
DIGEST

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HB 62 Original

2019 Regular Session

Steve Carter

Abstract: Provides for appropriations from the Education Excellence Fund for Thrive Academy and laboratory schools operated by public postsecondary education institutions.

Present constitution provides for one-third of all monies received as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement of tobacco litigation, which are deposited into the Millennium Trust, and one-third of the investment earnings on such money to be credited to the Education Excellence Fund. Provides for appropriations from the Education Excellence Fund as follows:

- (1) 15% shall be appropriated to the state superintendent of education for distribution to private elementary and secondary schools approved by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).
- (2) Appropriations to the La. School for the Deaf, La. School for the Visually Impaired, La. School for Math, Science & Arts, the La. Special Education Center, the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, and the Louis Armstrong High School for the Arts shall be \$75,000 plus the average per pupil amount paid to public schools.
- (3) Appropriations equal to the average per pupil amount paid to public schools are authorized for certain charter schools and alternative schools.
- (4) All remaining monies shall be appropriated for each city, parish, and other local school system on a pro rata basis based on the ratio of the student population of that school or school system to that of the total state student population.

Present constitution restricts appropriations from the Education Excellence Fund to the purposes of prekindergarten through twelfth grade instructional enhancement, including early childhood education, remedial instruction, and assistance to children who fail tests required by state law or rule for advancement to a succeeding grade, or other educational programs approved by the legislature. Prohibits use of monies for maintenance, renovations and capital improvements, salary increases, or to supplant other state or local funding. Requires each recipient school or school system to prepare and submit to the Dept. of Education a prioritized plan for expenditure of funds it expects to receive from the Education Excellence Fund. Provides that no funds may be distributed to a school or school system until its plan has been approved by the departmental and by the legislature.

Present constitution requires that amounts appropriated from the Education Excellence Fund which remain in the state treasury shall remain to the credit of the recipient school or school system at the

close of each fiscal year, along with investment earnings on such amounts.

Proposed constitutional amendment adds that Thrive Academy shall receive an appropriation of \$75,000 plus the average per pupil amount paid to public schools. Authorizes appropriations for laboratory schools approved by BESE and operated by public postsecondary education institutions equal to the average per pupil amount paid to public schools.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Oct. 12, 2019.

(Amends Const. Art. VII, §10.8(C)(3)(b) and (c); Repeals Const. Art. VII, §10.0(C)(3)(d))