



**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 15, 2026

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

April 15, 2026

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

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met in regular session on April 15, 2026, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 3:46 p.m. by Board President Simone Champagne.

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

Mr. Joseph Cao and Mr. Ronnie Morris were not in attendance.

Ms. Christal Aguillard, Office of Teaching and Learning, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mr. Kaleb Moore, Office of School Choice, led the opening prayer.

Public comment cards were received from Ms. Freya Rivers, Concerned Citizen; and Mr. Griffin Rivers, Concerned Citizen.

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| Agenda
Item 2.
2.1 | <u>Approval of the Agenda</u>
On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Board approved the agenda. | (Schedule 1) |
| Agenda
Item 3.
3.1 | <u>Approval of the Minutes</u>
On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board approved the minutes of March 11, 2026. | |
| Agenda
Item 4. | <u>Report by the State Superintendent of Education</u>
State Superintendent of Education Brumley highlighted the following in his report to the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reminder: Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans starts on May 26th. The theme is Big Ideas Start Here.• The Teacher Leader Gala at National WWII Museum will be held on July 25, 2026. | |
| Agenda
Item 5. | <u>Report(s) from members of BESE (Statutory and Legislative Task Force/Council Appointees)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No reports were given. | |
| Agenda | <u>Board Committee Reports</u> | |

Item 6.

Agenda **School Innovation and Turnaround Committee** (Schedule 2)
Item 6.1.

6.1.1 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board amended the agenda to delete Agenda Item 3.1, "Consideration of the transfer of Rayville Elementary School from the Richland Parish School District to the Recovery School District."

6.1.2 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board recognized the following honorees:

- a. Beta Club Honorees;
- b. United States Senate Youth Scholarship;
- c. Purple Star Schools;
- d. School Physical Activity Award;
- e. School Health Provider of the Year;
- f. Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year; and
- g. National RISE (Recognizing Inspiring School Employees) Honoree.

6.1.3 On motion of Mr. Castille, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 126--Charter Schools*, §503. Eligibility to Apply for a Type 2 Charter School, §1505. Eligibility for Renewal for BESE-Authorized Charter Schools, and §2101. Board of Directors Composition.

Agenda **Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee**
Item 6.2. (Schedule 3)

6.2.1 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the amended 2026-2027 Nonpublic School Academic Classifications.

6.2.2 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the following alternative education programs for the 2026-2027 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;

(motion continues on page 3)

- **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, GREAT Program;
- **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, the Ralph Wilson Center of Opportunities;
- **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:** Harmony and Justice Center-Baker;
- **City of Bogalusa School District:** Northside Alternative Program;
- **Claiborne Parish:** Claiborne Parish Alternative Program;
- **DeSoto Parish:** DeSoto Schools' Grace House;
- **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:** 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;

(motion continues on page 4)

- **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:** 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:** Calm and Connect, 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;
- **Vermilion Parish:** Vermilion Elementary Alternative Program (VEAP), Vermilion 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;

(motion continues on page 5)

- **West Feliciana Parish:** West Feliciana Parish Alternative

Program;

- **Winn Parish:** Winn Alternative Program; and
- **Zachary Community School District:** Northwestern Elementary School, Northwestern Middle School.

Mr. Castille recused himself from the vote on this motion.

6.2.3

On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the following alternative education schools for the 2026-2027 school year:

- **Allen Parish:** AMikids Acadiana;
- **Caddo Parish:** Academic Recovery Ombudsman, AmiKIDS Caddo, Pathways in Education (PIE);
- **City of Monroe School District:** Sherrouse School;
- **Concordia Parish:** Concordia Education Center;
- **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:** The NET: East, The Net Charter High School, The Net 2 Charter High School, Travis Hill School;
- **Red River Parish:** 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.

Mr. Castille recused himself from the vote on this motion.

6.2.4

On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the reauthorization of Bienville Parish as a Course Choice provider for the Fast Forward Summers Program, for a five-year term from 2026-2031.

6.2.5

On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the

reauthorization of DeSoto Parish as a Course Choice provider for the Fast Forward Summers Program, for a five-year term from 2026-2031.

