



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

April 3, 2020

Mrs. Sandy Holloway, President
Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

President Holloway:

Pursuant to the authority granted to the BESE President in LAC 28: I.305.B. to make ad hoc decisions for the board in times of emergency, and subject to ratification by the board, I am requesting a third waiver of BESE rules to support Louisiana local education agencies (LEA) and early childhood centers severely impacted by the recent COVID-19 public health emergency in an effort to assist with fulfilling the [Governor's Stay at Home Order](#) and [guidance](#) from the Louisiana Department of Health. The length of each waiver is defined below, in order to address the needs of educators, students, and children.

Rules impacting educator certification and teacher preparation

- The waiver requests within this section allow for an extension for certificates that are renewable per the standards of effectiveness, allow educators more time to complete the training and assessments needed for the mentor ancillary certificate and also allow more time for teacher preparation providers to submit information needed in order for the Board to consider requests to offer new teacher training programs
 - Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*: §350.B. - Request an extension of the validity of the mentor teacher ancillary certificate from 12 months to 18 months.
 - Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*: §305, §307, §309, §311, §323, §343, §346, §347, §349, §350, §351, §417, §505, §705, §706, §707, §710, §721, §723, §725 - Suspend the validity requirement for all certificates that are renewable via the standards of effectiveness and grant a one-year extension for each certificate that is renewable via the standards of effectiveness (Note: One-year extension will only be granted for educators who were employed in 2019-2020, as reported by school systems in the Profile for Educational Personnel (PEP)).
 - Bulletin 996, *Standards of Approval for Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*: §303.E. - Suspend the requirement for providers to address an incomplete application in seven days and instead allow for 14 days.



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Rules impacting charter schools

- The waiver requests within this section accounts for the inability to continue routine in-person visits to charter schools this 2019-2020 school year
 - Bulletin 126, *Charter Schools*: §1101.F.1. - Request for a waiver of the requirement that all charter schools receive at least one on-site visit annually.

Rules impacting 2019-2020 senior graduates

- The waiver requests within this section accounts for twelfth grade students' inability to meet certain requirements due to the public health emergency and would apply for this 2019-2020 school year.
 - Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2317.I.2.d. - Allows eligible twelfth grade students to receive the Community Service Endorsement Diploma despite not meeting the 25 hour requirement.
 - Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2302 - Waive this section in order to allow LEAs the flexibility to issue pass/fail grades this Spring 2020 semester for graduating seniors.
 - Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*: §2319.C.2.g. - Allow twelfth grade students to graduate with less than 9 credits in Jump Start courses if the student was enrolled in a Board of Regents or Louisiana Community and Technical College System "mini-mester" B-term class for the final 8-weeks of the academic year.

If approved, these waivers of BESE rules will be subject to the ratification of the state board at its next regularly scheduled meeting and will be immediately communicated to impacted persons and entities as they attempt to respond to this unprecedented public health emergency. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Beth Scioneaux

Acting State Superintendent of Education

Approved: Sandy Holloway

Sandy Holloway, President
Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: April 3, 2020