

From the Desk of Hon. Maurice McTigue



Louisiana Streamlining Commission

Suggested Recommendations to Advisory Committee Chairmen

Preamble:

The following comments on this cover sheet have been prepared at the Mercatus Center by Hon. Maurice McTigue. The purpose of the analysis was to identify issues that the committee might pursue and finally develop into recommendations to the full commission.

- The suggested recommendations are based on very limited information and the committee's local knowledge may determine that the suggestions are not viable. In that case, the Committee should discard the suggested recommendation.
- If the Committee thinks the suggestion has merit, then they should refer it to officials for their analysis.
- Some of our suggestions may be recommending a practice that is already in place, in which case the recommendation may be put aside or may be worded to endorse that practice or to extend it further than is the current practice.

Department of Education:

- Ensuring Literacy and Numeracy for all: This program needs to be benchmarked against other states to appreciate whether Louisiana is doing better or worse than other places. Expenditure \$12.6 million
- Career and Technical Education: The information given for this program needs to be explicit in numerical terms. \$4.5 million
- High School Redesign: This program needs to give specific numerical results information. \$13.7 million



The Streamlining Government Commission would appreciate your assistance by having you complete the following worksheet. We understand that some of this information is available online and possibly in other documents, but we believe that it is important that you provide this data to ensure that you know what the Commission is reviewing regarding your Department, Agency, or Office. In order to review and compile the data before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission, please complete and return these worksheets to prathert@legis.state.la.us by September 8, 2009. Thank you for your cooperation.

Department name: Louisiana Department of Education

State in one sentence the core business of your department: The core business of the Department of Education is to create a world class education system for all students in Louisiana.

For each program managed by your agency, provide the following information. Please limit your answers for each program to ***no more than half a page*** and simply write ***“unknown”*** next to each program question you are unable to answer.

- **Program name:**
- **Outcome addressed by this program:**
- **How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program:**
- **How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08):**
- **Measure used to determine success:**
- **Level of success during each of the last three years:**
- **The societal issue addressed by this program is getting *better, remaining static, or deteriorating*:**

The Department of Education has a large amount of “programs” managed by the agency. Below are key programs as identified by the agency.

- **Program name:** Ensuring Literacy and Numeracy for All
- **Outcome addressed by this program:** The outcome addressed by this program is to ensure that every student in Louisiana, Pre-K-12, is a successful reader, writer and mathematician.
- **How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program:** The general public is both directly and indirectly affected by this program as we work to develop a literate citizenry in LA for the future. This initiative seeks to make all children readers, writers, and mathematicians which will directly affect each student’s quality of life and ability to complete a high school education and become college and career ready. The far reaching results for the success of this program are essentially unknown but it is essential to move our state forward in a positive direction.
- **How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08):** \$12.6 million
- **Measure used to determine success:** Various benchmarking assessments that includes end of year testing such as iLEAP and LEAP.
- **Level of success during each of the last three years:** K-12 Pilots – (3 years of results)
For the K-12 pilot schools, the percentages of students in K-12 pilot schools who scored Basic or above on the reading subscores portion of the iLEAP test in 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th grades increased from 50.4 to 55.7% to 63.3% in the spring of 2009 – an increase of 12.9%. The percentages of students in K-12 pilot schools who scored Basic or above on the LEAP ELA tests increased from 56% to 63% to 70% for 4th grade students and from 49% to 51% to 70% for 8th grade students. For the Ensuring Literacy for All Initiative there has been 3% to 4% growth achieved in the last few years. It should be noted that this program targets the lowest performing schools. Students assessed as being below benchmark on the DIBELS assessment upon entry into kindergarten in an Ensuring Literacy for All school have a 10% better chance of becoming a fluent reader by the end of third grade than below benchmark students in a non-ELFA school. For all cohorts of the literacy initiative, approximately 89% of the students that were on benchmark (according to the DIBELS instructional recommendation) were basic or above on the iLEAP reading subscale. Consistently, gap closure was more successful for ELFA students than in non-ELFA students. Free/Reduced lunch students are growing in their reading skills more quickly than their non-FRL counterparts indicating that the gap between FRL and non-FRL students is shrinking. The initial rate reduction for students being referred to special education has essentially remained the same (26.8% three year average). The initial rate reduction has been maintained. This is in contrast with the overall percent of students in LA receiving special education services.
- **The societal issue addressed by this program is getting better, remaining static, or deteriorating:** The societal issues addressed are getting better.

- **Program name:** Career and Technical Education
- **Outcome addressed by this program:** To ensure that graduates of Louisiana public schools are college and career ready.
- **How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program:** Approximately 15,000 students.
- **How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08):** \$4.5 million dollars with \$3.2 million going directly to school districts.
- **Measure used to determine success:** The completion and successful passage of a State and or National Certification Exam.
- **Level of success during each of the last three years:** The success over the last three years would be the number of Industry Based Certifications that Teachers and Students have been earning over the last three years, has been increasing exponentially. Another measure of success has been the number of high school students participating in Dual enrollment CTE Coursework, has doubled over the past two years.
- **The societal issue addressed by this program is getting *better, remaining static, or deteriorating*:** The societal issue is getting better as more students are being properly prepared for careers. Students are more motivated when the relationship between rigor, relationships is fully understood. Therefore, relevance is the bridge to accomplish that task.

- **Program name:** High School Redesign
- **Outcome addressed by this program:** High School Redesign (HSR) is a broad based approach to whole school reform. It seeks to ensure that the state 1. Reduce dropout's and increase high school graduation rates; 2. Increase student readiness for postsecondary education; 3. Increase career readiness of students; 4. Increase participation in postsecondary education.
- **How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program:** All High school students, members of business and industry, teachers, counselors and administrators of secondary and postsecondary programs--- not sure what that translates into as a number – but almost everyone in the state is potentially affected.
- **How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08):** \$13.7 million.
- **Measure used to determine success:** Decrease in dropout rates, increase in graduation rates, college prep assessment increases, the fall of remediation rates for college freshman are a few of many indicators that define success for HSR.
- **Level of success during each of the last three years:** Increased Graduation rate , increased tests scores (I-LEAP & GEE), increased dual enrollment, advanced placement courses and number of Industry Based Certification's
- **The societal issue addressed by this program is *getting better, remaining static, or deteriorating*:** The societal issues addressed are getting better.