Health Service Complaint Procedures, and the adoption of §707. School-Based Service Delivery Review Meeting.
- 8.1.13 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 1706—Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act*, §511. Impartial Due Process Hearing and Hearing Officer Appointments.
- 8.1.14 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 137—Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*, §701. Initial Application Process.
- 8.1.15 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 140—Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network*, §509. Performance Rating Calculations for Publicly-Funded Sites, §513. Informational Metrics of Best Practices, §703. Coordinated Enrollment Process, and §1101. Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Advisory Council.
- 8.1.16 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to Part I. BESE/8(g) Operations, §505. Special Advisory Councils/Task Forces/ Commissions/Study Groups.
- 8.1.17 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 741—Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, §509. Completion of Approved Foundational Literacy Skills Course, §1701. Instructional Materials and Equipment, §2301. Content Standards, and §2307. Literacy Assessment and Screener.

- 8.1.18 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 1566—Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures*, §501. General Requirements and §705. Supports for Students, and adoption of §709. Adolescent Literacy Supports for Grades 4-8.
- 8.1.19 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 146—Louisiana Competencies and Standards for Teachers and Educational Leaders*, §319. ELA Content Pedagogy Competencies.
- 8.1.20 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 996—Standards for Approval of Teachers and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*, §103. Definitions, §303. Initial Approval, §743. Minimum Requirements for Traditional Teacher Preparation Programs, and §745. Minimum Requirements for Alternate Teacher Preparation Programs.
- 8.1.21 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 741—Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, §332. Installation and Operation of Cameras in Certain Special Education Settings, §337. Written Policies and Procedures, §339. Emergency Planning and Procedures, §353. Instruction and Training, §502. Staff Misconduct, §525. Associate Teacher Program, §721. School and School System Financial Records, §901. Scheduling, §1127. Preventive Programs, §1135. Child Abuse, §1301. Disciplinary Regulations, §1302. Student Code of Conduct, §1305. Reasons for Suspension, §1311. Due Process for Expulsions, §2305. Ancillary Areas of Instruction, §2317. High Schools, §2397. Career Options, and §3113. Work-Based Learning, and the adoption of §3119. Career Practicum.
- 8.1.22 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 741 (Nonpublic) —Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*, §1309. Suicide Prevention.
- 8.1.23 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 119—Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures*, §1901. Transporting Eligible Students, and the repeal of §309. Tenure and Termination of Bus Drivers.

- 8.1.24 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 103—Louisiana Health Education Student Standards*, §503. Kindergarten Grade-Level Expectations, §505. Grade 1 Grade-Level Expectations, §507. Grade 2 Grade-Level Expectations, §509. Grade 3 Grade-Level Expectations, §511. Grade 4 Grade-Level Expectations, §513. Grade 5 Grade-Level Expectations, §515. Grade 6 Grade-Level Expectations, §517. Grade 7 Grade-Level Expectations, §519. Grade 8 Grade-Level Expectations, and §521. Grades 9-12 Grade-Level Expectations.
- 8.1.25 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, the repeal of *Bulletin 102—Louisiana Physical Education Student Standards*, §101. Introduction, §103. Louisiana Physical Education Standards to Promote Physical Literacy, §301. Introduction, §303. Standard 1, §305. Standard 2, §307. Standard 3, §309. Standard 4, §311. Standard 5, §501. Introduction, §503. Standard 1, §505. Standard 2, §507. Standard 3, §509. Standard 4, §511. Standard 5, §701. Introduction, §703. Standard 1, §705. Standard 2, §707. Standard 3, §709. Standard 4, §711. Standard 5, §901. Introduction, §903. Standard 1, §905. Standard 2, §907. Standard 3, §909. Standard 4, §911. Standard 5, and §1101. Definitions.
- 8.1.26 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board adopted, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 102—Louisiana Physical Education Student Standards*, §101. Introduction, §301. Domain 1: Motor Skills Development, §303. Domain 2: Movement and Fitness Application, §305. Domain 3: Health-Enhancing Physical Activity and Fitness, §307. Domain 4: Personal and Social Responsibility, §309. Domain 5: Value of Physical Activity, §501. Domain 1: Motor Skills Development, §503. Domain 2: Movement and Fitness Application, §505. Domain 3: Health-Enhancing Physical Activity and Fitness, §507. Domain 4: Personal and Social Responsibility, §509. Domain 5: Value of Physical Activity, §701. Domain 1: Motor Skills Development, §703. Domain 2: Movement and Fitness Application, §705. Domain 3: Health-Enhancing Physical Activity and Fitness, §707. Domain 4: Personal and Social Responsibility, §709. Domain 5: Value of Physical Activity, §901. Domain 1: Motor Skills Development, §903. Domain 2: Movement and Fitness Application, §905. Domain 3: Health-Enhancing Physical Activity and Fitness, §907. Domain 4: Personal and Social Responsibility, §909. Domain 5: Value of Physical Activity, §1101. Domain 1: Motor Skills Development, §1103. Domain 2: Movement and Fitness Application, §1105. Domain 3: Health-Enhancing Physical Activity and Fitness, §1107. Domain 4: Personal and Social Responsibility, and §1109. Domain 5: Value of Physical Activity.

