

Louisiana Believes

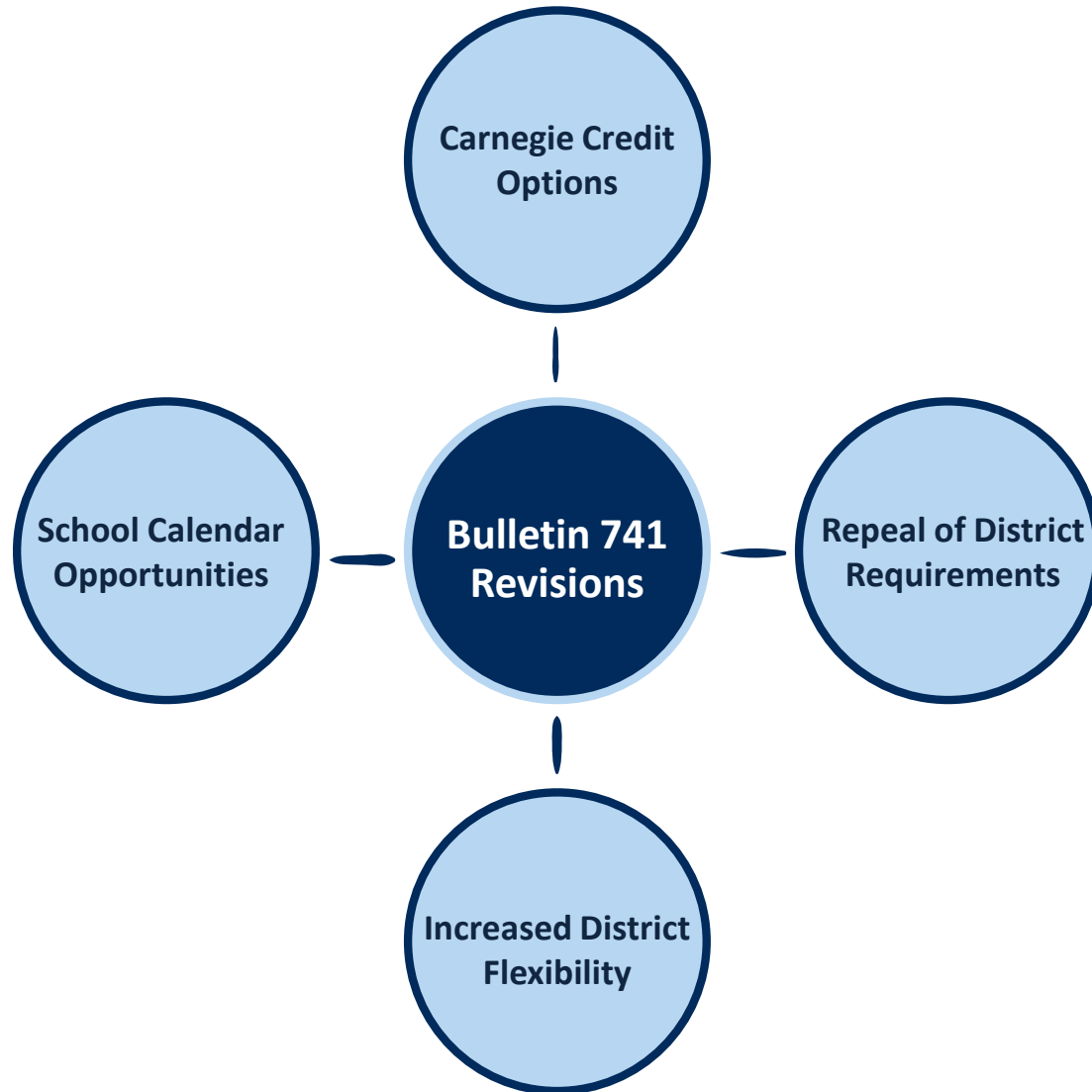
**BESE Approved Revisions to
Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook
for School Administrators***

Purpose

The Department had two primary goals in the revisions of Bulletin 741:

- 1) Identification of unnecessary mandates that distract from student learning and, if removed, would empower educators to make appropriate decisions for their student population**
- 2) Identification of decisions that should be made at the school and district level that are currently being made by the state**

Bulletin 741 Revisions



School Calendar Opportunities

- Previous policy focused on the minimum number of days in the school calendar and identified which of those days must be filled with instructional time.
- The revisions focus on the required **63,720 instructional minutes** and allow districts the freedom to determine how those minutes are structured.

This autonomy will allow districts and school to arrange their instructional time and provide increased opportunities for:

- ✓ Principal feedback
- ✓ Collaboration across grade levels and subjects
- ✓ Professional development related to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards

Carnegie Credit Flexibility - Former Policy

- **The former policy provided students with three (3) pathways for receiving Carnegie Credit:**
 - Meeting instructional time requirements and passing the course; or
 - Obtaining a seat-time waiver; or
 - Demonstrating proficiency on exam
- **For secondary class credits, students had to meet varied minimum amounts of instructional time that corresponded with different schedule configurations**
- **Shortcomings of the former policy:**
 - The policy dictated that “P/F” be included on transcripts of students opting for the proficiency exam pathway, which discourages students from pursuing this option.
 - The traditional pathway was considered the primary option. Seat-time waivers and proficiency exams were viewed as deviations from policy and therefore not used frequently.

Carnegie Credit Flexibility - New Policy

- **The new policy creates a streamlined process offering LEAs two equal pathways for students to receive Carnegie Credit:**
 - Meeting instructional time requirements and passing the course; or
 - Demonstrating proficiency through an assessment(s) or portfolio at any time throughout the year

Under the proficiency assessment or portfolio option:

- LEAs must submit to the Department one of the following:
 - The name of the nationally recognized assessment
 - A copy of the locally developed assessment and proficiency score
 - A listing of the requirements necessary to demonstrate proficiency
- LDE may work with the district to ensure local assessments accurately measure proficiency
- For Carnegie credit in a course with an End of Course exam, the exam must be used to demonstrate proficiency
- Middle schools are no longer limited in the Carnegie courses they may provide

Areas of Increased Flexibility

- **Summer School Mandates Removed**

- School buildings requirement
- Summer school teacher certification
- Class sizes
- Number of subjects taught per teacher
- Minimum attendance for students to pass or fail
- Minimum hours of instruction

- **School Calendar**

- Districts may determine the number and length of school days as long as 63,720 instructional minutes are met

- **Physical Education Credit**

- Students need 1.5 credits of physical education and .5 credits of health to graduate. The revisions allow students to substitute .5 units of PE credit with marching band, cheerleading, dance, or extracurricular sports. Students may not substitute these activities for Physical Education I.

- **Participation in the Connections Process**

- Participation in the state Connections process for 15 year old 8th grade students is permissive. Districts may create remediation programs appropriate for their student body.

Application at the School Level

How can these revisions to Bulletin 741 be applied at the school level?

- Add minutes to the school day to create more opportunities for targeted professional development
- Allow students to earn Carnegie credit for courses in which they already have the skills or knowledge, i.e. a student from France taking French
- Allow students to earn Carnegie credit during summer school without having to meet an instructional time requirement
- Offer enrichment summer school opportunities that focus on a topic of interest to your student population

Reduced District Requirements

- **Reports – Districts no longer have to submit the following:**
 - Annual school report
 - Annual system report
 - Reports of district-wide test results to the school board
 - Corrective action plans submitted to the Department for “unsafe schools”
 - A master schedule to the Department for class size waivers
 - Agriscience teacher’s summer work schedule submitted to the principal, local CTE supervisor, and the Department
 - Agriscience teacher’s submission of annual report to the Department
- **Approvals – Districts no longer need Department approval for:**
 - Summer Schools
 - Locally developed electives
 - Partial credit for Career and Technical Education courses
- **Administration – Districts no longer have to administer the following:**
 - District Educational Leadership Induction Program and require the program for update of endorsement from Education Level 1 to Education Level 2
 - District induction program for newly-appointed principals, assistant principals, and district level leaders
 - Reevaluation of exceptional students at least every three years even if the parent and public agency agree that reevaluation is not necessary

Reduced District Requirements

- **Policies and Procedures – Districts no longer have to adhere to and/or maintain the following:**
 - Physical copies of statement of philosophy and purposes kept at the superintendent's and principal's offices
 - School self-evaluation procedures and results kept on file in principal's office
 - Written policies and procedures for instructional programs, graduation ceremonies, student activity programs, and student services
 - Handwritten records of student rosters and progress (roll books)
 - A community relations program
 - Copies of daily/weekly schedules of work posted in the principal's office
 - Written policies on student activities
 - Develop written plan(s) for community and parental involvement
 - Student identification badges

Reduced District Requirements

- **Training/Professional Development– Districts are no longer required to provide training/professional development in the following areas:**
 - Provide ongoing orientation for new personnel during their first year
 - Require CTE teachers and school counselors participate in the service programs contributing to professional improvement in their program area
- **Miscellaneous – Districts are no longer required to do the following:**
 - Require food service managers and food production managers be certified by Department
 - Provide reimbursement of travel expenditures for work-based education programs

Contact

Questions?

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