Children are able to open savings accounts and make deposits to their accounts once a month at school. Teachers' manuals and lesson plans are being provided to help teachers incorporate fundamental monetary concepts into their planned curriculum.

On Thursday, Landrieu told the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that she expects between 30 and 50 schools to participate in the program this fall.

"Hopefully, we'll have it in every elementary school in the next few years," said Landrieu, who is planning to run for governor in 1995.

BSE member Sally Cox said the program has been received so well that "schools are waiting in line" to participate.

The program is voluntary and local banks enter into partnerships with schools to "help make this program work for the kids." Only deposits may be made at the bank. Withdrawals may be made at the bank.

Landrieu said banks are interested in participating because it offers them positive exposure while attracting new customers as well as future customers.

Landrieu said the program is a partnership with the Louisiana State Treasurer's Office, the Young Bankers Association and banks and schools around the state.

The program is being piloted in 12 schools this spring, is aimed at targeting children in the fifth and sixth grades. Children are able to open savings accounts and make deposits to their accounts once a month at school. Teachers' manuals and lesson plans are being provided to help teachers incorporate fundamental monetary concepts into their planned curriculum.

Nelda Broussard, assistant principal at J.W. Faulk Elementary, said students at her school have named the bank Viking National Bank and work in conjunction with First National Bank of Lafayette.

Broussard said officials from the local bank come twice a month to work with the students, and the 300 students in the fourth and fifth grades participating in the program have their own account books at the kindergarten-fifth grade school.

"There have not been many withdrawals," Broussard said, "and they can take their account books with them."

Two schools in Shreveport, three in Monroe and one each in New Orleans and Slidell also took part in the program. Under the program, Landrieu said, local banks enter into partnerships with schools to "help make this program work for the kids." Only deposits may be made at the bank. Withdrawals may be made at the bank.

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