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

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)