

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE BILL NO. 104

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

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

BESE. Requires BESE to establish a program to recognize excellence in foreign language immersion education. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:273.2, relative to the teaching of foreign languages in elementary and

3 secondary schools; to provide with respect to a program to recognize excellence in

4 foreign language immersion education; to provide for minimum criteria; to provide

5 for rules; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:273.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§273.2. Foreign language immersion programs; recognition program; seal of**

9 **excellence; criteria**

10 **A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall**

11 **develop and implement a program to recognize excellence in foreign language**

12 **immersion education as a means to provide statewide standards for foreign**

13 **language immersion programs and assist and support schools and school**

14 **districts in establishing and maintaining high quality, highly effective foreign**

15 **language immersion programs.**

16 **B.(1) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year and annually thereafter,**

17 **the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall award a "Seal**

1 of Excellence in Foreign Language Immersion Education" to any foreign  
2 language immersion program that consistently meets the following minimum  
3 criteria:

4 (a) Adherence to state guidelines governing the minimum time of daily  
5 instruction in the immersion language.

6 (b) High quality immersion language teaching time.

7 (c) Protection of the written and oral forms of the immersion language  
8 as the exclusive language of communication within immersion teaching time.

9 (d) Evidence of immersion language teaching throughout content area  
10 teaching time.

11 (e) Immersion language teachers who possess native-like fluency in the  
12 immersion language.

13 (f) Articulated professional development on best practices for immersion  
14 teachers, English-speaking team teachers, and school administrators.

15 (g) Provision of student remediation, as needed, in the immersion  
16 language.

17 (h) Articulation, or planned articulation, throughout the elementary,  
18 secondary, and postsecondary levels of education.

19 (i) Visibility and recognition of the foreign language immersion program  
20 throughout the school.

21 (j) Written policies regarding entry into and exit from the foreign  
22 language immersion program.

23 (2) Notice of receipt of the "Seal of Excellence in Foreign Language  
24 Immersion Education" shall be included on the school's annual report card  
25 compiled by the Department of Education and on the academic transcript of  
26 each student enrolled in a foreign language immersion program that has been  
27 so recognized.

28 C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall  
29 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this Section in accordance with

1            **the Administrative Procedure Act.**

2            Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
3 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
4 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
5 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
6 effective on the day following such approval.

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

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## DIGEST

Proposed law directs BESE to develop and implement a program to recognize excellence in foreign language immersion programs. Provides that beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, BESE shall annually award of a "Seal of Excellence in Foreign Language Immersion Education" to any foreign language immersion program that meets the following minimum criteria:

- (1) Adherence to state guidelines governing the minimum time of daily instruction in the immersion language.
- (2) High quality immersion language teaching time.
- (3) Protection of the written and oral forms of the immersion language as the exclusive language of communication within immersion teaching time.
- (4) Evidence of immersion language teaching throughout content area teaching time.
- (5) Immersion language teachers who possess native-like fluency in the immersion language.
- (6) Articulated professional development on best practices for immersion teachers, English-speaking team teachers, and school administrators.
- (8) Articulation, or planned articulation, throughout the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels of education.
- (9) Visibility and recognition of the foreign language immersion program throughout the school.
- (10) Written policies regarding entry into and exit from the foreign language immersion program.

Present law provides that notice of receipt of the "Seal of Excellence in Foreign Immersion Education" shall be included on the school's annual report compiled by the Dept. of Education and on the academic transcript of each student enrolled in a foreign language immersion program that has been so recognized.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:273.2)