
DIGEST

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Schroder

HB No. 1199

Abstract: Provides for parental access to instructional materials (including surveys and tests) in public schools, requires information about such access to be included in parent orientation sessions, and removes requirements for parents to attend orientation sessions.

Proposed law provides that a parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school is entitled to:

- (1) Review instructional materials used by or administered to the parent's child.
- (2) Review each test or assessment administered to the parent's child after the test or assessment is administered.
- (3) Review any survey before such survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student.

Proposed law requires each local school board to adopt rules and policies for each school to make instructional materials available for review as provided in proposed law. Provides that the rules may specify reasonable hours for review and specifies that they require the school to provide copies to a parent upon request and establish reasonable fees therefor. Requires the school principal to ensure that the school complies with such rules.

Proposed law includes these definitions:

- (1) "Assessment" – an assessment or test administered pursuant to present law relative to the La. Competency-Based Education Program, including the La. Educational Assessment Program, and any other state, national, or international test or assessment.
- (2) "Instructional materials" means content that conveys the knowledge or skills of a subject in the school curriculum through a medium or a combination of media for conveying information to a student. It also includes any test, assessment, or survey administered to a student. The term also includes books, supplementary materials, teaching aids, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, on-line material, information, or services, or an electronic medium or other means of conveying information to the student or otherwise contributing to the learning process.
- (3) "Parent" means the parent or legal guardian of a child.

- (4) "Survey" means any evaluative instrument or questionnaire that is not an assessment of academic knowledge, skills, or abilities, administered as part of a state, national, or international assessment or by itself.

Present law requires local school boards to conduct a parent orientation course that includes (in part) a parent orientation meeting at which the school board or its representative must provide each parent or guardian a copy of and explain specified school board policies.

Proposed law includes parental access to instructional materials in accordance with proposed law in school board policies to be covered in the parent orientation meeting.

Present law requires that a child entering public school within the state for the first time present evidence that at least one of his parents or guardians has completed the required parent orientation course. Provides that completion of one orientation course suffices for the enrollment of all children of a parent or guardian. Provides that no child shall be denied school entry by reason of a parent's noncompliance with present law. Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law requires local school boards to notify parents whose children may enter school of the requirements for attending parent orientation. Proposed law instead requires that local school boards notify parents of the availability and schedule of orientation meetings.

Proposed law requires that, prior to Aug. 1, 2014, BESE and each local school board adopt rules and policies required by proposed law relative to access to instructional materials and tests and otherwise provide for implementation of proposed law on Aug. 1, 2014.

Effective Aug. 1, 2014, except provisions for rulemaking and implementation by local school boards and BESE and provisions abolishing requirements for parents to attend orientation meetings are effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:235.1(B)(intro. para.) and (4)(e) and (D); Adds R.S. 17:235.1(B)(4)(f) and 355; Repeals R.S. 235.1(A), (C), and (F))