- 8.1.27 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 142—Louisiana Mathematics Student Standards*, §303. Numeracy and Operational Fluency, §505. Algebraic Reasoning, §509. Data Analysis and Measurement, §705. Algebraic Reasoning, §707. Geometric Reasoning and Logic, §901. Grade Level Foundational Skills, §903. Numeracy and Operational Fluency, §905. Algebraic Reasoning, §909. Data Analysis and Measurement, §1101. Grade Level Foundational Skills, §1103. Numeracy and Operational Fluency, §1105. Algebraic Reasoning, §1109. Data Analysis and Measurement, §1301. Grade Level Foundational Skills, §1303. Numeracy and Operational Fluency, §1305. Algebraic Reasoning, §1307. Geometric Reasoning and Logic, §1309. Data Analysis and Measurement, §1505. Algebraic Reasoning, §1707. Geometric Reasoning and Logic, §1709. Data Analysis, §2111. Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities, §2301. Geometric Reasoning and Logic, §2303. Similarity, Right Triangles, and Trigonometry, §2707. Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities, §2717. Interpreting Categorical and Quantitative Data, §2905. Seeing Structure in Equations, §2913. Interpreting Functions, §2921. Congruence, §2923. Similarity, Right Triangles, and Trigonometry, §2925. Circles, §2927. Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations, §3105. Arithmetic with Polynomials and Rational Expressions, §3303. Vector and Matrix Quantities, §3503. Vector and Matrix Quantities, and §3707. Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities.
- 8.1.28 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 169—Louisiana English Language Arts Student Standards*, §305. Reading Foundations, §307. Writing, §311. Language, §511. Language, §701. Reading Literature, §703. Reading Informational Text, §705. Reading Foundations, §707. Writing, §711. Language, §1103. Reading Informational Text, §1111. Language, §1305. Reading Foundations, §1311. Language, §1505. Writing, §2105. Writing, §2305. Writing Standards, and §2309. Language.
- 8.1.29 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the report from Louisiana Works regarding the industry-based credentials submission and approval process.
- Agenda Item 8.2. **School Innovation and Turnaround Committee** (Schedule 3)
- 8.2.1 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board received the 2025-2026 Economically Disadvantaged Students and Students with Disabilities Enrollment in Charter Schools Report.

- 8.2.2 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the material amendment to the Type 2 charter for Broussard Charter Academy, operated by Lafayette Charter Foundation, to expand the grade configuration from K-7 to K-8 and to increase total approved enrollment from 750 to 1,100 students for the 2027-2028 school year.
- 8.2.3 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the material amendment to the Type 2 charter for Elite Academy, operated by Thrive Community Enrichment and Development Corporation, to postpone the initial opening date to the 2027-2028 school year.
- 8.2.4 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the material amendment to the Type 2 charter for Louisiana Key Academy Jefferson, operated by Louisiana Key Academy, to postpone the initial opening date to the 2027-2028 school year.
- 8.2.5 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the material amendment to the Type 2 charter for Lake Charles Charter Academy, operated by Lake Charles Charter Foundation, to increase enrollment and to establish an enrollment preference allowing students currently enrolled at Lake Charles Charter Academy to matriculate directly into grade 9 at Lake Charles College Prep without participating in a public lottery.
- 8.2.6 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the material amendment to the Type 2 charter for Lafayette Renaissance Charter Academy, operated by Lafayette Charter Foundation, to provide for a campus expansion and physical address change effective August 2027 as follows:
- a. PK–2: 200 Vienne Lane, Lafayette, Louisiana;
 - b. Grades 3–5: New facility, address to be finalized;
 - c. Grades 6–8: 306 Acadiana Hills Lane, Lafayette, Louisiana; and
 - d. Grades 9–12: 300 Acadiana Hills Lane, Lafayette, Louisiana.
- 8.2.7 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the 2026-2027 Charter School Application Process Timeline and Framework, authorizing the LDOE to amend the timeline as needed and noting that BESE will be notified of any revisions.
- 8.2.8 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the Type 2 charter application submitted for Great Hearts Lake Charles, operated by Great Hearts Louisiana, Inc., to commence operation of one

(motion continues on page 10)

Type 2 charter school with statewide enrollment in Calcasieu Parish, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, and contingent upon completion of all pre-opening requirements as determined by LDOE.

- 8.2.9 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved with conditions the Type 2 charter application submitted for Slaughter Community Elementary School operated by Slaughter Community Charter School, to commence operation of one Type 2 charter school in East Feliciana Parish beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, and contingent upon completion of all pre-opening requirements as determined by LDOE. Further conditions include:

- a. Enrollment preferences and priorities for students who are Economically Disadvantaged and/or Students with Disabilities.
- b. Reduction of enrollment cap from 420 to 203, with enrollment scale completed by the 2029-2030 academic year.
- c. Stabilized enrollment with no increases to enrollment during the first three years of operation (excluding PK, if applicable).
- d. Slaughter Community Elementary will submit an operating budget clearly delineating functions and codes of the Type 2 charter during the Pre-Opening Process.

- 8.2.10 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 126--Charter Schools*, §307. Local School Board Duties, §503. Eligibility to Apply for a Type 2 Charter School, §2101. Board of Director Composition, §2303. Local Education Agency (LEA) Status and Federal Funding, §2711. Enrollment Preferences for BESE-Authorized Charter Schools, §4003. Applicability of State Laws, §4005. Other Statutory Requirements, §4301. Disciplinary Regulations, §4309. Reasons for Suspension, and §4317. Due Process for Expulsions.

- 8.2.11 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 133—Scholarship Programs*, §1517. Service Providers Eligibility and Application.

Agenda Item 8.3. **Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee** (Schedule 4)

- 8.3.1 On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the LDOE implementation plan regarding education legislation enacted during the 2026 Regular Legislative Session.

Agenda Item 8.4. **Educator Effectiveness Committee** (Schedule 5)

- 8.4.1 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the board received the minutes of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) meeting held June 25, 2026.
- 8.4.2 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 746 -Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, §1701. Overview, and adopt §1705. BESE Appeal Request.
- 8.4.3 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #609066 issued to Ms. Katherine Albarado, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 8.4.4 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Teaching Authorization #648647 issued to Ms. Triunna Anders.
- 8.4.5 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Teaching Authorization #623870 issued to Ms. Krisztina Ashburn.
- 8.4.6 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Practitioner License #668552 issued to Mr. Devin Candies, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 8.4.7 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #520145 issued to Ms. Kristy Curlee.
- 8.4.8 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate #592810 issued to Ms. Carleen Fitch.
- 8.4.9 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Teaching Authorization #636312 issued to Mr. Ja'Kemeon Jack, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 8.4.10 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Teaching Authorization #600087 issued to Ms. Nicole Schweitzer, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.

- 8.4.11 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Type A Teaching Certificate #444941 issued to Ms. Roma Zerangue.
- 8.4.12 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 1 Teaching Certificate #564767 issued to Mr. Daniel Cain, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 8.4.13 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Teaching Authorization #635631 issued to Ms. Clarissa Mims.
- 8.4.14 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Practitioner's License 3 #575433 issued to Ms. Tiffany Okereke.
- 8.4.15 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #432178 issued to Mr. Vincent Catalanoto, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 8.4.16 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Certificate #649859 issued to Mr. John Bowie, Jr., noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 8.4.17 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #577349 issued to Ms. Rachael Hymel.
- 8.4.18 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 1 Teaching Certificate #528465 issued to Ms. Brittney Sibley, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 8.4.19 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate #713203 issued to Ms. Alice Gibson.
- 8.4.20 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate #625910 issued to Ms. Keesha Dinkins.

- 8.4.21 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #527056 issued to Mr. Jerry Ford.
- 8.4.22 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 1 Teaching Certificate #660264 issued to Mr. David Smothers, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 8.4.23 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate #609101 issued to Ms. Tara Lewis.
- 8.4.24 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach #543326 issued to Ms. Nicole Evans.
- 8.4.25 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board granted the issuance of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Myra Fontenot.
- 8.4.26 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board granted the reinstatement of the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate #713203 issued to Ms. Alice Gibson on a one year probation requiring a return before the board in one year for records review.
- 8.4.27 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board granted the issuance of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Alpha Slack on a one year probation requiring a return before the board in one year for records review.
- 8.4.28 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board granted the reinstatement of the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certification #592810 issued to Ms. Carleen Fitch on a one year probation requiring a return before the board in one year for records review.
- 8.4.29 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board granted the reinstatement of the Louisiana Out of State Teaching Certificate #495076 issued to Mr. Harold Stewart.
- 8.4.30 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board granted the issuance of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Jennifer Greco.

