

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 31, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:06 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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Chance Simpson, committee clerk
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 325 by Representative Brass**

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 325, which revises initial academic eligibility requirements for a TOPS-Tech award, and provided a handout, "TOPS Tech Eligibility", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 325 that changed applicable students from those enrolling in college as first-time freshmen beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year to students graduating from high school during the 2026-2027 academic year and thereafter. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 325.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 325 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 325 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, 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. 407 by Representative Larvadain

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 407, which provides relative to initial eligibility requirements for the M.J. Foster Promise Program.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 407 that:

1. Adjusted the minimum age requirements for future award years.
2. Required the administering agency to submit a report to the House and Senate committees on education by January 1, 2028.
3. Added effectiveness on July 1, 2026.

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.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 407, and provided a handout, "M.J. Foster Promise Program: Eligibility Update", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Chandler LeBoeuf, Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 407.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 407 with amendments, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 407 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea. Representatives Amedée and Owen voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 482 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 482, which revises the initial and continuing eligibility requirements for a TOPS-Tech award and raises the award amount at Louisiana Community and Technical College System institutions.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 482 that:

1. Provided that the award amount is either \$4,500 or the 2025-2026 academic year award amount, whichever is greater, and applied this revised award amount to students enrolled in an eligible program at any public college or university (not just an LCTCS institution).

2. Allow TOPS-Tech-eligible students to defer their award and maintain eligibility if they enroll in any public college or university (not just an LCTCS institution) prior to turning 25.

Representative Schlegel 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.

Richard Nelson, LCTCS, 284 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 482.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 482 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 482 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, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 283 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 283, which provides relative to incidents of assault and battery on teachers and other school employees.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 283 that broadened the application of proposed law to incidents when the victim of the assault or battery is a student. 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.

Kimberly McDaniel, 10132 Springvalley Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 283.

Nikita Drummond Clark, 3852 Deerrun Lane, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 283.

Larry J. Carter, Jr., Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 283.

Darrinisha Gray, St. Charles Parish School Board, 13855 River Road, Luling, LA 70070, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 283.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 283 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 283 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

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. 448 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 448, which authorizes scholarships provided for firefighters injured in the line of duty and spouses of firefighters injured or killed in the line of duty to be used for a master's degree.

Representative Martinez offered amendments to House Bill No. 448 that added an option to use the scholarship to obtain any postgraduate degree. Representative Martinez 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, Carver, Freiberg, Martinez, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in support of House Bill No. 448.

Representative Martinez offered a motion to report House Bill No. 448 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 448 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Martinez, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 319 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 319, which provides relative to the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education.

Barry Erwin, Leaders for a Better Louisiana (LABL), 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 319.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 319 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 319 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

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. 195 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 195, which prohibits, with exceptions, a public postsecondary education institution from prohibiting a student from possessing self-defense chemical spray on campus.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 195 that provided additional exceptions to allow prohibition at any preschool, elementary school, or secondary school operated by the institution and at any patient care facility located on institutional property. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Owen offered a motion to report House Bill No. 195 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 195 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 by Representative Wilder

Representative Wilder presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, which requests the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) to recognize dance and cheer as sanctioned sports.

Representative Carver offered amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 that added lacrosse to the list of sports the LHSAA is requested to add as a sanctioned sport. 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, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 was reported with

amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Terry Landry, 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. 992 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 992, which requires assignment of student identification numbers to children in certain early childhood education programs.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to House Bill No. 992 that:

1. Distinguished between early childhood education numbers and student identification numbers.
2. Specified that proposed law applies to a child who is participating in a program at a prekindergarten program at a school or early learning center.
3. Required each local public school board to link the early childhood education number to the student identification number for each student by December 31, 2027.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Mattilyn Batson, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA 70185, spoke in support of House Bill No. 992.

Thomas Lambert, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 992.

Mary Beth Derrickson, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 992.

Barry Erwin, Leaders for a Better Louisiana, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 992.

Sarintha Stricklin, Jefferson Ready Start Network, 501 Manhattan Boulevard, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 992.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 992 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 992 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Tarver offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: