

SENATE BILL NO. 533

BY SENATORS LAFLEUR AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVES CARTER
AND LEGER

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part X-B of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 17:407.41 through 407.46, relative to early childhood education
4 enrollment coordination; to provide for definitions; to provide for prohibitions; to
5 authorize local enrollment coordination entities; to provide for responsibilities of the
6 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and approved local enrollment
7 coordination entities; to provide for funding of approved local enrollment
8 coordination entities; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Part X-B of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
11 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:407.41 through 407.46, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 **PART X-B. LOUISIANA EARLY LEARNING**

13 **ENROLLMENT COORDINATION**

14 **§407.41. Definitions**

15 **As used in this Part, the following definitions shall apply:**

16 **A. "Coverage area" means the parish, parishes, or other geographical**
17 **area within the jurisdiction of a local early learning enrollment coordinator.**

18 **B. "Department" means the state Department of Education.**

19 **C. "Local early learning enrollment coordinator" means an approved**
20 **entity that conducts a process for informing families about publicly-funded and**
21 **Type III licensed early childhood care and education programs in the coverage**

1 area; collects family preferences; develops and uses a common application
 2 process; annually determines demand for publicly-funded early childhood care
 3 and education within the coverage area; and makes recommendations to the
 4 department for the distribution of available publicly-funded early childhood
 5 care and education slots for at-risk children within its coverage area.

6 D. "State Board" means the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 7 Education.

8 §407.42. Authorization of local early learning enrollment coordinators

9 A. Prior to authorizing local early learning enrollment coordinators, the
 10 state board shall:

11 (1) By September 1, 2014:

12 (a) Provide the governing authority of each public school system and
 13 each early learning center, nonpublic school which provides publicly-funded
 14 early childhood services, and Head Start grantee located within the geographic
 15 boundaries of the public school system with an assessment of the extent to which
 16 these providers of early childhood services coordinate their efforts to:

17 (i) Inform families about the availability of publicly-funded and Type
 18 III licensed early childhood care and education programs serving students four
 19 years of age or younger.

20 (ii) Coordinate enrollment, eligibility criteria, and waiting lists to ensure
 21 that families are referred to other available publicly-funded early childhood
 22 programs should they be ineligible for or unable to access their primary choice.

23 (iii) Collect family preferences regarding enrollment choices for
 24 publicly-funded and Type III licensed early childhood care and education
 25 programs.

26 (iv) Enroll at-risk children, using available public funds, based upon
 27 stated family preferences.

28 (b) Provide public school systems, early learning centers, nonpublic
 29 schools, Early Head Start grantees, and Head Start grantees with a designated
 30 time period in which the local early enrollment coordination activities will be

1 developed and implemented.

2 (2) By October 1, 2015:

3 (a) Publish a list of public school systems within whose geographic
4 boundaries there is no coordinated effort by the public school system and the
5 early learning centers, nonpublic schools which provide publicly-funded early
6 childhood services, and Head Start grantees to:

7 (i) Inform families about the availability of publicly-funded and Type
8 III licensed early childhood care and education programs serving students four
9 years of age or younger.

10 (ii) Coordinate enrollment, eligibility criteria, and waiting lists to ensure
11 that families are referred to other available publicly-funded early childhood
12 programs should they be ineligible for or unable to access their primary choice.

13 (iii) Collect family preferences regarding enrollment choices for
14 publicly-funded and Type III licensed early childhood care and education
15 programs.

16 (iv) Enroll at-risk children, using available public funds, based upon
17 stated family preferences.

18 (b) Provide public school systems, early learning centers, nonpublic
19 schools, Early Head Start grantees, and Head Start grantees with a designated
20 time period in which the local early enrollment coordination activities will be
21 developed and implemented.

22 (3) By June 30, 2015, approve a process to authorize entities as local
23 early learning enrollment coordinators to begin performing required services
24 in the geographic boundaries of public school systems identified pursuant to
25 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, in the 2015-2016 school year.

26 (4) Not certify any entity as a local early learning enrollment
27 coordinator under this Section unless it is in compliance with procedures and
28 regulations established by the state board. The entity shall be a state agency,
29 a public school system, a nonprofit or for-profit corporation having an
30 educational or social services mission, including but not limited to a nonprofit

1 corporation of a philanthropic or policy nature, a Louisiana public
 2 postsecondary education institution, or a nonprofit corporation established by
 3 the governing authority of a parish or municipality.