Agenda
Item 8.5.

Board Administration and Education Finance Committee

(Schedule 6)

- 8.5.1 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the audit reports regarding the following:
- 2026-2027 Annual Audit Plan
 - Quality Assurance and Improvement Program
- 8.5.2 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the report regarding LDOE contracts \$50,000 or less approved by the State Superintendent of Education.
- 8.5.3 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the 8(g) monitoring visit reports conducted by BESE staff for FY 2024-2025.
- 8.5.4 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the reports on the current studies related to the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula and funding issues impacting Louisiana school districts.
- 8.5.5 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the report regarding the LDOE Budget FY 2026-2027 Appropriation.
- 8.5.6 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:
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| Contractor: | Instructure, Inc |
| Contract Period: | 07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027 |
| Contract Amount: | \$1,000,000.00 |
| Fund: | State General Fund |
| Competitive Process: | Non-Competitive |
- Description of Service: This contract provides consulting services to assist in adoption, change management, and course design initiatives to support usage of the Instructure ecosystem.
- 8.5.7 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:
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| Contractor: | Children's Hospital |
| Contract Period: | 10/1/2026-09/30/2029 |
| Contract Amount: | \$480,000.00 |

(motion continues on page 15)

Fund: Federal – IDEA 611 Setaside
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides for training and technical assistance to Local Education Agency (LEA) personnel to support children with chronic conditions and significant health issues in their education setting.

Children's Hospital will provide the following:

1. Statewide support for children who are chronically ill, have complex low incidence disorders, or have conditions requiring very specialized treatment and follow-up;
2. Staff to perform training and ongoing technical assistance to school personnel for children who are chronically ill or have specialized conditions requiring very specialized treatment to enter and/or remain in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE); and
3. LEA personnel, community agencies, and other concerned individuals with information and support regarding medical, academic, and social issues relative to the integration, maintenance, and positive outcome of children with special or complex health needs in the classroom.

8.5.8 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Concordia Parish School Board
Contract Period: 09/01/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$100,000.00
Fund: Federal – IDEA 611 Setaside
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides for services and supports through the JAG program for students with disabilities who are at risk of dropping out, with the goal of improving their transition into high school. The program is designed to help these students remain in school and earn either a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma while increasing academic achievement and employment readiness. It also seeks to enhance students' self-esteem, improve school attendance, encourage positive behavior, and strengthen overall academic performance.

Funding under this contract will support the implementation of the program at two schools: Ferriday Junior High School and Vidalia Junior High School II.

- 8.5.9 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Jefferson Parish School Board
Contract Period: 09/01/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$100,000.00
Fund: Federal – IDEA 611 Setaside
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides for services and supports through the JAG program for students with disabilities who are at risk of dropping out, with the goal of improving their transition into high school. The program is designed to help these students remain in school and earn either a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma while increasing academic achievement and employment readiness. It also seeks to enhance students' self-esteem, improve school attendance, encourage positive behavior, and strengthen overall academic performance.

Funding under this contract will support the implementation of the program at two schools: Worley Middle School (Renamed Isaac G. Joseph) and Truman Middle School.

- 8.5.10 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Lynette N. Tannis
Contract Period: 09/01/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$70,000.00
Fund: State - CCR SGF
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: The contractor will support key performance indicators related to school performance scores, graduation rates, and ACT scores, as schools within the Office of Juvenile Justice are included in each of these accountability measures.

- 8.5.11 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Rapides Parish School Board
Contract Period: 09/01/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$450,000.00

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Fund: Federal – IDEA 611 Setaside
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides for services and supports through the JAG program for students with disabilities who are at risk of dropping out, with the goal of improving their transition into high school. The program is designed to help these students remain in school and earn either a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma while increasing academic achievement and employment readiness. It also seeks to enhance students' self-esteem, improve school attendance, encourage positive behavior, and strengthen overall academic performance.

Funding under this contract will support the implementation of the program at nine schools: Alexandria Middle Magnet, Alexandria High School, Arthur F. Smith Middle School, Buckeye High School, Peabody Magnet High School, Pineville High School, Pineville Junior High, Tioga High School, and Rapides High School.

