

APRIL 2009

In this issue:

- **BESE BRIEF**
 - **Excerpts from the Report by State Superintendent of Education Paul G. Pastorek**
 - **Board Approved Action**
- **Education's Next Horizon Makes Contract with Louisiana**
- **Stakeholder Council Begins Policy Implementation**

BESE BRIEF

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education met on March 12, 2009 in Baton Rouge. The following is a summary of several key actions taken by the board.

Excerpts from the Report by State Superintendent of Education, Paul G. Pastorek

Superintendent Pastorek stated that the following economic stimulus funds are already on the way to Louisiana: Title I - \$177 million, IDEA - \$200 million, Broad Band Capacity Expansion - \$12 million, and Stabilization Fund - \$560 million.

The Race to the Top Fund is a \$5 billion competitive grant. The U.S. Secretary of Education has indicated that 8 to 15 states will be the beneficiaries of these funds. The object of the Race to the Top Fund is to identify education strategies that are working in states and to implement rapid expansion of those strategies. One of the areas of focus for the Race to the Top Fund is increasing content standards and curricula to meet international benchmarks, ultimately arriving at standards that would apply to all states and assessments that would be homogenous from state to state. Other focus areas include data systems, dealing with chronically low achieving schools, and teacher quality and recruitment.

Superintendent Pastorek stated that he believes Louisiana is extremely well poised to qualify for the Race to the Top Fund, but it will have to spend its economic stimulus money wisely and be seen as a progressive state in order to be a recipient of the grant. The state will develop a proposal by this summer, and a decision will be made on the Race to the Top Fund recipients by October 2009.

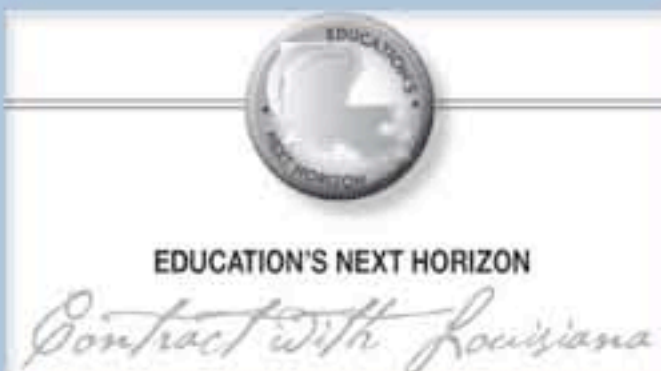
Board Approved Action

- The Board adopted a Resolution asking the Louisiana State Legislature to form a task force to study national school board governance best practices and to make recommendations for improvements. The Resolution further requests that the task force be comprised of business, education, and civic leaders from each region of the state.
- Approved recommendations of the Superintendent for the operation of Type 5 charter schools under the Recovery School District with the charter operator commencing operations not later than 2010. Operators who demonstrate the capacity to execute a successful opening in the fall of 2009 will assume operational control of the assigned school on July 1, 2009. All other schools will be operated by the RSD during 2009-2010. Impacted schools and charter operators are:
 - Dalton Elementary School - Advance Baton Rouge
 - Lanier Elementary School - Advance Baton Rouge
 - Crestworth Middle School - Crestworth Learning Academy
 - Kenilworth Middle School - Pelican Educational Foundation
 - Linear Middle School - Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association
 - Linwood Middle School - Shreveport Charter School, Inc.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will not meet in April. The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 21, 2009, 9:00 A.M., in the Claiborne Building, located at 1201 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

[top](#)

Education's Next Horizon Makes Contract with Louisiana



"Our state's mission in PreK-12 education is to raise student achievement for all children, eliminate the achievement gap, and enable all children to be effective citizens in the global marketplace. In complex and challenging times, we cannot expect the education community to bear sole responsibility for the vision. We are all responsible."

Visit our website at www.ednexthorizon.org for a full copy of our **Contract with Louisiana**.

[top](#)

Stakeholder Council Begins Policy Implementation

Immediately following a meeting of the **Stakeholder Council** on March 18th, the Board of Directors of Education's Next Horizon voted to make the following recommendations of the Stakeholder Council top priorities:

Bridging the Skills Gap

1. Develop key messages and identify appropriate communication mechanisms for a statewide multi-agency communication initiative that informs parents and students about the benefits of high school graduation and about job growth trends, skills demand and career options.
2. Align Career and Technical Education (CTE) with high demand jobs by revamping the Occupational Forecasting Conference (OFC) and by aligning CTE with forecasts and regional job demand.

Early Childhood Education

1. Implement a Louisiana Definition of School Readiness for children, families, schools, communities, and stakeholders with specific performance expectations or benchmarks.
2. Develop a Louisiana Scorecard of School Readiness.

These priorities are closely connected with the **Louisiana's Promise** statewide dropout prevention efforts that are now underway in every region of the state. The role of Education's Next Horizon and the Stakeholder Council will be to strongly advocate, support and help facilitate the accomplishment of these objectives in partnership with key education, business, and community stakeholders. *For a copy of the **Framing the Debate Report of Stakeholder Council Recommendations**, visit our website at www.ednexthorizon.org*

"Transforming Policy into Results"
www.ednexthorizon.org

[top](#)

Contact Information

email address: ffarlow@lanexthorizon.org

Join our mailing list!

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to ffarlow@lanexthorizon.org by ffarlow@lanexthorizon.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by

