



THE BULLETIN BOARD

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2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MONDAY, APRIL 8 TO THURSDAY, JUNE 6

The 2013 Legislature convenes on April 8 for a 45-day "fiscal plus five" session that promises to be as contentious as any before it. By law the session is limited to budget and related monetary matters such as taxes, fees and exemptions, and to constitutionally required local or special bills. Each legislator may file up to five additional bills on general subject matters.

Fiscal Concerns

As everyone knows by now, Gov. Bobby Jindal has proposed a major tax restructuring by eliminating state individual and corporate income taxes and substituting sufficient sales taxes to arrive at revenue neutrality.

Legislators will be looking closely at tax exemptions during tax and budget debates. Possibly at risk are exemptions that benefit private and parochial schools and parents.

Value of Sales Tax Exemptions to the Nonpublic School Sector

\$ 2,400,000	Sale/lease of books, computers, etc. to nonpublic (IRS 501[c]3) schools
411,000	School luncheon food sales

Value of Individual Income Tax Deductions to the Nonpublic School Sector

17,767,000	Elementary and Secondary School Tuition Deduction
175,000	Educational Expenses for Home Schooled Children
1,759,000	School Readiness Credit for Daycare Centers (including school based)

During the session, we will be at the Capitol closely monitoring legislation and lobbying hard to maintain these tax exclusions that we've worked so hard in the past to get passed and that nonpublic school parents so justly deserve.

Private and parochial schools save the state of Louisiana and local school districts more than a billion dollars annually. The math is simple: 120,000 students multiplied by the public school per student cost of \$8,500. Numerically, the savings amounts to \$1,020,000,000 in state MFP and local funds. This savings does not include the federal funds that public schools also receive. A huge benefit to the taxpayers!

School Security Preparedness

The Sandy Hook School tragedy prompted a special legislative hearing at the State Capitol before the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. Educators and law enforcement from across Louisiana presented testimony on their school security procedures.

Some legislators on the committee said they intend to file protection legislation that would apply to all schools. CEC will track any such bills when they are filed, both from a policy and an unfunded mandate perspective.



LHSAA VOTES TO CHANGE POSTSEASON PLAY



In late January the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's member schools voted to split the state football playoffs into categories for the first time in the organization's history.

Schools will be assigned to one of two categories: *Select* or *Non-Select*. *Select* is defined as a public or nonpublic school having an admission policy for selecting its students. *Non-Select* is a public school having a designated attendance zone.

Currently, all LHSAA member schools—public and private—play regular season and postseason games together in five enrollment classifications.

Under the new plan, all LHSAA member schools will continue to compete as before in the regular season. In postseason play, however, the *Non-Select* schools will contend for the traditional 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A classification championships. The *Select* schools will be separated and split into two divisions. Division I will comprise *Select* schools in classes 5A, 4A and 3A, and Division II will comprise *Select* schools in classes 2A and 1A.

The LHSAA action has been very controversial. Principals, heads of schools and athletic directors are discussing possible future actions on this decision.

COURT RULED ON LHSAA LAWSUIT

In a separate but somewhat related matter, the Louisiana Supreme Court in late January ruled that the LHSAA is not subject to legislative actions as it is a private entity.

TUITION TAX DEDUCTION REMINDER!

As a reminder to parents of parochial and private school students, the tuition tax deduction for Louisiana income tax filers increased from 50% to 100% for the 2012 tax year.

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FY 2012-13 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Enclosed with this newsletter is the current 2012-13 CEC Membership Roster. If your school or parent club has not joined yet this year please do so soon. A membership card is enclosed with this newsletter. As a reminder the membership year runs concurrently with the school year (July 1 to June 30), not the calendar year. *Thank you for your support!*