



**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 April 9, 2025**

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

**April 9, 2025**

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

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in regular session on April 9, 2025, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Board President Ronnie Morris.

Board members present were Mr. Conrad Appel, Dr. Judy Armstrong, Mr. Kevin Berken, Ms. Simone Champagne, Dr. Sharon Clark, Mr. Lance Harris, Mr. Paul Hollis, Ms. Sandy Holloway, Ms. Stacey Melerine, and Mr. Ronnie Morris.

Mr. Preston Castille was not in attendance.

Sr. Carol Shively, Diocese of Shreveport, led the opening prayer, and Ms. Siyeon Joo, Senate Youth, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

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|-------------------|---|--------------|
| Agenda<br>Item 2. | <b><u>Approval of the Agenda</u></b>  | (Schedule 1) |
| 2.1               | On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the agenda.                                       |              |
|                   |   |              |
| Agenda<br>Item 3. | <b><u>Recognition of Guests</u></b>   |              |
| 3.1               | On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded Ms. Champagne, the Board recognized the U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship honorees.       |              |
| 3.2               | On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded Ms. Melerine, the Board recognized Purple Star Schools.                               |              |
| 3.3               | On motion of Ms. Champagne, seconded Mr. Berken, the Board recognized the EDL Alternate Pathway 4 Boot Camp Completers. |              |
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| Agenda<br>Item 4. | <b><u>Approval of the Minutes</u></b>   |              |
| 4.1               | On motion of Ms. Holloway, seconded Mr. Harris, the Board approved the minutes of March 12, 2025.                       |              |

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 report from Leaders for a Better Louisiana highlighted the fact that Louisiana lags behind in student work-based learning experiences and internship opportunities, but thankfully the Board voted on an accountability plan to include internship and apprenticeship opportunities;
- A note of thanks on the success and collaboration with the BESE Bridging Success Tours across the state; and
- A recent tour of southwest Louisiana schools and early care centers, expressing the importance of spending time with educators.

Agenda  
Item 6.**Report(s) from members of BESE (Statutory and Legislative Task Force/Council Appointees)**

- Dr. Clark, representing BESE on the STAR Task Force for Truancy, informed members of the upcoming Truancy Summit on June 12, 2025.
- Mr. Berken informed members of the upcoming BESE Bridging Success Tour in Lake Charles on April 30, 2025.
- Dr. Armstrong, representing BESE on the Nonpublic School Council, thanked the school choice team for the policy work ensuring safety for toddlers and all children, as well as continued efforts regarding the LA GATOR program.

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 Ms. Chantelle Hataway.
- 7.1.3 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board recognized Beta Club honorees.
- 7.1.4 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the revised 2025-2026 Nonpublic School Academic Classifications.

7.1.5 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the three-year renewal of State-Certified World Language Immersion Schools, with the renewal period beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, as follows:

- a. Audubon Charter School, Lower School Campus, Orleans Parish;
- b. Audubon Charter School, Upper School Campus, Orleans Parish;
- c. Baton Rouge Foreign Language Academic Immersion Magnet (BR FLAIM), East Baton Rouge Parish;
- d. Lafayette High School, Lafayette Parish;
- e. Mamou Elementary School, Evangeline Parish;
- f. Prairie Elementary School, Lafayette Parish; and
- g. Westdale Middle School, East Baton Rouge Parish.

7.1.6 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the transfer of State-Certified World Language Immersion School status from Paul Breaux Middle School, Lafayette Parish, to Scott Middle School, Lafayette Parish, for the remaining two years of eligibility during the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.

