
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST

Crowe (SB 668)

Proposed law provides for the creation of the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission, to develop Louisiana's own content and performance standards, curriculum and assessments for English language arts and mathematics.

Proposed law provides that, following adoption by the commission and approval of the legislature, every public school governing authority shall begin implementing the Educational Excellence for Louisiana content and performance standards and assessments and may use the corresponding curriculum.

Proposed law provides for legislative intent as following:

- (1) That parents and citizens of Louisiana desire rigorous content and performance standards and clear and consistent educational curriculums for Louisiana students that are superior to the rest of the nation, respect Louisiana values, and will prepare students for postsecondary education and career advancement.
- (2) That, in 2010, the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a product of a multi-state consortium, were adopted in Louisiana for the subjects of English language arts and mathematics, with no statutory authority from the legislature and with no input from Louisiana classroom teachers or Louisiana parents.
- (3) That the multi-state consortium, who developed the Common Core State Standards, simply provided a set of standards to be implemented with a companion testing mechanism, which has yet to be fully developed, and no curriculum. Because standards and tests necessarily dictate curriculum, the lack of curriculum resulted in a lack of implementation in parishes which did not have adequate resources or personnel and an often chaotic roll-out in other parishes that were lacking in guidance for implementation. The lack of direction at the state-level, regarding curriculum, resulted in classroom teachers searching aimlessly for curriculum and materials and led to the use of books and materials that were often untested or violated the values of many Louisiana parents in the various school districts.
- (4) That monies that the school districts have spent since 2010 for professional development as well as investments made in computers and other technology related to Common Core are transferable and will prove to be a benefit to the school districts as they transition toward a set of superior and properly vetted content and performance standards that will be supported by a well-reasoned and scholarly curriculum.

- (5) That rigorous content and performance standards and high quality curriculum and assessments should be developed by the following:
- (a) Persons who are accountable to the parents and citizens of the state of Louisiana.
 - (b) Professionals who are the best and brightest Louisiana educators, with oversight provided by the Legislature of Louisiana, by parents whose children are the consumers of the educational product, and by other stakeholders who are the beneficiaries of educational excellence.

Proposed law provides that the state of Louisiana shall retain sole control over the development, establishment, and revision of the content and performance standards, curriculum and assessments.

Proposed law provides that neither BESE, nor the Department of Education, nor any state official may join a consortium or any other organization when participation in that consortium or organization would cede any measure of control over any aspect of Louisiana public elementary and secondary education to entities outside the state of Louisiana, nor may any such person or entity condition or delay a decision regarding content or performance standards, developed pursuant to proposed law on the decision of any consortium, organization, or other state government.

Proposed law provides that, following adoption by the commission and approval of the legislature, every public school governing authority shall begin implementing the Educational Excellence for Louisiana content and performance standards and assessments and may use the corresponding curriculum.

Proposed law prohibits the state from mandating that any assessment, or tests, to be given to a student in any school governing authority other than any of the following:

- (1) The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) examinations.
- (2) The American College Testing examination or the ACT WorkKeys.
- (3) The National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- (4) The EEXL Assessment which is adopted by the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and approved by the legislature pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission shall serve as the accountability and advisory body to oversee the development and adoption of the Educational Excellence for Louisiana which shall be the state content and performance standards and curriculum for English language arts and mathematics.

Proposed law provides for the following definitions:

- (1) "Assessments" mean the standards-based testing provided for in present law and also the testing developed pursuant to proposed law.
- (2) "Content and performance standards and curriculum" means standards of performance developed pursuant to proposed law.
- (3) "Commission" means the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission.
- (4) "Educational Excellence for Louisiana" or "EEXL" means the initiative to develop Louisiana's own content and performance standards and assessments for English language arts and mathematics developed and established pursuant to proposed law for public elementary and secondary schools.
- (5) "EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force" means that group of persons appointed to develop assessments pursuant to proposed law to present to the EEXL commission for adoption, subject to approval by the legislature.
- (6) "EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force" means that group of persons appointed to develop curriculum pursuant to proposed law to present to the EEXL commission for adoption, subject to approval by the legislature.
- (7) "EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force" means that group of persons appointed to develop content and performance standards pursuant to proposed law to present to the EEXL commission for adoption, subject to approval by the legislature.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall consist of 21 members to be chosen from among Louisiana citizens who have demonstrated excellence in education or outstanding business leadership or are parents who have demonstrated the stature and ability to act effectively for the best interests of students.

