

NOTICE OF INTENT
Louisiana Board of Regents
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Scholarship/Grant Programs
2025 Legislation: TOPS

(LAC 28:IV.509, 703, 705, 803, 805, 2103, and adds Chapter 24)

The Louisiana Board of Regents announces its intention to amend its Scholarship/Grant rules (LSA-R.S. 17:3021-3025, LSA-R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, LSA-R.S. 17:3042.1, LSA-R.S. 17:3048.1, LSA-R.S. 17:3048.5 and LSA-R.S. 17:3048.6).

This rulemaking implements Acts 152, 347, 268, and 359 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature with respect to TOPS program and adds core equivalents. (SG26224NI)

TITLE 28

EDUCATION

Part IV. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education Scholarship and Grant Programs

Chapter 3. Definitions

§301. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa. The term “the board” refers to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Award Amount—

a. through the 2015-2016 academic year (college), an amount equal to tuition at the school attended, for those students attending a Louisiana public college or university, as determined by the board, which may be used by the student to pay any educational expense included in that student's “cost of attendance.” The amount paid for TOPS and TOPS-Tech Awards shall be as follows:

i. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending a Louisiana public college or university and enrolled in an academic degree program, the amount shall equal the actual cost of tuition;

ii. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending an institutionally accredited independent college or university in Louisiana that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or an out-of-state college or university if all of the conditions of §703.I are met and enrolled in an academic degree program, the amount shall

equal the weighted average award amount;

iii. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending a Louisiana public college or university and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the actual cost of tuition;

iv. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending an institutionally accredited independent college or university in Louisiana that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or who attend an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the average award amount (TOPS-Tech);

v. for students with the TOPS-Tech Award attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the actual cost of tuition;

vi. for students with a TOPS-Tech Award attending an eligible college or university that offers an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the average award amount (TOPS-Tech);

vii. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award enrolled in a Louisiana professional school, the amount shall be equal to the tuition charged or the tuition charged a student pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the highest cost public school, whichever is less or the weighted average award amount, depending upon whether the Louisiana professional school is a public or private school;

viii. for students with the TOPS Opportunity,

Performance and Honors Award enrolled in a Louisiana graduate degree program, the amount shall be equal to the tuition or the tuition charged for a student while pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the highest cost public school in the state, whichever is less;

b. beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year (college), the award amount determined by the board in accordance with Subparagraph a.i-viii above during the 2016- 2017 academic year (college), plus any increase in the award amount specifically authorized by the Louisiana Legislature.

c. beginning with graduates of the 2024-2025 academic year (high school) who enter college in the 2025-2026 academic year and later, the TOPS Excellence Award amount shall be:

i. at a public college or university, the actual tuition and fees charged by the public college or university as reported to the Board of Regents in the annual mandatory tuition and fee survey, or twelve thousand dollars, whichever is less;

ii. at an independent college or university which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the actual tuition and fees charged by the independent college or university or eight thousand five hundred dollars, whichever is less.

First-Time Student—

a. for students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), a student who is awarded TOPS-Tech and enrolls for the first time, full-time in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree to pursue a skill, occupational training, or technical training subsequent to high school graduation, and is enrolled full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day or later (ninth class day or later for quarter schools). The fact that a student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award enrolls in an academic program at a post-secondary school prior or subsequent to graduation from high school, but prior to the required date for full-time enrollment in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree, shall not preclude the student from being a first-time student;

b. for students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school) or later through the 2023-2024 academic year (high school), a student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award and enrolls for the first time, full-time in an eligible college or university in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the board and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council and is enrolled full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day or later (ninth class day or later for quarter schools).