- 8.5.12 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: St. Landry Parish School Board
Contract Period: 09/01/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$100,000.00
Fund: Federal – IDEA 611 Setaside
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides for services and supports through the JAG program for students with disabilities who are at risk of dropping out, with the goal of improving their transition into high school. The program is designed to help these students remain in school and earn either a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma while increasing academic achievement and employment readiness. It also seeks to enhance students' self-esteem, improve school attendance, encourage positive behavior, and strengthen overall academic performance.

Funding under this contract will support the implementation of the program at two schools: Opelousas Sr. High School and Eunice High School.

- 8.5.13 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: St. Tammany Parish School Board
Contract Period: 09/01/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$100,000.00
Fund: Federal – IDEA 611 Setaside
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides for services and supports through the JAG program for students with disabilities who are at risk of dropping out, with the goal of improving their transition into high school. The program is designed to help these students remain in school and earn either a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma while increasing academic achievement and employment readiness. It also seeks to enhance students' self-esteem, improve school attendance, encourage positive behavior, and strengthen overall academic performance.

Funding under this contract will support the implementation of the program at two schools: Fontainebleau High School and Slidell High School.

- 8.5.14 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Katherine A. Grote
Contract Period: 09/01/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$70,000.00
Fund: Federal – Title IV, Part B (21st CCLC)
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract will provide technical assistance to 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) to strengthen program capacity, enhance program quality, and support the completion of the statewide 21st CCLC evaluation in fulfillment of federal evaluation requirements.

- 8.5.15 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: eDynamic Holdings LP
Contract Period: 09/1/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$360,000.00
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Fund: State - Legislative Line Item SGF
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This cooperative endeavor agreement, as required by HB1 of the 2026 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, provides Ready for Industry and Learning Blade digital curriculum. Ready for Industry is designed to address career awareness and preparation issues for the near-term job seeker – from late high school students through adults. Learning Blade provides 13 STEM/CS/CTE missions to supplement learning in grades 5-9.

- 8.5.16 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Farm-Ed, Inc.
Contract Period: 09/1/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$1,000,000.00
Fund: State - Legislative Line Item SGF
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: The Farm-Ed Louisiana Agricultural Education Pilot is designed to provide students across the state with hands-on learning experiences using modern agriculture practices and technologies. Through Farm-Ed's Grow Chamber system, data dashboard, curriculum materials, and teacher training, students in K-12 settings will gain access to advanced tools for learning, experimentation, and applied science. The primary purpose of this pilot is to modernize agriculture and STEM education in both urban and rural school districts by integrating controlled environment agriculture (CEA), data analysis, and STEM principles into traditional classrooms. Students will engage in authentic, project-based learning that reinforces science, mathematics, and technology standards while fostering interest in agriculture-related careers.

The Louisiana Agriculture Education Pilot objectives are as follows: recruit 78 qualifying classrooms, deliver and set-up Grow Chamber technology to 78 classrooms, train 78 corresponding teachers on device and program expectations, provide 36 lesson supplements to connect current course standards to Farm-Ed technology, monitor monthly feedback reports to ensure program fidelity. The Performance Measures for the Louisiana Agriculture Education Pilot are designed to show an increased value in the educational experience for classrooms that engage with Farm-Ed technology and program materials. Farm-Ed

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classrooms will be provided with 36 inquiry-based or project-based learning opportunities for more than 2,000 learners with hours of instruction and learner engagement reported by educators to the Farm-Ed team. The Pilot will also demonstrate Farm-Ed's value in supporting 78 teachers through increased curriculum support (decreased lesson preparation time) and enhanced teaching strategies supported through three hours of professional development.

- 8.5.17 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor:	Louisiana State University Capital Area STEM Network Center
Contract Period:	09/01/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount:	\$257,720.00
Fund:	State - State General Funds (AC Comp Sci)
Competitive Process:	Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides support for K-8 teachers in the implementation of computer science instruction.

- 8.5.18 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor:	Southeastern Louisiana University
Contract Period:	09/1/2026-06/30/2027
Contract Amount:	\$640,000.00
Fund:	State – General Fund - AC Comp Sci
Competitive Process:	Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides for grade 6-12 computer science professional learning to prepare teachers for the Praxis (5652) Computer Science exam. This will increase the number of certified teachers in computer science.

- 8.5.19 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor:	Exceptional Lives, Inc.
Contract Period:	10/01/2026-09/30/2029
Contract Amount:	\$240,000.00
Fund:	Federal – IDEA 611 Setaside
Competitive Process:	Non-Competitive

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Description of Service: This contract provides for tools, support, and resources to help families navigate special education and disability-related processes to improve communication between families, schools, and school districts.

