



STATE BOARD of ELEMENTARY and SECONDARY EDUCATION

P.O. Box 94064, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064 · PHONE: 225-342-5840 · FAX: 225-342-5843

Paul Hollis
1st BESE District

March 15, 2024

Sharon Clark
2nd BESE District

The Honorable Glen Womack
Chairman, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Sandy Holloway
3rd BESE District

Stacey Melerine
4th BESE District

Dear Chairman Womack:

Lance Harris
5th BESE District

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) submits today the FY2024-2025 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula proposal approved on March 6, 2024 pursuant to Article VIII, Section 13(B), of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution; R.S. 17:7(2); and R.S. 17:22.

Ronnie Morris
6th BESE District

Kevin Berken
7th BESE District

The recommended FY2024-2025 MFP formula maintains the provisions included in House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 23, of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. The current Base per Pupil Amount in Level 1 of the formula remains equal to \$4,015. Level 1 continues to calculate the cost of education and apportion a share of that cost between the state and local districts in order to achieve equitable funding, as required in the Constitution.

Preston Castille
8th BESE District

Conrad Appel
Member-at-Large

Judy Armstrong
Member-at-Large

Once again this year, BESE maintained the average state contribution at 65 percent and the average local contribution at 35 percent. Level 2 continues to provide rewards for districts that go above and beyond in raising local funds for public education. Level 3 again provides for legislative allocations, such as continuation of past pay raises. Level 4 includes supplementary allocations for specific programs, such as career training experiences, dual enrollment and enrichment courses, assistance with high cost special education services, and recruitment and employment of international associate teachers.

Simone Champagne
Member-at-Large

While maintaining the provisions currently in effect, the FY2024-2025 provides for the following changes to help address Louisiana's teacher shortage of approximately 1,000 teachers. **Total additional cost of approximately \$71.3 million:**

1. **Differentiated Compensation – Cost: \$25 million**

Provides funding to allow school systems to address their unique market needs in the recruitment and retention of teachers. Additional investments in our educator workforce compensation will increase the ability to recruit and retain essential personnel. A discretionary Block allocation, calculated and placed in Level 4 of the formula, based on the latest available individual system staffing data and applicable retirement contributions (cap of \$25 million), for the following categories:

- a. Stipends for teachers in critical shortage area, as determined by BESE and/or;

Shan N. Davis
Executive Director

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent

- a. Stipends for Highly Effective Teachers (as defined in R.S 17:381 through 3095 and Bulletin 130, Section 309), and/or;
- b. Stipends for teachers working in High Need schools defined as those with an Economically Disadvantaged rate of 85 percent or greater, and/or; and
- c. Stipends for teacher leadership positions including classroom teachers appointed to lead weekly teacher collaborations, or those that serve as instructional coaches or mentors.

2. **Apprenticeships and Internships – Cost: \$2.0 million**

Provides an expansion of Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) provision in Level 4 to support workforce development into a specific funding allocation for student apprenticeships and internships. Funding would be allocated to school systems based on the number of eligible enrolled students in either fall or spring semester. For Apprenticeships, if a school system is defined as rural by the U. S. Census Bureau, each enrollment will generate \$3,500 and if the system is non-rural \$2,500 will be received for each enrollment up to \$1 million. The variation in allocation amounts recognizes the extra support needed for costs, such as costs associated with transporting students to the apprenticeship sites at greater distances in rural parts of the state. For Internships, an allocation of \$1,000 per enrolled student up to \$1 million.

3. **Accelerate Tutoring – Cost: \$30 million**

Provides funding for accelerate tutoring for literacy and/or math, focusing on students with the most need for improved outcomes for grades K – 5 up to \$30 million. Funding may be used to cover services for any student requiring tutoring to include extra staffing, contracted services, or online programming as deemed appropriate at the local level with guidance from the department.

4. **Mandated Costs – Projected cost increase approximately 14.3 million**

Increases the per pupil allocation amount of the Mandated Costs Allocation in Level 3, Legislative Allocations, by \$22.00 per pupil from \$100.00 to \$122.00. School systems can utilize those funds to pay for operational expenses which have increased by 44% since this allocation was last increased in FY2008-09. This allocation recognizes half of that increase.

5. **Technical Addition – Projected cost based on enrollment is approximately \$369,000**

Ecole Pointe-au-Chien – Act 454 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature, provided for the creation of a public State French immersion school for students in grades pre-kindergarten – 4 in Terrebonne Parish. The school opened in 2023-24 and is funded this year entirely through a line item appropriation. The Act stated that Ecole Pointe-au-Chien shall be considered a public school and as such, shall be included by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in the MFP formula. In alignment with this statute, Ecole Pointe-au-Chien has been included in the FY2024-25 formula in Level 4, Formula Calculations for State-Approved Public Schools, which is similar to the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA), New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), Thrive Academy, and Special School District (SSD). Ecole Pointe-au-Chien would be funded in the formula identical to these other State schools with both a state and local allocation funded by the State based on the per pupil amount for the city or parish school system where the attending students reside. The school may also be eligible to receive some program specific funding provided for in Level 4 of the formula if eligibility criteria is met. State funds currently budgeted equivalent to the MFP projected cost could be transferred to the formula as was done when other State schools were added.

6. **Technical Revision – Resident Teacher Stipend Allocation Location Change**

Resident Teachers are currently funded through the Pay Raise allocations in Level 4 of the formula. Transparency and clarity surrounding this allocation would be enhanced with a transfer of this allocation to its own separate section within Level 4. Current methodology for the Resident Teacher Stipend Allocation would remain at \$3,300 per Resident times the number of Resident Teachers in approved programs. This wording change would have zero impact on the cost of the formula.

Enclosed is a copy of the FY2024-2025 MFP formula and the cost projection, inclusive of the items listed above. The cost projection is based on preliminary data available at this time. Note that the cost estimate may change based on the receipt of final data later this spring.

BESE members look forward to discussing these requests with you and with the Legislature. If you have specific questions, please contact me at (225) 342-5840 or Ronnie.Morris@la.gov, or Deputy Superintendent Beth Scioneaux with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) at (225) 342-3617 or Beth.Scioneaux@la.gov.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Morris
BESE President

Enclosure

c:

Dr. Cade Brumley, State Superintendent of Education
Senator Cameron Henry, Senate President
Representative Phillip DeVillier, Speaker of the House
Senator Rick Edmonds, Chairman, Senate Committee on Education
Representative Laurie Schlegel, Chairman, House Committee on Education
Representative Jack McFarland, Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget
Members, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget
Members, House Committee on Education
Members, Senate Committee on Education
Taylor Barras, Commissioner of Administration
Ternisa Hutchinson, Budget Director, Office of Planning & Budget
Alan Boxberger, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Julie Silva, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Office
Mei Su, Senior Budget Analyst, Senate Fiscal Services Division
Mark Mahaffey, Director, House Fiscal Division
Ashari Robinson, Budget Analyst, House Fiscal Division
Carla Roberts, Senior Analyst, Senate Committee on Education
Elizabeth Borne, Senior Legislative Analyst, House Committee on Education
Beth Scioneaux, Deputy Superintendent for Finance, LDOE
BESE Members
Shan N. Davis, Executive Director, BESE