

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

Act 398 (HB 321)

2019 Regular Session

Simon

Existing law requires that a student who is habitually absent from or tardy to school be reported to the family or juvenile court as a truant child. Defines a "virtual school" as a public school, including a charter school, that has a unique site code assigned by the state Dept. of Education and delivers all or a majority of instruction through the internet or other electronic medium such that a student is not necessarily required to be at a specific location in order to receive instruction from a teacher. New law adds the following relative to defining attendance at virtual schools:

- (1) Authorizes each local public school board to adopt a policy defining attendance for purposes of compliance with existing law relative to students who are habitually absent or tardy.
- (2) Authorizes each chartering authority to adopt in policy or include in charter agreements a definition of attendance, which may include provisions for addressing excessive absences, such as parental notification; student engagement and withdrawal from the school for failure to engage; and referrals to child welfare and attendance officers and family and juvenile courts.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 17:236.3)