- 8.5.20 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: MindPlay Education, LLC.
Contract Period: 09/01/2026 - 6/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$3,000,000.00
Fund: State – General Fund
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: The vendor will increase access to literacy screening and intervention supports for diverse learners, including student's identified with or demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia. The vendor will provide statewide access and professional development for up to 50,000 educators for implementation of the MindPlay system by providing professional development and technical assistance, district onboarding and system access, screening and intervention implementation, and monitoring and reporting. The vendor will provide statewide student software access.

- 8.5.21 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Louisiana Children's Research Center for Development and Learning Inc.
Contract Period: 07/01/2026-6/30/2027
Contract Amount: \$2,500,000.00
Fund: State – General Fund
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: The Louisiana Children's Research Center for Development and Learning (CDL) provides intensive, job-embedded coaching and technical assistance to 50 schools across 25 school systems to strengthen K–8 literacy, numeracy, and family engagement. Coaches partner with district and school leaders to build instructional leadership capacity through collaborative planning, classroom observations, implementation monitoring, data analysis, leadership coaching, and continuous feedback. Grounded in implementation science and the Science of Reading, coaching supports leaders in translating

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evidence-based instructional practices into consistent classroom implementation. By developing local leadership capacity and strengthening systems for continuous improvement, CDL coaches help schools increase literacy and numeracy achievement while fostering meaningful partnerships with families that support student success both in and beyond the classroom.

- 8.5.22 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Learning and Leading: Aspiring Educator Cohort
Type: Competitive
Amount: \$24,997.00
Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/15/2027
Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: This allocation will provide aspiring educators from across the state the opportunity to attend and participate in the Learning and Leading: Aspiring Educator Cohort. The capstone event will be presenting a session at the 2027 Teacher Leader Summit hosted by the LDOE in New Orleans, LA. This allocation will provide transportation and lodging for aspiring educators to attend events and activities in the Learning and Leading Cohort.

Basis of Allocation: Pre-Educator sponsors and teachers completed applications to nominate students for this cohort. All students nominated were accepted. The total funding amount, \$25,000, was divided evenly between the number of schools participating. Each award equals \$3,571.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.23 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Aspiring Educator: Pre-Educator Pathway
Development and Expansion
Type: Competitive
Amount: \$124,992.00
Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/15/2027
Source of Funds: State Funding – 8(g)

Purpose: This allocation will expand the Pre-Educator Pathway. The

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Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway is the foundation of Louisiana's strategy to develop educators from our communities for our communities. It centers on creating valuable experiences in pre-K-12 systems that develop an aspiring educator's interest, skill, and knowledge related to the teaching profession. Participation in and completion of the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway supports aspiring educators as they progress through the educator pipeline and prepares them to work as high-quality educators.

Basis of Allocation: The availability of the funding was advertised via multiple educator development standing communications, including the monthly Teaching and Learning webinar, the monthly Principal's Newsletter, the LDOE weekly newsletter, and the Pre-Educator contact list. School systems submitted a form describing the activities they were requesting funding for and the amount of funding requested. All school systems that applied requested funding for the following categories: purchase of micro-credentials for students; Educators Rising membership dues for students; stipends for Pre-Educator Teacher Leaders and/or club sponsors; and fees associated with field experiences. Funding was divided equally among schools within the school systems.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.24 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	Direct Student Services (DSS)
Type:	Competitive
Amount:	\$13,702,820.00
Period:	07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Source of Funds:	Federal – ESSA

Purpose: Under ESEA section 1003A, States may reserve up to three percent of Title I, Part A funds to support direct student services. States have discretion in how funds are awarded and what information is required from districts in their applications, beyond federal minimums.

For 2026-2027, the DSS focus areas include (1) Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program Match: Funds may be used to match or expand existing Steve Carter Tutoring services. While the program has traditionally been a partnership between families and tutoring providers, school systems may now choose to authorize the Louisiana Department

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of Education (LDOE) to submit payments on their behalf; (2) Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Academic Interventions: Funds may be used to implement or expand evidence-based, AI-driven tools or platforms; and (3) National Assessment Support: Funds may be used to support student success on National Assessments (ACT, SAT, CLT, ASVAB) through tutoring and/or exam cost.

