

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 584

BY SENATOR PETERSON

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Provides relative to school performance scores and labels. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:10.1(F), relative to school and district accountability; to  
3 provide for a school quality rating system for public schools and school districts; and  
4 to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:10.1(F) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §10.1. School and district accountability system; purpose; responsibilities of state  
8 board; **school quality rating system**

9 \* \* \*

10 F.(1) In addition to any other performance-related labels or designations  
11 assigned to public schools and school districts pursuant to the school and district  
12 accountability system, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in  
13 consultation with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other education  
14 stakeholders, shall develop a ~~letter-grade~~ **school quality rating** system reflective of  
15 school and district performance that shall ~~include~~ **be based upon** but not necessarily  
16 be limited to the following **factors**:

17 ~~(1)(a) Assignment of a letter grade to each public elementary and secondary~~

1 ~~school and school district that is based upon the current method of determining~~  
2 ~~school and district performance scores.~~

3 ~~(b) Any school that has been labeled academically unacceptable shall be~~  
4 ~~assigned a grade of "F".~~

5 **(a) Meeting student proficiency benchmarks and standards established**  
6 **by the board for each core subject area.**

7 **(b) Completion rate.**

8 **(c) Dropout rate.**

9 **(d) Growth or decline in student academic achievement.**

10 (2) ~~Inclusion of the letter grade~~ **Each public elementary and secondary**  
11 **school and school district shall receive a rating of either Exemplary,**  
12 **Commendable, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, or Academically**  
13 **Unacceptable and the quality rating** assigned to each public school and school  
14 district **shall be included** in the school report cards compiled by the Department of  
15 Education and distributed to parents and in any public release of school and district  
16 performance scores.

17 (3) Creation of an honor roll which recognizes all high-performing schools  
18 and high schools with graduation rates that exceed the state average, which shall also  
19 be made public when information relative to school and district performance scores  
20 and letter grades are released.

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

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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#### DIGEST

Present law requires BESE, in addition to any other performance related labels or  
designations, to assign a letter grade to each public elementary and secondary school and

school district based upon the current method of determining school and district performance scores. Requires that any school that has been labeled academically unacceptable be assigned a grade of "F".

Proposed law deletes provisions requiring that letter grades be assigned to public schools and school districts and instead requires BESE to develop a school quality rating system reflective of school and district performance that shall include but not be limited to the following factors:

- (1) Meeting student proficiency benchmarks and standards established by BESE for each core subject area.
- (2) Completion rate.
- (3) Dropout rate.
- (4) Growth or decline in student academic achievement.

Proposed law provides that each public elementary and secondary school and school district shall receive one of the following ratings, which shall be included on the school and district report cards issued by the Dept. of Education:

- (1) Exemplary
- (2) Commendable
- (3) Recognized
- (4) Academically Acceptable
- (5) Academically Unacceptable

Present law requires BESE to create and make public an honor roll which recognizes all high-performing high schools and high schools with graduation rates that exceed the state average.

Proposed law retains these provisions.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:10.1(F))