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LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL EXECUTIVES

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Governor/Legislators Face Tough "Fiscal" Session

The Governor and Legislators are between a rock and a hard place as the 2009 "Fiscal" session begins April 27. State revenues have plummeted because of low oil prices, reductions in consumer spending, tax cuts approved by the Governor and 2008 Legislature, higher unemployment, and worldwide economic recession. This Session must end by June 25, 2009, with a "balanced" budget of an estimated \$26.7 Billion.

In what will likely be a contentious 60 day session, elected officials will deal with over 1,000 bills, including deep cuts to higher education, k-12 public schools, health care, and the reduction of the number of state workers. There are bills to enact sweeping changes in state retirement systems, local school boards, and higher education. An attempt to alter the governor's decision to refuse certain federal stimulus funds will also be debated.

With the new rules allowing each legislator to offer five non-fiscal bills, there will be long hours for solons and staff. Considering the severe budget restrictions, the Governor and legislative leaders will be challenged to put forth a balanced and equitable 2009-2010 State General Fund Budget. All bills are accessible through the LASE Website (www.laschex.org).

Some of the Bills Being Tracked by LASE

HB 1, Fannin, Funds State Govt. 2009-2010

SB 1 Chaisson Constitutional Amendment to cut 10% constitutionally protected, dedicated funds.

HB 308, LeBas Provides dual enrollment program for nonpublic school or home study students

HB 274, Templet Increases penalties for battery and for assault of a school teacher

HB 193, Chaney Provides relative to school nutrition programs

HB 89, Burford Provides relative to requirements of school systems participating in LA 4

HB 47, Hardy Establishes academic eligibility for interscholastic athletics/ extracurricular activities

HB 114, Hardy Provides relative to rehired retirees in Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

HB 156, Ritchie Requires system membership for charter teachers in Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

HB 179, Stiaes Provides relative to requirements for pupil progression

HB 176, Pope Permits students less than age 15 to participate in the Dr. Ed. classroom instruction

HB 183, Hoffmann Authorizes BESE to set up an appeals process for applicants denied teacher certification

HB 230, Arnold consolidates four state retirement systems into one governing board of trustees

HB 371 Carter Amends nepotism provision relative to school board employees.

HB 561, Fannin Provides for employer contribution rates of certain state retirement systems

HB 664, Carter Provides term limits for members of local public school boards

HB 808, Carter Provides relative to compensation and benefits for members of local school boards

HB 851, Carter Provides relative to the powers, duties, functions of local public school boards

SB 85, Gautreaux, B. Establishes a cap on TOPS award amounts

SB 94, Donahue Creates the crime of molestation of a juvenile involving an educator

SB 223, Claitor Removal of students from the class for inappropriate behavior

SB 259, Kostelka Provides for the high school career option program

SB 285, Nevers
Provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credit between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions

SB 309, Gray
Provides for health-related fitness assessments to determine physical fitness levels of students in schools

SB 316, Nevers
Provides for comprehensive approach to improve graduation rates and ensure college and career readiness for high school students

HB 579, Robideaux
Changes the date by which certain unfunded accrued liability must be paid in state retirement systems

HB 584, Tucker Places restrictions on participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) in state retirement systems

HB 586, Doerge Grants benefit increase to certain retirees, survivors in TRSL and LASERS

HB 651, Armes Provides for the rehiring of certain retired school bus drivers without pay reduction

HB 673, Pope Provides relative to service credit for certain furloughed members of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

HB 722, Robideaux Provides for reamortization of unfunded accrued liability and changes to the employee experience accounts of certain systems

SB 158, Gautreaux, B. Renames the Louisiana Retirement Development Commission to the Encore Louisiana Commission

SB 264, Kostelka
Provides relative to the authority of the board of trustees

SB 296, Gautreaux, B.
Provides for the determination of system liabilities and for the payment of such liabilities

HB 63, Cortez
Provides relative to the income tax deduction for certain educational expenses related to a quality public education

HB 103, LaBruzzo
Provides for refundable individual income tax credit for the expense of providing a private school education to a foster child

HB 112, Montoucet
Allows certain nonresident aliens who teach in Louisiana based on J visas to become members of the system in Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

