

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

EDUCATION: Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to measure the compliance of public schools and school districts with state laws and BESE policies and to assign and publish letter grades indicative of such compliance

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:13 and 3996(B)(82), relative to public schools and school districts; to  
3 require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide for a  
4 system of measuring school and school district compliance with state laws and state  
5 board policies; to provide for the assignment and publication of letter grades  
6 indicative of such compliance; to require the state board to adopt rules for  
7 implementation; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:13 and 3996(B)(82) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §13. School and district compliance letter grade system

11 A. It is the purpose of this Section to:

12 (1) Provide for the development and implementation of a school and district  
13 compliance letter grade system.

14 (2) Provide assurance to the citizens that school and district compliance with  
15 state laws and the policies of the State Board of Elementary and Education, referred  
16 to in this Section as the "state board", is monitored and maintained at levels essential  
17 for each student to receive a minimum foundation of education.

18 (3) Provide clear standards and expectations for schools and districts so that  
19 assessment of their compliance with state law and policies will be understood.

1                   B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide  
2                   for a statewide system of measuring school and school district compliance with state  
3                   laws and state board policies.

4                   (2) The state board shall assign a letter grade to each school and district  
5                   indicative of such compliance and provide for the inclusion of the letter grades in the  
6                   report cards that are compiled by the state Department of Education and distributed  
7                   to parents and in any public release of school and district performance scores and  
8                   associated letter grades as provided in the school and district accountability system  
9                   as provided in R.S. 17:10.1.

10                   C. The state board shall promulgate rules for the implementation of this  
11                   Section.

12   \*       \*       \*

13                   §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

14   \*       \*       \*

15                   B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
16                   except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
17                   charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
18                   Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
19                   exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
20                   applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
21                   the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

22   \*       \*       \*

23                   (82) Compliance letter grade system, R.S. 17:13.

24   \*       \*       \*

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 79 Original

2024 Regular Session

Bacala

**Abstract:** Requires the assignment of letter grades to public schools and school districts indicative of their compliance with state laws and State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary (BESE) policies.

Present law requires BESE to provide for a statewide system of accountability for schools and districts based on student achievement and minimum standards for the approval of schools, including the assignment and publication of letter grades based on school and district performance scores.

Proposed law additionally requires BESE to provide for a statewide system of measuring schools, including charter schools, and districts based on compliance with state laws and BESE policies, including the assignment and publication of letter grades indicative of such compliance. Requires BESE to adopt rules for proposed law implementation.

(Adds R.S. 17:13 and 3996(B)(82))