



BESE NEWSLETTER



A Message from Me!

This meeting was created to make up for the missed meeting that was supposed to take place on April 20th. Although I was not able to attend the meeting, due to this COVID-19 season, the BESE board stuck to their duties to help the public and came together to discuss 3 main topics on the agenda. Due to health instructions, only a limited amount of people were allowed in the Claiborne Building and each member sat in different areas of the room to keep the six feet social distancing rule. I hope that everyone is safe and staying healthy. Feel free email or call me with any questions!

3 Major Topics at the Meeting:

1. Class Room Size and Ratios
2. Course Choice providers for Jump Start Summers Programs
3. Alternative Education Programs and Alternative Education Schools in Louisiana

Class Size and Ratios:

The Lafayette Parish School System requested to waiver a policy for the 2020-21 school year that included information on the classroom size and hours for teachers based on the local parish. In the document, it stated that "...the maximum class size for health and physical education classes in grades K-8 and in physical education I and II shall be 40." Also, an average class size of 25 would be required in order for each teacher to meet the required limit of 750 student contact hours per week. The reason for this is to consider that although the stay at home order is not in use and will-hopefully- not be in use during the school year, we must still have rules due to the fact that the COVID-19 disease is still out there. This is also fourth year the LPSS requested this waiver. The motion was passed.

Course Choice Providers for Jumpstart Program:

As I said in my first newsletter, Jumpstart 2.0 is a program of graduation pathways to indicate how students can graduate, with a Jump Start Career Diploma, by taking courses and attaining industry relevant skills. At this meeting, Ken Bradford spoke on some of the course choices that certain parish providers would like to use. These parishes were Allen Parish School System, Claiborne Parish School System, Madison Parish School System, Vermilion Parish School System, and West Feliciana Parish School System. The motion was passed.

Alternative Education Programs and Alternative Education Schools in Louisiana:

What is the Alternative Education Program? This program is established to meet the specific needs of the students with behavioral and educational challenges that require environments that are alternatives to the regular classroom and house one or more programs designed to address discipline, dropout prevention and recovery, or credit recovery. An example of a student who is qualified for this is the students they service that can be subject to suspension or expulsion from school. This is to make sure they do not fall back during the time they are off. The scores of these students in the program will be added to the education overall score for the district it is held in. The LDE brought this topic to the board to approve the program for the 2020-21 school year. The LDE also asked the approval of 32 alternative schools and 112 alternative programs. Some of the members had questions on the success the program has had. Although the improvement is slow, it is obviously occurring. New accountability programs have increased the average of the students to receive a high C or high D, in which the students previously enrolled in the program were used to getting low F's. Caddo Parrish is one of the 32 parishes awaiting for approval from this meeting to proceed in the program for the next coming year. The motion was passed.



Personal Information:

COVID-19 Information and Resources: <https://louisianabelieves.com/> & <https://louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19>

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If you have any questions about my newsletter or other, email me or call me - I am free anytime!

**Next BESE A.G.I.I.
Meeting:**

June 16, 2020