Basis of Allocation: Recipients must meet the Title I eligibility requirements. Priority was given to LEAs that proposed strategies that are scalable, measurable, and sustainable; demonstrated strong implementation plans and evidence of effectiveness; and aligned interventions with Louisiana's education priorities.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.25 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	Early Childhood PDG Consolidated
Type:	Competitive
Amount:	\$4,768,345.00
Period:	05/01/2026 – 12/30/2026
Source of Funds:	Federal – Preschool Development Grant (PDG)

Purpose: Through the Preschool Development Grant Birth-to-Five (PDG B-5) funding, Louisiana's Ready Start Networks (RSNs), Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs), and Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) will implement coordinated, evidence-based strategies to strengthen the early childhood (EC) workforce and improve early learning outcomes across the state's mixed-delivery birth-to-five system. Funding supports publicly funded Type III centers, Academically Approved Family Child Care (FCC), publicly funded school-based pre-K, NSECD classrooms in publicly funded sites, and Head Start/Early Head Start programs. This is a supplemental allocation to the EC PDG Consolidated application approved at the April 2026 BESE. This allocation of funding will support Early Childhood access and Early Childhood language and literacy.

Basis of Allocation: PDG B-5 funds are provided through this supplemental allocation to eligible parishes who opted into the Ready Start Network Get Ready Cohort and to CNLAs based on the number of publicly funded sites and classrooms within each network's service area.

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Allocation amounts reflect the scope of access/workforce and literacy responsibilities across Louisiana's mixed-delivery birth-to-five system. Funding is designed to ensure distribution while maximizing impact on early learning outcomes. All allocations are contingent upon compliance with program requirements, reporting, and participation in LDOE guidance and monitoring activities.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.26 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	School Redesign
Type:	Competitive
Amount:	\$850,000.00
Period:	04/19/2026 – 09/30/2027
Source of Funds:	Federal – Other

Purpose: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires school systems to build plans to improve struggling schools. The state must use seven percent of the state's Title I funds to support high-quality improvement plans. In Louisiana, these funds are competitively awarded to the school systems that build the strongest plans for improvement.

Basis of Allocation: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that local school systems create a plan to improve the performance of students in persistently struggling schools. ESSA provides school improvement funding to implement state-approved plans in identified struggling schools. LDOE staff reviewed applications from eligible school systems and determined allocations based on the quality of each plan.

Recipients of school improvement funding must comply with all terms of the grant, including implementing all CIR/UIR-Academic approval and funding criteria as identified in the 2026-2027 LDOE School System Planning Workbook.

LEAs that do not meet the requirements of the grant and its implementation timeline will forfeit these school improvement allocations.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.27 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Strong School Systems
Type: Competitive
Amount: \$2,447,500.00
Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/15/2027
Source of Funds: State Funding – 8(g)

Purpose: The purpose of the 2026-2027 Strong School Systems Initiative is to improve student outcomes by strengthening structures that accelerate and sustain academic achievement. The initiative provides targeted funding to support school systems in creating, implementing, or maintaining priorities that directly advance student learning. It further supports the development of diverse and effective leadership teams through training, coaching, and other forms of professional development. Funding is aligned to system needs based on their stage of participation and level of academic or financial risk, and all funded activities must demonstrate measurable improvements in student outcomes.

Basis of Allocation: Recipients are awarded funds based on a combination of available funding and responses to the Strong School Systems - Strategic Planning and Implementation items in the 2027 Super Application. Year one systems will use the allocated funds to develop a comprehensive strategic plan with an approved vendor, establishing clear priorities, measurable goals, evidenced-based strategies, and progress monitoring structures. Year two and beyond systems will receive funding for the implementation of the strategic plan based on academic and financial risk. In accordance with their risk designation, systems may implement existing strategic plan priorities with support from an approved vendor and/or implement high-need priorities directly tied to student achievement as identified in their current strategic plan. Systems designated as a high financial risk and requesting funding for a priority area must submit the identified priority, associated student impact measures, and success criteria for the Department to approve. These designated systems are required to participate in ongoing monitoring.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.28 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

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Allocation: Disability Innovation Fund
Type: Other
Amount: \$1,971,000.00
Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Source of Funds: Federal - Other

Purpose: The National Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) grant is intended to provide funds to LEAs to expand workplace apprenticeships and private sector partnerships, and supplement the cost of personnel to engage in the implementation of a newly designed transition framework. The four pilot districts receiving funding were carefully selected based on federal grant criteria that included regional needs and growing industry base.