7.1.7 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the following alternative education programs for the 2025-2026 school year:

Acadia Parish: Acadia Parish School Board's Alternative Program;  
Allen Parish: Allen Parish Alternative Program;  
Ascension Parish: A.P.P.L.e-Digital Academy Alternative Learning Program;  
Assumption Parish: Assumption Parish Alternative Program;  
Avoyelles Parish: Avoyelles Virtual Alternative Program;  
Beauregard Parish: Beauregard Alternative Program (BAP);  
Bienville Parish: Bienville, Ringgold High School;  
Bossier Parish: Butler Educational Complex;  
Calcasieu Parish: Boys Village, Calcasieu Parish Alternative Site-East, Calcasieu Parish Alternative Site-West, Calcasieu Parish Juvenile Detention Center, Harbour House, Methodist Children's Home, Positive Connections: Academic & Treatment Program, Simon Youth Calcasieu Academy, Simon Youth Academy-Prien Lake Mall;  
Caldwell Parish: Caldwell Parish High School;  
Cameron Parish: Cameron Parish Alternative Education, Grand Lake Elementary, Grand Lake High School, Hackberry High School, Johnson Bayou High School, South Cameron High;  
Catahoula Parish: Catahoula Parish Alternative Program;  
Central Community School District: Central Community School System: Discipline Center;

City of Baker School District: Baker Alternative Learning Center;  
City of Bogalusa School District: Northside Alternative Program;  
Claiborne Parish: Claiborne Parish Alternative Program;  
DeSoto Parish: DeSoto Schools' Grace House;  
East Baton Rouge Parish: EBR Discipline Center;  
East Carroll Parish: East Carroll Parish Alternative Program;  
East Feliciana Parish: East Feliciana Parish Enrichment Academy;  
Evangeline Parish: Evangeline Parish Alternative Program;  
Franklin Parish: Horace G. White Learning Center;  
Grant Parish: Grant Alternative K-12, Grant Alternative K-6, Grant High;  
Iberia Parish: Alternative Center for Education;  
Iberville Parish: Iberville Alternative Positive Program for Students;  
Jackson Parish: Jackson Parish Alternative Schools;  
Jefferson Davis Parish: James Ward Center for Excellence;  
Lafayette Parish: LPSS K-5 Alternative Program (SOAR), Lerosen Preparatory Program;  
Lafourche Parish: Central Positive Action School Site (PASS), North Positive Action School Site (PASS), South Positive Action School Site (PASS);  
LaSalle Parish: LaSalle Parish Alternative Program;  
Lincoln Parish: Cypress Springs Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, Youth Rescue Center;  
Livingston Parish: Pathways Success Center, Pine Ridge Alternative Program;  
Madison Parish: Madison Parish Alternative Center;  
Morehouse Parish: Fresh Start Alternative School Program;  
Natchitoches Parish: Natchitoches Parish Technical and Career Center;  
Northeast Claiborne Charter: Northeast Claiborne Charter;  
Orleans Parish School Board: The Bridge;  
Ouachita Parish: Ouachita Parish Academy of Learning;  
Plaquemines Parish: Plaquemines Parish Learning Center;  
Pointe Coupee Parish: Pointe Coupee Parish Virtual Alternative Program;  
Rapides Parish: Rapides Alternative Positive Program for Students;  
Richland Parish: Richland Career Center at Archibald;  
Sabine Parish: Sabine Program for At Risk Kids (SPARK);  
St. Charles Parish: Eual J. Landry Sr. Educational Programs Center;  
St. Helena Parish: St. Helena Alternative Recovery Program;  
St. James Parish: Alternative Center for Grades K-12;  
St. John the Baptist Parish: St. John Alternative Program;  
St. Landry Parish: Center for Academic Programs/CAPS;  
St. Martin Parish: Juvenile Continuing Education Program (JCEP);  
St. Mary Parish: St. Mary Parish Alternative Program;  
St. Tammany Parish: Project Team East, Project Team West, Project Believe;

Tangipahoa Parish: Tangipahoa Alternative Solutions Program;  
Tensas Parish: Tensas Alternative Program;  
Terrebonne Parish: Terrebonne Alternative Program Placement, Juvenile Detention Center Alternative Program, SEC Day Treatment Program;  
Union Parish: Union Parish Alternative Center;  
Vermillion Parish: Vermillion Elementary Alternative Program (VEAP), Vermillion High and Middle Alternative Program;  
Vernon Parish: Vernon Parish Optional Program;  
Washington Parish: Eastside Alternative Program, Westside Alternative Program;  
Webster Parish: Webster Parish Schools;  
West Baton Rouge Parish: Brusly High School (6-12), Alternative Education Center, Port Allen High School (6-12);  
West Carroll Parish: West Carroll Alternative Program;  
West Feliciana Parish: West Feliciana Parish Alternative Program;  
Winn Parish: Winn Alternative Program; and  
Zachary Community School District: Northwestern Elementary School, Northwestern Middle School.

