

SBESE Newsletter

Jack Walker

A Message by Me:

Good morning, everyone! This is the BESE Newsletter for the January 19, 2021. As you know, this is my second to last newsletter for my role on the BESE Board. My final newsletter will be at the March 9th meeting. Thank you to all for reading and sending me comments on my newsletters.

If anyone has questions, feel free to message me. I hope everyone is staying safe!

Three Main Topics Discussed:

1. Fall 2020 Reading Report
2. Early Learning Development Standards Review Process
3. Strong Start Implementation Status

Fall 2020 Reading Report:

Overall, literacy screening reports over the past three years have declined. This means that fewer children are reading on grade level and more children are identified at risk for reading failure each year. These findings call for a new set of actions focused on improving literacy in the early years. The recommendations center around: high quality literacy instruction and interactions, by effective teachers, and intentionally supported by leaders and families. For the 2021 addendum, the commission reiterates its recommendations of an annual state investment of \$15 million for early literacy. It will increase the number of literacy coordinators from 2 to 25 and support school systems as they implement these recommendations such as literacy plans. Promising steps have been made. These plans are prompting conversations that lead to \$2 million in new state funding from the Louisiana legislature. The final plan is to have a full scale implementation of a K-12 Literacy Coaching Model. Further information will be discussed soon!

Early Learning Development Standards Review Process:

This process was developed in 2013 as a culmination of a year-long lead by State agency staff, national experts and local stakeholders. These standards support the State's Kindergarten Readiness Definition and are designed to be used as a daily reference and resource. The Department believes a review is necessary. These revisions are to ensure there is a stronger integration of language that supports children with disabilities and dual language learners and to make stronger connections to kindergarten readiness expectations. The committee will reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the state's student population and review current ELDS and ensure alignment across developmental levels and domains with final recommendations to BESE. Provisions will be provided soon.

Personal Information:

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

Love Our Schools Website: <https://loveourschoolsfoundation.org/>

Email: jackwalker2046@gmail.com

Phone: (318) 510-0949

Newsletter also available at: <http://www.lascwebsite.com/>

Learning Connectivity Tool: <https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/57592098-3276-452a-9872-456384c0acdc/page/2oidB?s=jF2UNzIqNKM>

If you have any questions, please feel free to message to me!

Strong Start Update:

In a past BESE meeting, State Superintendent Cade Brumley issued a 100 day Strong Start and has released an update on how the 100 days are going. Some great things that have happened are that over 23,000 Chrome-books are going to be distributed to school systems across the state to help close the digital divide. Over 60% of Louisiana students are benefitting from in-person instruction as of January 2021. Also, focus groups have shown great truth to the opinion of the students of Louisiana. With focus groups of parents, teachers, and students, many provisions and reviews are now being shown the BESE staff to see where improvement needs to be seen. In these past 100 days, school systems have flexibly adapted to address students' learning loss through support, technology, and communication. Thanks to Mr. Brumley, our state has been able to stay connected through these tough times!!

Date of next AGII Meeting: March 9, 2021

