
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Present law provides that in addition to any other performance-related labels or designations assigned to public schools and school districts pursuant to the school and district accountability system, BESE, in consultation with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other education stakeholders, shall develop a letter grade system reflective of school and district performance.

Specifies that the system shall include, as a minimum, the following:

1. Assignment of a letter grade to each public elementary and secondary school and school district that is based upon the current method of determining school and district performance scores. Requires that any school that has been labeled academically unacceptable be assigned a grade of "F".
2. Inclusion of the assigned letter grade in the school report cards compiled by the state Dept. of Education and distributed to parents and in any public release of school and district performance scores.
3. Creation of an honor roll which recognizes all high-performing schools and high schools with graduation rates that exceed the state average. Provides that the honor roll shall be made public when information relative to school and district performance scores and letter grades are released.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that no public school or school district shall be assigned a letter grade based upon student, school, or district performance prior to the 2013-2014 school year.

Requires BESE to adopt rules to implement such letter grade system in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Requires BESE, prior to adopting such rules, to create a task force composed of parents, teachers, school administrators, and other educational stakeholders to provide advice and input regarding the development of the performance-based letter grade system.

Requires BESE to submit a written report of the findings and recommendations of the task force to the education committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than December 31, 2012.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:10.1(F)(4) and (5))