c. for students graduating in the 2024-2025 academic

year (high school) or later, a student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award and enrolls for the first time as a full-time student in an eligible college or university in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the M.J. Foster Promise Advisory Council and is enrolled full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day or later (ninth class day or later for quarter schools).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:256 (February 1999), LR 25:654 (April 1999), LR 25:1458 and 1460 (August 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:65 (January 2000), LR 26:688 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1601 (August 2000), LR 26:1993, 1999 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2752 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:284 (March 2001), LR 27:1219 (August 2001), LR 27:1840 (November 2001), LR 27:1875 (November 2001), LR 28:45 (January 2002), LR 28:446 (March 2002), LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2331 (November 2002), LR 29:555 (April 2003), LR 29:879 (June 2003), LR 30:1159 (June 2004), LR 30:2015 (September 2004), LR 31:36 (January 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 33:86 (January 2007), LR 33:439 (March 2007), LR 33:1339 (July 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:234 (February 2008), LR 34:1388 (July 2008), LR 34:1884 (September 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 36:311 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010), LR 36:2854 (December 2010), LR 37:1561 (June 2011), LR 37:1562 (June 2011), LR 38:1953 (August 2012), LR 38:3156 (December 2012), LR 39:308 (February 2013), LR 40:53 (January 2014), LR 40:281 (February 2014), LR 41:649, 658 (April 2015), LR 41:2595 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 42:1880 (November 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:486 (March 2018), LR 45:1172 (September 2019), LR 48:479 (March 2022), LR 50:185 (February 2024), LR 51:63 (January 2025).

Chapter 5. Applications, Federal Grant Aid and ACT Test

§501 Initial Application

A.- B.4....

~~5. In the event of a budgetary shortfall, applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards and TOPS Tech Awards who submit the on-line application in lieu of the FAFSA or who do not complete all sections of the FAFSA will be the first denied a TOPS Award. Repealed.~~

C.- C.2.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:635 (April 1998), LR 24:1900 (October 1998), amended LR 26:1994 (September 2000),

repromulgated LR 27:1846 (November 2001), amended LR 29:554 (April 2003), LR 30:2015 (September 2004), LR 31:36 (January 2005), LR 31:1060 (May 2005), LR 41:659 (April 2015), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:494 (March 2018); repealed LR 51:

§502. Consent Required to Process Applications and Deadlines

A.-C.4.....

D. Submission of one of the following constitutes consent for LOSFA to collect, maintain, and use the PII included in the submission for the purposes of determining eligibility for financial aid:

1. free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) naming LOSFA as a recipient;
2. ACT score naming LOSFA as a recipient;
3. ACT WorkKeys score naming LOSFA as a recipient;
4. SAT score naming LOSFA as a recipient;
5. Classic Learning Test (CLT) score naming LOSFA as a recipient for 2024-2025 high school graduates and later;

§6. TOPS on-line application.

E. The required information for consideration for initial eligibility for a TOPS Award, includes, but is not limited to, all the following student information:

1. full name;
2. date of birth;
3. Social Security number;
4. student high school transcript data, including but not limited to:
 - a. month and year of high school graduation;
 - b. the course code for each course completed;
 - c. the grade for each course completed;
 - d. the term and year each course is completed;
 - e. designation of each advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, honors, gifted and talented, articulated course for college credit, and dual enrollment course;
 - f. the grading scale for each course reported; and
 - g. the high school attended for each course reported;
5. ACT, ACT WorkKeys, ~~and/or~~ SAT scores, and/or for 2024-2025 high school graduates and later, CLT scores;
6. FAFSA data;
7. college transcript data as set forth in §1903.

F.– G.3. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.

17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 41:650 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:495 (March 2018).

§505. Application Deadlines for High School Graduates and Home Study Completers of 2004 and Later and Eligible Non-Graduates

A.1.-A.2. ...

3. ~~In the event of a budgetary shortfall, applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards and TOPS Tech Awards who submit the on-line application or who do not complete all sections of the FAFSA will be the first denied a TOPS Award~~Repealed.

B. – G. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:635 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1901 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1847 (November 2001), amended LR 30:2017 (September 2004), LR 31:37 (January 2005), LR 32:2238 (December 2006), LR 33:83 (January 2007), LR 33:2357 (November 2007), LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 37:588 (February 2011), LR 41:660 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:497 (March 2018); ~~repealed~~ LR 51:

§509. ACT Testing Deadline

A.1.-A.5.c.iii.

B.1. The student may substitute an equivalent score, as determined by the comparison tables used by the board, on an equivalent SAT taken on or before the official April test date in the academic year (high school) in which the student graduates. In order to substitute a SAT score, the student must direct the college board to send the score to LOSFA so that the score is electronically reported to LOSFA by the college board within 45 days of the final test date allowed by §509. SAT scores received in any other manner shall not be considered.