- 7.1.8 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the following alternative education schools for the 2025-2026 school year:

Caddo Parish: Academic Recovery Ombudsman, AmiKIDs Caddo, Pathways in Education (PIE);  
City of Monroe School District: Sherrouse School;  
East Baton Rouge Parish: Arlington Preparatory Academy, EBR Readiness Superintendent Academy, Northdale Superintendent's Academy;  
Howard School: Howard School;  
Jackson Parish: Jackson Parish Detention Center;  
Jefferson Parish: JCFA, Strehle Community School, Frederick Douglas Community School;  
Lafayette Parish: Edward J Sam Accelerated School of Lafayette;  
Madison Parish: Christian Acres Alternative School;  
Office of Juvenile Justice: Central Southwest Alternative High School, Riverside Alternative High School, Southside Alternative High School, ACY-St. Martinville, Jetson Alternative High School, Pinehill Alternative High School;  
Orleans Parish School Board: New Orleans Accelerated High School (NOAH), The Net Charter High School, The Net 2 Charter High School, Travis Hill School;  
Red River Parish: Red River Academic Academy, Ware Youth Center;  
St. Bernard Parish: C.F. Rowley Alternative School;

Tangipahoa Parish: Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center; and  
Type 2 Charter Schools: JCFA-East, JCFA-Lafayette, Louisiana Rebirth  
Blended Learning Academy.

- 7.1.9 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the authorization of Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) as a Course Choice provider for the Fast Forward Summers Program, beginning with summer 2025.
- 7.1.10 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the authorization of St. Mary Parish School System as a Course Choice provider for Fast Forward Summers Program, beginning with summer 2025.
- 7.1.11 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved the authorization of West Feliciana Parish School System as a Course Choice provider for the Fast Forward Summers Program, beginning with summer 2025.
- 7.1.12 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the status report regarding the Course Choice providers for the Fast Forward Summers program.
- 7.1.13 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the minutes of the Nonpublic School Council (NPSC) meeting held March 18, 2025.
- 7.1.14 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the minutes of the Superintendents' Advisory Council (SAC) meeting held March 20, 2025.
- 7.1.15 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) meeting held March 26, 2025.
- 7.1.16 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*: §5316. Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices.
- 7.1.17 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*: §2317. High Schools.

- 7.1.18 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Armstrong, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 1508, *Pupil Appraisal Handbook*: §101. Introduction; §103. Child Find Guidelines; §107. Qualified Examiners; §301. Response to Intervention; §303. School Building Level Committee; §305. Screening Activities; §307. Referral Process; §501. Evaluation Coordination; §505. Procedural Responsibilities; §507. Evaluation Procedures; §513. Evaluation Components; §701. Autism; §703. Deaf-Blindness; §705. Developmental Delay; §707. Emotional Disturbance; §709. Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing; §711. Intellectual Disability; §713. Multiple Disabilities; §715. Orthopedic Impairment; §717. Other Health Impairment; §719. Specific Learning Disability; §721. Speech or Language Impairment; §725. Visual Impairment; §901. Gifted; §903. Talented; §1101. Required Reevaluations; §1303. Adapted Physical Education; §1501. Overview; §1503. Occupational Therapy; §1507. Physical Therapy; §1509. School Health Services and School Nurse Services; and §1511. School Psychological Services, as well as the repeal of §1103. Parental Consent for Reevaluations.

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

- 7.2.1 On motion by 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.
- 7.2.2 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the audit report regarding the follow up audit of the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP).
- 7.2.3 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the quarterly report of expenditures and budget balances of 8(g) projects for FY 2024-2025.



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

Contractor:	Data Recognition Corporation
Contract Period:	10/01/2016 – 06/30/2028
Original Amount:	\$76,367,793.00
Amended Amount:	\$24,907,205.00
Contract Amount:	\$101,274,998.00
Fund:	State, Self-Generated Funds, Federal
Competitive Process:	Competitive

Description of Service: Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) provides support services for the development of the LEAP 2025 assessments in ELA and math, which includes the development of content, test forms, assessment frameworks, practice tests, and all psychometric services related to these activities.

