



# BESE



# NEWSLETTER

### A Message by Me:

Hello everyone! For the people who celebrated Christmas, I hope you had an amazing Christmas - even during the pandemic. I hope everyone is ready for the oncoming year of 2021, because I am! This is the newsletter for the December 15th AGII meeting. I wanted to put out the newsletter after Christmas so that the stress of giving and receiving presents passed over and let relaxation settle in with everyone. I hope everyone has a safe remainder of the year! If anyone has any questions please feel free to message me!

### 3 Main Topics Discussed:

1. Discussion of a Louisiana Balanced School Calendar Model
2. Initiatives to Improve Academic Performance Gap
3. Learning Environment and Connectivity Tool

### Louisiana Balanced School Calendar Model:

At the December meeting, three head officials were brought in to discuss more detail about a Balanced Calendar Model. The officials were Alison Hughes, Superintendent, Red River Parish, Jeff Powell, Superintendent, Rapides Parish, and Glen Colvin, Principal, Shreve Island Elementary School (Caddo Parish). The balanced calendar models are calendars in which the typical summer vacation of twelve weeks is reduced to eight weeks or less. Breaks (typically called intercessions) of two week or longer breaks are given to students in the fall, winter break (around the holidays) and a two week break (or longer) is given in the spring. There are also other detailed breaks not listed. The BESE Board Representatives asked for this presentation to be given for more information and what positive outcomes it brings. I asked the officials, "If you were speaking to an elementary, middle school, and high school student, what would you say makes the balanced calendar the best option for schools." Mr. Glen Colvin chimed in and explained that although the sound of summer being broken down sounds worrying, but the sound of extra breaks that other school systems on a regular calendar will not get sounds even better. Also, statistically, the average student on the balanced calendar model is more prepared after the shortened summer break than the average student on a regular system. The idea of a Balanced School Model will be discussed further in future meetings.

### Initiatives To Improve Academic Performance Gap:

There were many items that were discussed in order to close the achievement gap on education in Louisiana. One of the initiatives is to revise the Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies. This Standard was last revised in 2010-2011. The goals of these new revisions are to balance knowledge and disciplinary skills, better integrate the historical perspectives of people from all different backgrounds, and provide opportunities to utilize strong critical thinking skills to evaluate and synthesize information. This will be done by creating an educator professional development committee. It will consist of 26 members who will oversee the standards review process. They will monitor progress and ensure alignment across grade levels and subjects and make final recommendations to BESE.

Half of the committee will be K-12 Louisiana educators, including at least one educator each from a charter and nonpublic school system. Remaining members will be nominees from high education, business and industry, and community. This committee will begin providing professional development throughout the 2021-2022 school year and the revisions by the committee will be implemented into the education system in the 2022-2023 school year.

### Learning Environment and Connectivity Tool:

I have gotten many requests on where to find the best information about school enrollment updates and numbers based on the student to device ratio. In the past two newsletters I have discussed on Mr. Cade Brumley's amazing work on a connectivity tool. The site has been up for approximately 2-3 months. Here are some updates on school system numbers. Out of the 635,475 students enrolled in public school systems, 153,769 are virtual and 435,536 are in person. The device ratio is 0.88 : 1. Out of the 44,590 students enrolled in nonpublic school systems, 2,545 are virtual and 36,602 are in-person. The device ratio is 0.06:1. In the tool, you can search your local district in education and find the specific numbers for your district/Parish. The link is in the Personal Information Section!

### Personal Information:

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

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

<https://loveourschoolsfoundation.org/link-learn>

Email: [jackwalker2046@gmail.com](mailto:jackwalker2046@gmail.com)

Phone Number: (318) 510-0949

Newsletter also Available at: [www.lascwebsite.com](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 me.  
Happy Holidays!

Next AGII  
Committee Meeting:  
January 19, 2021

Happy  
Holidays!