2. An eligible non-graduate may substitute an equivalent score, as determined by the comparison tables used by the board, on an equivalent SAT taken before the first day of the semester the student first enrolls in an eligible college or university. In order to substitute an SAT score, the student must direct the college board to send the score to LOSFA so that the score is electronically reported to LOSFA by the college board within 45 days of the final test date allowed by §509. SAT scores received in any other manner shall not be considered.

3. Beginning with high school graduates and home study completers of 2024-2025, a student may substitute an equivalent score on the Classic Learning Test (CLT), as determined by the comparison table developed by the Board of Regents, taken on or before the official April test date in the

academic year (high school) in which the student graduates. In order to substitute a CLT score, the student must direct that the score be electronically reported to LOSFA by Classic Learning Test within 45 days of the final test date allowed by §509. CLT scores received in any other manner shall not be considered. All deadlines provided in this Chapter with respect to the ACT and the SAT shall apply to the CLT.

C. – E. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 26:1995 (September 2000), amended LR 26:2000 (September 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:284 (March 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1847 (November 2001), amended LR 30:1161 (June 2004), LR 31:37 (January 2005), LR 38:3157 (December 2012), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:503 (March 2018), LR 44:1869 (October 2018), LR 47:38 (January 2021), LR 47:863 (July 2021), LR 48:481 (March 2022), LR 49:45 (January 2023).

Chapter 7. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, ~~and Honors~~, and Excellence Awards

§701. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. Awards under the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), the Opportunity, Performance, ~~and Honors~~, and Excellence Awards, are established as set forth in R.S. 17:5001 et seq., as amended.

B. Description, History and Purpose. The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a comprehensive, merit-based student aid program consisting of a series of components, with each component having its own eligibility criteria and titled award. The purpose of TOPS is to provide an incentive for Louisiana residents to academically prepare for and pursue post-secondary education in this state, resulting in an educated work force enabling Louisiana to prosper in the global market of the future. The major components of TOPS are the Opportunity Award, the Performance Award, ~~and the Honors Award~~, and the Excellence Award.

C. The Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards, which will be funded for the 1998-99 academic year, combine former programs [Louisiana Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) and the Louisiana Honors Scholarship Program] with a new component, the Honors Award, to produce a comprehensive program of state scholarships. Beginning with high school graduates of the 2024-2025 academic year (high school), the Excellence Award is established and funded.

D. The purposes of this program are to:

1. financially assist those students who are academically prepared to continue their education at a Louisiana post-secondary institution; and

2. encourage academic excellence; and

3. provide incentives for Louisiana high school graduates to pursue post-secondary education in this state.

E. Award Amounts. The specific award amounts for each component of TOPS are as follows:

1.a. The TOPS Opportunity Award provides an award amount as defined in §301 for full-time attendance at an eligible college or university for a period not to exceed eight semesters, including qualified summer sessions, 12 quarters, including qualified summer sessions, or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters, except as provided by R.S. 17:5002, or LAC 28:IV.503.D, 509.C, or 701.E.1.b. Attending a qualified summer session for which a TOPS Award is paid will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS.

b. The semester or term count for a student shall not be increased for any semester or term a student is unable to complete because of orders to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, whether or not a full refund for the TOPS payment for that semester or term is received by LOSFA.

2.a. The TOPS Performance Award provides a \$400 annual stipend, prorated by two semesters, three quarters, or equivalent units in each academic year (TOPS), in addition to an award amount as defined in §301 for full-time attendance at an eligible college or university, for a period not to exceed eight semesters, including qualified summer sessions, 12 quarters, including qualified summer sessions, or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters, except as provided by R.S. 17:5002, or LAC 28:IV.503.D, 509.C, or 701.E.2.b. If a student attends an eligible summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit and requests that their TOPS Award be paid for that session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit, the stipend will also be paid since payment of a TOPS Award for a summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS.

b. The semester or term count for a student shall not be increased for any semester or term a student is unable to complete because of orders to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, whether or not a full refund for the TOPS payment for that semester or term is received by LOSFA, provided that any amount of a stipend paid and not refunded shall be counted toward the total stipends allowed by law.

