

Date of Request: 4 / 29 / 21 Local Education Agency: Calcasieu Parish School Board

Superintendent or nonpublic school Leader: Superintendent Karl Bruchhaus

Primary Point of Contact for this request, if different than superintendent or nonpublic school leader:

Name and title: Phone number: 337-217-4010

Email: karl.bruchhaus@cpsb.org

BESE regulation(s) requested to be waived:

Bulletin Number/Title Bulletin 741: Louisiana Handbook Section Number/Section Title 2318: The Tops University Diploma Subsection 3b Length of time waiver is needed: From approval until 8 / 31 / 21
Bulletin Number/Title Bulletin 741: The Louisiana Handbook Section Number/Section Title 2319: The Career Diploma Subsection 3a Length of time waiver is needed: From approval until 8 / 31 / 21
Bulletin Number/Title Bulletin 111: The Louisiana School Section Number/Section Title 6821: High School Test Cohorts Subsection B Length of time waiver is needed: From approval until 8 / 31 / 21
Bulletin Number/Title Bulletin 741: Louisiana Handbook Section Number/Section Title 2319: The Career Diploma Subsection A1 Length of time waiver is needed: From approval until 8 / 31 / 21

Please note that waivers will be granted for a maximum of one academic year, unless approval is granted for longer periods of time based on extenuating circumstances.

In the space below, please explain why the waiver is necessary; describe what has been done to address the situation thus far and what will happen if the waiver is not granted.

Please see attached letter.

Signature of superintendent or nonpublic school leader 

Please return this form to Ryan Gremillion, Policy Director at the Louisiana Department of Education, at ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov. Please note that waiver requests for the 2021-2022 school year shall be submitted to the LDE by no later than June 30, 2021. Waiver requests requiring BESE approval that cannot be considered on an emergency basis will be considered on the next regularly scheduled board meeting date, pursuant to timelines for adding items to the meeting agenda. Call 225-342-1501 if you have any questions.



May 6, 2021

Dr. Cade Brumley
Louisiana State Superintendent of Education
P.O. Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

Dr. Brumley,

Please consider the following waiver requests for the Calcasieu Parish School Board because of hardships incurred in the fall of 2020 from Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

Request 1: Waiver for the requirement of the End of Course Test to be the fifth grade

The premise of our request to remove the End of Course Test as the fifth grade is grounded by our belief that our students will be negatively impacted by this policy. We have had numerous stakeholders expressing their concerns about the fairness of counting the End of Course Tests as the fifth grade. Even a proposal of lowering the percentage of the End of Course test to 15% to “lessen the impact” will still result in undue impacts to our students’ overall grade point averages, class ranks, and final transcripts. Moreover, we believe that our students deserve an equal opportunity to earn competitive scholarships, and most of these scholarships focus on grade point averages. While their peers across Louisiana had an uninterrupted school year of instruction, our students not only lost significant instructional time, but they also have the potential to be less competitive to earn scholarships because of the End of Course Test being calculated in the final transcript grade. Moreover, because of the devastating impacts from the hurricanes, groups of our schools opened face-to-face in phases that spanned from October 19 to November 16. This means that the students in Calcasieu Parish were not afforded the opportunity for a fall remediation or testing window for End of Course Testing like other students across Louisiana.

Request 2: Petitioning for a waiver of graduation requirements for End of Course and credential exams

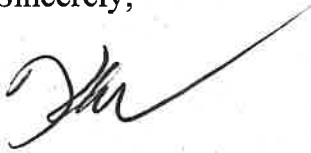
Our next request is for a waiver of End of Course Exams and credentials for students in grades 9-11 in the same manner as spring the 2020 COVID waivers. If the state recognizes that learning time lost from COVID should merit removing

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the graduation requirements for 2021 seniors across the state, we believe that learning time lost from COVID and two hurricanes should also merit our request of waiving the End of Course and credential graduation requirements for our students in grades 9-11. With November 16 as the date for all our schools to open face-to-face, our students started this school year a quarter behind other students in the state, and their lost learning time was compounded by COVID. The adverse effects of not granting this waiver will unfairly impact our students and our schools' school performance scores from 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 school year. Students that do not earn credentials or pass End of Course Exams become potential dropouts, and potentially denying a student a diploma because of unprecedented circumstances that were of no fault of the district or students is of grave concern for our district.

In closing, as we complete this unprecedented school year, we want to ensure that policies will not inadvertently have negative impacts on our students' permanent academic records and graduation timelines. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Karl Bruchhaus, Superintendent
Calcasieu Parish School Board

KB/pc

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