



Louisiana Association
of Public Charter Schools



ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE

New Laws Guide for Charter Schools 2026

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2026 LAPCS Legislative Updates

Reflections on a productive — and deeply consequential — session for Louisiana's public charter schools

Dear LAPCS Members,

Each year, LAPCS releases a Legislative Guide to help our members understand the new laws that will impact Louisiana's K-12 public schools and, more specifically, the public charter school community. Whether you're a school leader, board member, attorney, policymaker, or educator, this guide is designed to help you understand what changed and what those changes mean for your school and the students you serve.

This year's guide reflects a legislative session that was both productive and deeply consequential, with meaningful victories for Louisiana's public charter schools. LAPCS secured **\$1 million in funding for the Charter School Start-Up and Expansion Loan Program**, and **five bills from LAPCS's legislative package were enacted into law**. In addition, two charter school-specific bills brought by allies in the charter community passed, addressing enrollment priorities and New Orleans' ongoing district overcapacity and optimization challenges.

LAPCS was also directly engaged in drafting, improving, or stopping legislation that would have significantly affected charter schools, including bills related to mandatory student expulsions, teachers' rights, school health clinics, and vaccines. Twice during the session, we saw a supermajority of House members reject floor amendments that would have been harmful to charter schools. Those moments matter because they demonstrate that when the charter community is organized, informed, and engaged, we can protect the flexibility and autonomy that allow our schools to serve students well.

At the same time, this session included one of the most significant school funding actions in recent memory. Following the Governor's Executive Order, the Legislature approved a reduction to the Minimum Foundation Program in order to redirect funding toward stipends for some teaching staff. While Louisiana's Constitution does provide a process for reducing the MFP, most school and policy leaders viewed that authority as something unlikely to be used outside of a major budget shortfall. Reducing school funding after schools had already finalized budgets created immediate operational challenges across the state.

LAPCS strongly supports efforts to increase teacher compensation. Our concern is not with valuing educators. Our concern is with reducing already-allocated school funding in a way that creates instability for schools, students, educators, and families. Schools need predictable funding in order to plan responsibly, hire and retain staff, serve students well, and meet the rising costs of operations.

If there is one clear takeaway from this session, it is that Louisiana must take a serious, comprehensive look at how we fund public education. The MFP has not been fundamentally modernized in more than three decades. Meanwhile, the real costs facing schools — insurance, transportation, retirement, health benefits, facilities, staffing, student needs, and compliance with legislative mandates — continue to grow. We cannot build long-term solutions for students and teachers on a formula that no longer fully reflects the realities of operating schools today.

That is why LAPCS will continue to lead with facts, practical solutions, and a student-first focus. We will continue to defend charter autonomy, advocate for fair and predictable funding, and work with policymakers across the political spectrum to ensure that every public school has the ability to serve students well.

This guide is intended to help you understand what passed, what changed, and what it means for your school. We hope it serves as a trusted resource for your leadership team, governing board, and legal counsel as you prepare for the year ahead. Thank you for your leadership, your partnership, and the work you do every day on behalf of Louisiana students and families.

Sincerely,

Caroline Roemer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR · LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS



*“Thank you for your **leadership**,
your **partnership**, and the work you
do every day on behalf of Louisiana
students and families.”*

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New Laws Guide Notice

LAPCS’ 2026 New Laws Guide provides only summaries of the laws passed during the 2026 legislative session that are applicable and pertinent to charter schools and the communities they serve. This guide is not legal advice. Charter school leaders should read all laws in full and review the guide with their attorneys for further information, guidance, and implementation. If you have any questions, please contact LAPCS, your attorney, your authorizer, or the Louisiana Department of Education for additional guidance.

Glossary of Commonly Used Acronyms

AI

Artificial Intelligence

BESE

The State Board of Elementary and
Secondary Education

DCFS

The Louisiana Department of Children and
Family Services

ELA

English Language Arts

IGP

Individual Graduation Plans

LDH

Louisiana Department of Health

LDOE

The Louisiana Department of Education

LEA

Local Education Agency

NIL

Name, Image, and Likeness

SPED

Students with Exceptionalities, not
including Gifted or Talented

TOPS

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students

TRSL

Teacher Retirement System of Louisiana

Charter School Specific Laws

ACT 393 *Edmonds*

Vocational and Technical Charter Schools' Direct Application to BESE

Creates a new pathway for a direct Type 2 application to BESE for qualifying Vocational and Technical (Vo-Tech) Charter Schools.

- **Required SBCI Resolution:** Eligible Vo-Tech Charter School applications must be accompanied by a resolution that is adopted by a majority of the State Board of Commerce and Industry (SBCI):
 - The Resolution must certify that the specialty Vo-Tech education classes or programs to be offered by the charter school are aligned with high-demand and high-wage jobs or determined as Strategic Targeted Area Resource ("STAR") Jobs by Louisiana Works and not aligned with the gaming industry.
- **Student Enrollment Preferences and Board Governance Seats:** Similar to "Corporate Charter Schools" established under La. R.S. [17:3991.1](#), qualifying Vo-Tech Charter Schools may provide enrollment preferences to students whose parent or legal guardian is employed or resides within the economic sector that is designated by the State Board of Commerce and Industry, and may grant seats on the charter school's governing or management board to various industry representatives who are employed or retired from a business located within the economic sector or have served as an officer or director on the board of such business.

ACT 797 *Chenevert*

LEA Eligibility for Locally-Authorized Charters

Permits all school districts to have the same ability as the Orleans Parish School Board to offer Local Education Agency (LEA) status to locally-authorized charter schools for federal funding purposes and statutory definitions and in accordance with rules set by the local school board and BESE.

New Orleans Specific Laws

ACT 687 *Freeman*

New Orleans School District Overcapacity

Amends New Orleans' "Act 91" law, La. R.S. [17:10.7.1](#), to require the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) to establish a policy relative to systemwide overcapacity.

- **November 15 Superintendent Report:** The Superintendent must submit a written report to the OPSB by November 15 annually as to the status of district overcapacity for schools serving grades K-8, 9-12, or both categories of schools.
- **December Recommendation and Decision Deadlines:**
 - **December 15 Deadline:** If the Superintendent makes a determination of system overcapacity, then the Superintendent must make recommendations to the OPSB for specific actions to be implemented to mitigate the district's overcapacity status by December 15.
 - **December 31 Deadline:** Unless the OPSB rejects the recommendations by a two-thirds vote within 30 days after submission or December 31, whichever occurs first, then the Superintendent may implement the recommendations.
- **Additional Overcapacity Authorities:**
 - **Mid-Contract School Closure:** The OPSB may terminate a charter contract prior to its expiration for the purpose of addressing overcapacity.
 - **New Schools Restrictions:** If the district is in a state of overcapacity, then a new school is prohibited from opening in the grade levels in which overcapacity exists. However, if the OPSB changes the operator of an existing school due to the failure to meet district academic performance standards, then such a school will not be considered a new school for purposes of overcapacity.
 - **No Right of First Refusal:** If the district is in a state of overcapacity, then the board is exempt from first offering a vacant school property for sale or lease to a charter school if the Superintendent recommends otherwise utilizing the property and the recommendation is approved by a majority of the board.

