

Prior law required that early childhood development and enrichment activity classes (LA 4 classes) be made available to every child within a school system's jurisdiction who will be eligible to enter public school kindergarten in the following year and who meets certain criteria.

Prior law required each LA 4 class to include a full program of not less than 10 hours per day for each day that the regular school program in the school system is in session that includes a program of early childhood education during the period of the day that school is normally in session and a program of high quality enrichment activities during the before and after school session time. Required each school system to determine the precise start and end times of the full day program according to the assessed needs of the community served by the program.

New law retains prior law.

Prior law authorized BESE to grant a waiver or partial waiver to the required enrichment activities of the LA 4 program, but not to the program of early childhood education during the period of the day that school is actually in session. Authorized such waiver to be granted pursuant to rules adopted by BESE upon a showing that it is not possible or reasonably feasible for economically justifiable reasons to provide sufficient enrichment activities preceding or subsequent to the early childhood education period of the day to provide the full 10-hour day.

New law transfers the authority to grant such waivers from BESE to the Dept. of Education and otherwise retains prior law.

Prior law required each applicant requesting a waiver to provide specific and achievable plans for meeting the full 10-hour requirement by no later than the beginning of the third year of operation. New law deletes prior law.

Prior law authorized a waiver to be provided for only one operational year at a time, for a total of no more than two consecutive operational years, and only at the time of approval of the initial application or during the applicant's initial year of operation.

New law authorizes the department to provide a waiver for only one operational year at a time.

Prior law provided that a waiver or partial waiver to the requirement for enrichment activities, but not to the program of early childhood education during the period of the day that school is actually in session, may be granted by BESE to an applicant pursuant to rules adopted by BESE upon a showing acceptable to BESE that, over time and consistently during the same period of the day, so few children are present for enrichment activities that providing the enrichment activities otherwise required for all or a portion of a full 10-hour day is not reasonably feasible. Further provided that such a waiver may be provided for only one year at a time, but may be renewed annually based on a continued showing that participation is so low that providing such activities is not reasonably feasible.

New law retains prior law, but transfers the authority to grant such waivers from BESE to the Dept. of Education.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.10(C)(1)(c))