- 6.2.6 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the 2026 status report regarding the Course Choice providers for the Fast Forward Summers Program.
- 6.2.7 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the three-year initial certification as a State-Certified World Language Immersion School status, effective beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, as follows:
- **Calcasieu Parish** - Oak Park Elementary;
 - **Jefferson Parish** - AC Alexander Elementary, Alice Birney Elementary, Clancy-Maggiore Elementary, Green Park Elementary, Greenlawn Elementary, Harold Keller Elementary, JC Ellis Elementary, Marie Riviere Elementary, Phoebe Hearst Elementary, Terrytown Elementary, Tom Benson Elementary;
 - **St. Landry Parish** - École Saint-Landry; and
 - **Vermillion Parish** - LeBlanc Elementary.
- 6.2.8 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved the three-year renewal of State-Certified World Language Immersion Schools, with the renewal period beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, as follows:
- **Calcasieu Parish** - Frasch Elementary, Oak Park Middle, Prien Lake Elementary, SJ Welsh Middle, WW Lewis Middle;
 - **Lafayette** - Myrtle Place Elementary, Scott Middle; and
 - **Lycee Francais International de la Louisiane** - French Quarter Campus.
- 6.2.9 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Panel meeting held March 18, 2026.
- 6.2.10 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*, §503. Coordinated Observation Plan and Observation Requirements, §509. Performance Rating Calculations for Publicly-Funded Sites, and §511. Performance Rating Calculations for Community Networks.
- 6.2.11 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as

Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 1508—Pupil Appraisal Handbook*, §501. Evaluation Coordination, §703. Deaf-Blindness, §709. Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing, §719. Specific Learning Disability, 725. Visual Impairment, §901. Gifted, §1101. Required Reevaluations, and §1513. School Social Work Services.

- 6.2.12 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 1530—Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities*, §125. Dispute Resolution Options.
- 6.2.13 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to *Bulletin 1573—Complaint Management Procedures*, §101. Definitions, §307. Complaint Criteria, §501. Filing Complaints, §503. Treatment of Complaints, §505. Complaint Intake Procedures Log (SCL), §507. Investigation Procedures, §509. Report of Findings, §511. Extension of Timelines, and §513. Enforcement Procedures.
- 6.2.14 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*, §151. Adoption of State Complaint Procedures and Early Resolution Program, §153. Formal Written Complaint Procedures, and §509. Model Forms.
- 6.2.15 On motion of Mr. Appel, seconded by Dr. Clark, the Board recognized Ms. Beija Lopes-Morgan, 2025-2026 Student Representative for the BESE Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee, and introduced Ms. Ava Galambos, 2026-2027 Student Representative.

Agenda
Item 6.3.

Educator Effectiveness Committee

(Schedule 4)

- 6.3.1 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board approved the certification preparation pathway proposals submitted by Teach for America to offer a new teacher preparation program in the following areas:
- Post-Baccalaureate: Practitioner Teacher Program
 - a. Elementary (1-5);
 - b. Mathematics (4-8);
 - c. Mathematics (6-12);
 - d. Social Studies (4-8); and
 - e. Social Studies (6-12).
- 6.3.2 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board approved the

certification preparation pathway proposal submitted by Teach Ascension to offer a new teacher preparation program in the following area:

- Add-On Certification
 - a. Special Education: Significant Disabilities (1-12)

6.3.3 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board approved the certification preparation pathway proposal submitted by Teach EBR to offer a new teacher preparation program in the following area:

- Post-Baccalaureate: Practitioner Teacher Program
 - a. Elementary (1-5)

6.3.4 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board received the minutes of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council meeting held February 26, 2026.

6.3.5 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Christine Hypolite, a representative of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, to the membership of the Teacher Certification Appeals Council for a four-year term from 2026-2029.

6.3.6 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board received the report regarding the educator workforce and education key performance indicators (KPIs).

6.3.7 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate #604514 issued to Ms. Penny Mack, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.

6.3.8 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Type B Teaching Certificate #452053 issued to Ms. Danielle Waguespack, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.

6.3.9 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #605160 issued to Ms. Arianna Kadinger, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.

6.3.10 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #572639 issued to Mr. Alan

Million, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.

