

LWVLA Education Bills/Instruments 2024 Legislative Session (updated 5/4/2024)

Committee	Bill Number	Author, Party & District	Summary	LWVLA Position
House Education	HB71	Dodie Horton (R-Bossier)	<p>SCHOOLS: Requires the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools</p> <p><i>News:</i> https://www.wbrz.com/news/legislator-hoping-to-re-instill-requirement-for-ten-commandments-to-be-displayed-in-all-public-school-classrooms/ https://www.lsureveille.com/news/bill-would-require-louisiana-public-schools-universities-to-display-the-10-commandments-in-classrooms/article_46cb9484-d672-11ee-9928-9b8f3a1fcbbb.html https://www.shreveportbossieradvocate.com/news/state_politics/la-schools-could-be-required-to-display-10-commandments/article_4ea4219c-d65b-11ee-8cc2-af5de2e1c547.html https://bossierpress.com/hortons-proposed-bill-mandates-display-of-ten-commandments-in-louisiana-classrooms/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3d2Rh6j2ag https://www.brproud.com/news/louisiana-news/proposed-bill-to-require-public-schools-universities-to-display-ten-commandments/</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>The League’s Social Policy position on Equality of Opportunity supports equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, <i>religion</i>, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.</p> <p>Posting of Ten Commandments in schools establishes the Jewish and Christian religions over others and can convey message of coercion and exclusion to students of other religions and no religion.</p>

<p>House Education</p>	<p>HB78</p>	<p>Kim Carver (R-St. Tammany)</p>	<p>SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Authorizes initial proposals for charter schools with corporate partners to be made to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as Type 2 charter school proposals (OR SEE FISC NOTE LF RV)</p> <p><i>Recommended reading:</i> https://lwvofla.org/charter-schools-consensus/</p> <p>https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/education/league-of-women-voters-says-charter-schools-need-changes-sparking-pushback/article_6911dd8c-152f-11e9-949a-930a1e887639.html</p> <p>https://lailluminator.com/briefs/business-backed-charter-schools-wouldnt-answer-to-local-school-boards-under-proposal/#:~:text=Louisiana%20charter%20schools%20with%20corporate,that%20would%20spur%20economic%20development</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>The League’s position is that a quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.</p> <p>At its 2019 State Convention, LWVLA adopted the results of a study initiated in 2017 by its Lafayette chapter as part of its public policy positions.</p> <p>To the extent that charter schools siphon off tax dollars from public schools, they may pose a risk to the viability and quality of public-school systems. There are also concerns that charter schools are not sufficiently integrated and may not serve students with disabilities or learning issues equitably or well. While charter schools may in some limited instances be useful for a limited time, as in the recovery of school districts after disaster, they should not displace or detract from Louisiana’s primary responsibility to ensure a quality public education for all its children.</p> <p>This particular bill seems to be a retread of SB145 from 2022, which was vetoed by then-Gov. John Bel Edwards for allowing charter school groups with a corporate partner to bypass local school boards. In his assessment, “consequences of eliminating local approval of charter schools and diverting MFP dollars far outweighs any administrative benefit that may be received.”</p>
<p>House Education</p>	<p>HB107</p>	<p>Mick Bayham (R-St. Bernard)</p>	<p>STUDENT/DISCIPLINE: Prohibits certain types of discipline of students</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>The League of Women Voters of the</p>

			<p>in elementary and secondary schools</p> <p>Prohibits restricting a student's airway as a form of corporal punishment in elementary and secondary schools. Proposed law prohibits taping a student's mouth shut or restricting a student's airway as forms of student discipline, regardless of parental consent for the use of corporal punishment.</p> <p><i>News:</i> https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/04/12/louisiana-pastor-taped-students-mouths/ https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/christian-school-leader-taped-students-mouths-shut-says-kids-chose-pun-rcna23995 https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2022/04/11/louisiana-pastor-defends-taping-students-mouths/7277001001/</p>	<p>United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.</p> <p>The League has condemned brutality and torture in the military and policing, among other contexts. It has supported legislation banning cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. Such treatment should not be tolerated in the military or by the police and it certainly has no role in our schools. The proposed bill is a solution to a very real problem in Louisiana schools, including by individuals who would presume to run for seats in the Louisiana Legislature. Let's end this abuse!</p>
House Education	HB121	Ramond Crews (R-Bossier)	<p>EDUCATION: Provides relative to the use of certain names and pronouns for students</p> <p><i>News:</i> https://www.nola.com/news/education/louisiana-lgbtq-bills-students/article_5037b024-d281-11ee-ac68-7fd6c95ac6ac.html https://www.lsureveille.com/news/what-bills-are-being-passed-louisiana-against-lgbtq-rights/article_a7575f14-dab8-11ee-bd9e-1707e475f0dd.html</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>The League's Social Policy position on Equality of Opportunity equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, <i>gender</i>, religion, national origin, age, <i>sexual orientation</i>, or disability. The League also has an overarching commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in social institutions, including schools.</p> <p>We oppose policies that would diminish and discriminate against young people by not allowing them to be referenced by names and pronouns</p>

				that align with their identities as they grow toward a thriving and successful adulthood. We support policies promote comprehensive sex and gender education, healthy relationships, and supportive school structures that seek the flourishing of student of students of every sexual and gender orientation.
House Education	HB122	Dodie Horton (R-Bossier)	<p>CURRICULA: Provides relative to discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools</p> <p><i>Recommended reading:</i> https://lwvofla.org/CBS_FILES/DOCS/2023_PUBLIC_POLICY_POSITION_S_OF_LWVLA.pdf</p> <p><i>News:</i> https://www.brproud.com/news/louisiana-news/proposed-bill-could-keep-teachers-from-talking-about-sexual-orientation-gender-identity/#:~:text=House%20Bill%20122%2C%20authored%20by,kindergarten%20through%20the%2012th%20grade.</p> <p>https://www.nola.com/news/education/louisiana-lgbtq-bills-students/article_5037b024-d281-11ee-ac68-7fd6c95ac6ac.html</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>LWVLA positions support sex education programs in Louisiana public schools which include community awareness as well as specific preventative and follow-up services for pregnant teenagers. These programs should provide comprehensive classroom instruction on human reproduction, parenting, sexual responsibility, and sexually transmitted diseases. They should be supplemented by opportunities for individual counseling and a district-wide policy of follow-up by school officials.</p> <p>Further, under its position on Health Care, and specifically behavioral health the League supports health education — from early childhood throughout life — that integrates all aspects of social, emotional, and physical health and wellness and efforts to avoid stigmatization of, and normalize programs that , behavioral health problems and care.</p> <p>It is hard to envision how programs of education on sexuality and health could avoid discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity as integral parts of human sexuality.</p>

				<p>Young people who may need counseling around issues of sexuality, healthy relationships, dating violence and other important topics need to be able to communicate about matters of sexual orientation and gender identity with schoolteachers and counselors.</p> <p>Moreover, the League’s Social Policy position on Equality of Opportunity equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. We support programs that help young people of all sexual and gender orientations to be able to communicate openly about these matters for educational and counseling purposes in schools to promote comprehensive education, healthy relationships, and supportive school structure that seeks the flourishing of every student.</p>
House Education	HB190	Barbara Freiberg (R-East Baton Rouge)	<p>EARLY CHILDHOOD: Provides relative to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission</p> <p><i>News:</i></p> <p>https://lailluminator.com/2024/05/04/special-education-income-quotas-could-be-removed-for-charter-school-enrollment/</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>The League has worked to increase the availability of high-quality childcare and adopted a position in favor of community and government programs to help children reach their full potential, including early childhood education. The League also believes that early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote well-being, encourage the full development, and ensure the safety of all children, but especially for children who are may be at risk in</p>

				<p>various respects. At our 2019 LWVLA state convention, the theme was Early Childhood Education and brought a number of experts to speak on the topic and its implications for Louisiana.</p> <p>The League believes that the first five years of a child’s life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally, the League believes quality, developmentally appropriate, voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children, with federally funded opportunities going first to children of poverty and/or with special needs. The League believes that the federal government should support the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood education programs that include funding for parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition, and access to other supportive services such as mental health care for all children and their families. • Research that documents quality early childhood education programs. • Research that demonstrates the importance of linking state and local community partnerships with effective early childhood education programs and services.
House Education	HB310	Aimee Freeman (D-Orleans)	<p>SCHOOLS: Requires public schools to provide free menstrual products in easily accessible locations (OR INCREASE GF EX See Note)</p> <p>Menstrual products</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students. While the League recognizes that there are instances where the federal government’s</p>

