

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 268

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARVER

STUDENTS: Provides relative to career-related activities for public school students

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.2(A), 2925(B)(1), and 3005(C)(8) and to enact R.S.
3 17:2926(A)(5) and 3996(B)(24), (30), (44), and (51), relative to public school
4 students; to provide relative to career-related activities for certain students; to
5 provide relative to Individualized Graduation Plans; to require Louisiana Works to
6 provide information about workforce priorities annually to public school governing
7 authorities; to provide for alignment of student activities with these priorities; to
8 provide for the advisement policy developed by the State Board of Elementary and
9 Secondary Education; to provide relative to elementary school counselors; to provide
10 for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.2(A), 2925(B)(1), and 3005(C)(8) are hereby amended and
13 reenacted and R.S. 17:2926(A)(5) and 3996(B)(24), (30), (44), and (51) are hereby enacted
14 to read as follows:

15 §183.2. Career option description

16 A.(1) To prepare students for choosing a career option at the high school
17 level, in grades six through eight, schools shall incorporate activities which expose
18 students to career and technical and academic fields of study. Such activities may
19 include field trips, guest speakers, community services, and other activities designed
20 to introduce students to occupations in demand in Louisiana. At least six activities

1 shall be conducted at each grade level during each school year as provided in
2 Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. Louisiana Works shall provide annually a listing
3 of high-demand sectors by region and state to public school governing authorities,
4 which shall select activities that align with these sectors to the greatest extent
5 feasible.

6 (2)(a) Each school year, at least three of the six activities for each grade level
7 shall meet one of the following criteria:

8 (i) An activity aligned to high-demand sectors in Louisiana as identified by
9 Louisiana Works.

10 (ii) An activity that provides direct interaction with an employer.

11 (iii) An activity that involves career pathway instruction linked to high
12 school course options.

13 (iv) An activity that provides a work-based learning exposure.

14 (v) A career interest inventory.

15 (b) At least one activity shall be documented for each school year in each
16 student's Individual Graduation Plan developed pursuant to R.S. 17:2925.

17 (3) Each school that enrolls students in grades kindergarten through five
18 shall provide students with at least one career awareness experience or activity in a
19 category provided in Subparagraph (2)(a) of this Subsection during each school year.

20 (4) Each school board shall certify annual compliance for the schools under
21 its jurisdiction to the state Department of Education and maintain auditable records
22 of activities by grade relative to the requirements of Paragraphs (1) through (3) of
23 this Subsection.

24 * * *

25 §2925. Individual graduation plans

26 * * *

27 B. To provide a foundation for the development of the Individual Graduation
28 Plan, schools shall:

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 268 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Carver

Abstract: Provides relative to career-related activities for public school students.

Present law requires schools to incorporate activities which expose students in grades 6-8 to career and technical and academic fields of study. Requires schools to provide students with at least six such activities at each grade level during each school year. Proposed law retains present law and further:

- (1) Requires La. Works to provide annually information about workforce priorities to public school governing authorities, which shall select related activities to the extent possible.
- (2) Requires activities to include at least three activities in certain specified categories (activities aligned to high-demand sectors in La. as identified by La. Works, direct interaction with an employer, career pathway instruction linked to high school course options, work-based learning exposure, and a career interest inventory).
- (3) Requires that at least one annual activity be documented in the individualized graduation plan as provided for in present law.
- (4) Requires schools enrolling K-5 students to provide them with at least one of these activities per school year.
- (5) Requires school boards to certify annual compliance to the state Dept. of Education and maintain auditable records of activities by grade.
- (6) Applies present law and proposed law to charter schools.

Present law requires schools, as part of the development of individual graduation plans, to provide career awareness and exploration activities to students in grades 6-8, including career interest inventories. Proposed law specifically requires a career interest inventory in sixth grade and updated inventories in seventh and eighth grades and applies present law and proposed law to charter schools.

Present law requires BESE to develop an advisement policy for middle and high school grades that districts can use to equip school counselors with the skills and information needed to counsel students about career-related issues. Proposed law adds that the policy equip them with skills and information needed to document at least one middle school career-related activity in the student's individual graduation plan and ensure that career interest inventories are updated in seventh grade and eighth grade and applies present law and proposed law to charter schools.

Present law requires school counselors to provide preventive and developmental counseling to K-6 students and authorizes them to consult with teachers on certain matters, including the implementation of a career development program. Proposed law additionally authorizes them to consult with teachers on providing that K-5 students participate in at least one career awareness activity during each school year and applies present law and proposed law to charter schools.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.2(A), 2925(B)(1), and 3005(C)(8); Adds R.S. 17:2926(A)(5) and 3996(B)(24), (30), (44), and (51))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Add a requirement that La. Works provide annually information about workforce priorities to public school governing authorities.
2. Require public school governing authorities to select activities related to those priorities to the extent feasible.
3. Add a career interest inventory to the list of categories from which to select activities.
4. Require schools enrolling K-5 students to provide them with at least one activity each school year instead of at least one prior to the end of fifth grade.
5. Provide for school counselor documentation of at least one middle school career-related activity in a student's individual graduation plan and updating of interest inventories in seventh grade and eighth grade.
6. Authorize school counselors to consult with teachers on providing that K-5 students participate in at least one career awareness activity during each school year.
7. Apply present law and proposed law to charter schools.