- 6.3.11 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 1 Teaching Certificate #638090 issued to Mr. Jemartrius Mayweather, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 6.3.12 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana CTTIE 1 Teaching Certificate #474246 issued to Mr. Norman Smith.
- 6.3.13 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Teaching Authorization #599491 issued to Mr. Malak Shalabi.
- 6.3.14 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach Certificate #658375 issued to Ms. Betty Thomas.
- 6.3.15 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Ancillary Certificate #554973 issued to Ms. Lydia Moore.
- 6.3.16 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach #646996 issued to Mr. Collin Corbett, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 6.3.17 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #594308 issued to Ms. Deidre Smith, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 6.3.18 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Out-of-State Teaching Certificate #495076 issued to Mr. Harold Stewart.
- 6.3.19 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Level 2 Teaching Certificate #532492 issued to Mr. Larry Lachney, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.
- 6.3.20 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate #568249 issued to Ms.

Raquel Wilson, noting that this revocation is one for which certification issuance/reinstatement will never be considered.

- 6.3.21 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Type B Certificate #062227 issued to Ms. Karen Chambers.
- 6.3.22 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach #664303 issued to Mr. Javonte' Mims, noting that this revocation is one for which certification reinstatement will never be considered.
- 6.3.23 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Practitioner's License #609142 issued to Ms. Rachael Killinger.
- 6.3.24 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board revoked the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach #675070 issued to Ms. Angelia Munson (Angela Munson), noting that this revocation is one for which certification reinstatement will never be considered.
- 6.3.25 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board granted the reinstatement of the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach #659833 issued to Ms. Marguerite Moffett.
- 6.3.26 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board granted the request for certification issuance appropriate to the credentials of Ms. Eileen Johnson.
- 6.3.27 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board granted the reinstatement of the Louisiana Level 3 Teaching Certificate #575062 issued to Ms. Ashley Williams with the condition that she return for a records review in 3 years.
- 6.3.28 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board granted the reinstatement of the Louisiana Practitioner's License #609142 issued to Ms. Rachael Killinger.
- 6.3.29 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board granted the reinstatement of the Louisiana Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate #625587 issued to Ms. Alicia Chambers.
- 6.3.30 On motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Board granted the reinstatement of the Louisiana Temporary Authority to Teach #680272

issued to Ms. Kiarra Yates with the following conditions:

- If she is still in Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) status in three years, she must return before the Board for a records review.
- If she seeks initial certification before the end of the three-year period, she must return before the Board for a records review before it will be granted.

Agenda
Item 6.4.

Board Administration and Education Finance Committee

(Schedule 5)

6.4.1 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board received the report from the Legislative Youth Advisory Council regarding School Safety Design.

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

6.4.3 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board received the quarterly report of expenditures and budget balances of 8(g) projects for FY 2025-2026.

6.4.4 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor:	Guidehouse, Inc.
Contract Period:	04/01/2026 - 03/31/2027
Contract Amount:	\$140,000.00
Fund:	Federal – CCDF
Competitive Process:	Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides internal control assessments and program integrity reviews for the Louisiana Department of Education’s Childcare Assistance Program.

6.4.5 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following LDOE contract amendment:

Contractor:	Primary Class, Inc. DBA Odyssey
Contract Period:	11/25/25 - 06/30/27

(motion continues on page 12)

Previous Amount:	\$2,844,917.00
Amended Amount:	\$1,729,155.00

Contract Amount: \$4,574,072.00
Fund: State – State General
Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: The contracted program manager will provide a user-friendly interface to prospective ESA families, participating ESA families, prospective education service providers, participating education service providers, and LDOE administrators.

6.4.6 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Caveon, LLC
Contract Period: 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2029
Contract Amount: \$198,000.00
Fund: Federal – IDEA
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides on-site monitoring services to support test security during state assessment administrations. The vendor conducts site visits and provides detailed reports following each observation. Federal and state laws require that testing be conducted under secure and standardized conditions. Assessments must be administered according to prescribed procedures, and test administrators must be appropriately trained and monitored.

