



HB 38 BY REPRESENTATIVE RICK EDMONDS

## School Board Spending Transparency

HB38 by Representative Rick Edmonds brings sunlight to local school district spending by adding many school districts to the Louisiana Fiscal Transparency Website, LouisianaCheckbook.com, and requiring other smaller entities to post enhanced transparency on their websites. It is modeled after both Louisiana Checkbook and an existing project by the Lafayette Parish School Board to post all of its spending online in real time.

### HB 38 **DOES**

- ✓ **Bring sunlight to the spending** of every school district and Local Education Association (LEA) with enrollment exceeding 2,500 students.
- ✓ **Increase transparency on every public school in Louisiana**, including public charter schools.
- ✓ Require smaller entities (those with less than 2,500 students exempted from the Louisiana Checkbook requirement) to **post enhanced financial transparency information on their websites**.
- ✓ **Receive funding** from HB1 for the state to host this information on Louisiana Checkbook.
- ✓ Garner the **support of 95% of Louisianans**, according to a recent poll.

### HB 38 **DOES NOT**

- ✗ **Exclude all charter schools except one**, as claimed by some opponents. In fact, spending information from 46 public charter schools would be included on Louisiana Checkbook, and the rest would be required to post additional financial information on their websites—the same requirement placed on smaller districts.
- ✗ **Place undue financial burden on local school boards**. At the very most, the state's estimate of cost would amount to less than 0.25% of its annual budget in the first year and around \$500 in subsequent years.
- ✗ **Represent an “unnecessary” program**. The public has overwhelmingly demanded—and the legislature has consistently enacted—greater transparency over the spending of taxpayer dollars.