3.a. The TOPS Honors Award provides an \$800 annual stipend, prorated by two semesters, three quarters, or equivalent units in each academic year (TOPS), in addition to an award amount as defined in §301 for full-time attendance at an eligible college or university, for a period not to exceed eight semesters, including qualified

summer sessions, 12 quarters, including qualified summer sessions, or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters, except as provided by R.S. 17:5002, or LAC 28:IV.503.D, 509.C or 701.E.3.b. If a student attends an eligible summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit and requests that their TOPS Award be paid for that session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit, the stipend will also be paid since payment of a TOPS Award for a summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS.

b. The semester or term count for a student shall not be increased for any semester or term a student is unable to complete because of orders to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, whether or not a full refund for the TOPS payment for that semester or term is received by LOSFA, provided that any amount of a stipend paid and not refunded shall be counted toward the total stipends allowed by law.

4.a. Beginning with high school graduates of 2024-2025, the Excellence Award is established. At a public college or university, the Excellence Award shall be an amount reported in the Board of Regents mandatory tuition and fees survey equal to the annual resident tuition and fees charged by the college or university or \$12,000, whichever is less. At an independent college or university that is a member of LAICU, the Excellence Award shall be an amount as reported in the Board of Regents mandatory tuition and fees survey to equal the annual resident tuition and fees charged by the independent college or university or \$8,500, whichever is less. The award shall be paid for full-time attendance at an eligible college or university, for a period not to exceed eight semesters, including qualified summer sessions, 12 quarters, including qualified summer sessions, or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters, except as provided by R.S. 17:5002, or LAC 28:IV.503.D, 509.C, or 701.E.2.b. If a student attends an eligible summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit and requests that their TOPS Award be paid for that session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit, the payment for that summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS.

b. The semester or term count for a student shall not be increased for any semester or term a student is unable to complete because of orders to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, whether or not a full refund for the TOPS payment for that semester or term is received by LOSFA.

c. A student who attends an eligible college or university other than a Louisiana public college or university or an independent college or university that is a member of LAICU will receive the TOPS Honors Award amount, including the applicable stipend.

45.a. Through the 2009-2010 academic year

(college), in lieu of the amount equal to tuition as provided by LAC 28:IV.701.E.1-3, students participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein, plus any applicable TOPS stipend and a sum of not more than \$150 per semester or \$300 annually for the actual cost of books and other instructional materials.

b. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year (College), in lieu of the amount equal to tuition as provided by LAC 28:IV.701.E.1-3, students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein, plus a sum of \$300 per semester or \$600 per academic year to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials. In addition, those students with the Performance Award shall receive \$400 per semester or \$800 per academic year for other educational expenses; ~~and~~ those students with the Honors Award shall receive \$800 per semester or \$1,600 per academic year for other educational expenses; and those students with the Excellence Award shall receive \$1000 per semester or \$2000 per academic year for other educational expenses. If a student attends an eligible summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit and requests that their TOPS Award be paid for that session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit in accordance with this Paragraph, the amounts stipulated herein will also be paid since payment of a TOPS Award for a summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit will count toward the eight-semester limit for TOPS.

56. Students attending an institutionally accredited independent college or university which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU):

a. in an academic program receive an amount equal to the weighted average award amount, as defined in §301, plus any applicable stipend, prorated by two semesters, three quarters, or equivalent units in each academic year (college). The stipend will be paid for each qualified summer session, semester, quarter, or equivalent unit for which a TOPS Award is paid. Attending a qualified summer session for which a TOPS Award is paid will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS;

b. in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree receive an amount equal to the average award amount (TOPS-Tech), as defined in §301, plus any applicable stipend, prorated by two semesters, three quarters, or equivalent units in each academic year (TOPS). The stipend will be paid for each qualified summer session, semester, quarter, term or equivalent unit for which a TOPS Award is paid. Attending a qualified summer session for which a TOPS Award is paid will count toward the eight- semester limit for TOPS.

7. Recipients of TOPS Awards who are also

beneficiaries of Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) Saving Program accounts, may apply the START disbursements to pay tuition, and any remaining tuition due may be paid by the TOPS Award. Any balance of the TOPS Award which remains after payment of the institution's charges, shall be credited to the student's account and treated in accordance with institutional policies. In the event the student's total aid, including vocational rehabilitation awards, exceeds the cost of attendance, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the TOPS Award shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

8. Students funded under the Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) or the Louisiana Honors Scholarship during the 1997-98 award year, who have maintained eligibility for the 1998-99 award, shall be continued as TOPS opportunity or performance recipients, respectively.