Student Literacy Training & Curriculum Requirements

ACT 964 *Wyble*

K-8 Student Literacy Training and Instruction Requirements

CHARTER REQUIREMENTS

Provides the following changes to laws pertaining to student literacy and teacher training requirements and creates a new law pertaining to adolescent literacy for students in Grades 4-8 (applies to charter schools):

- **Teacher Candidate Literacy Training:** Updates La. R.S. [17:7.2](#) and [17:24.9](#) to:
 - Remove the requirement that foundational literacy skills training for K-3 teacher certification candidates include behavior management, trauma-informed principles for the classroom, and other developmentally appropriate supports.
 - Require candidates seeking certification to teach SPED and secondary education to include instruction on adolescent literacy, beginning 2027-28.
- **Beginning of School Year K-3 Student Literacy Plan Review:** Updates K-3 Literacy Instruction and Screening law, La. R.S. [17:24.10](#), which applies to charter schools via La. R.S. [17:3996\(B\)\(60\)](#), to also require each public school, including charter schools, to annually review a student's prior-year intervention plan during the first eight weeks of school in order to:
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions, services, and support offered to the student in the previous year.
 - Identify any updates needed to the support offered through the plan.
 - Provide input from any members of the team that initially developed the plan.

NEW 2027-28 Adolescent Literacy Instruction for Students in Grades 4-8

CHARTER REQUIREMENTS

[Act 964](#) also requires LDOE, public schools, and all charter schools to do the following for students in Grades 4-8, beginning with the 2027-28 school year:

- **LDOE Adolescent Literacy Program:** LDOE must develop an adolescent literacy program for students, including SPED students, that includes a list of reliable and valid student reading assessments; any approved reading assessment shall include a universal screener, diagnostic tool, and a benchmark indicator. LDOE must also develop or identify and approve adolescent literacy professional development courses and intervention courses as well as make available resources for job-embedded coaching support for school administrators and teachers.
- **Adolescent Literacy Professional Development:** Note, any adolescent literacy intervention course or adolescent literacy professional development course offered for school administrators or teachers shall be completed during existing weekly, job-embedded teacher collaboration time.

- Any requirement for completion of a professional development course shall be implemented in a manner consistent with La. R.S. [17:419.4\(A\)](#), which prohibits increases to the uncompensated training burden on professional teachers and requires any additional teacher training to be received at a time when teachers are being compensated and not participating in local professional development activities, or the completion burden is offset by the elimination of another training requirement, completion of which requires at least the same amount of time.

Adolescent Literacy School Requirements, Beginning 2027-28 School Year

- **Below ELA Mastery Student Assessment:** Within the first 30 days of each school year, each school, including all charter schools, must administer an LDOE-approved reading assessment to any student who scored below mastery in ELA the prior school year.
- **Parent Notifications:** Within 15 days of identifying that a student has demonstrated reading deficiencies based on the results of the reading assessment, the school, including all charter schools, must notify the student's parent or legal guardian in writing that the student has been identified as having a reading deficiency and include information about the development of an individual reading improvement plan as well as a description of the current services that are provided to the student with suggested resources or strategies that the parent can use to support reading at home. Parents and legal guardians must also be notified in writing as to the student's progress toward becoming a skilled reader throughout the school year with each progress report.
- **Student Interventions:** The school, including all charter schools, must provide each student identified as having a reading deficiency with intensive interventions, which shall include:
 - Regular access to instruction from an individual who has completed an approved adolescent literacy intervention course and is a reading teacher, reading specialist, or reading interventionist.
 - Reading interventions and supports using high-quality instructional materials.
 - Time in the student schedule for intensive interventions.
 - Targeted small group reading interventions based on student needs and specified in an individual reading improvement plan.
 - Summer school remediation programs or other forms of remediation as appropriate.
- **Student Reading Improvement Plan:** Within 30 days of being identified as having a reading deficiency, the student must be provided with an individual reading improvement plan. The plan must be created by the teacher, reading specialist or interventionist, principal or his designee, and other pertinent school personnel in collaboration with the parents or legal guardians who must be provided with a written copy of the plan. The plan must also offer intensive reading instructional intervention time while continuing grade-level instruction and shall remain in place until the student no longer demonstrates a deficiency in reading.
- **Plan Review:** Any plan developed in a prior school year must be annually reviewed during the first eight weeks of the school year. The review shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the prior-year interventions, support, and services offered to the student; identification of updates needed; and input from any members of the team that initially developed the plan.

2026-27 LDOE-School Adolescent Literacy Skills Plan

APPLIES TO CHARTER SCHOOLS WITH A PERFORMANCE OR PROGRESS SCORE OF “D” OR BELOW

Beginning September 1, 2026 and triennially thereafter, a school, including some charter schools, must develop and submit to LDOE an adolescent literacy skills plan for students and post the plan on the school's website.

- **LDOE-School Plan Requirements:** The plan must include the amount of time to be spent daily on literacy skills instruction and a description of how the instructional time shall be used, a list of ELA textbooks and instructional materials used by the school, a description of the interventions and support available to students identified as having literacy skills below grade level, and a description of any professional development in literacy instruction provided to teachers. The plan may be consolidated with the foundational literacy skills plan for students in grades K-3 into a single school plan.
- **Exception for A, B, and C Charter Schools:** A charter school with a school performance letter grade or progress index of “A,” “B,” or “C” is exempt from creating and submitting a literacy plan to LDOE and posting such a plan to the school's website.
- **D and F Charters to Report to Authorizer:** However, a charter school with a school performance letter grade or progress index of “D” or “F” shall submit the required adolescent literacy skills plan to its chartering authority (authorizer) instead of LDOE.

IV.

LAPCS

Student Career Training, Curriculum & Other Employment Updates

ACT 100 *Mizell*

“The Learn and Earn Act” Career Practicums

Permits public schools, including charter schools, to establish, operate, or enter into agreements for the operation of career practicums pursuant to newly enacted R.S. 17:4201 et seq.

A “career practicum” is a limited-scope educational franchise operation conducted on a public high school campus pursuant to a cooperative endeavor agreement, whose primary purpose is to deliver compensated, credit-bearing work-based learning, aligned with BESE-approved career pathways, and related instruction.

K-8 Career-Related Student Activities **CHARTER REQUIREMENTS**

Amends current law (La. R.S. [17:183.2\(A\)](#), [17:2925\(B\)\(1\)](#), [17:2926](#), and [17:3005](#)) to now require all public schools, including charter schools, to do the following:

- **For students in Grades 6-8, six career-exposure activities per year:** to incorporate at least six career-exposure related activities each school year, which may include field trips, guest speakers, community service, and other activities that help introduce students to occupations in demand in Louisiana.
 - Of those 6 activities, three activities must meet one of the following criteria:
 - An activity that provides direct interaction with an employer;
 - An activity that involves career pathway instruction linked to high school course options;
 - An activity that provides a work-based learning exposure; or
 - A career interest inventory.
- **Individual Graduation Plan Documentation:** All schools, including charter schools, must document at least one career-related activity each year in a student's Individual Graduation Plan for each student in Grades 6-8.
- **For students in Grades K-5, one career-exposure activity per year** that meets one of the following criteria:
 - An activity that provides direct interaction with an employer;
 - An activity that involves career pathway instruction linked to high school course options;
 - An activity that provides a work-based learning exposure; or
 - A career interest inventory.

Career Coaches Authorization

Amends Individual Graduation Plans ("IGP"), La. R.S. [17:2925](#), to authorize but not require career coaches to assist in the preparation and review of a student's IGP. Additionally:

- **Pupil Progression Plan & Career Coaching:** Each local school board must include a description of its plan to provide career coaching to each student as part of the pupil progression plan developed pursuant to La. R.S. [17:24.4](#).
- **LDOE Career Coaching Vendor List:** LDOE must publish on its website a list of high-quality career coaching vendors from which schools may select; school boards may also form regional consortia to share the costs of contracting with career coaches (if they choose to hire career coaches).
- **LDOE List of Schools Not Using Career Development Funds:** LDOE must annually publish on its website a list of each city, parish, or other local public school board that has not spent more than 95% of the career development fund dollars appropriated for the previous fiscal year.

Individual Graduation Plans

Amends Individual Graduation Plans (“IGP”), La. R.S. [17:2925](#), and Charter Law, La. R.S. [17:3996](#), to clarify that IGP applies to charter schools and to clarify the following:

- **Elementary Charter School IGP Exception:** While charter high schools and K-12 charter schools must adhere to the law in its entirety, elementary charter schools that terminate in the 8th grade do not have to provide an IGP. However, they must still provide written notice to each 8th grade student and their parent or legal guardian as to the purpose of an IGP, an explanation of the different types of high school diplomas, and the courses required for each type of diploma so that the student is prepared to complete his plan upon enrollment in high school (but no later than October first of the student’s 9th grade year).
- **Elementary–High School IGP Partnerships:** Elementary charter schools may partner with a high school that an 8th grade student plans to attend for assistance in providing for the student’s IGP.
- **11th Grade IGP Update:** Clarifies that a parent or legal guardian of a student entering the 11th grade may request the student’s IGP be updated.
- **Available Vocational Training Opportunities:** Clarifies that each student shall be offered available vocational training opportunities.

Employment Certificates for Minors

Changes provisions of law (La. R.S. [23:183](#)) from allowing designated school and school board individuals to approve and issue employment certificates for minors to instead allow a minor, with parental consent, to complete and submit an employment certificate directly to the employer. Certificates are to be prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of La. Works and made available through the [La. Works website](#) or local field offices.

State Career Dashboard

Requires the Bd. of Regents to develop, maintain, and make public a statewide dashboard that provides information on the alignment between postsecondary degree programs and workforce outcomes in Louisiana to assist students and their families in understanding career outcomes associated with degree programs, policymakers and state agencies in evaluating postsecondary program alignment with workforce needs, and postsecondary institutions in strengthening program design and labor market relevance.

Mandatory Reporting & Other Student Safety Laws

ACT 631 *Freeman*

School Employee Mandatory Reporters

Clarifies and provides that school employees, including those employed by charter schools, are subject to existing requirements pertaining to mandatory reporters, including certain training provided by the Department of Children and Family Services in [Children's Code Arts. 603](#) and [603.1](#).

ACT 347 *McMath*

"Bryan's Call" Amber Alert

Establishes a "Bryan's Call" for a missing child aged 17 or younger or a missing adult aged 18 or older, that is not a risk to the general public, and is believed to have a developmental or cognitive impairment or an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties that makes them unable to meet their own needs or to seek help without assistance.

ACT 207 *Kleinpeter*

Prohibited Sexual Conduct between Educator and Student

Current law (La. R.S. [14:81.4](#)) prohibits sexual conduct between an educator and student who is 17 years or older but less than 21 years old, and there is an age difference of greater than four years between the educator and student, the student is not a spouse of the educator, and the student is enrolled at the school where the educator is assigned, employed, or working at the time of the offense.

[Act 207](#) adds school resource officer and security guard to the definition of "Educator" for purposes of La. R.S. [14:81.4](#), which also includes any administrator, coach, instructor, paraprofessional, student aide, teacher, or teacher aide.

ACT 496 *Barrow*

Deepfake Prohibition for K-12 Students

Prohibits a student, faculty member, member of the administrative staff, or other employee at an elementary or secondary school from using deepfake material against a student enrolled in K-12, with the intent to coerce, harass, intimidate, or maliciously disseminate or sell the material. Also requires BESE and LDOE to develop and adopt rules and regulations.

“Sexting” Laws for those Under Age 17

Amends the criminal law of Child Sexual Abuse Materials, La. R.S. [14:81.1](#), to clarify that the law of “sexting” (La. R.S. [14:81.1.1](#)) will instead cover the offense of a person under the age of 17 who unlawfully produces, promotes, advertises, distributes, possesses, or possesses with the intent to distribute child sexual abuse material by (1) knowingly and voluntarily transmitting an indecent visual depiction of himself using a computer or telecommunication device; or, (2) receives or possesses an indecent visual depiction of a person that was transmitted by the person depicted in the image, unless the person committed the offense with the intent to obtain any thing of value or secure a privilege or advantage or cause emotional distress to the person in the image.

Unlawful Possession of Images of Another Created by Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)

Updates various criminal laws to:

- **Crime of Unlawful Deepfakes:** Increases penalties for unlawful deepfakes if the offender is an educator and the victim is a student under the age of 17 (La. R.S. [14:73.13](#)).
- **Crime of Unlawful A.I. Images of a Minor:** Increases penalties for unlawful dissemination or sale of images of another created by A.I. when the victim is a student under the age of 17, and when the offender is also an educator and the victim is a student under the age of 17 (La. R.S. [14:73.14](#)).
- **Crime of Sexting:** Clarifies “Sexting” law, La. R.S. [14:81.1.1](#), to further prohibit a person under the age of 17 from unlawfully disseminating, possessing, or selling images of another created by artificial intelligence.
- **Crime of Possessing Unlawful Images of a Minor:** Creates a new crime, La. R.S. 14:73.14.1, that makes it unlawful for any person to possess any video or still image created by A.I. that depicts another person who is under the age of 17 and is totally nude or in a state of undress so as to expose certain bodily images when the person possessing the video or still image knows or has reason to know that the person is not licensed or authorized to possess such video or still image; provides for increased penalties when the offender is an educator and the victim is a student under the age of 17.
- **School Distribution of A.I. Crimes Information to Students:** Creates a new law, La. R.S. 17:416.20.1, to require public school principals, including charter schools, to annually disseminate age and grade-appropriate information during the first 5 days of school to each student in grades 6-12 regarding the crimes and consequences of La. R.S. [14:73.14](#) and 14:73.14.1 (unlawful dissemination or sale of A.I. images and possessing those unlawful images). The information must also be provided to each student’s parent or legal guardian on a written form containing a signature to acknowledge receipt and return to school. LDOE will develop and provide schools with the required information to be distributed.

ACT 737 *Edmonds*

School Human Trafficking Prevention Policy and Staff Training

- **School Policy and Employee Training Requirement:** Requires each public school board, including charter schools, to adopt a policy on human trafficking victim identification and reporting and to designate at least one employee (school counselor, mental health professional, or school administrator) to receive annual advanced training on human trafficking. LDOE shall provide information on available training and each school shall record and retain a record of course completion by the designated employees.
- **Specialized Services for Human Trafficking Victims:** Amends current law, La. R.S. [46:2161](#) and [46:2161.1](#), to clarify that children found to be victims of human trafficking are eligible for specialized services, and creates new law, Children's Code Art. 508.1, to specify care coordination team responsibilities and requirements for child trafficking cases.

VI.

Student Health & Safety



ACT 259 *Cloud*

Student Health Centers Pregnancy Info Posters

Requires school health centers (La. R.S. [40:31.3](#)) at a public high school to display signs provided by the La. Dept. of Health (LDH). These posters must include a website link to LDH's pregnancy information and pregnancy resources.

Note: this law will apply to any school health center located at a charter high school.

ACT 650 *Dickerson*

School Safe Haven Posters for Students in Grades 7 and Above

Requires each public school that serves students in grades 7-12, including charter schools, to display a flyer about the Safe Haven Law in every bathroom stall in the school (flyer to be designed and provided by La. Department of Children and Family Services).

- **Exception for Schools that Also Serve Students in Grades 6 and Below:** if a bathroom is used in the normal course of a school day by students in sixth grade or below, the school shall not be required to display the flyer in the bathroom but may determine other approaches to inform students in grades seven and above.

ACT 548 *Boyd***Suicide Prevention Posters for Middle Schools and High Schools**

Expands the current Youth Suicide Prevention Program law for High Schools, La. R.S. [17:282.4](#), which applies to charter schools via La. R.S. [17:3996\(B\)\(57\)](#), to now apply to Middle Schools (per La. R.S. [17:236](#), a Middle School is a school composed of any span of grades five through nine that includes grades seven and eight, and that excludes grades prekindergarten through four and ten through twelve). Additionally:

- **School Website Postings for Middle and High Schools:**
 - Must provide information about the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number (“988”) and clarify that the number may be called or texted.
 - Must provide a local and state suicide prevention hotline number, if available.
 - A link to the La. Dept. of Health’s suicide prevention hotline website: Louisiana988.org.
- **School ID Cards:** Any middle or high school that issues student ID cards must provide national, local, and state suicide prevention hotline information on those cards.
- **Suicide Prevention Posters:** Now requires both middle and high schools to post signage with information about the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number, “988,” and Louisiana988.org in locations easily visible to students.

ACT 628 *LaFleur***Student Food Insecurity Questionnaire**

- **Food Insecurity Added to McKinney-Vento Questionnaire:** Requires LDOE to add food insecurity questions to the residency questionnaire that schools are required to administer for purposes of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act.
- **School Questionnaire Distribution to Students:** K-12 schools, including charter schools, must distribute the questionnaire to each student upon enrollment, change of address, and reasonable suspicion of food insecurity by school personnel or school-based health clinics.
- **Resource Information for Families:** If the questionnaire responses indicate that a student is at risk for food insecurity, then the school shall provide the parents or legal guardian with information on federal, state, community, and school resources and services that may be available.

ACT 735 *McMath***Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Nutrition Regulations**

Amends current law, La. R.S. [40:661](#) (enacted via [2025 Act No. 463](#)), concerning various food manufacturing requirements and restrictions to further clarify that the requirements of the law shall only apply if the United States Food and Drug Administration requires the ingredient to be named on a food label and the ingredient is used in food or beverages intended for human consumption. [Act 735](#) also delays the effective date of La. R.S. [40:661](#) to December 31, 2028, and it repeals the reference to “Acesulfame Potassium” from La. R.S. [40:661](#) and La. R.S. [17:197.2](#).

Prohibited Sale of Vapor Products Near Schools

Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, storage, or maintenance of stock of vapor products on a premises situated within 300 feet of a school when prohibited by a municipal or parish ordinance.

School-Based Health Center Services for Students

Creates new law, which applies to charter schools, that provides the following requirements for services provided to students via a school-based health center. Similar to policies that regulate student behavioral health services on school campuses during the school day (La. R.S. [17:173](#)), schools with a school-based health center are to adopt and make available to the public a policy for students to receive services that includes, at a minimum, the following:

- **Additional Background Checks Not Necessary if in Good Standing:** Healthcare providers who are licensed, certified, or registered by the applicable licensing, certification, or registration board, who provide documentation of having passed a criminal background check conducted by the La. State Police and are in good standing with the applicable board, shall not be required by a public school to complete additional criminal background checks in order to begin providing school-based health services.
- **Collaboration on Student Schedule and Health Services:** The policy cannot prohibit a health evaluation, assessment, or authorized treatment plan from being performed on school property; rather, the school and school-based health center must work collaboratively to create a student visitation and treatment schedule that meets the needs of the student while taking into consideration the school's operations and the student's instructional time and testing schedules.
- **Student Healthcare Privacy:** The school-based health center cannot be required to enter into a consent to release information with a public school that requires the disclosure of the student's protected health information; any information shared by a school-based health center with a public school shall be limited to nonclinical information necessary for care coordination, student safety, or compliance with applicable law.
- **Health Evaluations by School-Based Health Services:** The determination for the need for a student health evaluation and school-based health center services shall be made by a healthcare provider acting within the scope of his professional license and not by a school employee who is not licensed to provide healthcare services.
- **Parental Consent:** If a student's parent or legal guardian, or a student who has reached the age of majority, consents to medically necessary school-based health center services, then no school administrator or other school employee shall prohibit the student from accessing the services; a parent or legal guardian may also, and at any time, revoke consent granted for a student to receive such services.
- **Onerous Policy Provision:** The policy cannot create onerous requirements for healthcare providers that result in the delay of or barrier to the provision of medically necessary school-based health center

services. Nor are schools that do not have a school-based health center required to establish or provide such services.