6.4.7 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: Air Education, Inc.
Contract Period: 05/01/2026 - 02/01/2027
Contract Amount: \$750,000.00
Fund: Federal – EIR Grant
Competitive Process: Sole Source

Description of Service: This contract provides for the implementation of the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Expansion Project, High-Impact Virtual Literacy Tutoring in the State of Louisiana. The contractor, Air Education, will deliver tutoring to approximately 4,500 students, monitor literacy outcomes and implementation fidelity, conduct research in collaboration with JHU-CRRE, and provide comprehensive

(motion continues on page 13)
deliverables, including training records, fidelity reports, cost analyses, and replication toolkits.

The purpose of this agreement is to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Air Reading model at scale, determine optimal dosage and persistence of effects, maintain high implementation fidelity, and support replication and sustainability.

- 6.4.8 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following LDOE contract amendment:

Contractor: Public Consulting Group, Inc.
Contract Period: 01/05/26 - 06/30/26
Previous Amount: \$47,500.00
Amended Amount: \$32,500.00
Contract Amount: \$80,000.00
Fund: Federal – IDEA 611 Set Aside
Competitive Process: Non-Competitive

Description of Service: This amendment adds \$32,500 for additional deliverables related to targeted technical support to school systems regarding special education compliance and needs-based assistance for districts identified as low-performing.

- 6.4.9 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment
Contract Period: 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2029
Contract Amount: \$849,900.00
Fund: State and Federal – SGF, IDEA, Title 1, Part B
Competitive Process: Sole Source

Description of Service: This contract provides support services related to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), psychometrics, and Louisiana’s next-generation assessment system.

- 6.4.10 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following LDOE contract:

Contractor: CN Resource, LLC
Contract Period: 05/01/26 -04/30/29
(motion continues on page 14)
Contract Amount: \$2,700,000
Fund: Federal – USDA

Competitive Process: Competitive

Description of Service: This contract provides required monitoring of child nutrition program sponsoring organizations in line with Federal regulations at 7 CFR Parts 210, 220, 225, 226, 245, and 250 as well as 2 CFR Part 200 with regard to the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

6.4.11 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Early Childhood Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Consolidated
Type: Formula
Amount: \$5,400,000.00
Period: 05/01/2026 – 12/30/2026
Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: Through 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, expand family engagement, 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.

Basis of Allocation: PDG B-5 funds are allocated to eligible RSNs, CCR&Rs, and CNLAs based on the number of publicly funded sites and classrooms within each network’s service area. Allocation amounts reflect the scope of workforce, literacy, developmental screening, leadership, and family engagement 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.

6.4.12 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Community Network Lead Agency
 Type: Competitive
 Amount: \$4,107,869.00
 Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
 Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) coordinates the Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network by designating, through a competitive process, a Community Network Lead Agency for each community to conduct administrative functions and coordinate essential activities. The Community Network Lead Agency also serves as fiscal agent.

Lead Agencies must:

- 1.) conduct administrative functions for the Community Network Lead Agency;
- 2.) coordinate CLASS® observations by assuring that observations are conducted for every publicly funded early learning site in accordance with *Bulletin 140*; and
- 3.) coordinate birth to age five enrollment for publicly funded programs and the state funding application for the Community Network Lead Agency.

Basis of Allocation: Funding is provided for each Community Network Lead Agency at a rate of \$525 per infant, toddler, and pre-K classroom to cover the costs of the accountability system in Early Childhood, such as CLASS® observations, payments for CLASS® observers, and updated CLASS® materials to conduct observations.

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

6.4.13 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Computer Science TA Grant
 Type: Competitive
 Amount: \$1,000,000.00
 Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
 Source of Funds: State General Fund

(motion continues on page 16)

Purpose: The Computer Science Technical Assistance (TA) Grant provides funding to support the implementation of the Louisiana K-12

Computer Science Education Plan which includes six key actions based on the Computer Science Education Advisory Commission’s report recommendations. The six key actions include the development of technical assistance grants to public schools for the creation and expansion of computer science courses and funding strategies to support and maintain computer science teacher training and course offerings for students. The program will place priority on initiatives to certify grades 6-12 computer science teachers.

Basis of Allocation: School systems completed an application that proposed an implementation plan including training for teachers, needed hardware/software, and sustainable efforts to continue expanding computer science. Each application was scored by multiple reviewers using a quantitative scoring rubric. The highest-scoring applications were funded based on the availability of funds and the amount requested per application.