9. Students funded under the Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) or the Louisiana Honors Scholarship Program during the 1997-98 award year, who lost eligibility due to their failure to maintain the required grade point average, shall be continued as TOPS Opportunity or Performance recipients, respectively, however, their eligibility for an award shall be suspended pending their satisfaction of the continuation requirements of §705.A.7 and 8. If a student satisfies the applicable requirements of §705.A.7 and 8 no later than the end of the 2000 spring semester, he/she shall be eligible for reinstatement of the award in accordance with §705.B, for the semester following the satisfaction of the requirements of §705.A.7 and 8.

910. Prior recipients of the Louisiana Honors Scholarship who attend a campus of the Louisiana Technical College may continue to attend that institution as a recipient of the TOPS Performance Award.

~~1011.~~ Award amounts shall be credited to a student's account with the institution and shall be used consistent with the institution's policy, and as directed by the student, to pay for those educational expenses included in the cost of attendance.

~~112.~~ Students enrolled and attending more than one college or university at the same time shall be awarded as follows:

a. students attending two or more Louisiana public two- or four-year colleges or universities shall receive a total amount not to exceed the amount that would be charged to the student by the school with the highest award amount, as defined in §301, among those at which the student is simultaneously enrolled;

b. students attending two or more institutionally-accredited independent colleges or universities which are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) shall receive a total amount not to exceed the weighted average highest award amount paid at those schools at which the student is

simultaneously enrolled, as defined in §301;

c. students attending a combination of Louisiana public two- or four-year colleges or universities and institutionally accredited independent colleges or universities which are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) in an academic program shall receive a total amount not to exceed the amount that would be paid at the public school with the highest award amount paid at those schools at which the student is simultaneously enrolled or the weighted average award amount for the enrolled LAICU school, whichever amount is greater.

13. Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year (College), a student who receives the tuition waiver provided by R.S. 17:1688 for disabled veterans shall receive the tuition exemption provided in that Section in lieu of a TOPS Award.

F. – G.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1645-1648 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:635 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1901 (October 1998), LR 25: 256 (February 1999), LR 26:67 (January 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1995 (September 2000), LR 26:2000 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1848 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:2331 (November 2002), LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 29:2372 (November 2003), LR 30:1161 (June 2004), LR 31:2213 (September 2005), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 36:2854 (December 2010), LR 40:1002 (May 2014), LR 41:663 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 42:1881 (November 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:504 (March 2018), LR 48:483 (March 2022), LR 50:187 (February 2024).

§703. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance, ~~or~~ Honors, or Excellence Award, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

A.1.a. – A.5.g.viii. ...

6. have achieved an ACT score, as defined in §301 of at least:

a. if qualifying under the terms of §703.A.5.a, b, or g:

i. the state's reported prior year ACT composite average, truncated to a whole number, but never less than 20 for the Opportunity Award; or

ii. a 23 for the Performance Award; or

iii. a 27 for the Honors Award; or

~~iii-iv.~~ a 31 for the Excellence Award; or

b. if qualifying under §703.A.5.c:

i. is a *Louisiana resident*, except as defined in Subparagraph h of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §301:

(a). the state's reported prior year average truncated to a whole number plus 3 points, but never less than 23 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 26 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 30 for the Honors Award; ~~and~~ or

~~(e)-(d).~~ a 34 for the Excellence Award; and

ii. is a Louisiana resident as defined in Subparagraph h of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §301:

(a). the state's reported prior year average truncated to a whole number plus 2 points, but never less than 22 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 25 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 29 for the Honors Award; and

c.i. if completed the 12th grade level of an approved home study program during or before the academic year (high school) 2003-2004 and qualifying under §703.A.5.d;

(a). the state's reported prior year average truncated to a whole number plus 3 points, but never less than 23 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 26 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 30 for the Honors Award; and

ii. if completed the 12th grade level of an approved home study program during or after academic year (high school) 2004-2005 and through academic year (high school) 2006-2007 and qualifying under §703.A.5.d;

(a). the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number plus 2 points, but never less than 22 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 25 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 29 for the Honors Award; and

iii. if completed the 12th grade level of an approved home study program during or after the academic year (high school) 2007-2008 ~~and~~ ~~at~~ through the 2023-2024 academic year (high school) ~~f, t, e, r,~~ and qualifying under §703.A.5.d;

(a). the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number, plus 2 points, but never less than 22 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 24 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 28 for the Honors Award; ~~and~~ or

iv. if completed the 12th grade level of an approved home study program during or after academic year (high school) 2024-2025 and thereafter and qualifying under §703.A.5.d;