Proposed law provides that commissioners shall all be Louisiana citizens as shall be chosen as follows:

- (1) One person appointed by the governor who shall be selected from a list of three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- (2) One person who is currently employed as a school superintendent shall be selected by the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- (3) One person who is currently employed as a school principal shall be selected by the Louisiana Association of Principals.
- (4) One person who is currently a member of a school board selected by the Louisiana School Boards Association.

- (5) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher who has a minimum of five years experience in the classroom shall be selected by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
- (6) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher who has a minimum of five years experience in the classroom shall be selected by the Louisiana Teachers Association.
- (7) Two persons shall be selected by the Louisiana Parent-Teacher Association who meets all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a public school and is enrolled in a grade level between kindergarten and grade 12.
 - (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government which makes educational policy or directs education activities pursuant to any provision of La. R.S. Title 17.
- (8) One person shall be selected by the Louisiana Family Forum who meets all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a school and is enrolled in a grade level between kindergarten and grade 12.
 - (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government which makes educational policy or directs education activities.
- (9) One person shall be selected by the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops who meets all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a Catholic school and is enrolled in a grade level between kindergarten and grade 12.
 - (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government which makes educational policy or directs education activities.
- (10) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English language arts or mathematics at a four-year Louisiana public postsecondary educational institution to be selected by the commissioner of higher education.
- (11) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English language arts or mathematics at a Louisiana public postsecondary community or technical college to be

selected by the commissioner of higher education.

- (12) One person shall be selected by the Public Affairs Research Council.
- (13) One person appointed by the governor who shall be selected from a list of three nominees submitted by the Council for A Better Louisiana.
- (14) One person shall be selected by the Louisiana Associated Chamber of Commerce Executives.
- (15) One person appointed by the governor who shall be selected from a list of three nominees submitted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses.
- (16) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher who has a minimum of five years experience in the classroom shall be appointed by the Association of Professional Educators.
- (17) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher who has a minimum of five years who shall be selected by the Louisiana Catholic School Boards Association.
- (18) Three persons shall be selected by the governor who each meet all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a school and is enrolled in a grade level between kindergarten and grade 12.
 - (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government which makes educational policy or directs education activities.

Proposed law provides that all vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Proposed law provides that each member of the commission shall serve without any additional compensation over and above his normal salary or compensation from his respective employer but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.

Proposed law provides that members of the commission shall call for an organizational meeting no later than August 31, 2014, and shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman from among themselves to preside over the meetings of the commission.

Proposed law provides that a majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a majority for purposes of a quorum.

Proposed law provides that any official actions taken by the commission shall require a majority of those members present at the meeting of the commission, so long as a quorum is established.

Proposed law provides that at the organizational meeting, the commission shall notify the commissioner of higher education and request that he provide a list of his appointments to the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force within thirty days of the meeting.

Proposed law provides that at the organizational meeting, the commission shall notify the president of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents and request that he provide a list of the association's appointments to the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force within thirty days of the meeting.

Proposed law provides that at the organizational meeting, the commission shall notify the president of the Louisiana School Board Association and request that he provide a list of the association's appointments to the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force within thirty days of the meeting.

Proposed law provides that the attorney general, or his designee, will serve as counsel to the commission when called upon to do so.

Proposed law provides that in order to serve as the public accountability and advisory body which will oversee the development of content and performance standards and curriculum as well as the assessment for the Educational Excellence for Louisiana initiative, the commission shall conduct regular meetings.

Proposed law provides that the commissioners shall meet at least once every month and upon the written request of three members or upon the written request of the chairman.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall post notice of all future meetings at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Proposed law provides that the Commission shall be subject to the open meetings law and public records law.

Proposed law provides that prior to the adoption of any portion of the content and performance standards for English language arts or mathematics for a particular grade level, the commission shall do all of the following:

- (1) Conduct an initial meeting of the commission in order to receive the proposed content and performance standards from the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force for one or more grade levels for English language arts or mathematics.
- (2) Provide for an adequate amount of time at the initial meeting so that the applicable members of the particular EEXL Specialists Task Force, who developed the proposed content and performance standards for either English language arts or mathematics, may

explain and discuss the aspects of the proposed content and performance standards.