- 7.2.5 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the following LDOE contract.

Contractor:	University of Louisiana at Monroe
Contract Period:	05/01/2025 – 06/30/2027
Contract Amount:	\$150,000.00
Fund:	Disability Innovation Fund, Pathways to Partnerships Innovation (Federal)
Competitive Process:	None

Description of Service: The University of Louisiana at Monroe will provide support to the LDOE and undertake the following activities:

- Partner with participating Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET) school districts, which may include Caldwell Parish, Catahoula Parish, Lincoln Parish, and Union Parish to provide specialized industry training and offer a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program (CTP) to support students with disabilities with postsecondary opportunities.

- 7.2.6 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the report from Education Finance staff concerning BESE-authorized charter school budgets and expenditure reports, including irregularities or concerns.

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

Allocation: CCAP B-3 Seats (FY25)  
Type: Competitive  
Amount: \$106,370.00  
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 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.

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

Allocation: Comprehensive Literacy State  
Type: Competitive  
Amount: \$9,270,000.00  
Period: 07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026  
Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: The purpose of the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (CLSD) grant is to award competitive grants to LEAs to advance literacy skills, including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing, for all children from birth through grade 12, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged children, including children living in poverty, English Learners, and children with disabilities.

(Motion continues on page 10)

Focus Area: Opportunity to provide additional and enhanced literacy efforts to build the capacity of local leaders, improve the practice of teachers, and increase literacy outcomes for children.

Basis of Allocation: This is the first allocation of the CLSD 3.0 (2024) grant. CLSD 3.0 was awarded on a competitive basis through application reviews using a rubric. Systems awarded demonstrated a need based on high teacher turnover, schools that are currently rated "F" but were not pre-COVID, AUS labeled schools, chronically underperforming early childhood sites that are publicly funded, significant or growing rates of English Learners, and/or at least 50% of students who are at risk of being retained in third grade due to well below performance on the Fall 2024 DIBELS assessment. The top 26% of LEAs, according to scored applications, were awarded funds to implement the literacy initiatives outlined in their applications. Funds are allocated by grade band in which systems applied. Birth-5 received a base allocation of \$100,000 plus \$25,000 per site, K-5 received a base allocation of \$100,000 plus \$25,000 per site, 6-8 received a base allocation of \$110,000 plus \$25,000 per site, and 9-12 received \$110,000 plus \$25,000 per site each year for Year 1.

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

Allocation:	Comprehensive Literacy State Development UIN
Type:	Competitive
Amount:	\$12,175,000.00
Period:	07/01/2025 – 09/30/2025
Source of Funds:	Federal

Purpose: The LDOE is committed to advancing literacy skills for all of its children. CLSD UIN targets high-need UIN schools and ECE partners that demonstrate the promise to become models for other high-need sites to replicate. This project focuses on a specific set of evidence-based practices and evidence-informed innovations to strengthen the literacy skills of children birth to 12th grade.

Basis of Allocation: Allocations of funds were decided based on applicants' detailed program descriptions in their CLSD UIN application. This is year five of funding for a five-year grant, and funding in this round is funding cohort 2 and 3 schools involved in the expansion of the signature literacy innovation. Funding will end September 30, 2025, and Louisiana is pending a no-cost extension to extend funding through June 30, 2026.

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

Allocation: Disability Innovation Fund  
Type: Competitive  
Amount: \$280,000.00  
Period: 04/15/2025 – 06/30/2025  
Source of Funds: Federal – Disability Innovation Fund

Purpose: The National Disability Innovation Fund 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.

Basic of Allocation: Each school system is receiving an additional \$70,000 to support community partnerships in alignment with the transition grant activities.

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

Allocation: IDEA 611 (Set Aside)  
Type: Competitive  
Amount: \$2,720,000.00  
Period: 07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026  
Source of Funds: Federal – IDEA

Purpose: School systems will utilize funds to serve two purposes. First, the funds will ensure that all students with disabilities have access to the same high-quality curriculum materials as their peers by providing for training on how to implement these materials to special education teachers and regular education teachers who teach students with disabilities. Second, school systems will partner with a vendor from the Professional Learning Partner Guide that provides specially designed instruction for students with disabilities in the areas of communication, assistive technology, executive functioning, and sensory/environment. These vendor partnerships will support networks in adapting content, methods, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of students with a disability and ensure access and success toward measurable and rigorous goals.

