

SENATE BILL NO. 47

BY SENATOR FIELDS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.8(A) and to enact R.S. 17:24.8(D), relative to prekindergarten instruction; to require each city, parish, and other public school board to work to implement a mixed provider delivery model for full-day prekindergarten instruction; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:24.8(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:24.8(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§24.8. Prekindergarten programs

A. Each city, parish, or other local public school board may develop and offer prekindergarten instruction. The youngest age at which a child may enter prekindergarten provided for by this Subsection shall be ~~two years younger than the age required for that child to enter first grade as provided by R.S. 17:222(A)~~ **four years old by September thirtieth of the year in which the child enrolls in prekindergarten.**

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D.(1) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each city, parish, or other local public school board shall work to develop a mixed provider delivery model for full-day, year-round, high-quality prekindergarten instruction to each child residing within the boundaries of the school district who is eligible for a prekindergarten program pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

(2) As used in this Paragraph, the following words shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Full-day" means at least eight hours;

(b) "Mixed provider delivery model" means a program between the

1 school board and or both of the following:

2 (i) Quality-rated child care providers, as defined by the State Board of
3 Elementary and Secondary Education, operating and overseeing programs on
4 school property, pursuant to an agreement with a city, parish, or other local
5 public school board.

6 (ii) Quality-rated child care providers, as defined by the State Board of
7 Elementary and Secondary Education, operating and overseeing private child
8 care within the boundaries of the school district with at least one infant and one
9 toddler classroom and offering prekindergarten seats in their private program,
10 pursuant to an agreement with a city, parish, or other local public school board.

11 (c) "Year-round" means for a full calendar year, excluding weekends and
12 holidays, or approximately two hundred sixty days a year.

13 (3) The city, parish, or other local public school board shall ensure that
14 the implementation of a mixed provider delivery model for prekindergarten
15 instruction as described in this Subsection does not disrupt the stability of infant
16 and toddler child care in their community and that the new seats created through
17 the mixed provider delivery model are distributed equitably among quality-rated
18 child care providers.

19 (4) The city, parish, or other local school board shall work to ensure that:

20 (a) The parent of each child provided a seat through the mixed provider
21 delivery model is allowed to choose the setting in which their child is enrolled,
22 subject to the availability of seats in a particular setting.

23 (b) The costs charged for a seat in the mixed provider delivery model are
24 offered:

25 (i) At no cost to an eligible child who is economically disadvantaged, as
26 defined in rule by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

27 (ii) On a sliding scale, that is set in the agreement between the provider
28 and the school district, to an eligible child who is not economically
29 disadvantaged. The copayment required of a parent, guardian, or caretaker shall
30 not exceed the difference between the rate paid by the school district and the cost

1 necessary for the eligible provider to offer the prekindergarten programming to
2 each child.

3 (iii) In addition to the costs for a seat, each student may be charged
4 additional fees for meals or before- and after-care.

5 (5) The city, parish, or other local school board shall work with
6 community networks or other designated local networks to engage in outreach
7 to the parents and legal guardians of each eligible child to make them aware of
8 any available seats in their community with priority focus on areas of high
9 numbers of individuals qualifying for the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

10 (6) Beginning in 2023-2024, each city, parish, or other local public school
11 board shall annually provide a report to the state Department of Education on:

12 (a) The number of three- and four-year-old children served through each
13 prekindergarten program and early childhood program offered through the
14 school board, including the seats provided through the mixed provider delivery
15 model, in the same manner that they report enrollment numbers for students in
16 kindergarten.

17 (b) The distribution of seats among each school and quality rated child
18 care provider.

19 (c) Input from at least the majority of providers in the community
20 network, including how the distribution of seats has impacted the stability of
21 infant and toddler care.

22 (7) Beginning in 2024-2025, the state Department of Education shall
23 annually provide a report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on:

24 (a) The number of children served in prekindergarten programs, in total,
25 by type, and by provider.

26 (b) The approximate number of three- and four-year-old children in the
27 state and by school system who are not being served by a prekindergarten
28 program or early childhood program.

29 (c) Any recommendations for increasing seats and improving the
30 provision of prekindergarten instruction and early childhood care.

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____