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SB 482 Engrossed

DIGEST
2026 Regular Session

Reese

Present law provides for middle and high school students and their parents to receive career counseling from a school counselor to develop a career plan so that every student is afforded the opportunity to obtain a high-demand and high-wage job after high school graduation or after college. Present law provides for the development and use of Individual Graduation Plans (IGPs) for public school students to achieve those career outcomes. Present law requires that, by the end of the eighth grade, each student, with assistance from a parent or legal guardian and a school counselor, begin development of an IGP to guide coursework and postsecondary planning. Present law provides for an annual review of the plan and that, upon completion of the review, the plan shall be signed by the student, the parent or legal guardian, and the school counselor.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes 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 allows 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))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Clarifies language to provide every student will receive assistance from his parent or legal guardian, school counselor, or career coach.