VII. School Safety & Crisis Management



ACT 521 *Edmonds*

School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program

Authorizes LDOE to establish a School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program to evaluate the use of drone technology as a supplement to existing school safety and law enforcement response protocols at public schools.

ACT 619 *M. Johnson*

Crime of Posting or Calling School Threats; School Info Distribution

- **Increased Criminal Penalties for School Threats:** Updates various criminal laws to increase penalties for terrorizing and menacing a school (threats of violence against the school).
- **School Info to Grades 6-12 Parents & Students:** Creates a new law that requires the principal of each school, including charter schools, to disseminate information developed by LDOE to students in grades 6 and above concerning the crimes and consequences of terrorizing or menacing a school or school event as provided in La. R.S. [14:95.6](#).
 - Age and grade-appropriate information must be distributed to students within the first five days of each school year.
 - The information shall be provided to each student's parent or legal guardian on a written form containing a signature line to acknowledge receipt and understanding of the information, and which the parent or legal guardian shall return to the school.

ACT 738 *Kleinpeter*

Exterior Master Key Boxes

Requires each public school board, including charter schools, to install exterior master key boxes to allow for rapid entry, response, and rescue by law enforcement and first responders during a school crisis.

- Each public school governing authority that has not, prior to January 1, 2028, instituted a system for allowing access to locked facilities to law enforcement officials and other first responders shall, from funds appropriated by the legislature to the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools, install at least one exterior master key box on the campus of each public school under its jurisdiction.

School Emergency Operations Plans

Amends and renames “School Emergency Operations” Plans law, La. R.S. [17:416.16](#), which applies to charter schools via La. R.S. [17:3996\(B\)\(33\)](#), to make various technical changes and to require the following:

- **Safety & Emergency Team:** Redefines a district’s “safety and emergency team” to now include the superintendent; a representative from school facilities, transportation, school nutrition, curriculum, student services, athletics, logistics, mental health, medical services, technology, and special education; the emergency response coordinator; the public information officer; and an elementary school principal, middle school principal, and high school principal.
- **Annual School and District Safety Questionnaires:** Each public school and local school district shall annually complete school-level and district-level safety questionnaires developed and distributed by the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools in partnership with LDOE concerning school emergency operations plan requirements. Questionnaires shall be submitted to LDOE and the Center no later than 60 instructional days into each school year.
- **Emergency Preparedness Activities Classifications:** Provides new definitions and classifications for:
 - **Discussion-based exercises:** orientations, seminars, workshops, and tabletop exercises.
 - **Operations-based exercises:** drills, functional exercises involving limited simulated incidents, and full-scale exercises involving all community partners for simulated emergency scenarios.
- **Staffing at Doorways:** Continues to require each classroom and other instructional space to be locked and secured when occupied by students, except between class periods when students are moving between classrooms and other instructional spaces. However, if a classroom or other instructional space is left unlocked or open for any other reason, the door shall be actively staffed by an authorized person standing or seated at the door.
- **Plan Accessibility:** Clarifies that a school’s approved emergency plan shall be accessible to LDOE and the La. Center for Safe Schools upon request.

Veteran School Guardians

Creates and defines “School Guardians” as a qualifying veteran who is authorized to serve as a school resource officer, including at charter schools. Qualifying criteria for eligibility to serve include: honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces; a successful background check; completion of school incident training; is employed by a school system, nonpublic school, or law enforcement; operates under policies that define scope of duties, authority, or use of force; and is physically and mentally capable of performing assigned duties. A school guardian is not a peace officer and shall not have arrest powers unless separately commissioned to do so.

ACT 846 *McFarland*

La. Center for Safe Schools

Repeals current law that establishes the La. Center for Safe Schools (Center) that currently sits within the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (La. R.S. [29:726.5](#), [726.5.1](#), and [726.6](#)) and recreates the Center within the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice and the School and Nonprofit Advisory Council.

ACT 901 *Edmonds*

School Threat Reports & School Security Assessments

- **Law Enforcement Reporting of School Threats:** Clarifies that any local law enforcement agency that receives a report of a school threat must also report the threat to the Louisiana Fusion Center within seven calendar days of receiving the threat.
- **Physical Security School Assessments:** Authorizes public elementary and secondary schools, including charter schools, to obtain a physical security school assessment upon a request made to the fusion center and at no cost to the school. Information regarding the availability of an assessment shall be made on LDOE's website. Additionally, no school shall be required to implement assessment recommendations or findings; the assessments and related materials shall be exempt from public record; there will be immunity from liability for schools for actions or omissions related to the assessments or decisions regarding implementation of recommendations; and the assessments do not create a legal duty or standard of care and do not establish an independent cause of action.

VIII.

Student Athletics & Extracurricular Activities



ACT 545 *J. Landry*

Virtual School Student Activities

Amends current law, La. R.S. [17:176.2](#), to also permit students enrolled in virtual schools (including virtual charter schools) to try out and participate in public school athletics and extracurricular activities at the public school to which the student would otherwise be zoned to attend.

ACT 253 *Miller***Cardiovascular Prescreening and Information for Student Athletes**

Amends current law (La. R.S. [17:440.4](#)) to require:

- **Cardiovascular Prescreening Required for Student Athletes:** Physical examinations of student athletes must include cardiovascular prescreening. Any student athlete with a positive finding shall be referred for further evaluation and testing.
- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information for Student Athletes:** Educational materials that provide information about causes of sudden cardiac arrest in minor children shall be distributed to parents and guardians of students participating in school sports as part of the student's required physical examination and completion of athletic permission forms.

ACT 377 *Edmonds***Youth Injury Mitigation Course**

Current law, La. R.S. [9:2798](#), provides a limitation of liability for any volunteer athletic coach, manager, athletic trainer, team volunteer health care provider, or sports team official who has participated in a safety orientation and training program established by the league or team with which he is affiliated.

[Act 377](#) adds a limitation of liability for those who complete a youth injury mitigation course approved by the La. Dept. of Health and created in accordance with newly enacted La. R.S. 40:1087.2.

Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) Compensation for High School Students

Amends current law, La. R.S. [17:3701](#), et seq., to also permit interscholastic high school athletes to earn compensation based on their Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) under certain rules such as:

- Requiring the written consent of a parent or legal guardian for an NIL compensation agreement for an interscholastic athlete under 18 years of age.
- Restricts NIL compensation for interscholastic athletes for certain products and services, such as adult entertainment, alcohol, cannabis, gambling, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, performance-enhancing drugs or substances, tobacco and alternative nicotine products, and weapons, etc.
- Prohibits a high school or agent thereof from prohibiting or preventing an interscholastic athlete from obtaining professional representation, or declaring an interscholastic athlete ineligible for athletic competition because he earns NIL compensation.
 - But a high school may prohibit an interscholastic athlete from earning NIL compensation during academic activities, official team activities, and interscholastic athletic program activities.
- Prohibits an interscholastic athlete from using a high school's facilities, apparel, equipment, uniforms, or intellectual property to earn NIL compensation unless permitted by the high school.
- Requires the student to disclose the proposed NIL agreement to the school prior to executing an agreement.
- Requires the authority that governs interscholastic athletics in this state to provide educational materials to interscholastic athletes, parents, legal guardians, and high schools regarding the rights and responsibilities.

IX. **Student Discipline**

“Teacher’s Shield Act”

Provides the following updates:

- **Annual Employee Disciplinary Right & Leave Eligibility Notice:** Amends Student Discipline Law (La. R.S. [17:416](#)), which applies to charter schools via La. R.S. [17:3996\(B\)\(40\)](#), to require each school to provide annual written notice at the beginning of each school year to each teacher and school employee, including bus operators, of their rights to take or request disciplinary action against a student in accordance with school policy; notice must also include information concerning eligibility for sick and personal leave in the event that the school employee is injured by a student who committed an assault or battery against a teacher.

- **Battery or Assault on School Employees:** Amends Student Discipline Law (La. R.S. [17:416](#)), which applies to charter schools via La. R.S. [17:3996\(B\)\(40\)](#), to clarify and mandate the following:
 - **School Employee:** Expands definition to include incidents committed against any substitute teacher, substitute bus operator, or school volunteer.
 - **Incidents On or Off School Property:** Prohibited behavior includes incidents that occur on school property or off of school property if the incident is a continuation of a documented altercation that began on school property.
 - **Automatic 2-Semester Expulsion:** A principal must immediately recommend a minimum 2-semester expulsion for any student found guilty of committing an assault or battery against a teacher, or both, by a court or at a school system suspension hearing (La. R.S. [14:34.3](#) or [14:38.2](#)).
- **Criminal Background Check Negligent Hiring Liability Provisions for Schools:** Updates criminal history review law (La. R.S. [17:15](#)) to provide that any negligent hiring statutes or rules shall not apply to a dispute, litigation, or any allegations when a city, parish, or other local public school board or a nonpublic school or school system has hired a person as an administrator, teacher, substitute teacher, athletic director, coach, or assistant coach, if the person has a valid teaching certificate or authorization provided by BESE.

Note: charter schools authorized by Orleans Parish are still subject to the parish-wide student expulsion policies and processes required by La. R.S. [17:416](#) and La. R.S. [17:10.7.1\(E\)\(4\)](#).

ACT 617 *Newell*

Battery of a School Teacher Crime

Updates current law relative to the crime of battery of a school teacher, La. R.S. [14:34.3](#), and [Children's Code Art. 897.1](#):

- Increases punishment eligibility (fines and jail time) in instances when the offender is a student but battery does not cause serious bodily injury to a teacher, the offender is a student and the battery does cause serious bodily injury to a teacher, and the offender was not a student regardless of whether battery caused bodily injury to a teacher.
- Clarifies when a court shall commit a child to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or to the custody of a public or private institution for secure placement because they committed a felony-grade delinquent act of a battery against a school teacher and when the child may be required to participate in a court-approved counseling program.

Pre-K and Early Childhood

ACT 699 *D. Boudreaux*

Pre-K Enrollment Priority for Charter Schools

Amends Charter Law, La. R.S. [17:3991](#), to authorize a charter school (except those located in New Orleans) to give enrollment preference to the following categories of students:

- An entering kindergarten student who attended either a licensed early learning center operated by the charter school or a licensed early learning center not operated by the charter school, if the student attended the center for at least 75 days and the charter school and the center have an enrollment articulation agreement.
- A student whose parent or legal guardian is serving in active military service.
- A student who is in foster care pursuant to placement through the DCFS.
- A student who is the subject of a court-ordered custody plan.

ACT 587 *Mizell*

Pre-K Programs

Primarily updates “Charlie’s Law” ([2025 Act 409](#) and La. R.S. [17:407.41](#)) relating to private school Pre-K programs but provides the following changes for public Pre-K programs:

- Clarifies that all prekindergarten programs shall comply with the child safety and welfare standards provided for in La. R.S. [17:407.41](#), and requires LDOE to monitor compliance with those standards, which shall include an annual unannounced site visit.
- If a public prekindergarten program demonstrates persistent or egregious noncompliance with the child safety and welfare standards provided for in La. R.S. [17:407.41](#), a city, parish, or other local public school board shall consider closure of the program or other measures deemed necessary to protect the safety and welfare of prekindergarten children enrolled in the program at a meeting held in accordance with the Open Meetings Law, La. R.S. [42:11](#) et seq.
- Requires any parent who enrolls his child in a prekindergarten program, public or nonpublic, to sign an acknowledgment that the parent is aware that the program is operated by a school and that the program is not licensed as an early learning center and not subject to federal daycare regulations.

ACT 233 *McMath*

Associate Teachers

Reduces the minimum age required to serve as an associate teacher from twenty-five to twenty-one.

ACT 281 *Owen*

Teacher Certification Appeal Process

Amends the Teacher Certification Appeals Process to permit BESE to override the council's denial of an appellant's appeal if the denial was based on circumstances beyond the appellant's control as determined by BESE, but BESE cannot override a denial by the council if it determines that the certification of the appellant would conflict with state or federal law.

ACT 344 *Price*

Reemployment of Retired TRSL Members

Provides for a retiree, in a full-time position, to suspend their retirement benefits and regain membership in the system which would allow for a supplemental benefit based on their new service.

ACT 744 *Jenkins*

Parental Leave for Educators

If state funding is ever allotted for these purposes, then all public schools, including charter schools, must adopt a policy that grants six weeks of paid parental leave to eligible employees upon a qualifying event with additional leave terms specified in law. Subject to the availability of state funds, LDOE is to reimburse schools an amount equal to the cost of the substitute employees required to fill the position of an eligible employee on qualifying parental leave.

Note: The "Parental Leave for Educators Act" only takes effect upon funding by the state, and no funding was appropriated during the 2026 legislature to support [Act 744](#). Schools should stay abreast of this law in future years in the event that funding is provided for its implementation.

