

MEMBER: Barry Erwin **PROPOSAL#** Erwin #02 **REFERRED TO AG on:** AGDNES
SUBJECT: BESE - 8(g) Preschool **DATE REPORTED BY AG:** _____ **REPORT:** _____
COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

RECOMMENDATION: Merge the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's (BESE's) block grant program focused on pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk four-year-old children into the Department of Education's (DOE's) Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program (LA 4 Program).

Summary Description/Nature of Change	Key/Implementation Responsibilities	Need	Action Needed	Benefit/Saving	Done/ Study
Merge BESE's block grant program focused on pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk four-year-old children into DOE's LA 4 Program.	BESE and DOE	<p>In 1986, Louisiana voters dedicated Louisiana's federally-awarded Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act funds to education through the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund which became known as 8(g) funding. The law allows BESE to spend a portion of such funding on preschool programs.</p> <p>In 2001, the legislature enacted the LA 4 Program (modeled after the 8(g) Program) and today, LA 4's enrollment is almost five times that of the 8(g) block grant program and the outcomes are competitive. Now that the LA 4 Program and its infrastructure is firmly established in DOE, it is not necessary for BESE to continue to administer an 8(g) preschool program separately. Also, BESE's role is primarily policy, whereas DOE's role is program administrator so the transfer lets each entity focus on their mission.</p>	<p>BESE to transfer 8(g) dollars related to preschool program to DOE and existing BESE personnel to be addressed.</p> <p>Legislation/constitutional amendment needed to maximize savings by sending percentage of 8(g) directly to DOE for LA 4 Program.</p>	<p>This eliminates administrative duplication of preschool programs with similar content and outcomes.</p> <p>There may be some savings by reduction of surplus BESE staff.</p> <p>In FY '10, BESE allocated a little over \$13.5M of 8(g) funding to preschool programs.</p>	Transfer can begin contractually until legislation and constitutional amendment can be enacted.