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

6.4.14 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	IDEA 611 (Set Aside) Supports for Students with Disabilities
Type:	Competitive
Amount:	\$2,648,000.00
Period:	07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Source of Funds:	Federal

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 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

(motion continues on page 17)
disability and ensure access and success toward measurable and rigorous goals.

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 2026-2027 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 CIR/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.

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

- 6.4.15 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	Ready Start Network Lead Agency
Amount:	\$4,100,000.00
Period:	07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Source of Funds:	Federal – CCDF

Purpose: Louisiana seeks to strengthen its early childhood care and education system by formalizing local governance in community networks. The state acknowledges that communities, rather than the state, are better equipped to address the distinct early childhood care and education needs of their families and children. The funding will support the development and continuation of 5 Cohorts of Ready Start Networks, who will create blueprints, recruit new stakeholders to their coalition, form local governance structures, and develop new sustainability and fundraising strategies.

Basis of Allocation: Recipients of this funding were selected in a competitive process. There are 41 Ready Start Networks that will continue to pursue this work in the 2026-2027 academic year.

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

- 6.4.16 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: School Redesign (Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies)
 Type: Competitive
 Amount: \$23,022,080.00
 Period: 04/19/2026 – 09/30/2027
 Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires school systems to build plans to improve struggling schools. The state must use 7 percent 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.

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 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 2026-2027 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.

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

6.4.17 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program (LA 4)
 Type: Other
 Amount: \$85,628,875.00 (State)
 \$9,895,145.00 (Federal)
 Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
 Source of Funds: State General Fund
 Federal

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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 2026-2027, LA 4 will serve at least 17,119 children. Programs will adhere to state approved guidelines and regulations.

Basis 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 2026-2027 final allocations for student participation for each of the participating school systems. Awards for this program are contingent upon approval of funding.

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

6.4.18 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	Charter Schools Program (CSP) Excellence in Authorizing NACSA Travel
Type:	Other
Amount:	\$22,458.00
Period:	07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026
Source of Funds:	Federal

Purpose: In September 2023, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) was awarded a \$55.5 million federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) grant to support the Louisiana charter school movement. Through the Louisiana Public Charter Schools Program (LPCSP), the LDOE will support improvement of charter school authorizing across the state.

Basis of Allocation: In an effort to support the improvement of charter school authorizing at the district level, districts participate in the Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice. The CSP grant offers travel reimbursement to participating districts sending personnel to attend the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Conference.

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

6.4.19 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Charter School Program (CSP) Excellence in Authorizing Third-party Review
 Type: Other
 Amount: \$60,050.00
 Period: 07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026
 Source of Funds: Federal

Purpose: In September 2023, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) was awarded a \$55.5 million federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) grant to support the Louisiana charter school movement. Through the Louisiana Public Charter Schools Program (LPCSP), the LDOE will support improvement of charter school authorizing across the state.

Basis of Allocation: In an effort to support the improvement of charter school authorizing at the district level, districts participate in the Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice. The CSP grant offers reimbursement of third-party review costs to participating districts evaluating charter school applications.

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

6.4.20 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Early Childhood Literary Initiative Child Care Curriculum
 Type: Other
 Amount: \$0
 Period: 02/01/2026 – 06/30/2026
 Source of Funds: Federal – IDEA

Purpose: The purpose of this allocation is to support teachers in publicly funded early learning sites by providing funding to implement a Tier 1 curriculum and high-quality curriculum supports—such as those related to literacy and numeracy—to ensure more children are ready for kindergarten. The LDOE will allocate funding to the Child Care Resource

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and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) to purchase curriculum for B–5 early learning classrooms, covering up to 100 percent of their purchases of Tier

1 curricula and related supports. CCR&Rs will be responsible for providing guidance, assurances, curriculum purchase invoices, and packing labels.

Basis of Allocation: Allocations will be made to parish-level Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs), and were originally allocated to the individual parishes associated with Children's Coalition to purchase Tier 1 pre-K curricula and curriculum supports for publicly funded pre-K classrooms within school districts, with allocation amounts determined by the number of publicly funded pre-K school-based classrooms located within each CNLA parish. The funding will be moved from the individual parish to the Children's Coalition who is the lead agency.

