

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 268

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARVER, BAMBURG, BAYHAM, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOURRIAQUE, BOYD, BOYER, BRASS, BRAUD, BRYANT, COX, DEWITT, EGAN, FREEMAN, GLORIOSO, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, MANDIE LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MARTINEZ, NEWELL, SAWYER, THOMPSON, AND WYBLE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.2(A), 2925(B)(1), and 3005(C)(8) and to enact R.S.  
3 17:2926(A)(5) and 3996(B)(24), (30), (44), and (51), relative to public school  
4 students; to provide relative to career-related activities for certain students; to  
5 provide relative to Individualized Graduation Plans; to require Louisiana Works to  
6 provide information about workforce priorities annually to public school governing  
7 authorities; to provide for alignment of student activities with these priorities; to  
8 provide for the advisement policy developed by the State Board of Elementary and  
9 Secondary Education; to provide relative to elementary school counselors; to provide  
10 for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.2(A), 2925(B)(1), and 3005(C)(8) are hereby amended and  
13 reenacted and R.S. 17:2926(A)(5) and 3996(B)(24), (30), (44), and (51) are hereby enacted  
14 to read as follows:

15 §183.2. Career option description

16 A.(1) To prepare students for choosing a career option at the high school  
17 level, in grades six through eight, schools shall incorporate activities which expose  
18 students to career and technical and academic fields of study. Such activities may  
19 include field trips, guest speakers, community services, and other activities designed

1 to introduce students to occupations in demand in Louisiana. At least six activities  
2 shall be conducted at each grade level during each school year as provided in  
3 Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. Louisiana Works shall provide annually a listing  
4 of high-demand sectors by region and state to public school governing authorities,  
5 which shall select activities that align with these sectors to the greatest extent  
6 feasible.

7 (2)(a) Each school year, at least three of the six activities for each grade level  
8 shall meet one of the following criteria:

9 (i) An activity that provides direct interaction with an employer.

10 (ii) An activity that involves career pathway instruction linked to high school  
11 course options.

12 (iii) An activity that provides a work-based learning exposure.

13 (iv) A career interest inventory.

14 (b) At least one activity shall be documented for each school year in each  
15 student's Individual Graduation Plan developed pursuant to R.S. 17:2925.

16 (3) Each school that enrolls students in grades kindergarten through five  
17 shall provide students with at least one career awareness experience or activity in a  
18 category provided in Subparagraph (2)(a) of this Subsection during each school year.

19 (4) Each school board shall certify annual compliance for the schools under  
20 its jurisdiction to the state Department of Education and maintain auditable records  
21 of activities by grade relative to the requirements of Paragraphs (1) through (3) of  
22 this Subsection.

23 \* \* \*

24 §2925. Individual graduation plans

25 \* \* \*

26 B. To provide a foundation for the development of the Individual Graduation  
27 Plan, schools shall:

28 (1) Provide career awareness and exploration activities to all students in  
29 grades six through eight that create linkages between what a student does in school  
30 and what he wants to achieve in life. Such activities shall include career interest

1 inventories in sixth grade and updated career interest inventories in seventh and  
 2 eighth grades and information to assist them in the career decisionmaking process  
 3 and may include job shadowing, job mentoring, and job internships: as provided in  
 4 R.S. 17:183.2(A).

\* \* \*

6 §2926. Student counseling; training and professional development

7 A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop  
 8 an advisement policy for the middle and high school grades that local school districts  
 9 can use to equip school counselors with the skills and information needed to:

\* \* \*

11 (5) Document at least one middle school career-related activity in the  
 12 student's Individual Graduation Plan as provided in R.S. 17:183.2(A) and ensure that  
 13 career interest inventories are updated in seventh and eighth grades as provided in  
 14 R.S. 17:2925(B).

\* \* \*

16 §3005. Elementary school counselors; availability; guidelines; requirements;  
 17 counseling services; work time; exceptions; reporting; funding

\* \* \*

19 C. Such school counselors shall provide preventive and developmental  
 20 counseling services to all public elementary school students in kindergarten through  
 21 grade six in order to prepare them for middle, junior, and senior high school  
 22 responsibilities and their social and physical development. In providing such  
 23 counseling services, the counselors may:

\* \* \*

25 (8) Consult with teachers in implementing a career development program  
 26 which, at the elementary school level, includes self-awareness, job awareness, and  
 27 prevocational orientation and in providing that students in kindergarten through fifth  
 28 grade participate in at least one career awareness experience or activity during each  
 29 school year as provided in R.S. 17:183.2(A).

\* \* \*

1 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

2 \* \* \*

3 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
4 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
5 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
6 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
7 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
8 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
9 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

10 \* \* \*

11 (24) Career-related activities, R.S. 17:183.2(A).

12 \* \* \*

13 (30) Career-related activities, R.S. 17:2925(B)(1).

14 \* \* \*

15 (44) School counselor documentation of career-related activities,  
16 R.S. 17:2926(A)(5).

17 \* \* \*

18 (51) School counselor consultation with teachers on career-related activities,  
19 R.S. 17:3005(C)(8).

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_