				<p>involvement is the only way to achieve universal change (e.g., desegregation, special needs population, <i>gender equity</i>), we also recognize that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states.</p> <p>The League’s Social Policy on Equality of Opportunity supports equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability, and it includes equal access to education.</p> <p>Provision of menstrual products is a step toward gender equity that enables menstruating students to attend school with dignity on an equal basis with other students.</p>
House Education	HB320	Charles Owen (R-Beauregard, Vernon)	<p>EDUCATION: Repeals certain student instruction and teacher training requirements and authorizes the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt policies requiring the inclusion of certain topics in such instruction and training</p> <p>Repeals certain student instruction and teacher/employee training requirements and authorizes the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt policies requiring the inclusion of certain topics in such instruction and training. Present law requires student instruction on the following: adoption awareness, breast and cervical exams, CPR and automated external defibrillators, child assault, cursive writing, dating violence, eating disorders, internet</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>The purpose of this bill is rather vague. But the topics highlighted in the bill’s digest include a range of topics related to students’ physical and mental health and safety that would be well retained. Absent information about what BESE might supply in their stead, the League is reluctant to support doing away with the topics in student instruction and teacher training.</p>

			<p>and cell phone safety, litter, mental health, organ donation, parenthood, safe haven laws, shaken baby syndrome, substance abuse, and water safety. Present law requires teacher/school employee training on the following: adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed education, classroom management, bullying, communicable disease and control, first aid, sudden cardiac arrest, and suicide prevention. Proposed law repeals these requirements and authorizes BESE to adopt policies that require the inclusion of certain topics in student instruction and in the training of teachers or other school employees.</p>	
House Education	HB334	Beryl Amedee (R-Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, and Terrebonne)	<p>SCHOOLS: Authorizes school boards to provide for chaplains to serve in public schools as employees or on a volunteer basis (OR SEE FISC NOTE)</p> <p>School chaplains</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>The League’s Social Policy position on Equal Opportunity supports equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, <i>religion</i>, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Appointment of chaplains in schools risks establishing some religions over others and failing to meet the needs of non-religious students for support and guidance.</p>
House Education	HB708	Barbara Freiberg (R-East Baton Rouge)	<p>SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Removes requirements that charter schools meet a certain threshold with respect to the number of students with exceptionalities and economically disadvantaged students relative to its total student enrollment</p> <p>Present law precludes the exclusion of students based on certain criteria. Proposed law adds being economically disadvantaged to these criteria. Present</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>LWV of Louisiana conducted a study of charters schools beginning in 2017 that was adopted as a state position in 2019. The study was founded on the League’s overall position that a quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.</p> <p>The LWVLA study called for</p>

			<p>law requires a description of how a charter school fulfills present law purposes. Proposed law includes consideration of how to serve the best interests of economically disadvantaged students in this requirement. Present law requires a description of a school's education program. Proposed law adds how the program will meet the educational needs of economically disadvantaged students and students with exceptionalities to this requirement.</p> <p>Recommended reading: https://lwvofla.org/charter-schools-consensus/ https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/education/league-of-women-voters-says-charter-schools-need-changes-sparking-pushback/article_6911dd8c-152f-11e9-949a-930a1e887639.html</p> <p>News: https://publiccharters.org/news/2024-state-legislative-sessions-preview/</p>	<p>representative government, transparency, open government, and the Sunshine Act at each level of the governance of charter schools. The LWVLA study further called for accountability and oversight of charter schools and their contractors. The LWVLA study called for civil rights and racial integration in the authorization and administration of charter schools.</p> <p>To the extent that charter schools siphon off tax dollars from public schools, they may pose a risk to the viability and quality of public-school systems. There are also concerns that charter schools are not sufficient integrated and may not serve students with disability or learning issues equitably or well. While charter schools may in some limited instances be useful for a limited time, as in the recovery of school districts after disaster, they should not displace or detract from Louisiana's primary responsibility to ensure a quality public education for all its children.</p>
House Education	HB745	Julie Emerson (R-Lafayette)	<p>SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Creates and provides for the LA GATOR Scholarship Program, a universal school choice program (OR INCREASE GF EX See Note)</p> <p>Recommended reading: https://lwvofla.org/charter-schools-consensus/ https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/education/league-of-women-</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>LWV of Louisiana conducted a study of charters schools beginning in 2017 that was adopted as a state position in 2019. The study was founded on the League's overall position that a quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.</p> <p>The LWVLA study called for</p>

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Senate Education	SB123	Mark Abraham (R-Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis)	<p>SCHOOLS: Provides relative to the employment or acceptance of volunteer chaplains in public schools. (gov sig)</p> <p><i>News:</i> https://www.wafb.com/2024/03/13/senate-committee-unanimously-passes-bill-allow-chaplains-public-schools/</p> <p>https://schoolboardspotlight.org/senate-committee-unanimously-passes-bill-</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>The League’s Social Policy position on Equality of Opportunity supports equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, <i>religion</i>, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.</p> <p>Appointment of chaplains in schools risks establishing some religions over others and failing to meet the needs of non-religious students for support and</p>

			to-allow-chaplains-in-public-schools/ https://www.aclufl.org/en/press-releases/aclu-florida-opposes-passage-public-school-chaplain-bill https://www.cleburnetimesreview.com/living/school-chaplains-gain-statewide-and-nationwide-momentum/article_7c105104-b096-11ee-a2e5-d7389bc4c9e6.html https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/05/24/chaplain-texas-commandments-christianity/	guidance.
Senate Education	SB213	Sam Jenkins (D-Caddo)	SCHOOLS: Provides sick leave for school employees under certain circumstances. (gov sig) (OR SEE FISC NOTE LF EX)	SUPPORT In the past, the League lobbied successfully in support of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), designed to guarantee workers unpaid leave for illness or the birth or adoption of a child. We see sick leave for school employees in accordance with this policy.
Senate Education	SB294	Valarie Hodges (R-Livingston)	STUDENTS: Confirms the protections of free speech and First Amendment protected activities on college and university campuses. (gov sig) <i>News:</i> https://www.nola.com/gambit/news/the_latest/louisiana-senate-committee-moves-bill-limiting-free-speech-protections-at-campus-protests/article_1717a792-07fe-11ef-8b58-63e512413361.html#:~:text=Senate%20Bill%20294%20by%20Sen.terrorist%20organization%20by%20the%20U.S https://lailluminator.com/2024/04/11/fr	OPPOSE The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged. Students and faculty on college campus should have the right to peacefully assemble to express their views on important issues of the day. Universities must find ways to protect campuses from bona fide outside agitators while maximizing opportunities for student and faculty

			ee-speech-at-issue-in-move-to-fire-tenured-lsu-shreveport-professor	speech.
Senate Education	SB313	Rick Edmonds (R-East Baton Rouge, Livingston, St. Helena)	<p>EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Relative to Educational Saving Accounts for schools. (gov sig)</p> <p>Proposed law creates the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) Program and provides for program administration by the state Dept. of Education (DOE) in accordance with State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rules. Proposed law provides that an eligible student may participate in the program through in-person education, virtual education, or a hybrid approach that combines both methods. Proposed law requires BESE to set eligibility criteria for schools and service providers in a way that maximizes school and provider participation. Proposed law provides for sanctions relative to admitting additional students and participation in the program if a school or service provider fails to meet continuing eligibility requirements. Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall be deemed to limit the independence or autonomy of any participating school or service provider.</p> <p>Recommended reading: https://lwvofla.org/charter-schools-consensus/ https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/education/league-of-women-voters-says-charter-schools-need-</p>	<p>OPPOSE (original bill) The League’s position is that a quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.</p> <p>At its 2019 State Convention, LWVLA adopted the results of a study initiated in 2017 by its Lafayette chapter as part of its public policy positions.</p> <p>The LWVLA study called for representative government, transparency, open government, and the Sunshine Act at each level of the governance of charter schools. The LWVLA study further called for accountability and oversight of charter schools and their contractors. The LWVLA study called for civil rights and racial integration in the authorization and administration of charter schools.</p> <p>To the extent that charter schools siphon off tax dollars from public schools, they may pose a risk to the viability and quality of public-school systems. There are also concerns that charter schools are not sufficiently integrated and may not serve students with disabilities or learning issues equitably or well. While charter schools may in some limited instances be useful for a limited time, as in the recovery of school districts after disaster, they should not displace or detract from Louisiana’s primary</p>

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Senate Education	SB321	Rick Edmonds (R-East Baton Rouge, Livingston, St. Helena)	<p>SCHOOLS: Creates the Charter School Facilities Fund within the Louisiana Department of Education. (gov sig)</p> <p><i>Recommended reading:</i> https://lwvofla.org/charter-schools-consensus/</p> <p>https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/education/league-of-women-</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>The League’s position is that a quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.</p> <p>At its 2019 State Convention, LWVLA adopted the results of a study initiated in 2017 by its Lafayette chapter as part of its public policy positions.</p>

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Senate Education	SB343	Regina Barrow (D- East Baton Rouge)	COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides relative to the prevention of power-based violence in public postsecondary education institutions. (gov sig)	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Consistent with its positions on Women’s Issues, Equality of Opportunity, and Violence Prevention, as necessary to a fully participatory, inclusive, and democratic society, the League supports programs to combat sexual, gender, and other forms of power-based violence in educational institutions.</p>
Senate Education	SB350	Rick Edmonds (R-East Baton Rouge)	SCHOOLS: Provides relative to charter schools. (gov sig) (OR NO)	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>LWV of Louisiana conducted a study</p>

		<p>Rouge, Livingston, St. Helena)</p>	<p>IMPACT See Note)</p> <p>"Louisiana Public Charter School Law". Proposed law removes authorization of experimentation from city and parish school boards and further allows for authorization of school choice options for parents, teachers, and pupils through creation of innovative kinds of independent public charter schools. Proposed law defines "autonomy" as, unless mutually agreed upon by the chartering authority and charter school, or otherwise required or prohibited by law, the charter school shall have independent operational decision-making authority in a range of areas of administration and operation. Proposed law provides that a charter school must have the autonomy necessary to manage its educational programming and daily operations in accordance with law, policy, and contract. Proposed law provides for extending the protections and liability limitations as required in state law that is applicable to public schools, public school officers and employees to charter schools, and their officers and employees.</p> <p>Recommended reading: https://lwvofla.org/charter-schools-consensus/ https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/education/league-of-women-voters-says-charter-schools-need-changes-sparking-pushback/article_6911dd8c-152f-11e9-949a-930a1e887639.html</p>	<p>of charters schools beginning in 2017 that was adopted as a state position in 2019. The study was founded on the League’s overall position that a quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.</p> <p>The LWVLA study called for representative government, transparency, open government, and the Sunshine Act at each level of the governance of charter schools. The LWVLA study further called for accountability and oversight of charter schools and their contractors. The LWVLA study called for civil rights and racial integration in the authorization and administration of charter schools.</p> <p>To the extent that charter schools siphon off tax dollars from public schools, they may pose a risk to the viability and quality of public-school systems. There are also concerns that charter schools are not sufficiently racially integrated and may not serve students with disabilities or learning issues equitably or well. While charter schools may in some limited instances be useful for a limited time, as in the recovery of school districts after disaster, they should not displace or detract from Louisiana’s primary responsibility to ensure a quality public education for all its children.</p>
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<p>Senate Education</p>	<p>SB362</p>	<p>Heather Cloud (R-Allen, Avoyells, Evangeline, Rapides, St. Landry)</p>	<p>SCHOOLS: Provides relative to Charter Schools. (gov sig) (OR NO IMPACT See Note)</p> <p>Present law provides for the "Public Charter School Demonstration Law" that provides a process for chartering charter schools. Proposed law provides for charter autonomy that aligns with education policy set by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Proposed law extends public school liability protections to charter schools in instances where public laws, rules, regulations, and other public mandates apply to traditional public schools.</p> <p><i>Recommended reading:</i> https://lwvofla.org/charter-schools-consensus/ https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/education/league-of-women-voters-says-charter-schools-need-changes-sparking-pushback/article_6911dd8c-152f-11e9-949a-930a1e887639.html</p> <p><i>News:</i> https://publiccharters.org/news/2024-state-legislative-sessions-preview/</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p>LWV of Louisiana conducted a study of charters schools beginning in 2017 that was adopted as a state position in 2019. The study was founded on the League’s overall position that a quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.</p> <p>The LWVLA study called for representative government, transparency, open government, and the Sunshine Act at each level of the governance of charter schools. The LWVLA study further called for accountability and oversight of charter schools and their contractors. The LWVLA study called for civil rights and racial integration in the authorization and administration of charter schools.</p> <p>To the extent that charter schools siphon off tax dollars from public schools, they may pose a risk to the viability and quality of public-school systems. There are also concerns that charter schools are not sufficiently integrated and may not serve students with disabilities or learning issues equitably or well. While charter schools may in some limited instances be useful for a limited time, as in the recovery of school districts after disaster, they should not displace or</p>

				detract from Louisiana's primary responsibility to ensure a quality public education for all its children.
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