ACT 756 *Talbot***Teacher Union Dues**

Amends current law, La. R.S. [42:457](#) and [17:438](#), to permit teachers or other school employees to stop his or her employer from deducting wages for the payment of their union dues or fees. Also requires the union to notify employees of their right to cease payment of member dues or fees and must annually notify the employee of their right to withdraw from the organization. [Act 756](#) further states these new provisions shall apply prospectively to any new collective bargaining agreement or contract and any existing agreement or contract when it is modified, extended, or otherwise affected by a new or modified memorandum of understanding.

XII. **SPED & Student Services**

**ACT 237** *Hodges***SPED Classroom Camera Recording Viewings**

Updates SPED camera law (La. R.S. [17:1948](#)), which applies to charters via La. R.S. [17:3996\(B\)\(65\)](#), to clarify that upon a request to review a recording, the superintendent and his designee or two designees of the superintendent must be present during the initial viewing.

ACT 943 *Knox***SPED Due Process Hearings**

Updates La. R.S. [17:1946](#) to provide that an LEA shall have the burden of proof, including the burden of persuasion and production, in any special education due process hearing relative to the appropriateness of a student's current or proposed program or placement and that the burden of proof shall be met by a preponderance of the evidence.

Behavioral Health Services for Students

Updates La. R.S. [17:173](#), which applies to charters via La. R.S. [17:3996\(B\)\(48\)](#), to require:

- **Policy Website and Handbook Postings:** Requires a school to make its behavioral health services for students policy available to the public by posting it on its website and including it in its student handbook.
- **Student Privacy:** Clarifies that if supervision of a behavioral health provider is conducted virtually, then no other student except the one receiving behavioral health services can be recorded.
- **Classroom Accessibility:** Clarifies that behavioral health services shall be provided inside a physical classroom to the extent that it is medically necessary and may be provided during any part of the school day during courses that may include but are not limited to English, reading, math, and science; likewise, the services shall also be provided outside of a physical classroom to the extent that it is medically necessary.
- **School and Behavioral Health Provider Dismissal Agreements:** Clarifies that a contract or agreement between the public school and the behavioral health provider may specify whether the school principal may dismiss the behavioral health provider staff member from the campus and the terms under which such a dismissal is permissible.
- **Required Behavioral Health Services Review Meeting:** Clarifies that within 21 days after a parent or legal guardian submits a behavioral health treatment plan to a school administrator and no later than 14 days after behavioral health services begin, the school administrator or his designee shall ensure that a school-based service delivery review meeting is held in person or virtually for the purpose of reviewing the delivery of services in the school setting, including the behavioral health provider's role, applicable student plans, classroom expectations, communication, scheduling, and other procedures necessary to support uninterrupted instruction and appropriate coordination with school personnel and the behavioral health provider.

XIII. TOPS and Higher Education

M.J. Foster Promise Program Age Eligibility

Changes the initial age-eligibility requirements for the M.J. Foster Promise Program:

- Be at least 21 years old in the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 award years.
- Be at least 18 years old in the 2028-2029 award year.
- Be at least 17 years old in the 2029-2030 award year and thereafter.

ACT 695 *Broussard*

TOPS Math Requirements

Revises TOPS core curricula requirements in math by allowing students to substitute Integrated Math I, II, and III for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, individually rather than requiring that the substitution be done as a complete three-course sequence.

ACT 794 *Brass*

TOPS Tech

Expands eligibility criteria for a TOPS-Tech award to include the attainment of at least nine early college credits in high school through completion of dual enrollment courses or other approved skills and learning measures. Also authorizes TOPS-Tech awards for qualifying part-time students beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, but payment of TOPS-Tech awards for part-time students shall be made only from monies remaining in the funds appropriated for the purpose of paying TOPS awards.

XIV.

Other Education Laws

LAPCS

ACT 137 *McMakin*

State Seal of Fine Arts

Creates the State Seal of Fine Arts to recognize high school graduates who meet certain academic eligibility criteria. Eligible students must complete 4 credits in the same arts discipline; achieve a minimum 3.00 grade point average for the arts credits completed; and complete an arts-related capstone performance or portfolio.

ACT 378 *Abraham*

Student Data Collection System

Requires a public school system to concur before LDOE assigns an exit code to a student that differs from the exit code that was assigned to the student by the school system.

ACT 461 *Hodges***Released Time Courses for Religious Instruction**

Permits public school boards, including charter schools, to adopt a policy that allows students to attend a “released time course”—i.e., a course in religious instruction taught by a sponsoring entity in which a student is allowed to attend, subject to approval by the child’s parent or legal guardian. A released time course policy, if adopted, must include certain provisions such as written consent forms, insurance requirements, liability responsibilities, attendance and course credit policies, and criminal background checks. LDOE shall provide a course credit code that participating schools may use to award academic credit for the completion of a released time course (for credit towards the history and literature of the Bible per La. R.S. [17:282](#)).

ACT 655 *Boyd***Foster Children’s Bill of Rights**

Makes various updates to the Privileges of Foster Youth law, La. R.S. [46:286.16](#), including adding the privilege to proper luggage, and provides for the responsibilities of local social services districts to provide foster children with proper luggage.

ACT 661 *Spell***LA FIRST High School Student Data Info Sharing**

Amends Charter School Law, Louisiana’s Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation (LA FIRST) law, La. R.S. [17:3138.12](#), and Student Privacy Law, La. R.S. [17:3914](#), to clarify that each school governing authority, including charter school boards, must share personal information for high school students with LDOE, which is then to share the information with the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center in accordance with LA FIRST law. But LDOE must create a process that permits parents to opt out of sharing such information.

ACT 674 *Riser***Student Assessment Information**

Amends Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program law, La. R.S. [17:24.4](#), and the Parents’ Bill of Rights Law, La. R.S. [17:406.9](#) (both of which apply to charter schools via La. R.S. [17:3996\(B\)\(17\)](#) and (52)), to require the following:

- **LDOE Student Assessment Postings:** By August First of each year, LDOE must post and maintain on its website a statewide mandated assessments and screeners schedule for the upcoming school year.
- **School State Assessment Schedule (August):** By August First of each year, each public school, including charter schools, must post and maintain on its website assessment scheduling information that includes a direct hyperlink to the most recent statewide mandated assessments schedule as posted on LDOE’s website and a portable document format copy of the most recent statewide

mandated assessments schedule, which shall be the portable document format made available by the LDOE or a portable document format that is identical in content.

