

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 18, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair
Representative Beryl A. Amedée, vice chair
Representative Reese "Skip" Broussard
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Terry Landry, Jr.
Representative Chasity Martinez
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rashid Armand Young

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borné, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Chance Simpson, committee clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 649 by Representative Brass**

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 649, which requires the establishment and administration of a statewide application process for dual enrollment programs.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 649.

Mellynn Baker, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 649, and provided a handout, "Dual Enrollment Single Application", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 649 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 649 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 807 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 807, which establishes the Workforce Instructor Capacity Investment Program within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to enhance workforce training programs to meet employer demand in certain industry sectors.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 807 that:

1. Expanded the program to include two-year public institutions in Louisiana State University and Southern University systems, in addition to Louisiana Community and Technical College System institutions.
2. Granted certain authorities to the management boards of the Louisiana State University and Southern University systems.
3. Made technical and conforming changes.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Paul Donaldson, River Parishes Community College, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 807.

Brian Landry, Louisiana Chemical Association, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 807.

Stacey Gautreau, DOW, 543 Spanish Town, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 807.

Averi Strickland, 412 Ave C, Kentwood, LA 70444, spoke in support of House Bill No. 807.

Dr. Chandler Leboeuf, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 807.

Representative Terry Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 807 with amendments, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 807 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Amedée voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 285 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 285, which authorizes a school board to engage in a cooperative endeavor with a credit union or bank to operate a branch at a high school.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 285 that authorized a school board to engage in a cooperative endeavor with a bank in addition to a credit union to operate a branch at a high school. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Mary Beth Derrickson, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 285.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 285 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 285 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 28 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 28, which provides relative to the appeals process for teacher certification applicants.

Representative Owen offered amendments to House Bill No. 28 that:

1. Granted authority to override the council's denial to Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) instead of the superintendent.
2. Authorized BESE to call a special meeting to consider overriding a denial.
3. Authorized BESE to delegate its authority to the board president.
4. Provided that if an appellant submits a request to override a denial, BESE or the board president shall render a decision within 30 days of receipt of the request.

Representative Owen offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée,

Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 28.

Arthur M. Joffrion, Jr., LDOE, Claiborne Building, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 28

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 28 with amendments, to which Representative Freiberg objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 28 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Carpenter, Freiberg, Martinez, and Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 268 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 268, which provides relative to career-related activities for public school students.

Representative Carver offered amendments to House Bill No. 28 that:

1. Added a requirement that Louisiana Works provide annually information about workforce priorities to public school governing authorities.
2. Required public school governing authorities to select activities related to those priorities to the extent feasible.
3. Added a career interest inventory to the list of categories from which to select activities.
4. Required schools enrolling K-5 students to provide them with at least one activity each school year instead of at least one prior to the end of fifth grade.
5. Provided for school counselor documentation of at least one middle school career-related activity in a student's individual graduation plan and updating of interest inventories in seventh grade and eighth grade.

6. Authorized school counselors to consult with teachers on providing that K-5 students participate in at least one career awareness activity during each school year.

Representative Carver offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Taylor offered amendments to House Bill No. 268 that applied present law and proposed law to charter schools. Representative Taylor offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Sheree Blanchard, Leaders for a Better Louisiana, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 268.

Mary Beth Derrickson, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 268.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 268.

Caroline Roemer, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 268.

Susana Schowen, Louisiana Works, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 268.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 268 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 268 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 50 by Representative Schlegel

Representative Schlegel presented House Bill No. 50, which re-creates the Department of Education.

Vice Chair Amedée in the chair.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 50 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 50 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 196 by Representative Beaulieu

On behalf of Representative Beaulieu, Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 196, which provides relative to personal leave days for teachers.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 196 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 196 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 271 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 271, which creates the Louisiana Commission on Foundational Education and abolishes the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission.

Representative Amedée offered amendments to House Bill No. 271 that increased the commission's membership from 19 to 20, and changed the commission's annual reporting deadline from March 1st to February 15th. Representative Amedée offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 271 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 271 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 316 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 316, which provides relative to student literacy.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 316, and provided a handout, "The Nation's Report Card: Louisiana", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Danny Bosch, The Center for Literacy & Learning, 618 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 316.

Meredith McGovern, ExcelinEd in Action, 422 Antietam Drive, Bossier City, LA 71112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 316.

Sarah Vandergriff Kelley, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 4722 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 316.

Ashley Tassin, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents & Administrators, 720 North Tenth Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 316.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 316 favorably, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 316 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Amedée voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS**Adoption of minutes of the House Committee on Education from the 2025 Regular Session dated April 16, April 23, April 29, May 7, May 14, May 20, May 28, and June 3, 2025.**

The minutes from the 2025 Regular Session dated April 16, April 23, April 29, May 7, May 14, May 20, May 28, and June 3, 2025 were presented to the committee for adoption. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Carlson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, and Taylor voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: