

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 821

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARTER, HENRY BURNS, CHAMPAGNE, CORTEZ, FOIL, LITTLE, PUGH, ROBIDEAUX, SIMON, SMILEY, AND JANE SMITH AND SENATORS CROWE, DUPLESSIS, MICHOT, SMITH, AND WALSWORTH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS/FINANCE-MFP: Provides relative to the allocation and reporting of certain education funding

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:7(2)(f), relative to the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the State  
3 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide for the use of certain  
4 funding by public school boards provided through the minimum foundation program  
5 formula; to provide reporting requirements; to provide guidelines and standards for  
6 such reports; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:7(2)(f) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §7. Duties, functions, and responsibilities of board

10 In addition to the authorities granted by R.S. 17:6 and any powers, duties, and  
11 responsibilities vested by any other applicable laws, the board shall:

12 \* \* \*

13 (2)

14 \* \* \*

15 (f)(i) In addition to any other requirements of the minimum foundation  
16 program formula as most recently adopted by the State Board of Elementary and  
17 Secondary Education and approved by the legislature, the state board, beginning with  
18 the 2010-2011 school year and continuing thereafter, shall require each city, parish,  
19 or other local public school board to expend funds generated by applying the  
20 weighted factors contained in such formula for at-risk students, career and technical

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 education course units, special education students other than gifted and talented  
2 students, and gifted and talented students on personnel, professional services,  
3 instructional materials, equipment, and supplies that serve the unique needs of  
4 students who generate such funds and to submit annually a written report to the State  
5 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that details the types of activities on  
6 which these funds were expended to serve the needs of the weighted students at all  
7 schools that serve such students. The information contained in such annual report  
8 shall be published on the state Department of Education website in an easily  
9 understandable format.

10 (ii) Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing thereafter, the  
11 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall offer guidance and  
12 technical assistance to each city, parish, or other local public school board in making  
13 strategic fiscal decisions that promote improved student achievement. Such  
14 guidance and technical assistance shall include but not be limited to the identification  
15 of best practices in school finance that promote efficiency, economies of scale, and  
16 the use of comparative data to improve spending and educational outcomes.

17 (iii) Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year and continuing thereafter, the  
18 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall annually publish revenue  
19 and expenditure data, including but not limited to the allocation and expenditure of  
20 funds generated by the minimum foundation program, local revenues, and federal  
21 grants, for each city, parish, or other local public school board by district and by  
22 school level, to the extent possible, in an easily understandable format on the state  
23 Department of Education website. Such data shall include but not be limited to  
24 comparative per pupil expenses reported by the school system for personnel,  
25 transportation, and other major categories of common expenditures as determined  
26 by the state Department of Education.

27 (iv) For the purposes of this Subparagraph, the term "city, parish, or other  
28 local public school board" shall mean the governing authority of any public  
29 elementary or secondary school.

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.

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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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Carter

HB No. 821

**Abstract:** Requires BESE to require public school boards to allocate and report certain education funding in certain ways.

Present law provides generally for the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), which include the adoption of a minimum foundation program (MFP) and formula for the equitable allocation of minimum foundation funds to public school systems.

Proposed law additionally requires BESE, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, to require public school boards to:

- (1) Expend funds generated by applying the weighted factors contained in such formula for at-risk students, career and technical education course units, special education students other than gifted and talented students, and gifted and talented students on personnel, professional services, instructional materials, equipment, and supplies that serve the needs of students who generate such funds.
- (2) Submit annually a written report to BESE on how these funds were expended. Provides that such information shall be published on the state Dept. of Education website.

Proposed law further requires BESE, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, to:

- (1) Assist public school boards in making strategic fiscal decisions that promote improved student achievement.
- (2) Annually publish certain revenue and expenditure data on the state Dept. of Education website.

Specifies that for proposed law purposes, "city, parish, and other local public school board" shall mean the governing authority of any public elementary and secondary school (which includes charter schools).

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:7(2)(f))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Specifies that for proposed law purposes, "city, parish, and other local public school board" shall mean the governing authority of any public elementary and secondary school (which includes charter schools).