

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 144 (HB 268)

2026 Regular Session

Carver

Existing law requires schools to incorporate activities which expose students in grades 6-8 to career and technical and academic fields of study. Requires schools to provide students with at least six such activities at each grade level during each school year.

New law:

- (1) Requires La. Works to annually provide information about workforce priorities to public school governing authorities, which shall select related activities to the extent possible.
- (2) Requires activities to include at least three activities in certain specified categories (direct interaction with an employer, career pathway instruction linked to high school course options, work-based learning exposure, and a career interest inventory).
- (3) Requires that at least one annual activity be documented in the individualized graduation plan provided for in existing law.
- (4) Requires schools enrolling K-5 students to provide them with at least one of these activities per school year.
- (5) Requires school boards to certify annual compliance to the state Dept. of Education and maintain auditable records of activities by grade.
- (6) Applies existing law and new law to charter schools.

Existing law requires schools, as part of the development of individual graduation plans, to provide career awareness and exploration activities to students in grades 6-8, including career interest inventories. New law specifically requires a career interest inventory in sixth grade and updated inventories in seventh and eighth grades and applies existing law and new law to charter schools.

Existing law requires BESE to develop an advisement policy for middle and high school grades that districts can use to equip school counselors with the skills and information needed to counsel students about career-related issues. New law adds that the policy equip them with skills and information needed to document at least one middle school career-related activity in the student's individual graduation plan and ensure that career interest inventories are updated in seventh grade and eighth grade and applies existing law and new law to charter schools.

Existing law requires school counselors to provide preventive and developmental counseling to K-6 students and authorizes them to consult with teachers on certain matters, including the implementation of a career development program. New law additionally authorizes them to consult with teachers on providing that K-5 students participate in at least one career awareness activity during each school year and applies existing law and new law to charter schools.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.2(A), 2925(B)(1), and 3005(C)(8); Adds R.S. 17:2926(A)(5) and 3996(B)(24), (30), (44), and (51))