

# LFT 60-Second Issue Factory

*Lead, follow or get out of the way!*

## **“Red Tape”: This year’s most dangerous bill**

**June 1, 2010:** This week, the Senate Education Committee may hear one of the most dangerous education bills ever proposed in Louisiana, the so-called Red Tape Reduction and Local Empowerment Waiver Program.

If this bill passes, local school systems could ask the state board of education to waive virtually all of the laws and policies that govern public schools.

That includes class size, teacher tenure, student discipline, sick leave, curriculum requirements and even the salary schedules.

Like earlier top-down reform measures, it ignores and disrespects the expertise of teachers and staff. In its seven plus pages, this bill does not give teachers or support staff so much as an honorable mention.

Passage of this bill could mean vastly different learning conditions from school to school and from district to district.

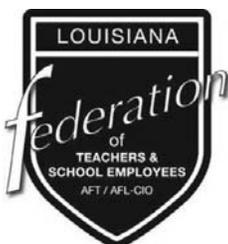
At the same time, Governor Jindal has signed a new law that standardizes teacher evaluations and makes student achievement a part of evaluation across the state.

This just doesn’t make sense. Taken together, these bills would create a public policy train wreck. Teachers would all be held to account under a single standard, but under wildly varied conditions.

Finally, senators and representatives should not hand over their legal obligations to policy boards like the state board of education. Allowing school boards to selectively ignore laws unwisely surrenders legislative authority to individuals who were not elected to be lawmakers.

Please help the LFT stop this bill in the Senate Education Committee. Visit our Web site at [la.aft.org](http://la.aft.org) to learn what you can do.

Watch LFT President Steve Monaghan's 60-Second Issue Factory at <http://la.aft.org>



# Louisiana Federation of Teachers

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