(Motion continues on page 12)

Basis of Allocation: Funds are allocated based on the need of the school system and number of schools within the system. School systems that met all CIR/UIR-Academic criteria as stated in the 2025-2026 School System Planning Workbook were eligible to receive a portion of requested high-quality professional development costs in the form of these IDEA funds. In order to be eligible for optional competitive funding for specialized support professional learning, school systems must identify the vendors from the Professional Learning Partner Guide with whom they will partner to provide professional learning at UIR-Academics schools. School systems with at least one school identified as UIR in the students with disabilities group may request optional competitive funding to subsidize professional development from vendors in the Professional Learning Partner Guide.

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

Allocation:	IDEA 619B (Set Aside)
Type:	Competitive
Amount:	\$517,000.00
Period:	07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026
Source of Funds:	Federal – IDEA

Purpose: Early Childhood Lead Agencies (CNLAs) will utilize funds to partner with vendors from the Professional Learning Partners Guide, or other vendors directly related to school system developmental screeners. Professional development supporting developmental screening can include training materials and resources, and teacher stipends and/or substitute pay for professional development recipients. Funding can also be utilized to partner with vendors from the Professional Learning Partners Guide or other vendors that are directly related to the use of specialized supports for educators supporting young children with disabilities.

Basis of Allocation: Funds are allocated to early childhood lead agencies, based on federal funding distribution amounts and LEA need.

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

Allocation: School Redesign (Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies)  
Type: Competitive  
Amount: \$23,972,140.00  
Period: 04/19/2025 – 09/30/2026  
Source of Funds: Federal – Redesign

Purpose: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires school systems to build plans to improve struggling schools. The state must use 7% of the state's Title I funds to support high-quality improvement plans. In Louisiana, these funds will be competitively awarded to school systems that build the strongest plans for improvement.

Basic of Allocation: ESSA requires that local school systems create a plan to improve the performance of students in persistently struggling schools. ESSA also 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 2025-2026 LDOE School System Planning Workbook.

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

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

Allocation: Title IV Set-Aside  
Type: Competitive  
Amount: \$200,000.00  
Period: 07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026  
Source of Funds: Federal – ESSA

(Motion continues on page 14)

Purpose: Title IV supports student academic achievement and provides access to a well-rounded education, improves school conditions for student learning, and improves the use of technology.

Basis of Allocation: Targeted support for schools and school systems with an average of 13 or more missed days from school to engage an Attendance Support Specialist to support school attendance initiatives to improve academic success. The LDOE is committed to supporting regular school attendance to make our schools better, our communities safer, and our economy stronger. In order to promote good school attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism, the LDOE is offering evidence-based best practices and providing funding for professional learning to support schools and systems.

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

Allocation:	Aspiring Educators Attending 2025 Teacher Leader Summit
Type:	Other
Amount:	\$24,997.00
Period:	07/01/2024 – 06/15/2025
Source of Funds:	Federal – Carl Perkins

Purpose: As a result of this allocation, aspiring educators from across the state will have the opportunity to attend and participate in the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit hosted by the LDOE in New Orleans, LA. This allocation will provide student registration, transportation, and lodging for aspiring educators to attend the largest educator professional learning in the state.

Basis of Allocation: The availability of the funding was advertised via multiple educator development standing communications including the monthly preparation provider email blast, the pre-educator pathway programs contact list, and the LDOE weekly newsletter. School systems submitted a form describing lodging and transportation costs. All systems that submitted a complete application will receive funding to offset costs for registration, travel, and lodging.

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

Allocation: Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood  
Type: Other  
Amount: \$95,418,000.00  
Period: 07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026  
Source of Funds: State General Fund/Federal – TANF

Purpose: The purpose of the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program is to provide high-quality early childhood educational experiences to four-year-old children who are considered to be “at risk” of achieving later academic success. The LA 4 program provides six hours per day of educational experiences. The program will be offered at no cost to those children whose families are at or below 200% of the federal poverty limit. In 2025-2026, LA 4 will serve at least 17,100 children. Programs will adhere to state approved guidelines and regulations.

Basic of Allocation: All school systems and charter schools are eligible to submit an application for funding. Allocations were based on prior participation, participation in an early childhood community network, and community need. Monies are allocated on a per pupil basis at \$5,580. Actual reimbursement is based on recipients filling all allocated seats and students meeting attendance thresholds. Award amounts are based on the 2025-2026 final allocations for student participation for each of the participating school systems. Awards for this program are contingent upon approval of funding.



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

Allocation: Early Childhood Mentor and Resident Stipends  
Type: Other  
Amount: \$109,300.00  
Period: 07/01/2024 – 06/15/2025  
Source of Funds: State – 8(g)

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to support the recruitment and retention of teachers in Louisiana. Mentor teachers help increase the retention of beginning educators, and also the retention of teacher leaders who serve in this role. Eligible Early Childhood teacher residents and mentors receive a stipend for the duties they perform. This stipend is paid for with 8(g) funds.

Basis of Allocation: Twenty-one residents and 20 mentors qualified for this stipend. The timeframe for these duties to be performed was from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024 (second semester 2023-2024 school year and first semester 2024-2025 school year) or the 2024-2025 school year. Parishes receiving these funds are Allen, Assumption, Bossier, Central Community Schools, East Baton Rouge (2), Iberia, Iberville (3), Morehouse, Rapides (3), St. Landry (2), St. Tammany (2), Tangipahoa (2), and Terrebonne. Early Childhood residents are eligible for a \$3,300 stipend. Early Childhood mentors are eligible for a \$2,000 stipend.

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

Allocation:	Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development (NSECD) Program
Type:	Other
Amount:	\$7,839,900.00
Period:	07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026
Source of Funds:	State General Fund

Purpose: The purpose of the Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development (NSECD) Program is to collaborate with non-public schools and Type III child care centers in providing high-quality, developmentally appropriate preschool instruction and services to preschool-aged children who are considered to be at risk of achieving later academic success. The NSECD Program provides six hours per day of pre-Kindergarten instruction. The program is offered at no cost to children whose families fall below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Basis of Allocation: All BESE/Brumfield-Dodd approved non-public schools and licensed accredited Type III child care centers are eligible to submit an application for funding. Money is awarded on a per pupil basis at a minimum of \$5,580 per child per year. Actual reimbursement is based on recipients filling all allocated seats and students meeting attendance thresholds. Award amounts are based on reported enrollment, Performance Profile ratings, early childhood community network participation, and parish need.

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

Allocation: STAR Academy  
Type: Other  
Amount: \$1,000,000.00  
Period: 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025  
Source of Funds: State General Fund – STAR Academy

Purpose: This funding provides for supplemental appropriations for the Non Federal Support program, STAR Academy, in accordance with Act 776 of the 2024 Regular Session.

Star Academy is a turn-key program aimed at re-engaging at-risk students, in the middle grades. The program is STEM inspired and focuses on hands-on engagement through project-based learning at the core of every lesson. The turn-key aspect includes:

- customize lesson structure based on school and regional economic needs;
- full build out of the classroom including extensive remodeling;
- installation of all project-based learning equipment;
- extensive professional development for teacher prior to the start of instruction; and
- on-going professional development on a monthly basis for three years (with a contract extension available).

Basis of Allocation: The recipients of this funding were chosen based on a need to scale existing programs that have met capacity for multiple years or have a graduation rate lower than the state average. Activities include accelerated instruction and expanded academic support through small-group instruction.

- 7.2.20 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board directed the LDOE to request from Orleans Parish School Board to identify and provide explanations regarding why the district declined student seat count allocation of funds in the LA 4 program over the past five years.

- 7.2.21 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the program and budget revisions for the following 8(g) Statewide Grant Programs for FY 2024-2025: Louisiana Educational Assessment Program 2025 (LEAP 2025); and Teachers Accessing Literacy Knowledge Professional Development (TALK-PD).

