

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 466

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD AND SENATOR MILLS

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

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY: Provides relative to the assignment of performance-based letter grades to public schools and school districts

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:10.1(F), relative to the school and district accountability  
3 system; to provide relative to the assignment of letter grades to public schools and  
4 districts; to provide relative to the method by which such letter grades are  
5 determined; to require approval by the House and Senate education committees of  
6 any change made to such method; to provide for implementation; to provide an  
7 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

10 §10.1. School and district accountability system; purpose; responsibilities of state  
11 board; legislative approval

12 \* \* \*

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

1           ~~(1)~~(a) Assignment of a letter grade to each public elementary and secondary  
2 school and school district that is based upon the ~~current~~ method of determining  
3 school and district performance scores.

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

6           ~~(2)~~ (c) Inclusion of the letter grade assigned to each public school and school  
7 district in the school report cards compiled by the state Department of Education and  
8 distributed to parents and in any public release of school and district performance  
9 scores.

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

14          ~~(2)~~(a) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not  
15 implement any change to any rule or policy that provides for a method or formula  
16 for determining letter grades for schools or school districts or that provides for  
17 granting rewards or taking corrective actions based on letter grades unless the change  
18 has been approved by the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee  
19 on Education, meeting separately or jointly.

20          (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, for  
21 the 2012-2013 school year, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
22 shall determine letter grades according to the same method or formula used for the  
23 2011-2012 school year and shall provide for granting rewards or taking corrective  
24 actions based on letter grades according to the same rules or policies used in the  
25 2011-2012 school year.

26          Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2013; if vetoed by the  
27 governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on  
28 July 1, 2013, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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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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Havard

HB No. 466

**Abstract:** Provides that implementation of any change in rules or policies that provide for a method or formula for determining school and district letter grades is contingent upon the approval of the House and Senate education committees.

Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop a letter grade system reflective of school and district performance, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Assignment of letter grades to public school and districts based on the current method of determining school and district performance scores; schools labeled academically unacceptable shall be assigned a grade of "F".
- (2) Inclusion of letter grades in school report cards compiled by the state Dept. of Education and distributed to parents and in any public release of school and district performance scores.
- (3) Creation of an honor roll recognizing high-performing schools and high schools.

Proposed law:

- (1) Prohibits BESE from implementing any change to any rule or policy that provides for a method or formula for determining letter grades for schools or school districts or that provides for granting rewards or taking corrective actions based on letter grades unless the change has been approved by the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education, meeting separately or jointly.
- (2) Notwithstanding proposed law, for the 2012-13 school year, requires BESE to determine letter grades according to the same method or formula used for the 2011-12 school year and to provide for granting rewards or taking corrective actions based on letter grades according to the same rules or policies used in the 2011-12 school year.

Effective July 1, 2013.

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