



# TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

EST. 1896

## Final 2024 Policy Alert Updates

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE PART IV

This final installment of the 2024 **PolicyAlert** Legislative Update series wraps up policy revisions necessitated by bills passed during the 2024 Louisiana Legislative session. It also includes one revision from 2017. Forethought includes several policies, though some only affect parishes with populations of 25,000 or more, and others which only affect certain school systems with relevant policies affected by legislation. Only a few School Boards will receive all the policies discussed with this issue.

#### **Notification of School Board Meetings Broadcasting and Taping of School Board Meetings**

Act 539, effective August 1, 2024, revised La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §42:23 requiring each School Board in a parish with a population of twenty-five thousand (25,000) or more to broadcast live all of its proceedings in public meetings, including the School Board's committee meetings. It also revised La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §42:19, requiring that sufficient information to enable the public to locate the broadcast for viewing be included in notification of the meetings.

*Broadcast live* is defined in the Act as the publicly available distribution of audio and video of a meeting in real or near real time via the internet or television broadcast.

#### **Policies in this Issue:**

- Notification of School Board Meetings
- Broadcasting and Taking of School Board Meetings
- School Board Agenda/School Board Meetings Rules of Procedure
- Employment of Superintendent
- Personnel Records
- Use of Pronouns and Given Names
- Recruitment
- Sex Education
- Education of Students with Exceptionalities
- Student Health Services

These revisions are reflected in policies *Notification of School Board Meetings* and *Broadcasting and Taping of School Board Meetings* for those systems in parishes with populations of twenty-five thousand (25,000) or more.

### **School Board Agenda/ School Board Meetings Rules of Procedure**

Act 191, effective August 1, 2024, revised La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §42:19 allowing parish School Boards in parishes with a population of 125,000 or more, reducing it from 200,000, according to the latest federal decennial census to use a consent agenda if an agenda contains more than fifty items. However, the School Board must allow public comment before any action is taken on the consent agenda.

Any School Board using a consent agenda which is reflected in the *Agenda Preparation and Dissemination* policy or *School Board Meetings Rules Procedures* policy has been reviewed and/or revised **as necessary** to ensure that the public comment information is included.

### **Employment of Superintendent**

Act 193, effective August 1, 2024, revised La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:54, requiring that a Superintendent's contract include that the Superintendent be subject to a performance evaluation by the School Board.

The new requirement has been added to the *Employment of Superintendent* policy

### **Personnel Records**

Act 495, effective June 4, 2024, revised La. Rev.

Stat. Ann. §45:11 removing some limitations on confidential records. The statute now includes that home and personal wireless number, home address, and personal email address of employees are confidential. Act 295 revised the same information, but according to the Louisiana Law Institute, the language adopted under Act 495 would be that used to revise the statute.

The *Personnel Records* policy reflects these revisions.

### **Recruitment**

The revision to the *Recruitment* policy is based on Act 423 of 2017. The Act revised La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:15, adding student services to the list of persons providing services which require criminal history review.

### **Sex Education**

Act 681, effective August 1, 2024, enacted La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:412, prohibiting teachers to instruct or discuss topics of sexual orientation or gender identity in grades kindergarten through twelve. We have added the information to the *Sex Education* policy.

### **Education of Students with Exceptionalities**

Act 689, effective August 1, 2024, revised La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:1944, requiring School Boards to adopt a policy that each school under its jurisdiction provide "written information regarding legal

procedures affecting the transfer of individual rights from parent to child which the child attains the age of majority.” The document shall inform parents of legal options and how each option relates to such transfer of rights.

At the child's first Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting of the school year, the document shall be provided to a parent of each child who is fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen years old who participates in alternate assessment pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:24.4(F)(3) or an alternate pathway to promotion pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:24.4(H). Parents shall be provided a form by which to confirm receipt of the information.

The State Department of Education is to develop the information and provide it to each School Board.

This information has been added to the *Education of Students with Exceptionalities* policy.

### **Student Health Services**

Forethought initially revised this policy earlier this year based on Act 161. Act 375, effective August 1, 2024, however, enacted La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17436.5 to require that School Boards *adopt a policy* that each school nurse participate in an in-service training program of at least one hour relative to sickle cell disease. Although it would not be considered necessary include every training required for school nurses in policy, the legislature's requirement to adopt a policy necessitated the training's inclusion in the *Student Health Services* policy.