

January 2010

## BESE BRIEF

A Summary of Several Key Actions Taken by the **State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education** on January 12, 2010

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### Board Approved Action

- By a vote of 6-3, the Board approved a recommendation to change the School Performance Score for Academically Unacceptable Schools (AUS) to 65 in 2011 and to 75 in 2012. The minimum requirement is now 60. Schools designated AUS are subject to various levels of state intervention. If a school is labeled AUS for four or more consecutive years, it is eligible for placement in the state's Recovery School District (RSD). The School and District Accountability Commission had recommended that the minimum score be changed to 70 and 75 over the next two school years.

The new policy eventually gained the support of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents who initially opposed the recommendation of the Accountability Commission.

- BESE also approved a recommendation by the High School Redesign (HSR) Commission to approve the College and Career-Ready Policy Institute (CCRPI) plan as presented by LDOE to the College and Career-Ready Policy Institute. CCRPI is a joint partnership of Achieve, the Data Quality Campaign, Education Counsel, Jobs for the Future, and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Louisiana is one of eight states participating in the Institute, which assists participating states in developing and implementing goals and policies that ensure all students graduate from high school ready for college and career success. The CCRPI action agenda focuses on Data Systems; Assessment and Accountability; Supports and Interventions; and Early Warning, Multiple Pathways and Options.
- By a vote of 6-3, the Board endorsed and approved the state's Race to the Top application and the Recovery School District's application to the U.S. Department of Education. The state will now compete for a portion of the \$4.35 billion federal grant.

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### Race to the Top Participation

State Superintendent Paul Pastorek noted that 28 of the state's 70 school districts and more than 50 charter schools have opted to participate in the Race to the Top grant. Enrollment in those districts covers 48% of the total student population. Students in these districts also account for more than 52% of the state's population of students who participate in free and reduced-priced meals program. The state could be awarded as much \$300 million of Race to the Top funds. If the application is approved, 50 percent of the funds will be allocated to participating school districts, while the remaining 50 percent will be allocated to statewide initiatives that benefit all districts and schools.

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### Louisiana Department of Education Goals and Benchmarks

The LDOE presented the following agency goals to BESE:

- Students enter kindergarten prepared (75% on long-term benchmark)
- Students reading by third grade (90% Basic or Above)
- Kindergarteners arrive in 4th on-time (90% arrive on-time)
- Adequate ELA performance by 8th grade (90% Basic or Above)
- Exhibit required numeracy skills by 8th grade (90% Basic or Above)
- Students graduate on time (80% by 2014, 85% long-term)
- Students enroll in post secondary education or workforce ready (75% earn Industry Based Certification or enroll in post secondary education)
- Achieve goals regardless of race or class (Reduce achievement gaps by 10% a year)

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Education's Next Horizon is a group of business and community leaders from across Louisiana who believe that education is the key to our future economy and quality of life. Our mission is to frame the debate for comprehensive system-wide reform and to connect Louisiana's leadership-education, government, business and community-as a force supporting school improvement.

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