

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 996

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Prohibits implementation of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments and provides for continuation of La. Educational Assessment Program tests

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(a) and (d) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii), relative to
3 standards-based assessments; to prohibit the implementation of certain standards-
4 based assessments; to provide exceptions; to provide for the continuation of
5 Louisiana Educational Assessment Program tests; to provide for parental approval
6 relative to the administration of certain alternate assessments for certain students
7 with disabilities; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(a) and (d) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii) are hereby amended
10 and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
12 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city
13 school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

14 * * *

15 F.(1)(a) The Department of Education shall ~~begin implementation of a~~
16 implement the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with the approval of the
17 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

18 * * *

1 (d) ~~Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, standards-based assessments~~
2 ~~implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in English~~
3 ~~language arts and mathematics shall be based on nationally recognized content~~
4 ~~standards that represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully~~
5 ~~transition to postsecondary education and the workplace. Rigorous student~~
6 ~~achievement standards shall be set with reference to test scores of the same grade~~
7 ~~levels nationally. Neither the state Department of Education nor the State Board of~~
8 ~~Elementary and Secondary Education shall implement or administer any assessment~~
9 ~~proposed or developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College~~
10 ~~and Careers, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, or any other equivalent~~
11 ~~national group or consortium. This prohibition shall not apply to a college entrance~~
12 ~~examination, a high school equivalency examination, or an industry-based~~
13 ~~certification examination.~~

* * *

15 (3)(a) In lieu of the standards-based assessments prescribed in
16 ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) ~~and (d)~~ of this Subsection, an alternate
17 assessment shall be provided for and administered, upon the approval of the student's
18 parent or legal guardian, only to those students with disabilities who meet specific
19 eligibility criteria developed by the state Department of Education and approved by
20 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. A determination of
21 whether any student meets the eligibility criteria established by the state Department
22 of Education shall be made by the student's Individual Education Plan committee and
23 shall be so noted on that student's Individual Education Plan. The alternate
24 assessment developed pursuant to this Paragraph shall be administered on a schedule
25 determined by the state Department of Education and approved by the State Board
26 of Elementary and Secondary Education. The alternate assessment shall be part of
27 the Louisiana Education Assessment Program otherwise provided for in this
28 Subsection and the alternate assessment shall be used for information, accountability,

1 compliance, and planning purposes as provided by the State Board of Elementary
2 and Secondary Education.

3 (b)

4 * * *

5 (ii) Students with persistent academic disabilities shall be allowed to take
6 academic assessments that are sensitive to measuring progress in their learning and
7 that recognize their individual needs. Academic assessments are to be geared
8 specifically toward accommodating students to enable them to perform on standards-
9 based assessments prescribed in ~~Subparagraphs~~ Subparagraph (1)(c) ~~and (d)~~ of this
10 Subsection. Such accommodations shall include at a minimum verbalized test
11 questions and shall provide for writing assistance of a scribe and any other
12 accommodations deemed appropriate by the student's Individual Education Plan
13 committee. However, any such accommodations shall not breach test security or
14 invalidate the meaning of the test score or the purpose of the test.

15 * * *

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)]

Schroder

HB No. 996

Abstract: Prohibits implementation of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments and provides for the continuation of La. Educational Assessment Program tests.

Present law provides for the La. Competency-Based Education Program, including the implementation of statewide standards for required subjects and the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). Requires standards-based assessments for required subjects (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and administered in at least grades 3 through 11. Provides that such assessments be based on state content standards and rigorous student achievement standards comparable to national student achievement levels. Further requires that the rigor of such assessments shall at least compare to that of national achievement tests. Specifies that beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math shall be based on nationally recognized content standards. Requires BESE to establish the adequate test scores for determining successful student performance on the tests. Provides for an alternate assessment to be administered to students with disabilities who meet criteria developed by the state Dept. of Education. Further requires the department to develop modified achievement standards and use alternative assessments for certain students with persistent academic disabilities.

Proposed law retains present law except deletes present law requirement that the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math be based on nationally recognized content standards. Prohibits implementation of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Smarter Balanced assessments and any other similar assessments. Specifies that this prohibition shall not apply to a college entrance examination, a high school equivalency examination, or an industry-based certification examination. Relative to the administration of alternate assessments to a student with disabilities, proposed law provides that such administration be upon the parent's or guardian's approval.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(a) and (d) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii))