

Existing law establishes the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities, which provides for use of public funds to pay a portion of the tuition at nonpublic schools that specifically address the needs of such students. Provides for the establishment of the program in each parish having a population in excess of 190,000 persons. Provides for student eligibility criteria for participation in the program. Requires that the student be evaluated by a local education agency, be determined to be in need of services for autism, a mental disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, other health impairment, specific learning disability, or traumatic brain injury, and have an Individual Education Plan or a services plan in accordance with Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 300.37. Prior law specifically excluded students who are deemed gifted or talented from program participation.

New law adds a plan created by the nonpublic school that the student will attend that clearly identifies the services provided by the nonpublic school and how those services adequately address the student's needs as an alternative to the plans required by existing law. New law repeals prior law that excluded gifted or talented students.

Prior law (Section 2 of Act 424 of 2012 R.S.) terminated certain provisions of existing law providing for the program at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. New law repeals prior law.

Effective Aug. 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:4031(B)(2)(a); Repeals R.S. 17:4031(B)(2)(c) and Section 2 of Act 424 of the 2012 R.S.)