- 7.2.22 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the report regarding the BESE budget balances for FY 2024-2025.
- 7.2.23 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the following reports:
- HCR 14 (2024) regarding alternative school calendar options;
  - HR 249 (2024) regarding reporting by school systems of employees committing child abuse and sexual assault against students;
  - HR 261 (2023) Dyslexia Identification Screening Report;
  - R.S. 17:100.10 Public School Facilities Financing Act/New Market Tax Credit Report;
  - R.S. 47: 6301 School Tuition Organization Reports/Tuition Donation Tax Credit Report;
  - HR 39 (2024) regarding adverse childhood experiences education programs; and
  - R.S. 17:17.4 and HCR 11 (2018) Health and Physical Education in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools Report.
- 7.2.24 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved the report regarding R.S. 49:966, reporting to oversight committees and directed the LDOE to submit the report to the House and Senate Committees on Education.
- 7.2.25 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 1929, *Louisiana Accounting and Uniform Governmental Handbook*: §1301. Minimum Requirements for Lead School Business Administrator/Chief Financial Officer/Business Manager (Local School Districts and Charter Schools).
- 7.2.26 On motion by Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board directed BESE staff to forward the following questions to the responsible officials of the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) by the end of business on April 10, 2025, giving OPSB until the end of business on April 30, 2025, to respond to BESE and the LDOE:
1. What was the nature and actual value of the error and/or shortfall in the OPSB current fiscal year budget?

(Motion continues on page 20)

2. How did the budget error/shortfall escape review by the OPSB and its staff? Does the OPSB employ generally accepted financial accounting principles in accordance with Louisiana law?
3. What actions have the OPSB taken to remediate the impact of a current budget error/shortfall? What further actions are anticipated?
4. In the remediation of a current budget shortfall if the use of “rainy day” funds is anticipated, then how and when will these funds be replenished?
5. What actions have the OPSB taken to prevent future recurrence of this or any other error/shortfall in its budgeting process? What further actions are anticipated?
6. What if any obligations are owed to the OPSB by the City of New Orleans? If there are funds owed or committed by the City of New Orleans when will they become due and how will they be allocated?
7. What were the potential impacts or burdens on schools in Orleans Parish resulting from an OPSB error/shortfall? To what extent and how if any have these impacts been remediated?
8. If additional funds become available, such as from the city of New Orleans, how will and when will these funds be allocated?
9. Based upon the corrected current OPSB budget, is there an expectation of reduced future recurring revenues?
10. Should future recurring revenues be reduced, what will be the impact upon schools and their funding?

Further, the Board directed the LDOE to report to BESE, by electronic mail, an evaluation of said responses by May 15, 2025.

Agenda  
Item 7.3.

**Educator Effectiveness Committee**

(Schedule 4)

7.3.1

On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board received the presentation from Southeastern Louisiana University.

7.3.2 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the proposal, submitted by iTeach Louisiana, to offer a new teacher preparation program in the following areas:

- Post-Baccalaureate: Certification-Only Pathway
  - Mild/Moderate: Elementary (Grades 1-5)
  - Mild/Moderate: Middle (Grades 4-8)
  - Mild/Moderate: Secondary (Grades 6-12)

7.3.3 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the proposal, submitted by Nicholls State University, to offer a new teacher preparation program in the following areas:

- Undergraduate Pathway
  - Early Childhood (PK-3)

7.3.4 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the proposal, submitted by Ready to Teach A+PEL, to offer a new teacher preparation program in the following areas:

- Post-Baccalaureate: Certification-Only Pathway
  - Agriculture (6-12)
  - Art (K-12)
  - Business (6-12)
  - Computer Science (6-12)
  - Early Childhood (PK-3)
  - Family and Consumer Science (6-12)
  - Health and Physical Education (K-12)
  - Journalism (6-12)
  - Music: Instrumental Music (K-12)
  - Music: Vocal Music (K-12)
  - Science: Biology (6-12)
  - Science: Chemistry (6-12)
  - Science: Environmental Science (6-12)
  - Science: Physics (6-12)
  - Special Education: Early Interventionist (B-5)
  - Special Education: Mild/Moderate (Elementary 1-5)
  - Special Education: Mild/Moderate (Middle Grades 4-8)
  - Special Education: Mild/Moderate (Secondary 6-12)
  - Special Education: Significant Disabilities (1-12)
  - Speech (6-12)
  - World Language: French (K-12)
  - World Language: Spanish (K-12)

