

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 482

BY SENATOR REESE

SCHOOLS. Provides for career coaches to assist public middle and high school students and their parents in developing an individualized graduation plan for each student. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:2925(A)(1), (3), (6), and (7) and the introductory paragraph
3 of 2926(A) and (B)(1) and to enact R.S. 17:2926(D), (E), and (F), relative to public
4 middle and high school students; to provide with respect to individual graduation
5 plans for students; to authorize the use of career coaches and career coaching
6 vendors; to require the state Department of Education to publish certain information
7 on the department's website; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:2925(A)(1), (3), (6), and (7) and the introductory paragraph of
10 2926(A) and (B)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:2926(D), (E), and (F) are
11 hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §2925. Individual graduation plans

13 A.(1) By the end of the eighth grade, every student, with the assistance of his
14 parent or legal guardian and school counselor **and career coach**, and for a student
15 with an exceptionality as defined in R.S. 17:1942, except a student identified as
16 gifted or talented and who has no other exceptionality, the student's Individualized
17 Education Program team, if applicable, shall begin to develop an Individual

1 Graduation Plan to guide the next academic year's course work and to assist the
2 student in exploring educational and career possibilities and in making appropriate
3 secondary and postsecondary education decisions as part of an overall postsecondary
4 plan.

5 * * *

6 (3) By the end of the tenth grade, each student's Individual Graduation Plan,
7 based on the student's academic record, talents, and interests, shall outline high
8 school graduation requirements relevant to the student's chosen postsecondary goals.
9 Each student, with the assistance of his parent or legal guardian and school counselor
10 **and career coach**, shall choose the high school curriculum framework and related
11 graduation requirements that best meet his postsecondary goals. Each student's
12 Individual Graduation Plan or the student's Individualized Education Program, if
13 applicable, shall include the recommended sequence of courses for successful
14 completion of a standard diploma.

15 * * *

16 (6) Upon completion of the review, the plan shall be signed by the student,
17 his parent or legal guardian, and the school counselor **and career coach**.

18 (7) Prior to revising a student's Individual Graduation Plan, the school
19 counselor **and career coach** shall meet with the student's parent or legal guardian
20 either in person or virtually to explain the possible impacts the revisions to the plan
21 might have on the student's graduation requirements and postsecondary education
22 goals. Any revisions to a student's plan shall be approved in writing by the student's
23 parent or legal guardian.

24 * * *

25 §2926. Student counseling; training and professional

26 A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop an
27 advisement policy for the middle and high school grades that local school districts
28 ~~can~~ **may** use to equip school counselors **and career coaches** with the skills and
29 information needed to:

guardian, and the school counselor.

Proposed law retains present law and requires career coaches to also assist the students, the parents, and school counselors in the preparation and review of the student's IGP.

Present law requires the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop an advisement policy for middle and high schools to use to equip school counselors with the information needed to help each student do all of the following:

- (1) Identify the student's career goals.
- (2) Develop and revise the student's individualized graduation plan.
- (3) Identify high-demand, high-wage jobs in the region.
- (4) Identify dual enrollment opportunities whereby a student may attend college courses while still enrolled in high school so as to advance the student's career goals.

Present law requires the state Dept. of Education to provide professional development and guidance for school counselors in furtherance of BESE policy to equip school counselors to assist students in achieving their career goals.

Proposed law retains present law but requires that students also receive counseling from career coaches to assist students with career planning.

Proposed law provides that the state Dept. of Education is to publish on its website a list of high quality career coaching vendors from which schools may select a vendor. Proposed law allows public school boards to form regional consortia to share the costs of contracting with career coaches.

Proposed law provides that each public school board shall include a description of its plan to provide career coaching to each student as part of the pupil progression plan developed for accountability purposes.

Proposed law requires that the Dept. of Education annually publish on its website a list of each public school board that has not spent more than 95% of the career development fund dollars appropriated for the previous fiscal year.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:2925(A)(1), (3), (6), and (7) and 2926(A)(intro para) and (B)(1); adds R.S. 17:2926(D), (E), and (F))