



2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- BESE approved more than \$30 million from federal relief funds to expand access to early care and education to economically disadvantaged families

SB 142 **Ward**

Dedicates 25% of future proceeds from sports betting to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, capped at \$20 million.

SB 10 **Fields**

Makes kindergarten mandatory for five-year-olds with allowances for children who are homeschooled.

K-12 EDUCATION

- Legislature approved MFP funding of \$3.9 billion
- Base student rate equals \$4,015 per pupil
- Teachers received an \$800 pay raise and school support workers received \$400

HB 85 **McKnight**

Literacy program which would provide up to \$1,000 per year for extra assistance to students in grades K-5 who are struggling with reading. Subject to appropriation or available local funds. No funds were appropriated this year.

SB 216 **R. Mills**

Requires completion of professional development courses for K-3 teachers based on the science of reading. Includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Designed to help teachers improve their skills in teaching reading.

SB 222

Hewitt

Requires the administration of a literacy assessment for all students in grades K-3, revises the requirements of teacher preparation programs to include literacy skill standards based on the science of reading, provides literacy interventions, and textbooks based on literacy standards that are scientifically researched.

SB 234

McMath

Requires schools to provide expanded academic support to students in grades 4-8 who failed to achieve mastery on state assessments.

HB 421

Emerson

Allows for the establishment of learning pods of at least 10 students to receive specialized instruction in a small group setting.

HB 280

Edmonds

Expands school choice options by removing the 20% enrollment cap for scholarship students in schools that have been approved for less than two years and increases accountability for schools receiving scholarship students.

HB 211

Wright

Provides parents more information about opportunities for students in D and F schools to transfer to higher performing schools. It also allows students whose transfer requests were denied by the local school district to appeal to BESE.

HB 38

Edmonds

Requires most school boards to submit data on expenditures, contracts, and other financial information for posting on the state's Louisiana Fiscal Transparency website, more commonly known as the Louisiana Checkbook. Exceptions allow small school boards to post similar, but less detailed information on their own websites.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Higher education received its largest increase in funding in more than a decade with a total new investment of \$104 million
- This included full funding of tuition for TOPS and an \$11 million increase for needs-based Go Grants

SB 148 **Cortez**

Creates the MJ Foster Promise Program to help working-age adults upgrade their skills by providing financial aid at the state's community and technical colleges. It received an appropriation of \$5.5 million.

HB 394 **Riser, Freeman, Mizell, Barrow**

HB 409

SB 230

SB 232

All of these bills deal with addressing "Power-Based Violence" issues on Louisiana college campuses. Generally, they deal with updating campus policies, reporting requirements, coordination with local law enforcement, penalties for violations, and increased transparency and oversight of issues related to Title IX.

HB 459 **Freiberg**

Allows enhanced sharing of data between the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Board of Regents to better understand where students with postsecondary education or training end up in the workforce.

HB 711 **Garofalo**

Allows the sharing of data between the Louisiana Department of Education and the Board of Regents to better understand the effectiveness of various education initiatives in ensuring that students graduate and enroll in postsecondary education.