Basis of Allocation: Each school system is receiving funding to support the DIF grant, in alignment with the transition grant activities. Catahoula, Lincoln, Union and Caldwell are the school systems included in the grant, based on transition and workforce needs in rural parishes. Funds are being awarded to further engage children in this transitional work, as required by US ED guidance. The Middle to High School (M2HS) pilot will support piloting school districts during the 2026-2027 school year. The M2HS pilot is expanding transitional grant opportunities to include a total of 22 school districts, selected based on district needs and capacity to support this initiative. There are four returning M2HS from 2025-2026 pilot (Calcasieu Parish, Grant Parish, New Orleans Public Schools and KIPP Booker T. Washington).

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.29 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: High-Dosage Tutoring
Type: Other
Amount: \$23,698,728.00
Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Source of Funds: State General Fund

Purpose: High Dosage Tutoring (HDT) is a research-based instructional model that explicitly addresses students' unfinished learning from core instruction and leverages extra time to prepare students for grade-level content in math and reading. Act 771 of the 2024 Louisiana Legislative

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Session requires school day embedded tutoring for certain Kindergarten through 5th-grade students.

Basis of Allocation: School systems receive funding based on the number of K–5 students who qualify for HDT. Qualification is determined by assessment performance: K–2 students scoring below proficient on DIBELS, and grades 3–5 students scoring below mastery on LEAP ELA and/or Math.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.30 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	IDEA Family Support
Type:	Other
Amount:	\$1,082,343.00
Period:	07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Source of Funds:	Federal - IDEA

Purpose: This allocation supports activities outlined in Louisiana’s IDEA Part B State Activities Grant and provides regional technical assistance to families of students with disabilities through Louisiana’s nine Families Helping Families centers and The Arc of Louisiana. These partners, located across the state, offer information, peer support, and connections to community resources while promoting meaningful family engagement in students’ education. Center staff bring lived experience as family members of individuals with disabilities, strengthening the support they provide. In addition, this allocation advances a key dispute resolution objective by equipping centers to facilitate neutral, family-centered conflict resolution strategies, ensuring families have access to trusted, unbiased guidance when navigating disagreements related to special education services. The Arc of Louisiana will also support a statewide summit for parents of students with disabilities.

Basis of Allocation: The funding for this allocation is established by Louisiana’s IDEA Part B State Activities Grant. Allocation amounts for the centers are based on the number of IDEA-eligible student’s ages 3 to 21 in each center’s geographic service area, in addition to travel related expenses for training and support, and center expenditures.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.31 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: LDOE Classic Literature
Type: Other
Amount: \$2,000,000.00
Period: 08/24/2026 – 06/30/2027
Source of Funds: State General Fund

Purpose: This allocation supports school systems in purchasing texts from the LDOE's Classic Literature list as systems prepare for the required reading policy (Title 28, part CXV, Bulletin 741: chapter 23) going into effect in the 2027-2028 school year.

Basis of Allocation: This allocation provides a proportionate amount of funds based on the reported school system or charter school enrollments in the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.32 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
Type: Other
Amount: \$425,000.00
Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Source of Funds: Federal – IDEA

Purpose: The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will provide allocations to eight local education agencies (LEAs) to serve as fiscal agent for their respective regional Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) consortium.

PBIS provides a positive and effective alternative to traditional discipline methods. PBIS methods are research-based and have been shown to significantly reduce problem behaviors in schools, resulting in a more positive school climate and increased academic performance. PBIS is consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Act 1225, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (R.S. 17:252), which advocates the use of positive behavior interventions and supports and school-based disciplinary strategies.

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Basis of Allocation: Eight LEAs were selected to serve as fiscal agents for the PBIS program within their respective education regions. The LEAs were selected based on experience and/or prior service as a fiscal agent for PBIS implementation. Each LEA will receive \$53,125.

Mr. Castille and Dr. Clark recused themselves from the vote on this motion.

- 8.5.33 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the following 8(g) Statewide Programs and budgets for FY 2026-2027: Early Childhood Care and Education Networks, International Choices for College and Career Education, Louisiana Educational Assessment Program, Louisiana Recruitment and Retention, Numeracy Support, Strong School Systems, and TALK-PD (Teachers Accessing Literacy Knowledge).
- 8.5.34 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the report on the BESE budget balances for FY 2025-2026.
- 8.5.35 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the report on the BESE Budget FY 2026-2027 Appropriation.
- 8.5.36 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the following legislative reports:
- R.S. 17:24.9 K-3 Spring Reading Assessments
 - R.S. 17:4032.1 Steve Carter Education Program
 - R.S. 17:1944.1 Local Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report
- 8.5.37 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the annual report regarding the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission per R.S. 17:10.9(D) and direct the LDOE to submit the report to the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Education.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.