

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

STUDENTS. Provides relative to dropout prevention and recovery

DIGEST

Proposed law provides that each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high school students may offer a dropout recovery program for eligible students. Provides that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's prescribed standards and achievement testing requirements apply to dropout recovery programs.

Provides that the dropout recovery programs shall make available appropriate and sufficient supports for students, including tutoring, career counseling and college counseling, comply with federal and state laws governing students with disabilities, and meet state requirements for high school graduation.

Provides that each eligible student enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall have an individual graduation plan developed by the student's assigned academic coach. Specifies certain elements to be included in the plan.

Requires that a student enrolled in a dropout recovery program be included in the student enrollment count for the school or school system offering the program. Requires that monthly participation calculations shall include specified components.

Authorizes school districts and charter schools to contract with an educational management organization to provide a dropout recovery program and if so, shall ensure that the educational management organization is accredited by a regional accrediting body, that teachers provided by the educational management organization hold a current teaching license and that teachers of core subjects are highly qualified in those subjects, and that the organization has provided one or more dropout recovery programs for at least two years.

Provides that dropout recovery programs shall be classified as alternative programs. Further provides that entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs may conduct outreach to encourage students who are not enrolled in a school district or charter school in this state to return to school. Prohibits entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs from conducting advertising or marketing campaigns directed at students who are enrolled in a school district or charter school, or undertake any other activity that encourages students who are enrolled in a school district or charter school to stop attending school in order to qualify for a dropout recovery program.

Defines "eligible student", "satisfactory monthly progress", and "academic coach" for purposes of proposed law.

Prohibits a school or school system from releasing any personally identifiable information related to a student to any entity contracted to provide a dropout recovery program, unless written authorization is granted by the student's parent or legal guardian, or the student if he has reached the age of legal majority.

(Amends R.S. 17:221.4(A); adds R.S. 17:221.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Deletes requirement that dropout recovery programs provide curriculum aligned to standards adopted by BESE and the authorization for the curriculum to be delivered online.
2. Deletes requirement that dropout recovery programs provide standardized tests required by state and federal law.
3. Requires students in dropout recovery programs to have an individual graduation plan instead of a written learning plan and requires that such plan be developed by the student's assigned academic coach instead of assigned mentor.
4. Requires that monthly participation in a dropout recovery program be reported for funding purposes to the state Dept. of Education on or before the 10th day of the following month instead of being recorded on or before the 10th day of each month and reported to the department.
5. Deletes provisions with regard to recording and calculating student attendance for students participating in dropout recovery programs.
6. Deletes requirement that school districts and charter schools are responsible for tuition and fees for students participating in dropout recovery programs.
7. Provides that dropout recovery programs are classified as alternative programs instead of alternative schools.
8. Provides for determinations made by school administrators instead of school districts with regard to student eligibility for participation in a dropout recovery program.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds that funding for dropout recovery programs shall be provided through the minimum foundation program formula (MFP).
2. Adds requirement that a school district ensure that an educational management organization has provided one or more dropout recovery programs for at least two years prior to providing a program pursuant to proposed law.
3. Adds definition of "academic coach" for purposes of proposed law.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Requires that a student enrolled in a dropout recovery program be included in the student enrollment count for the school or school system offering the program.
2. Prohibits a school or school system from releasing a student's personally identifiable information to any entity contracted to provide a dropout recovery program, unless written authorization is granted by the student's parent or legal guardian, or the student if he has reached the age of legal majority.