

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 206

BY SENATORS MILLER, BARTHELEMY, EDMONDS, HODGES AND OWEN

HEALTH SERVICES. Provides for blood pressure testing in schools. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:2112(A) and 3996(A)(10), and to enact R.S. 17:2112(B) and (C)(3), relative to blood pressure testing in schools; to require blood pressure testing in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics schedule; to provide for applicability; to provide for student athletes; to provide for cardiovascular prescreening; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:2112(A) and 3996(A)(10) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:2112(B) and (C)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2112. Testing pupils' sight, ~~and hearing,~~ **and blood pressure**; notice to parent or tutor; report to state superintendent

A.(1) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection C of this Section, every city, parish, and other local public school board, during the first semester of the school year or within thirty days after the admission of any pupils entering the school late in the session, shall test the sight, including color screening for all first grade students, ~~and hearing,~~ **and blood pressure** of each and all pupils under their charge, except those pupils whose parent or tutor objects to such examination, as provided

1 for in R.S. 17:156. Such testing shall be completed in accordance with the schedule
2 established by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The State Board of Elementary
3 and Secondary Education may convert the age equivalent as provided by the
4 American Academy of Pediatrics schedule to the academic year equivalent which
5 corresponds to that age.

6 ~~(3)~~**(2)** The school board shall keep a record of such examination, shall be
7 required to follow up on the deficiencies within sixty days, and shall notify in writing
8 the parent or tutor of every pupil found to have any defect of sight or hearing or
9 **abnormal blood pressure.**

10 **B.(1) Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, a qualified healthcare**
11 **professional who performs a physical examination of a student athlete shall**
12 **include in the examination a cardiovascular prescreening that follows nationally**
13 **recognized, evidence-based guidelines recommended by the American College**
14 **of Cardiology, American Heart Association, or other nationally recognized**
15 **organization focused on evidence based cardiovascular care.**

16 **(2) A student athlete with a positive finding shall be referred for further**
17 **evaluation and testing.**

18 **(3) Educational materials that provide information about causes of**
19 **sudden cardiac arrest in minor children that follow evidence-based science shall**
20 **be distributed to parents or guardians of students participating in school sports**
21 **as part of a student's required physical examination and completion of athletic**
22 **permission forms.**

23 C.(1) * * *

24 **(3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in**
25 **consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, shall adopt rules to**
26 **effectuate the requirement for cardiovascular prescreening that follows**
27 **nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines recommended by organizations**
28 **focused on cardiovascular care in pediatric populations.**

29 * * *

1 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

2 A. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and

3 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a

4 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this

5 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be

6 exempt from all rules and regulations of the state board and those of any local school

7 board that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and

8 employees except for the following rules and regulations otherwise applicable to

9 public schools regarding:

10 * * *

11 (10) Hearing, ~~and vision,~~ **and blood pressure** screenings.

12 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 206 Engrossed 2026 Regular Session Miller

Present law requires every public school board to test the sight and hearing of each pupil during the first semester of the school year or within 30 days after the admission of any pupils entering the school late in the session, unless the parent or tutor of the pupil objects.

Present law requires the testing to be completed in accordance with the schedule established by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Proposed law requires blood pressure testing to be performed with the vision and hearing tests.

Present law requires each school board to keep a record of the examinations, to follow up on deficiencies within 60 days, and notify in writing the parent or tutor of every pupil found to have any defect of sight or hearing.

Proposed law extends those requirements to blood pressure testing and requires the parent or tutor of every pupil with abnormal blood pressure to be notified.

Proposed law requires a qualified healthcare professional to include a cardiovascular prescreening, that follows nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines, in a physical examination of a student athlete and provides that a student athlete with a positive finding must be referred for further evaluation and testing.

Proposed law provides that educational materials on causes of sudden cardiac arrest in minor children must be distributed to the parents or guardians of students participating in school sports, as part of a student's physical examination and completion of athletic permission

forms.

Present law requires charter schools to comply with the public school requirements for hearing and vision screenings.

Proposed law requires charter schools to comply with the blood pressure testing requirements provided for in proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:2112(A) and 3996(A)(10); adds R.S. 17:2112(B) and (C)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Requires a healthcare profession to include a cardiovascular prescreening in a physical examination of a student athlete.
3. Requires a student athlete with positive findings be referred for further evaluation and testing.
4. Provides for educational materials on sudden cardiac arrest in minors to parents or guardians of students participating in school sports.
5. Authorizes BESE, with LDH, to adopt rules to effectuate the requirement for cardiovascular prescreening.