4 (5) Review each proposed local early learning enrollment coordinator
 5 in a timely manner and determine whether each proposed local early learning
 6 enrollment coordinator complies with the law and rules and whether the
 7 proposal is valid, complete, and financially well-structured.

8 (6) Approve a process by which the department serves as the local early
 9 learning enrollment coordinator for those coverage areas without an approved
 10 entity.

11 (7) Promulgate rules establishing an appeals process and designating the
 12 department to oversee the process through which families and early learning
 13 centers have the opportunity to appeal decisions made by local early learning
 14 enrollment coordinators.

15 B.(1) The initial authorization of a local early learning enrollment
 16 coordinator shall be for a period up to five years.

17 (2) After the initial authorization period, the state board may grant
 18 renewal of authorization for additional periods of not less than three years nor
 19 more than five years after thorough review of the local early learning
 20 enrollment coordinator activities.

21 §407.43. Responsibilities of approved local early learning enrollment
 22 coordinators

23 In accordance with R.S. 17:407.22, local early learning enrollment
 24 coordinators shall support families in accessing high-quality publicly-funded
 25 early childhood care and education by:

26 (1) Conducting a process for disseminating information about early
 27 childhood care and education programs and collecting family preferences in
 28 order to make distribution recommendations.

29 (2) Using a common application process, annually determine family
 30 demand for publicly-funded early childhood care and education within the

1 coverage area.

2 (3) Providing a recommendation to the department of the distribution
3 of available publicly-funded early childhood care and education slots within the
4 coverage area.

5 §407.44. Funding of approved local early learning enrollment coordinators

6 A.(1) For a coverage area identified by the state board as requiring an
7 early learning enrollment coordinator, the department shall allocate not more
8 than one percent of the public funds appropriated for each early childhood care
9 and education program in the coverage area to support the local early learning
10 enrollment coordinator in performing the services required by this Part.
11 However, Head Start programs shall fund their respective recruitment,
12 selection, and enrollment system mandated by applicable federal laws,
13 regulations, standards, and grant requirements. Head Start programs shall
14 collaborate with local schools and early learning centers to conduct combined
15 recruitment enrollment activities as defined in R.S. 17:407.42.

16 (2) The amount allocated from the funding for each early childhood care
17 and education program shall be proportionate to the number of children in the
18 program enrolled by the local early learning enrollment coordinator for the
19 coverage area.

20 (3) If an allocation cannot be made from a funding stream to support the
21 early learning enrollment coordinator for a coverage area, the amount
22 established for that funding stream to support the early learning enrollment
23 coordinator shall be allocated from the remaining program funding streams in
24 an amount proportionate to the number of children in each program enrolled
25 by the local early learning enrollment coordinator for the coverage area.

26 (4) The state board shall not allocate additional funds to support early
27 learning enrollment coordinators, as provided in Paragraph (3) of this
28 Subsection, from the funding stream for any early childhood care and education
29 program that has a per-child allocation or subsidy below the state average
30 per-child allocation or subsidy for all programs included in the enrollment

1 system.

2 (5) The department may use funds allocated pursuant to this Subsection
3 to support any local enrollment pilot programs during the 2014-2015 school
4 year in order to inform the establishment of rules adopted by the state board on
5 or before June 30, 2015.

6 B. The department may establish start-up or incubation grants to
7 encourage sufficient supply of high-quality local early learning enrollment
8 coordinators.

9 C. The local early learning enrollment coordinator shall annually submit
10 to the department an independent financial audit conducted by a certified
11 public accountant who has been approved by the legislative auditor. Such audit
12 shall be accompanied by the auditor's statement that the report is free of
13 material misstatements. The audit shall be limited in scope to those records
14 necessary to ensure that the local early learning enrollment coordinator has
15 used funds to perform required services, and it shall be submitted to the
16 legislative auditor for review and investigation of any irregularities or audit
17 findings. The local early learning enrollment coordinator shall return to the
18 state any funds that the legislative auditor determines were expended in a
19 manner inconsistent with state law or state board regulations. The cost of such
20 audit shall be paid by the department from funds provided pursuant to
21 Subsection A of this Section.

22 §407.45. Rules

23 The state board shall adopt all rules and regulations required in this Part
24 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

25 §407.46. Compliance

26 Nothing in this Part shall prevent any Head Start grantee or Early Head
27 Start grantee from complying with all applicable federal laws, regulations,
28 standards, and grant requirements.

29 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
30 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
3 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____