- **School Local Assessment Schedule (November):** By November First of each school year, each public school, including charter schools, must post and maintain on the same website a portable document format schedule (template will be provided by LDOE) of all locally adopted or required benchmarks, interim assessments, screeners, progress-monitoring assessments, and other locally required assessments for administration during that school year. The school must also submit the local assessment schedule information to LDOE, which must post a compilation of local assessments received on LDOE's website by January 15 of each year.
- **School Local Assessment Review Report (November):** By November First of each school year, each public school governing board, including charter school boards, shall prepare an annual local assessment review report and shall post the report on the same website that includes information as to the time required to administer the assessment; the purpose of the assessment; the intended use of the results; the timeliness of results; whether the assessment duplicates another assessment; and whether the assessment was retained, reduced, consolidated, replaced, or eliminated as a result of the annual review. The school's review report shall also be submitted to LDOE.
- **Parents' Bill of Rights:** Clarifies that parents now also have the right to receive the statewide mandated assessments schedule and the schedule of all locally adopted or required benchmarks, interim assessments, screeners, progress-monitoring assessments, and other locally required assessments applicable to the child's grade level, course enrollment, and student group, if applicable, no later than ten business days after such schedules are posted, and to be notified by email as soon as possible of any revisions to such schedules.

ACT 824 *Amedee*

Foreign Adversaries School Funding Prohibition

Prohibits LDOE, BESE, local public school boards, early learning centers, other state agencies that have authority over educational institutions and educational opportunities for students from early childhood through secondary education, and education service providers that contract with an education agency to deliver educational, operations, or management services (which, by definition, should include charter schools) from contracting with foreign adversaries and foreign terrorist organizations.

ACT 829 *Braud*

School Bus Toll Exemptions

Amends current law, La. R.S. [17:157](#), to clarify that not only are school buses exempt from paying state tolls during certain times of the day (excluding the Greater N.O. Expressway), but all La. school board-owned or leased vehicles traveling over all public tolled ferries operated by the state have free right of passage (excluding the Greater N.O. Expressway).

ACT 885 *Edmonston***Parent-Driven Learning Microschools (Nonpublic)**

Creates and defines a “parent-driven learning cooperative” as a deliberately small learning environment that is a nonpublic educational association between parents and tutors or instructors that personalizes the learning experience for each student, and whereby students in multiple grade levels participate for part or all of the school week, and instruction occurs in a home, community space, library, learning center, or other nontraditional educational setting.

XV.**Public Sunshine Laws****ACT 141** *Zeringue***Ethics Employment Exception for Former School Board Members**

Removes a population restriction (La. R.S. [42:1123\(31\)\(c\)](#)) in order to permit the employment of any former school board member as a classroom teacher or certified school psychologist without waiting a period of two years following the termination of his or her service on the school board.

ACT 169 *Fontenot***Ethics Nepotism Exception for Certain School Employees**

Expands current law (La. R.S. [42:1119\(B\)\(2\)\(a\)](#)) to also permit a local school board to hire an immediate family member of a board member or the superintendent as a paraprofessional, custodian, or cafeteria worker if the immediate family member meets the required criteria for the position. If hired, the board member or superintendent whose immediate family member is employed must recuse himself from any decision involving the promotion or assignment of the employee.

ACT 777 *Turner***Ethics Disclosures Repeal for Appointed Boards**

Repeals the requirement of immediate family members of appointed board members, which includes charter school board members, from having to provide financial disclosures if they or their immediate family members derive anything of economic value directly from transactions involving the board member’s public agency. It also repeals the requirement that an appointed board member certify that no member of his or her immediate family had a personal or financial interest in any entity, contract, or business or a personal or financial relationship that in any way posed a conflict of interest.

ACT 787 *Melerine***Ethics Board Member Financial Disclosure**

[2024 Act No. 492](#), which took effect June 5, 2024, created an exception under limited circumstances that permits a member of a school board or parish or municipal governing authority to continue employment with a person who has or is seeking a contractual or other business or financial relationship with his governmental entity or an agency under the jurisdiction or supervision of his governmental entity (see La. R.S. [42:1111\(C\)\(6\)](#)).

- [2026 Act 787](#) clarifies that [2024 Act 492](#) applies prospectively and retroactively, but does not apply to any matter subject to a final decision of the Board of Ethics or Ethics Adjudicatory Board rendered on or before the effective date of this Act (June 8, 2026).
- [2026 Act 787](#) also clarifies that any member of a school board or parish or municipal governing authority who, prior to June 5, 2024, was employed with a person that had or was seeking a contractual or other business or financial relationship with the member's governmental entity or an agency under the jurisdiction or supervision of the member's governmental entity shall not be required to comply with the disclosure requirements in present law for such employment; but such a person shall be required to file a disclosure for any employment on or after June 5, 2024.

Open Meetings Law

ACT 220 *Jenkins***Open Meetings Law, Voting by Electronic Machine**

Amends current law (La. R.S. [42:14](#)) to clarify that a public vote displayed by an electronic machine shall satisfy viva voce voting requirements of the Open Meetings Law.

ACT 348 *Allain***Open Meeting Minutes**

Expands the number of days required for public bodies to publish minutes for open meetings from 20 days to 45 days.

Open Meetings Updates: Public Comment, Notices, Minutes

Makes the following updates and clarifications to Open Meetings Law:

- **School Board Public Comment Rules:** Clarifies that school boards may adopt reasonable rules, regulations, and restrictions concerning public comments prior to any vote taken by the school board.
- **Meeting Notice Legibility:** Clarifies that meeting notice postings at the principal office or the building at which the meeting will be held must be provided in a manner in which the notice may be read by the public.
- **5-Day Availability of Minutes Draft:** Mandates that a draft copy of meeting minutes shall be provided at least five business days before the meeting at which the minutes will be considered for approval.
- **Posting of Adopted Minutes:** Clarifies that meeting minutes posted on the board's website must be a copy of the adopted minutes.

Open Meetings Law Update: Charter Boards No Longer Required to Submit Notice to Commissioner of Administration

- **Previous State Website Notice Posting Requirement — [2024 Act 617](#) Hilferty:** Previously required all public bodies subject to Open Meetings Law (including charter schools) to submit notice of each meeting to the commissioner of administration for posting on a centralized state website.
- **Repealed State Website Notice Posting Requirement — [2025 Act 374](#) J. Landry:** Repealed the requirement of all boards to submit meeting notices to the Commissioner of Administration under [2024 Act 617](#) and La. R.S. [42:19\(A\)\(2\)\(c\)](#) and clarified that those posting requirements only apply to the boards, commissions, and committees thereof of the executive branch of state government as the term “board” is defined in La. R.S. [42:1124.2.1\(D\)\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)](#).



Louisiana Association *of* Public Charter Schools

LAPCS is a nonprofit membership organization that serves as a *voice for charter schools in Louisiana*. We work in partnership with charter schools and the community to support, promote, and advocate for high-quality charter schools that provide educational choice to families statewide.

NEW LAWS GUIDE 2026

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