



# LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August 25, 2016

Mr. James Garvey, President  
Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear President Garvey:

Pursuant to the authority granted to the BESE President in LAC 28:I.305.B., to make ad hoc decisions for the board in times of emergency, and subject to ratification by the board, I am requesting a waiver of BESE rules to allow Louisiana local education agencies located in parishes most severely impacted by the recent federally declared disaster, *Louisiana Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4277)*, to utilize replacement school buses on daily routes that are 10 or more model years old, but do not exceed 25 model years, for the remainder of the 2016 – 2017 school year. Designated parishes are noted in FEMA's Disaster Federal Register Notice.

Bulletin	Section	Description of Rule to be Waived
119— <i>Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures</i>	2509.Used School Buses	Current rule requires all replacement school buses used on daily routes, at the time they are acquired by the owner, to be 10 or less model years old for all owners/operators and school districts.

In addition, I am requesting approval of the attached revisions to Bulletin 137—*Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*, as emergency rule, to allow childcare center staff to use their current criminal background checks to work in centers serving children displaced by the recent storms and flooding. The policy change would allow a director or owner to affirm via affidavit that the employee received a clean background check and allows the employee to immediately meet a need for child care workers in affected areas. This policy revision will be in effect until November 30, 2016.

If approved, this waiver of BESE rules and revisions to Bulletin 137 by emergency rule will be subject to the ratification of the state board at its next regularly scheduled meeting and will be immediately communicated to impacted persons and entities as they attempt to respond to this devastating event. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

John White  
State Superintendent of Education

Approved:   
James Garvey, President  
Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: 8/26/16

**Louisiana Believes.**