- 7.3.5 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the proposal, submitted by University of Louisiana at Monroe, to offer a new teacher preparation program in the following areas:
- Post-Baccalaureate: Practitioner Pathway
    - English/Language Arts (4-8)
    - Mathematics (4-8)
    - Science (4-8)
    - Science: General Science (6-12)
    - Social Studies (4-8)
- 7.3.6 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the proposal, submitted by Louisiana Resource Center for Education (LRCE), to offer a new teacher preparation program in the following areas:
- Post-Baccalaureate: Certification-Only Pathway
    - Educational Leadership, Pathway 3
- 7.3.7 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the proposal, submitted by Teach for America, to offer a Mentor Teacher training program.
- 7.3.8 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 130, *Regulations for the Evaluation and Assessment of School Personnel*: §307. Observation Tools; and §701. Annual Summary Reporting Format.
- 7.3.9 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*: §507. Professional Level Certificates; and §1315. Requirements to Add a Secondary (Grades 6-12) Specialty Content Area (Agriculture, Business, Computer Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, Journalism, Marketing, Speech, Technology Education).
- 7.3.10 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved, as a Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*: §743. Minimum Requirements for Traditional Teacher Preparation Programs; and §745. Minimum Requirements for Alternate Teacher Preparation Programs.

- 7.3.11 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board received the report regarding the 2023-2024 Workforce Snapshot.
- 7.3.12 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) #565189 issued to Ms. Ayah Ayyad.
- 7.3.13 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) #669953 issued to Mr. Naseem Ayyad.
- 7.3.14 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT2) certificate #421276 issued to Mr. Michael Carter.
- 7.3.15 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Type B teaching certificate #417687 issued to Mr. Ralph Cheramie, Jr.
- 7.3.16 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 3 teaching certificate #568084 issued to Ms. Tia Crowley.
- 7.3.17 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 teaching certificate #657509 issued to Mr. Gerald Daigle.
- 7.3.18 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 3 teaching certificate #538118 issued to Mr. Damon Jackson.
- 7.3.19 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate #680919 issued to Mr. Rodney Johnson.
- 7.3.20 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) #557037 issued to Ms. Izola Kendrick.
- 7.3.21 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC) #670029 issued to Ms. Rama Khalaf.



- 7.3.22 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 teaching certificate #588210 issued to Ms. Kelli Lumpkin.
- 7.3.23 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 3 teaching certificate #560843 and Educational Leader (EDL1) certificate #662870 issued to Ms. Michelle McCoy.
- 7.3.24 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana CTTIE teaching certificate #681272 issued to Mr. Jeffery Martin, Jr.
- 7.3.25 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) certificate #678612 issued to Mr. Jesse Thomas, Jr.
- 7.3.26 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board granted the reinstatement of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Mr. Michael Carter.
- 7.3.27 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board granted the reinstatement of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Mr. John Grafton.
- 7.3.28 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board granted the reinstatement of a Louisiana teaching credential appropriate to the credentials of Mr. Damon Jackson.

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

- 7.4.1 On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board received the report regarding the Louisiana Workforce and Social Services Reform Task Force (LA WASS), pursuant to Executive Order JML 24-44.
- 7.4.2 On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board received the report regarding the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

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

- 7.5.1        On motion of Ms. Holloway, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the material amendment, submitted by International School of Louisiana (ISL), to change physical location from 4040 Eagle Street to 2518 Arts Street, New Orleans, LA, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.
- 7.5.2        On motion of Ms. Holloway, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the Type 5 charter contract between the RSD and Third Future Schools for the continued operation of Linwood Public Charter School effective July 1, 2025.
- 7.5.3        On motion of Ms. Holloway, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the extension of the Partnership Agreement between the RSD and Third Future Schools for the continued operation of Prescott Academy as an RSD direct-run school for an additional four years.
- 7.5.4        On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Ms. Champagne, the Board received the update report regarding the LA GATOR scholarship program.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.