
DIGEST

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HB 268 Reengrossed

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 (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.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove activities aligned to high-demand sectors in La. as identified by La. Works from the list of specific categories from which to select activities.