

New law provides that the intent of the legislature is to assess the status and data of a statewide expansion program consisting of utilization of a health-related fitness assessment instrument to determine the fitness levels of students as a means to impact childhood obesity whereby positive results can be repeated or replicated in schools throughout the state. Further provides that positive results can be used to implement a statewide health-related physical fitness assessment in each city, parish, or other local public school system that provides personalized feedback and positive reinforcement. Provides another goal is to focus on those school systems with high levels of poverty based on the federal poverty guidelines.

New law provides that the expansion program is based upon a pilot program consisting of the 12 parishes and school districts that are part of the coordinated school health pilot program, conducted through the Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning at the ULL, in coordination with other universities. Provides that as funding is identified from existing budgets, foundations, or other sources, the implementation of the program will be expanded to additional school districts.

New law requires, for the purposes of the expansion program, the continued use of the physical fitness assessment instrument used for the pilot program which:

- (1) Is based on factors relating to student health identified as essential to overall health and function including aerobic capacity, body composition, and muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility.
- (2) Includes criterion-referenced standards specific to a student's race, age, and gender and based on the physical fitness level required for good health.

New law requires the results of the physical fitness assessment to contain summary or statistical data, aggregated longitudinally from pre-k to the 12th grade and include any other category deemed appropriate, and prohibits such summary results from containing any personally identifiable information of any student or teacher participating in the program. Requires the assessment instrument to provide baseline measures of fitness and body mass index and subsequent measurement of effectiveness of interventions.

New law requires the following reports:

- (1) An annual report by the Cecil J. Picard Center, in collaboration with the DOE, DHH, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and the Louisiana Council on Obesity Prevention and Management, by Sept. 1 each year concerning implementation of the physical fitness assessment which includes the findings from an analysis of the plan development and implementation results of the assessment obtained during the preceding school year. Such report must be submitted to the governor, the Senate and House committees on education, the Senate and House Committees on health and welfare, and BESE.
- (2) A report of recommendations by the La. Obesity Council, in consultation with the Dept. of Education, DHH, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and the Cecil J. Picard Center, regarding program implementation, findings, best practices, and future direction through the office of public health to the Senate and House education committees and the Senate and House health and welfare committees. Provides for the plan to expand these assessments and develop interventions to be provided no later than Dec. 31st of each year and consist of a period of not more than five years for implementation.

New law provides that no physical fitness assessment conducted shall interfere with nor replace any effort, purpose, assessment, or program implemented by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, including but not limited to the President's Challenge and the elementary fitness meet.

New law provides for the adoption of necessary rules and guidelines by BESE and DHH for program implementation. Provides that implementation of the pilot program in new law is based on the availability or appropriation of funds for this purpose.

Effective August 15, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 17:17.5)