

SENATE BILL NO. 158

BY SENATORS DONAHUE AND THOMPSON AND REPRESENTATIVES
ABRAMSON, ADAMS, BAGLEY, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY,
COX, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, EDMONDS, FALCONER, GUINN,
JIMMY HARRIS, HORTON, JACKSON, JONES, LYONS, JAY
MORRIS, THOMAS, WHITE AND WRIGHT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:1944.1 and 3996(B)(54), relative to special education; to require each local
public school superintendent and the administrative head of each charter school or
other public school to create a special education advisory council; to provide relative
to council membership and duties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:1944.1 and 3996(B)(54) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1944.1. Local special education advisory councils; creation; purpose

**A. Not later than January 1, 2020, each local public school
superintendent and the administrative head of each charter school or other
public school shall create a special education advisory council to provide advice
and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources.
The council shall also engage in outreach activities to the community at large
to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to
special education.**

**B.(1)The number of council members and composition of the council
shall be determined by the local public school superintendent or the
administrative head of each charter school or other public school. However, the
council's membership shall be composed as follows:**

**(a) Fifty percent of the membership shall be parents or legal guardians
of students with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented, who are
enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of the public school governing
authority.**

(b) Twenty-five percent of the membership shall be teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals.

(c) Twenty-five percent of the membership shall be other special education stakeholders.

(2) The local public school superintendent or administrative head of the charter school or other public school shall designate the chairperson of the council and the chairperson shall call the council's meetings, preside over the meetings, and establish the agendas for the meetings.

(3)(a) Each local public school superintendent and administrative head of a charter school or other public school shall seek applications for council membership from parents of students with an exceptionality other than gifted and talented, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and other stakeholders.

(b) In selecting council members, an effort shall be made to include parents of students in elementary, middle, and high school grades.

C. Each special education advisory council shall meet at least three times a year and shall submit a written report to the local public school superintendent or the administrative head of the charter school or other public school in May of each year regarding its activities.

D. There shall be no liability or cause of action against the public school district, public charter school or other public school, or any officer or employee thereof for any action taken by members of the council.

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

A. * * *

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Page 3 of 3

Coding: Words which are ~~struck through~~ are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.