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## MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT AT WEDNESDAY NEWS CONFERENCE

Baton Rouge— On Wednesday, April 2 at 10 a.m. Louisiana State Treasurer John Fleming, M.D., and Louisiana State Senator Rick Edmonds (R-BR) will hold a news conference to unveil the Louisiana K-12 School Transparency Website. The press conference will take place at the Governor's Press Room on the 4th Floor of the Louisiana State Capitol, 900 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge.

During this news conference, State Treasurer Fleming and State Senator Edmonds will be sharing important details about this new platform and its vital role in providing transparency for Louisiana's K-12 schools.

Act 370, sponsored by State Senator Edmonds, became law on August 1, 2023. The legislation can be found **here**.

According to the enabling legislation, the project will give taxpayers "easy access to details regarding how public schools are spending public funds." This vital information "increases transparency in public school financial matters and increases community and parent involvement."

The law requires school governing authorities to provide specific financial information to the Louisiana Department of Treasury, which will be housed on the School Transparency Project portal, located on the Louisiana Department of Treasury website. This financial information contains all contracts, including the identity of the vendor and the purpose associated with each contract, detailed expenditure data about the purchase of goods and services for instruction, instructional support, legal services, audit services, general administration costs, construction, maintenance, transportation, information technology, professional services, technical services, land acquisition, supplies, and other costs.

Louisiana State Treasurer John Fleming, M.D., applauded the launch of the transparency website. He said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant to fight inefficiency. The more transparency we offer the people of Louisiana, the more efficient our state government will become, which will lead to enhanced educational outcomes for our children and better pay for teachers."

Louisiana State Senator Rick Edmonds (R-Baton Rouge) said the transparency project "marks the beginning of a new chapter in Louisiana state government and public education. Transparency and efficiency are essential to providing the best educational environment for the teachers and children of Louisiana."

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