- (3) The next business day following initial meeting, the Louisiana School Boards Association shall post on its website a copy of the proposed content and performance standards related to the applicable grade level or levels for either English language arts or mathematics which was introduced at the initial meeting.
- (4) Conduct a subsequent public comment meeting where teachers, parents, and members of the public can offer public comment on the proposed content and performance standards introduced at the initial meetings and posted to the websites as provided for in (3) above.
- (5) Following the public comment meeting, the members of the applicable EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force who developed the proposed content and performance standards related to the particular grade level for English language arts or mathematics shall incorporate any improvements offered at the public comment meeting that a majority of the task force members determine would improve the proposed content and performance standards.
- (6) One week prior to the final meeting of the commission to adopt the proposed content and performance standards related to the particular grade level for English language arts or mathematics, the Louisiana School Boards Association shall post the engrossed, proposed content and performance standards on their website.
- (7) No sooner than one week following the posting of the engrossed, proposed content and performance standards on the Louisiana School Boards Association's website, the commission shall conduct an adoption meeting.
- (8) The commission may adopt all or part of the engrossed, proposed content performance standards, subject to approval by the legislature.

Proposed law provides that, following the adoption of the content and performance standards for any grade level or levels related to English language arts or mathematics, the commission shall follow the same procedure as provided for adoption of curriculum so long as the relevant content and performance standards related to the particular curriculum have been adopted.

Proposed law provides that following the adoption of the content and performance standards for any grade level or group of grade levels, the commission shall oversee the development of the EEXL assessments to assess student performance related to the content and performance standards in order to certify to the legislature that the assessments are aligned with the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall submit all content and performance standards and curriculum for kindergarten through 5th grade for both English language arts and mathematics to the legislature on or before March 1, 2015.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall submit all content and performance standards and curriculum for the 6th grade through the 12th grade for both English language arts and mathematics to the legislature on or before March 1, 2016.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall submit to the legislature, no later than March 1, 2016, the certification to establish that the EEXL assessment developed pursuant to proposed law for kindergarten through 5th grade for both English language arts and mathematics are aligned with the content and performance standards developed pursuant proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall submit to the legislature, no later than March 1, 2017, the certification to establish that the EEXL assessments developed pursuant to proposed law for 6th grade through 12th grade in both English language arts and mathematics are aligned with the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that for the creation of the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force that shall be made up of the most qualified teaching faculty members from higher education, from across the state, who are not members of the commission.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force shall be to develop Louisiana's own content and performance standards for English language arts and mathematics for approval by the Commission.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force for mathematics shall consist of five members appointed by the commissioner of higher education in the following manner:

- (1) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics at a Louisiana four year public postsecondary educational institution.
- (2) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics education at a Louisiana four year public postsecondary educational institution.
- (3) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in engineering at a Louisiana four year public postsecondary educational institution.
- (4) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics at a Louisiana community college.
- (5) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics at a Louisiana technical college.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force for English language arts shall consist of five members appointed by the commissioner of higher education in the following manner:

- (1) Two persons who are members of the teaching faculty in English Literature at a Louisiana four year public postsecondary educational institution.
- (2) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English Education at a Louisiana four year public postsecondary educational institution.
- (3) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English at a Louisiana community college.
- (4) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English at a Louisiana technical college.

Proposed law provides that the five EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force members for a particular subject shall complete the content and performance standards for which they are assigned and shall present the completed documents to the commission.

Proposed law provides that, should a dispute arise among the five EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force assigned to a particular grade level, in either English language arts or mathematics, as to the inclusion or exclusion of any material in the content and performance standards or the curriculum, the majority of the five shall prevail.

Proposed law provides that each member of the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force shall be given adequate leave time by their employing institution of higher education to attend meetings and fulfill their duties as a member of the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force members shall serve without any additional compensation over and above their normal salary provided by their respective institution of higher education but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.

Proposed law provides for the creation of the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force that shall be made up of the best and brightest educators, from across the state, who are not members of the commission.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force shall be to develop Louisiana's own curriculum for kindergarten through 12th grade for mathematics and English language for approval by the commission to be made available for use by any local school governing authority in the state.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force for mathematics shall consist of 24 members appointed by the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents in the following manner:

- (1) Three educators shall be chosen from the group of school governing authorities which are

geographically located in each of the eight districts which make up the State BESE Board.

- (2) Of the three educators chosen from each geographic district, two shall be mathematics curriculum specialists and the third member shall be a classroom mathematics teacher who, together, shall develop the state content and performance standards and curriculum for kindergarten through the 12th grade.
- (3) The 24 educators shall be divided in such a manner that the most qualified two curriculum specialists and one classroom teacher in mathematics for a particular grade level are assigned to develop the mathematics curriculum for that particular grade level.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members for English language arts shall be chosen in the same manner as the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members for mathematics.

Proposed law provides that the three EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members for a particular grade level in a particular subject shall complete the curriculum for which they are assigned and shall present the completed documents to the commission.

