

Know Before You Build Act
Based on Louisiana's HB 948 (2016)

Be it enacted by the [STATE] legislature:

(1) Each board shall adopt a policy requiring each institution under its supervision and management to develop plans for full use of existing facilities, including plans for distance learning.

(2) Each board shall adopt a policy requiring each institution under its supervision and management to annually report information on use of classroom and laboratory facilities. The report shall be submitted to the board and posted on the institution's website. Such information shall include:

(a) Total number of classrooms and laboratories available for instructional use and the number of those undergoing renovation.

(b) Total available square footage of instructional space and the amount of instructional space under renovation or being used for storage.

(c) Average weekly hours of instructional use of all campus classrooms and laboratories available for instruction, reported by day of the week and time of day, Monday through Saturday.

(d) Average percentage of seats or stations filled in all sections taught in campus classrooms and laboratories that are available for instruction, reported by day of the week and time of day, Monday through Saturday.

(e) The number of courses the institution currently offers online and plans for future development of online courses.

(f) The number of cooperative endeavors, partnerships, or other agreements the institution has entered into with another institution for the shared use of a facility, the extent to which such shared use has occurred, and any potential opportunities for shared use of facilities between institutions.

(3) Prior to the submission of any request for capital outlay funds appropriating an amount exceeding ten million dollars in state funds for construction of new facilities at an institution under its supervision and management, the board shall hold a public hearing on the proposed facility. The hearing shall include discussions of:

(a) Level and manner of use of existing campus facilities, using the metrics reported pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, for the preceding three-year period.

(b) Projected maintenance costs for the proposed building over its expected lifetime.

(c) Funding sources for the proposed building.

(d) Any potential opportunities for shared use of facilities between institutions.

(4) When submitting a request for capital outlay funds as provided in Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, the board shall include with the request a summary of the proceedings of the public hearing held pursuant to such Paragraph, and the information collected pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.