

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 198 (HB 304)

2021 Regular Session

Lyons

Existing law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to create a network through which to manage and oversee all publicly funded programs that provide early childhood care or educational services. New law further requires BESE to coordinate and report data in a manner that assists legislators in evaluating the effectiveness of the network and in determining the allocation of funding and services. Requires BESE to submit to the House Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Education, House Committee on Appropriations, and Senate Committee on Finance a written report, not later than 60 days prior to each regular session, that includes, at minimum, the following information:

- (1) Number of children participating in the network and demographic information pertaining to their age, race, and socioeconomic status.
- (2) Areas of greatest need according to geographic location and student population for the purpose of prioritizing funding and services.

New law requires BESE to create a program administered by the state Dept. of Education (DOE) through which parents whose children are not able to enroll in an early learning center due to a lack of available seats or funding are able to access instructional materials for home use. Requires DOE to use the data ascertained in accordance with new law in order to conduct outreach to communities and families in need of such materials and to identify the most effective and efficient means of delivering them. Requires materials to be aligned to the BESE's birth-to-five early learning and development standards in order to maximize the children's opportunity to achieve kindergarten readiness.

Existing law provides for the La. Early Childhood Education Fund and for BESE's administration of the fund. Provides that subject to legislative appropriation, monies in the fund shall be awarded annually to local entities approved by BESE according to specified parameters and conditions. New law additionally requires BESE to consider the data it coordinates pursuant to new law in determining how to allocate these funds.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Adds R.S. 17:407.23(E) and (F) and 407.30(D)(3))