All bills are accessible through our LASE website:
<http://www.laschexec.org/legislativeUpdates.htm>

Congratulations New LASE Members

Raymond Allmon
Leadership Facilitator
Advance Baton Rouge

Cynthia Clark
Principal
Richland Parish

Joyce Green
Director, Finance
Plaquemines Parish

Kashia Askew
Assistant Principal
Calcasieu Parish

Diane Clark
Assistant Dean
LTC-NW Campus

John Gullatt
Assistant Principal
Franklin Parish

Melvin Ashley
Principal
Caddo Parish

Albert Cousson
Director, Secondary Ed
Plaquemines Parish

Sharon Hargis
Director, Food Service
Avoyelles Parish

Jay Bouche
Assistant Principal
Plaquemines Parish

Barbara Crouch
Assistant Principal
Jefferson Parish

Phyllis Hess
Principal
Calcasieu Parish

Mary Boudreaux
Master Teacher
Terrebonne Parish

Ruthie Davis
Supervisor, Finance
West Feliciana Parish

Arlene Hobaugh
Principal
Calcasieu Parish

Jerry Bottley
Assistant Principal
Evangeline Parish

Gerald Dawkins
Superintendent
Caddo Parish

Samoine Holmes
Assistant Principal of Instruction
Caddo Parish

Beatha Brantley
Principal
Webster Parish

Jolynn Dean
Assistant Principal
Lafayette Parish

Ruth Horne
Superintendent
Bogalusa City Schools

Sherry Calcagno
Principal
Jefferson Parish

Gail DeLee
Administrative Assistant
Livingston Parish

Joyce Ivory
Assistant Principal
Concordia Parish

Lois Carter
Principal
Terrebonne Parish

Charles Foulcard
Assistant Principal
St. Mary Parish

Dorman Jackson
Superintendent
Sabine Parish

Connie Cassels
School Psychologist
Ouachita Parish

Alicia Franklin
Assistant Director
Iberville Parish

Annette Johnson
Assisting Teacher, Title I
Beauregard Parish

Scott Champagne
Supervisor
St. Landry Parish

Cindy Frazier
Principal
Caddo Parish

Zach Jones
Assistant Principal
Calcasieu Parish

Congratulations New LASE Members

Timothy Jordan
Principal
East Baton Rouge Parish

Valerin Millikin
Superintendent
East Carroll

Stacey Russell
Assistant Principal
Caddo Parish

Tressa Knighten
School Psychologist
West Carroll Parish

Amanda Morrison
Assistant Principal
Grant Parish

Nancy Sandige
Principal
Caddo Parish

Lovelace Langlinais
Assistant, Human Resources
Lafayette Parish

Heath Murry
Principal
Morehouse Parish

Wayne Savoy
Superintendent
Calcasieu Parish

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IEP/504/Test Coordinator
Grant Parish School Board

Rene Nunez
Assistant Principal
Lafayette Parish

Jackie Self
Superintendent
Vernon Parish

Tiffany LeCesne
HS Curriculum Coordinator
Lusher Charter School

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Principal/Secondary Supervisor
Rapides Parish

Elsie Semien
Principal
St. Landry Parish

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Librarian
Webster Parish

Veronica Pray
Supervisor, Child Nutrition
Grant Parish

Craig Stephens
Assistant Principal
Assumption Parish

Lawrence Lilly
Deputy Superintendent
Lafayette Parish

Reginald Prealow
Coordinator
Red River Parish

Carla Tallo
Assistant Principal
Tangipahoa Parish

Linda Lewis
Principal
East Baton Rouge Parish

Brenda Ramer
Counselor
Vernon Parish

Michelle Taylor, Ed.D
Distinguished Educator
Iberville Parish

Adeline Loupe
Assistant Principal
Iberville Parish

Rene' Ray
Chief Accountant
Plaquemines Parish

Gavin Vitter
Director, Human Resources
Bogalusa City Schools

Karen Maricle
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Dennis Redden
Principal
Caddo Parish

Doloris Walker
Director, Finance
Bogalusa City Schools

James McGee
Supervisor, Transportation
Concordia Parish

Gail Russell
Facilitator
Morehouse Parish

Kelley Welch
Parish Wide AP
St. Tammany Parish