

Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BESE Awards \$3.2 Million in High School Redesign Grants

Baton Rouge, LA – In a move to support its key education initiatives, the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education agreed to allocate over \$3 million to High School Redesign focused grants for the upcoming school year. Last week BESE awarded 34 grants ranging from \$45,000 to \$200,000 to 24 local schools across the state.

BESE's High School Redesign grant projects for students in grades 8-12 are designed to help students make more successful transitions to high school or to provide early dropout intervention, academic catch-up, dual enrollment/advanced credit opportunities or career technical education expansion.

"We are hoping that these funds will serve as a catalyst for high schools to make meaningful changes in the way they educate our students," said Keith Guice, President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Grant winners participated in a competitive process with over 120 highly competitive applications. Anonymous grant proposals were read and scored by independent grant readers from every BESE district.

"We are focused on reducing dropouts and improving college and career readiness for all Louisiana students. We believe these projects will help these schools create more opportunities for our young people as they move in the world of work or college." said Tammie A. McDaniel, chairperson of the BESE High School Redesign Committee.

Monies for the grants were available through the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund-8(g), a constitutionally-protected fund for elementary and secondary school grants. BESE has managed the 8(g) Grant Program since 1986, awarding over \$717 million in grants for over 6,800 education projects.

Winners by BESE District:

BESE District 1

St. Tammany Parish – Covington High, Lakeshore High

BESE District 2

Recovery School District – Joseph S. Clark High

BESE District 3

St. Bernard Parish – Chalmette High
St. Martin Parish – St. Martinville Sr. High, Breaux Bridge High
St. Mary Parish - Patterson High, Berwick High, Morgan City High
Terrebonne Parish – Ellender High

BESE District 4

DeSoto Parish – Stanley High
Bienville Parish – Castor High
Bossier Parish – T.O. Rusheon Middle, Airline High, Benton High
Caddo Parish – Captain Shreve High
Evangel Christian Academy – Shreveport, LA

BESE District 5

Lincoln Parish – Ruston Jr. High
Ouachita Parish – Richwood Jr. High, Ouachita High, West Monroe High, West Ouachita High
Catahoula Parish – Sicily Island High
Monroe City Schools – Robert E. Lee Jr. High, Neville High
LA School for Math, Science and the Arts – Natchitoches, LA
Tallulah Academy – Tallulah, LA

BESE District 6

Livingston Parish – Albany High
Washington Parish – Pine High
Diocese of Baton Rouge/St. Joseph's Academy – Baton Rouge, LA
Baton Rouge Lutheran – Baton Rouge, LA

BESE District 7

Calcasieu Parish – Iowa High
Jefferson Davis Parish – Welsh-Roanoke Jr. High

BESE District 8

Riverside Academy – Reserve, LA