

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 321

BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE

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

TEACHERS: Provides for teacher certification and professional development with respect to numeracy

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.13(A)(2), (B)(2) and (3), and (C) through (E) and to enact
3 R.S. 17:8.1(A)(8) and 24.13(F), relative to teachers; to require instruction and testing
4 on numeracy as a component of teacher certification; to require professional
5 development for certain math teachers; to require numeracy coaches to provide
6 training for such teachers; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.13(A)(2), (B)(2) and (3), and (C) through (E) are hereby
9 amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:8.1(A)(8) and 24.13(F) are hereby enacted to read as
10 follows:

11 §8.1. Certification of teachers; parental notification

12 A. In carrying out its responsibility to prescribe the qualifications and provide
13 for the certification of teachers under authority of R.S. 17:7(6), the qualifications and
14 requirements established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
15 for certification of any applicant who completes an approved teacher education
16 program in Louisiana shall include but not be limited to the following:

17 * * *

18 (8)(a) That the applicant has met at least one of the following requirements:

19 (i) Has completed the prescribed number of semester hours in the teaching
20 of foundational numeracy as established in rule by the State Board of Elementary

1 and Secondary Education in accordance with the level of certification to be awarded.

2 The components of the foundational numeracy courses shall be as provided in R.S.
3 17:7.2(A)(4).

4 (ii) Has completed numeracy training appropriate to the certification area
5 and approved by the state Department of Education in alignment with the numeracy
6 competencies identified in scientifically based mathematics research at the national
7 level and approved by the state board for the teaching of mathematics.

8 (b) That an applicant who is applying for initial certification to teach
9 kindergarten through eighth grade has completed either the prescribed number of
10 semester hours in accordance with Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or the
11 numeracy professional development pursuant to R.S. 17:24.13.

12 (c) The provisions of this Paragraph shall be implemented beginning on
13 September 1, 2028.

14 * * *

15 §24.13. Numeracy professional development; purpose; requirements; reporting;
16 funding

17 A. As used in this Section:

18 * * *

19 (2) "Teacher" means each ~~fourth~~ kindergarten through eighth grade public
20 school teacher who teaches mathematics.

21 B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the state
22 Department of Education shall:

23 * * *

24 (2)(a) Not later than August 1, 2025, require each fourth through eighth
25 grade teacher to successfully complete at least one approved professional
26 development course and provide documentation to the teacher's employing school.
27 A teacher who provides documentation of a successfully completed approved
28 professional development course within five years prior to August 1, 2025, shall be
29 considered in compliance with the provisions of this ~~Paragraph.~~ Subparagraph.

1 Courses completed more than five years prior to August 1, 2025, shall not be used
2 to fulfill the requirements of this ~~Paragraph~~. Subparagraph.

3 (b) Not later than August 1, 2027, require each kindergarten through third
4 grade teacher to successfully complete at least one approved professional
5 development course and provide documentation to the teacher's employing school.
6 A teacher who provides documentation of a successfully completed approved
7 professional development course within five years prior to August 1, 2027, shall be
8 considered in compliance with the provisions of this Subparagraph. Courses
9 completed more than five years prior to August 1, 2027, shall not be used to fulfill
10 the requirements of this Subparagraph.

11 (3)(a) Require any fourth through eighth grade teacher hired after July 31,
12 2025, to provide documentation to the employing school of successful completion
13 of an approved professional development course within two years of the date of
14 employment.

15 (b) Require any kindergarten through third grade teacher hired after July 31,
16 2027, to provide documentation to the employing school of successful completion
17 of an approved professional development course within two years of the date of
18 employment.

19 * * *

20 C. Each public school governing authority shall provide for numeracy
21 coaches for mathematics teachers in, at a minimum, kindergarten through third grade
22 for purposes of providing on-site teacher training on evidence-based mathematics
23 instruction, demonstrating lessons, co-teaching or observation, and providing
24 feedback for improving instruction.

25 D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules
26 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions
27 of this Section.

28 ~~D.~~ E. The ~~effectiveness~~ implementation of the provisions of this Section shall
29 be subject to the designation and allocation of funds by the state Department of

1 Education; ~~however, no state funds or obligated federal funds shall be used to~~
2 ~~implement the provisions of this Section.~~ Federal and state funds may be used to
3 implement the provisions of this Section if numeracy-related expenditures are
4 allowable under relevant funding guidelines.

5 E. F.(1) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to extend the hours in the
6 teacher's work day nor the hours to be worked in a year.

7 (2) A public school governing authority may offer a stipend for completion
8 of numeracy training outside of a teacher's normal work day or a combination of a
9 stipend and job-embedded training time.

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)]

HB 321 Original

2025 Regular Session

Wyble

Abstract: Provides for teacher certification and professional development with respect to numeracy.

Certification

Proposed law requires applicants for teacher certification to meet at least one of these requirements:

- (1) Complete the prescribed number of semester hours in the teaching of foundational numeracy as established in State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rule.
- (2) Complete numeracy training appropriate to the certification area and approved by the state Dept. of Education (DOE)..

Proposed law further requires an applicant who is applying for initial certification to teach kindergarten through eighth grade to have completed either the prescribed number of semester hours in accordance with proposed law or present law numeracy training.

Proposed law provides for proposed law implementation beginning on Sept. 1, 2028.

Professional Development

Present law requires professional development in numeracy instruction for fourth through eighth grade teachers. Proposed law expands this requirement to apply also to kindergarten through third grade teachers.

Proposed law additionally requires numeracy coaches for, at a minimum, kindergarten through third grade teachers.

Present law and proposed law relative to professional development and numeracy coaches are subject to the allocation of funds by the state DOE. Present law prohibits state or obligated funds from being used for implementation. Proposed law allows state and federal funds to be used for implementation if numeracy-related expenditures are allowable under relevant funding guidelines.

Present law provides that nothing in present law shall be construed to extend the hours in the teacher's work day nor the hours to be worked in a year. Proposed law retains present law and applies it to proposed law and additionally authorizes a public school governing authority to offer a stipend for completion of numeracy training outside of a teacher's normal work day or a combination of a stipend and job-embedded training time.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.13(A)(2), (B)(2) and (3), and (C) through (E); Adds R.S. 17:8.1(A)(8) and 24.13(F))