

## **April BESE Meeting Report**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met on April 16-17 and approved the following policies that directly affect schools and districts.

### **Library and Counseling Services**

In January, the Department of Education recommended revisions to Bulletin 741, the Handbook for School Administrators, in order to accomplish two primary goals: reducing state mandates not directly tied to student learning and returning decision-making power to local school districts to meet unique needs. The Board approved the revisions and the policy ran as a Notice of Intent in the March 20, issue of the [Louisiana Register](#).

Due to the public comment received regarding the revisions in the sections on counseling and library services, the proposed policy came before the board again for discussion and consideration prior to final adoption at the meeting this week.

The Board and the Department ultimately reached a compromise to retain the original language regarding counselors and librarians in Bulletin 741. However, school systems may submit a written request to the State Superintendent to provide these services by means other those specified in Bulletin 741 for his consideration.

### **Letter Grade and School Performance Fall 2013 Release**

The Board approved a policy change in Bulletin 111 that will allow the Department of Education to provide schools and districts with two performance scores and two letter grades in fall 2013. One will be based on the “old” accountability formula that uses the previous 200-point scale and one will be based on the “new” 150-point scale. Please see [this summary](#) for a more detailed description.

The Department will be holding a webinar for principals and accountability staff on the transition in the upcoming weeks.