Proposed law provides that should a dispute arise among the three task force members assigned to a particular grade level, in either English language arts or mathematics, as to the inclusion or exclusion of any material in the content and performance standards or the curriculum, the majority of the three shall prevail.

Proposed law provides that each member of the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force shall be given adequate leave time by his employing school governing authority to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a member of the task force.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members shall serve without any additional compensation over and above their normal teacher's salary provided by their respective school governing authorities but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.

Proposed law provides that there is hereby created the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force that shall be made up of the best and brightest educators, from across the state, who have expertise in assessments and accountability who are not members of the commission.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force shall be to oversee the development of Louisiana's own EEXL assessment to assess the student performance in kindergarten through grade twelve for English language arts and mathematics for adoption by the commission and to be used by all local school governing authority in the state and administered to every student in compliance.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force for English language arts and mathematics shall consist of nine members appointed by the Louisiana School Boards Association in the following manner:

- (1) One educator with expertise in assessments shall be chosen from the group of school governing authorities which are geographically located in each of the eight districts which make up BESE.
- (2) One educator with expertise in assessments shall be chosen at large from the state.

Proposed law provides that the nine EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force members shall compile information in order to prepare assessments with regard to the content and performance standards set by the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force and shall present the completed information to the commission.

Proposed law provides that should a dispute arise among the nine EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force members assigned to a particular grade level, in either English language arts or mathematics, as to the inclusion or exclusion of any material in the assessments related to the content and performance standards, the majority of the nine members shall prevail.

Proposed law provides that each member of the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force shall be given adequate leave time by his employing school governing authority to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a member of the task force.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force members shall serve without any additional compensation over and above their normal teacher's salary provided by their respective school governing authorities but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.

Proposed law provides that, prior to the implementation by the school governing authorities, the content and performance standards, the curriculum and the assessments adopted by the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission must be approved by the legislature in the following manner:

- (1) The legislature shall receive, from the commission, the content and performance standards and curriculum for grades kindergarten through grade five for both mathematics and English language arts on or before March 1, 2015.
- (2) The legislature shall receive, from the commission, the certification that the developed EEXL assessments are aligned with the content and performance standards for kindergarten through grade five both English language arts and mathematics on or before March 1, 2016.
- (3) The legislature shall receive, from the commission, the content and performance

standards and curriculum for grades six through grade twelve for both mathematics and English language arts on or before March 1, 2016.

- (4) The legislature shall receive, from the commission, the certification that the developed EEXL assessments are aligned with the content and performance standards for grades six through grade twelve in both English language arts and mathematics on or before March 1, 2017.

Proposed law provides that the legislature may approve the adoption of the commission's applicable content and performance standards.

Proposed law provides that the legislature may approve the adoption of the commission's applicable curriculum and assessments, so long as the corresponding content and performance standards have been approved.

Proposed law provides that, at such time that the legislature approves the commission's content and performance standards and curriculum and assessments for particular grade levels, the legislature shall immediately notify the school governing authorities to begin implementing the applicable content and performance standards at the beginning of the next school year after approval by the legislature and to make the corresponding curriculum available to the school governing authorities at that same time.

Proposed law provides that the legislature may return the content and performance standards and curriculum or assessments for a particular grade level for a particular subject to the commission and include any recommendations for changes it deems necessary or appropriate.

Proposed law provides for a transition period to transition between the current standards and the new EEXL standards.

Proposed law provides that individual school governing authority shall continue to utilize the curriculum which it determines is appropriate to meet the standard in place for the 2013 through 2014 school year until the provisions of this Part are adopted by the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and approved by the legislature.

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program examination which was in effect on the date of the Act shall be administered to each student in the appropriate grade level until the assessment is updated to reflect the changes to the content and performance standards adopted by the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and approved by the legislature.

Proposed law provides that, upon the adoption and approval by the legislature of the higher content and performance standards pursuant to proposed law, the EEXL assessments shall be given to students but shall be used for a period of not more than two years to develop baseline data so that a valid measure of achievement can occur and in order to provide assistance to the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task

Force to develop the highest quality curriculum in order to facilitate achievement related to the higher standards.

Proposed law provides that the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law provides that there shall be the minimum standards for all public school students and shall be applicable to all public school governing authorities.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL assessments developed to test student achievement regarding the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law shall be administered to all public school students.

Proposed law provides that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the use of the curriculum provided for in proposed law shall be optional. Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law is intended to mandate that the curriculum be used by any school governing authority.

Proposed law provides that the content and performance standards and the curriculum developed pursuant to proposed law shall be made available in an electronic and printed form to all school governing authorities.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 49:200.11-22)