

# ACT No. 398

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 321

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:236.3, relative to school attendance; to authorize city, parish,  
3 and other local public school boards and chartering authorities to adopt policies  
4 providing for student attendance at virtual schools for purposes related to habitual  
5 absence or tardiness; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:236.3 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §236.3. Virtual School; definition; attendance policies

9 A. "Virtual school" means a public school, including a charter school, which  
10 has a unique site code assigned by the state Department of Education and which  
11 delivers all or a majority of the instruction provided through the internet or other  
12 electronic medium such that a student is not necessarily required to be at a specific  
13 location in order to receive instruction from a teacher. This does not preclude the  
14 ability of the school to include traditional classroom-based instruction or to host  
15 face-to-face meetings, including field trips, extracurricular activities, conferences  
16 between a student, parents, and teachers, or other related activities or events.  
17 However, a school that delivers all or a majority of the instruction provided through  
18 the internet or other electronic medium and requires students to be in daily  
19 attendance at a specified location to receive such instruction shall not be considered  
20 a virtual school.

1                    B.(1) Each city, parish, or other local public school board may adopt a policy  
2                    that defines attendance at a virtual school for purposes of compliance with R.S.  
3                    17:233.

4                    (2) Each chartering authority may adopt in policy or include in charter  
5                    agreements a definition of attendance at a virtual charter school which may include  
6                    provisions for addressing excessive absences, such as parental notification, student  
7                    engagement and withdrawal from the school for failure to engage, and referrals to  
8                    child welfare and attendance officers and family and juvenile courts.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_