

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 324

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS: Establishes a systemwide needs program for the Orleans Parish school system

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(b)(iii) and to enact R.S. 17:100.12, relative to the  
3 Orleans Parish school district; to establish a systemwide needs program for the  
4 school district; to provide relative to program purpose, funding, and operation; and  
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
7 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
8 Louisiana.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(b)(iii) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
11 17:100.12 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §100.12. Systemwide needs program

13 A.(1) There is hereby established for the Orleans Parish school district a  
14 systemwide needs program. The program shall be funded, structured, and operated  
15 as provided in this Section and polices adopted by the school board.

16 (2) The purpose of the program is to direct initiatives that will result in  
17 districtwide improvements in areas that cannot be addressed efficiently or effectively  
18 at the school level. Such initiatives may include teacher recruitment, teacher  
19 preparation, professional development shared among schools, and non-recurring  
20 costs related to improving instructional materials and the use of such materials.

1           B. The school district shall create a special fund for the purpose of  
2           dedicating money to the program. The district shall annually deposit into the fund  
3           one hundred twenty dollars per student in the district less the district's expenditures  
4           that year for costs identified in RS 17:1990(C)(2)(a)(iii)(aa)(I) through (IV).  
5           Expenditures may be made from the fund by the district superintendent only to  
6           implement a plan for improvement in one or more particular areas of focus as  
7           provided in this Section.

8           C. The superintendent shall:

9           (1) Develop and propose plans for improvement in particular areas of focus.  
10          The superintendent shall develop such plans in collaboration with school leaders in  
11          the school district as more specifically provided by school board policy.

12          (2) Include related performance objectives and a proposed level of funding  
13          in any plan for improvement in an area of focus.

14          (3) Submit such plans to the school board for approval. The superintendent  
15          shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the school board, that an area of focus will  
16          impact at least fifty percent of the public school students or fifty percent of the public  
17          schools over the course of the funding cycle for the area of focus.

18          (4) Consider how the expenditures from the fund could be coordinated with  
19          other funds in order to increase the effectiveness of the program.

20          (5) Annually report to the school board on the performance objectives and  
21          the expenditure of funds for the program.

22          D. The school board may approve a plan and appropriate expenditures from  
23          the fund therefor. An approved area of focus shall be funded for a period of not less  
24          than three years based on cost estimates developed by the superintendent.

25          E.(1) The superintendent shall implement an approved plan by awarding  
26          funds through a competitive process. Funds may be awarded to:

27          (a) A school for the purpose of procuring materials or services from district-  
28          approved organizations or vendors.



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(b)

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(iii) For the purposes of this Subparagraph, local revenues of the Orleans Parish School Board also shall exclude the ~~amounts set forth in R.S. 17:1990(C)(2)(a)(iii) until such provisions relative to the specified amounts expire~~ amount deposited into the fund created by R.S. 17:100.12(B).

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 324 Original

2019 Regular Session

Leger

**Abstract:** Establishes a systemwide needs program for the Orleans Parish school system.

Proposed law establishes a systemwide needs program for the Orleans Parish school district to direct initiatives that will result in districtwide improvements in areas that cannot be addressed efficiently or effectively at the school level.

Requires the school district to create a special fund to dedicate money to the program. Provides for the annual deposit into the fund of \$120 per student in the district less the district's expenditures that year for costs identified in present law (relative to certain legacy expenses). Limits expenditures from the fund by the district superintendent only to implement a plan for improvement in one or more particular areas of focus. Requires the district superintendent to submit such plans to the school board for approval.

Provides that funds to implement plans approved by the school board shall be awarded, through a competitive process, to schools to procure materials or services from district-approved organizations or vendors and to organizations or vendors that either provide services directly to schools, educators, or students or coordinate support by providing subgrants to schools or contracting with organizations to provide goods or services to schools, educators, or students, or any combination thereof.

Provides that funding applications shall be approved according to school board policy. Prohibits expenditures from the fund except as provided in proposed law. Prohibits expenditures from the fund in excess of the amount approved by the school board for a particular area of focus.

(Amends R.S. 17:3995(A)(1)(b)(iii); Adds R.S. 17:100.12)