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

6.4.21 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation:	Education Leader Alternative Pathway Boot Camp Principal Mentor Pay
Type:	Other
Amount:	\$9,750.00
Period:	07/01/2025 – 06/15/2026
Source of Funds:	State – 8(g)

Purpose: The Education Leader Alternative Pathway 4 Boot Camp was recently implemented into policy and requires the LDOE to provide support and direction to individuals holding an MBA, MPA, or JD, or who have been honorably discharged as a commissioned officer from a US Military Branch, to become EDL Level 1 certified. The second cohort of the boot camp was held in September, with twenty prospective participants in attendance. Additionally, ten current principals served as mentors for those participants. Participants had three in-person LDOE-led days of lectures and activities, as well as two days of follow-up, including on-campus site visits at their mentor schools. Once they have completed all five days of activities, participants will review their progress with their mentor, then demonstrate their comprehension and knowledge of the Louisiana Educator Rubric and the Louisiana Leader Rubric using the LDOE's Professional Learning Platform. Once they complete this review and the School Leader Licensure Exam, they may apply to the LDOE for certification to serve as a school leader in Louisiana Public Schools.

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Basis of Allocation: Individuals selected to serve as mentors are current principals or principal supervisors with a demonstrated history of success

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

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

6.4.22 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Greauxing STEM Stewards Fellowship Field Trip Grant
Type: Other
Amount: \$7,490.00
Period: 04/15/2026 – 06/30/2026
Source of Funds: Other Non-listed Funding Type

Purpose: The Greauxing STEM Stewards Fellowship Field Trip Grant allows educators selected for the Greauxing STEM Stewards Fellowship to take their students on place-based learning experiences (field trips) that support learning. Funding may be used to pay for buses, entry fees, substitutes, meals, and any other costs associated with the selected experience or field trip. This allocation is a one-time occurrence made possible by a grant from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Basis of Allocation: This allocation is provided directly to school systems that employ the selected fellows to support experiences or field trips for students at no cost to the school, system, or parents. Fellows applied to take part in this opportunity and were selected through a competitive scoring process. This allocation is a one-time occurrence made possible by a grant from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

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

6.4.23 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development (NSECD) Program
 Type: Other
 Amount: \$7,839,900.00
 Period: 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
 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.

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

6.4.24 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the following allocation:

Allocation: Novice Principal Academy Mentor Pay
 Type: Other
 Amount: \$20,000.00
 Period: 07/01/2025 – 06/15/2026
 Source of Funds: State – 8(g)

Purpose: The Novice Principal Academy is an intensive, year-long cohort focusing on leadership development through self-reflection, planning, and data analysis. Participants are paired with LDOE-assigned mentors who

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 have extensive, documented success in school leadership, often including recognition as system or state principals of the year. Mentors provide

consistent feedback on leadership behaviors and personal development. Participants must meet with their mentors monthly (virtually or in person). Additionally, participants visit their mentor's school once in the fall, and mentors visit the participant's school once in the spring. All site visits are tailored to the participant's needs, with content mutually determined by the mentor and participant.

Basis of Allocation: Individuals selected to serve as mentors are current principals or principal supervisors with a demonstrated history of success within school leadership. A number of mentors were selected to participate as mentors, but only those matching the necessary components (common grade band, experiences, location) were paired with participants. Each mentor receives a specific amount depending on the number of participants they support (1 participant = \$1000; 2 participants = \$1750; 3 participants = \$2500). Allocations originated in the 8(g) budget and will be distributed to the employing systems for disbursement to principal mentors.

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

- 6.4.25 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board received the report from education finance staff concerning BESE-authorized charter school budgets and expenditures, including irregularities or concerns.
- 6.4.26 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board approved the property lease renewal for TARC...Serving People with Disabilities and Their Families.
- 6.4.27 On motion of Mr. Berken, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Board received the following legislative reports:
- a. R.S 17:17.4 Health and PE in Public Schools and
 - b. HR 346 (2025) School Facilities Vacancies

Agenda Item 6.5. **Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee** (Schedule 6)

- 6.5.1 On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Board received the report regarding the 2026 Regular Legislative Session.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.