

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 507

BY SENATOR BARTHELEMY

STUDENTS. Requires BESE to establish a uniform process to determine when a student is nonenrolled due to incarceration or unknown whereabouts in order to exclude the student from public school accountability calculations. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:13 and 3996(B)(92), relative to student attendance; to establish a uniform
3 and standardized process for determining nonenrollment under certain
4 circumstances; to provide with respect to school and school system accountability;
5 to provide for documentation; to provide for compliance with certain federal laws;
6 to provide administrative rules; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:13 and 3996(B)(92) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§13. Student enrollment status; determination of nonenrollment due to**
10 **incarceration or unknown whereabouts**

11 **A.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall**
12 **establish a uniform and standardized process for city, parish, and other local**
13 **public school systems to determine and document when a student shall be**
14 **considered nonenrolled due to incarceration or unknown whereabouts.**

15 **(2) The process to document nonenrollment shall require the school**
16 **systems to make documented, reasonable, and good-faith efforts to locate the**
17 **student and verify the student's enrollment status prior to making a**

1 determination pursuant to this Section.

2 (3) The nonenrollment process shall include but not be limited to
3 minimum documentation requirements, timelines, and verification procedures
4 to ensure consistency and accuracy in reporting across all city, parish, and other
5 local public school systems.

6 B.(1) If, according to the nonenrollment process, a student is determined
7 to be nonenrolled due to incarceration or unknown whereabouts, then the
8 student shall not be considered enrolled for purposes of the school and district
9 accountability system, pursuant to R.S. 17:10.1, as of the date of that
10 determination.

11 (2) The determination of the status of such students shall be consistent
12 with applicable federal law, including the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20
13 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., and related federal regulations and guidance.

14 C. The provisions of this Section are intended to ensure accurate student
15 enrollment reporting and accountability determinations by establishing
16 consistent and verifiable procedures for identifying when a student is no longer
17 considered enrolled in a public school system after documented efforts have
18 been made to locate the student.

19 D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
20 promulgate rules, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to
21 implement the provisions of this Section.

22 * * *

23 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

24 * * *

25 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as
26 may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school
27 established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved
28 charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates
29 or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school

1 officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools
2 with the same grades:

3 * * *

4 **(92) Student enrollment status, R.S. 17:13.**

5 * * *

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 507 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Barthelemy

Present law (R.S. 17:10.1) provides for a school accountability system for public schools and school systems and requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop and implement a uniform system to measure and report school and school district performance. Present law provides that public school systems be assigned performance scores based on multiple indicators, including student achievement, academic growth, graduation rates, and uses those scores to classify schools with a letter grade. Present law provides that schools are annually evaluated, and those identified as low-performing are subject to interventions and improvement requirements.

Proposed law requires BESE to establish a uniform and standardized process for traditional public school systems to determine and document when a student is nonenrolled due to incarceration or unknown whereabouts. Proposed law requires the process to include documented, reasonable, and good-faith efforts to locate and verify the student's enrollment status, and specify minimum documentation requirements, timelines, and verification procedures to ensure consistency and accuracy across school systems.

Proposed law provides that a student determined to be nonenrolled under this process shall not be counted as enrolled for purposes of state accountability systems as of the date of determination. Proposed law further provides that determinations must be consistent with federal law, including the Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the law is to ensure consistent, verifiable procedures for identifying students who are considered no longer enrolled after documented efforts are made to locate them.

Proposed law requires BESE to promulgate rules, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to implement these provisions of proposed law.

Present law (17:3996) provides that charter schools are exempt from statutory mandates or requirements applicable to public schools except for certain laws listed in present law.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that the process to determine nonenrollment due to incarceration or unknown whereabouts is applicable to charter schools.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 17:13 and 3996(B)(92))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Makes proposed law applicable to charter schools.