

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 661 (HB 632)

2026 Regular Session

Spell

LA FIRST, Generally

Existing law requires the Bd. of Regents to establish and maintain Louisiana's Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation (LA FIRST) at the University of La. at Lafayette within the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center (Blanco Center). Provides for data sharing agreements between various entities, including specified state agencies, for the purpose of annual reports on education, workforce development, and criminal justice.

Existing law requires that LA FIRST, through the Bd. of Regents, be provided access to all data listed in the data-sharing agreement developed with each state entity. Requires the Blanco Center to comply with all restrictions imposed by existing law on any data deemed confidential, privileged, or otherwise restricted and requires that any reports using the data be released or published only in a manner that complies with the restrictions. New law prohibits data housed in the LA FIRST data system from being sold to third parties.

Existing law provides that the shared data shall be separated into two parts, personal information and nonpersonal information. New law adds that personal information and nonpersonal information shall be transferred and stored separately and defines "personal information" as a person's social security number, full name, and date of birth and "nonpersonal information" as all other data housed in the LA FIRST data system.

Existing law provides that personal information shall be used only to generate a unique identifier for each record. Prior law required that the identifier be combined with nonpersonal information to allow for the matching of records across the data system. New law instead allows personal information also to be used to produce generalized or aggregated information to support analysis and allows a limited set of nonpersonal information to be incorporated into the matching process.

Existing law prohibits research and analysis from being conducted on data including certain information. Prior law prohibited this on data including personally identifiable information. New law instead prohibits this on data including personal information.

LA FIRST, K-12 Student Information

Existing law requires each city, parish, or other local public school board to directly share student data with the Blanco Center and agencies specified in existing law. New law broadens the requirement to include the governing authorities of all public schools (including charter schools) and specifies that they share student data, at least annually, with the Blanco Center for use in the LA FIRST data system. New law requires DOE to implement a process for parents to opt out of this information sharing upon registration as part of an existing data sharing information notice or parental consent process.

New law further requires each public school governing authority to directly share personal information for high school students with DOE, which is required to share it with the Blanco Center.

New law authorizes DOE to implement a streamlined information sharing process, including incorporating information sharing requirements into existing data-sharing agreements.

Existing law, relative to student data privacy, prohibits sharing a student's personally identifiable information and provides exceptions. New law adds an exception by requiring each public school governing authority to share personal information as defined in new law with DOE and requiring DOE to share the information, matched to unique student identification numbers, as provided in new law.

Effective November 30, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:3138.12(E), (F), and (H)(2); Adds R.S. 17:3914(P) and 3996(B)(24))