

SENATE BILL NO. 246 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 105 Senator Abraham)

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(c) and (4)(a), relative to student assessments; to
3 provide with respect to the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; to provide
4 with respect to standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
5 science, and social studies; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(c) and (4)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
11 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish
12 or city school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

13 * * *

14 F.(1) * * *

15 (c)(**i**) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
16 science, and social studies based on state content standards and rigorous student
17 achievement standards set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade
18 level nationally shall be implemented by the State Board of Elementary and
19 Secondary Education. Such tests **in English language arts** shall be administered, ~~at~~
20 ~~a minimum,~~ in grades three through **eight and at least once in grades nine through**
21 **eleven. Such tests in mathematics shall be administered in grades three through**
22 **eight and at least once in grades nine through eleven.**

23 **(ii) No later than the school year 2027-2028, such tests in science and**
24 **social studies shall be administered in not more than four grade levels each. The**
25 **science test shall not be given in the same grade levels as the social studies test.**
26 **Nothing herein shall prohibit a student from retesting in any grade level.**

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(4)(a) In addition to the other requirements of this Subsection, the state Department of Education shall establish, subject to the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the level of achievement on certain tests or on certain portions of the tests given as required in this Subsection ~~in fourth and eighth grades~~ as definitive of the level of the student's proficiency in mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies. Fourth and eighth grade students shall be required to demonstrate proficiency on such tests **in English language arts and mathematics** in order to advance to grades five and nine, pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Such proficiency levels shall be set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade level nationally. The department shall establish, subject to the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the nature and application of various intervention options in the case of a failure to demonstrate proficiency, which may include remediation, retention in grade, an alternative placement in succeeding grades, or any other option which will support a student's achieving the required proficiency level.

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Section 2. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall investigate whether a nationally normed assessment or a criterion-referenced assessment may be used to satisfy federal requirements for assessments used for the school and district accountability system and other ways to ensure comparability to rigorous expectations of other states. Based upon the investigation, a list shall be compiled of the available tests which satisfy the federal requirements. Not later than February 6, 2026, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall send a report to the Senate and House committees on education regarding the findings of such investigation. The report shall include, at a minimum, any recommendations regarding which nationally normed assessments or criterion-referenced assessments are available and recommended for implementation. Nothing in the report shall require the disclosure of any procurement information that would violate any provision of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature of the governor or, if not
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. if
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____