

SBESE NEWSLETTER

A Message From Me!

Well, we have reached the end! This is my last newsletter on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education! I would just like to thank you all for your input through this year and the great responses. All new newsletters after this will be from Zach Johnson, your 2021-2022 SBESE Representative! I have great faith in him to carry on the legacy of the student rep! It is sad to go but now I am on a path to college! I will never forget the memories on BESE. Thank you all so much!

3 Main Topics Discussed:

1. Update Report Regarding Reopening of Schools in Response to COVID-19
2. RAVE Mobile Safety
3. Motion discussion on LEAP 2025 for Seniors by Representative Ellis.

Update Report Regarding Reopening of Schools in Response to COVID-19:

It is strange to realize that we have now been in nearly a year of COVID Protocol. One of the biggest things to come with these protocols was the March 13th closing of in person schools nationwide. So, the BESE Board was given an update by Mr. Brumley on the reopening updates for Louisiana. Something great that was said was that now we have more tablets than students in Louisiana. We have a total of 881,195 devices overall in Louisiana. From 700,000 students reporting, 67% are 100% in person, 20% are 100% virtual, and 13% are 100% hybrid. Teachers were moved to Phase 1B of vaccines and have now been open to receiving the vaccines. Louisiana Attendance Alliance has worked with local school systems to validate status of students in the class whether in person or virtual. Louisiana ACT NOW has given the voucher rules for seniors if they have not earned a score that qualifies them for college admissions or TOPS and has completed all courseworks to graduate. And finally, Mr. Brumley and his team have made work equal for all districts and teachers and paved the way for future Summer Learning Programs during COVID times. I spoke on my experience in virtual learning from now and on March 13, 2020 by explaining how far we have come in virtual learning!

RAVE Mobile Safety:

Threats of violence, bullying, narcotics, and even arson has increasingly gone unnoticed in the school system. Governor John Bel Edwards created the Blue Ribbon School Safety Commission in response to the school shootings at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida in 2018. The LPS and BRS Commission chose to use their second grant to include the RAVE Panic Button in Louisiana School systems.

The RAVE Panic Button has no cost to schools. The app allows you to report: threats, bullying, narcotics, weapons, vandalism, and many more. It is set up as a button and when pressing it and identifying what type of alert you are discussing, the app alerts 911 and first responders in your area immediately.

Response time is between 20-40 minutes no matter the location. The app is voluntary to schools, but over 1,827 schools use the app for students and faculty. The app proposal was given great approval and feedback by the BESE Board!

Motion discussion on LEAP 2025 for Seniors by Representative Ellis:

The stress for seniors is building up more and more everyday. Being one of those stressed seniors, I can tell you it piles up by the minute!

Last year, the LEAP 2025 was exempted in Louisiana for all years of high school on any course. This year, it has been difficult for teachers to teach their regular course material while battling with in-person and virtual learning. Seniors are also having to deal with ACT, getting ready for college, scholarships, and much more. So, District V BESE

Representative Ashley Ellis proposed an emergency motion to discuss on at the next meeting and if passed, to go into order at the next AGII meeting. The proposal was, if a senior student has AT LEAST a 17 on the ACT, or is a career center student with a Silver key, they are exempt from taking any LEAP 2025 exam. This will be discussed at the next AGII committee meeting and if passed, will go into immediate order. I will say it for every senior, thank you, Mrs. Ellis! We all greatly appreciate helping seniors have a smooth change from high school to college without as much stress!

Personal Information and Resources:
COVID Recourses: <https://louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19>

Love Our Schools Website: <https://loveourschoolsfoundation.org/>

Learning Connectivity Tool: <https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/57592098-3276-452a-9872-456384c0acdc/page/2oidB?s=jF2UNzlqNKM>

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Newsletter also available at: <http://www.lascwebsite.com/>

Next AGII Committee Meeting:
April 20, 2021