(a). the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number, but never less than 20 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 23 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 27 for the Honors Award; or

(d). a 31 for the Excellence Award; and

d.i. if qualifying under §703.A.5.e by graduating from a high school defined in §1701.A.5; which is limited to the Opportunity Award only; the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number, plus 3 points, but never less than 23;

ii. if qualifying under §703.A.5.e by successfully completing the 12th grade level in a home study program approved by BESE and conducted outside the United States and its territories during or before the academic year (high school) 2003-2004 or during or after the academic year (high school) 2008-2009; which is limited to the Opportunity Award only; the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number, plus 3 points, but never less than 23;

iii. if qualifying under §703.A.5.e by successfully completing the 12th grade level in a home study program approved by BESE and conducted outside the United States and its territories during or after the academic year (high school) 2004-2005 and through the academic year (high school) ~~2007-2008~~ 2023-2024; which is limited to the Opportunity Award only; the state's reported prior year average plus 2 points, rounded, but never less than 22;

iii-iv. if qualifying under §703.A.5.e by successfully completing the 12th grade level in a home study program approved by BESE and conducted outside the United States and its territories during or after the academic year (high school) 2024-2025; which is limited to the Opportunity Award only, a 20;

e. if qualifying under §703.A.5.f; which is limited to the Performance Award only; a 24; and

7. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations, and if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions; and

B. Students qualifying:

1. under §703.A.5.a and b during or before academic year (high school) 2006-2007, must have attained a cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least:

a. a 2.50 for the Opportunity Award; or

b. a 3.50 for the Performance or Honors Awards;

2. under §703.A.5.a and b during or after academic year (high school) 2007-2008, must have attained a cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least:

- a. a 2.50 for the Opportunity Award; or
- b. a 3.00 for the Performance or Honors Awards;

3. under §703.A.5.a and b in academic year (high school) 2021-2022 through the 2023-2024 academic year (high school) must have attained a TOPS cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least:

- a. a 2.50 for the Opportunity Award; or
- b. a 3.25 for the Performance Award; or
- c. a 3.50 for the Honors Award;

4. under §703.A.5.a and b in academic year (high school) 2024-2025 must have attained a TOPS cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least:

- a. a 2.50 for the Opportunity Award; or
- b. a 3.25 for the Performance Award; or
- c. a 3.50 for the Honors Award; or
- d. a 3.50 for the Excellence Award;

4.5. under §703.A.5.f and graduating in academic year (high school) 2000-2001 through 2005-2006, must have attained a TOPS cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least a 3.00 for the Performance Award.

C. – M.2.b. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:636 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1902 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:257 (February 1999), LR 25:655 (April 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:64, 67 (January 2000), LR 26:689 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1996, 1999, 2001 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2753 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:702 (May 2001), LR 27:1219, 1219 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1850 (November 2001), amended LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2332 (November 2002), LR 29:125 (February 2003), LR 29:2372 (November 2003), LR 30:1162 (June 2004), LR 30:1471 (July 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:37 (January 2005), LR 31:2213 (September 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 32:2239 (December 2006), LR 33:435 (March 2007), LR 33:2357 (November 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:1389 (July 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 36:312 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010), LR 36:2269 (October 2010), LR 36:2855 (December 2010), LR 37:2987 (October 2011), LR 38:354 (February 2012), LR 38:3158 (December 2012), LR 39:481 (March 2013), LR 39:2485 (September 2013), LR 40:54 (January 2014), LR 41:373 (February

2015), LR 41:651, 664 (April 2015), LR 41:1486 (August 2015), LR 41:2596, 2599 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 42:1657 (October 2016), LR 42:1882 (November 2016), LR 43:518 (March 2017), LR 43:1346 (July 2017), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:506 (March 2018), LR 44:1004 (June 2018), LR 44:1870 (October 2018), LR 46:326 (March 2020), LR 47:39 (January 2021), amended LR 47:861 (July 2021), LR 47:864 (July 2021), amended LR 47:868 (July 2021), LR 48:484 (March 2022), LR 48:1761 (July 2022), LR 48:2732 (November 2022), LR 49:46 (January 2023), LR 50:187 (February 2024).

§704. Opportunity, Performance, ~~and Honors,~~ and Excellence Award Core Curriculum and Equivalents

A.1. – 10. ...

11. Beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) ~~2028-2029~~2030-2031, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 20 units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Department of Education as follows.

Units	Course
English - 4 Units	
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature and Performance)
1	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature and Performance)
Math - 4 Units	
1	Algebra I
1	Geometry
1	Algebra II
1	One unit from: Algebra III; Advanced Math- Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math- Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL; Computer Science
Science - 4 Units	
1	Biology I
1	Chemistry I
2	Two units from: Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II or AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II or AP Biology or IB Biology II; Computer Science
Social Studies – 4 Units	
1	U.S. History or AP U.S. History or IB U.S. History
1	Civics, Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States

2	Two units from: Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics; African American History.
Foreign Language – 2 Units Or Computer Science- 2 Units	
2	Foreign Language, two units in the same language, which may include: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB. Or Computer Science, two units, which may include: AP Computer Science A;
Art – 1 Unit	
1	One unit of Art from: Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Arts I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; Theatre I IB; or Drafting
1	Financial Literacy
Computer Science – 1 Unit	
The requirement shall be satisfied as a math elective, as a science elective, or as a foreign language.	

B.1. – 6. ...

7. For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2028-2029 and after, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a above, or §803.A.6.a, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

TOPS Core Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
<u>Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II</u>	<u>Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III</u>
<u>Algebra III</u>	<u>Additional Math: Cambridge IGCSE</u>

<u>Algebra III;</u> <u>Advanced Math- Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL);</u> <u>Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL);</u> <u>AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics;</u> <u>IB Further Mathematics HL;</u> <u>IB Mathematics HL</u>	<u>AP Computer Science A</u>
<u>Arabic</u>	<u>Arabic: Cambridge AICE-AS</u>
<u>Art</u>	<u>Media Arts I-IV; Photography I, Photography II, and Digital Photography; Digital Image and Motion Graphics; Digital Storytelling;</u> <u>Engineering Design and Development; Sound Design;</u> <u>Creative Writing</u>
<u>Biology II</u>	<u>Human Anatomy and Physiology;</u> <u>Microbiology</u>
<u>IB Biology II</u>	<u>Biology II, Cambridge AICE-AS</u>
<u>Calculus I</u>	<u>Math 2 (Part 1): Cambridge AICE – A Level</u>
<u>Calculus II</u>	<u>Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE- A Level</u>
<u>Chemistry II</u>	<u>Organic Chemistry I</u>
<u>IB Chemistry II</u>	<u>Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE – AS</u>
<u>Chinese</u>	<u>Chinese: Cambridge AICE-AS</u>
<u>Computer Science</u>	<u>Computer Science</u> <u>Computer Coding as a Foreign Language I</u> <u>Computer Coding as a Foreign Language II</u>
<u>Economics</u>	<u>Cambridge AICE-AS</u>
<u>English I</u>	<u>English Language Part 1;</u> <u>Cambridge IGCSE</u> <u>English Literature Part 1;</u> <u>Cambridge IGCSE</u>
<u>English II</u>	<u>English Language Part 2;</u> <u>Cambridge IGCSE</u> <u>English Literature Part 2;</u> <u>Cambridge IGCSE</u>
<u>English III</u>	<u>English Language Part 1;</u> <u>Cambridge AICE-AS</u> <u>Literature in English Part 1;</u> <u>Cambridge AICE-AS</u>
<u>English IV</u>	<u>English Language Part 2;</u> <u>Cambridge AICE-AS</u> <u>Literature in English Part 2;</u> <u>Cambridge AICE-AS</u>
<u>Environmental Science</u>	<u>Environmental Awareness</u>
<u>European History</u>	<u>History European: Cambridge AICE- AS</u>
<u>Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may include:</u>	

AP Chinese Language and Culture , AP French Language and Culture , AP German Language and Culture , AP Italian Language and Culture , AP Japanese Language and Culture , AP Latin , AP Spanish Language and Culture , French IV IB, French V IB , Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB	Mandarin Chinese I, II, III, IV Hindi I, II, III, IV Portuguese I, II, III, IV Vietnamese I, II, III, IV Indigenous Language I Indigenous Language II ; Tagalog I, II, III, IV ; Turkish I, II, III, IV ; Urdu I, II, III, IV ; West Germanic Languages (Dutch) I, II, III, IV
French	French: Cambridge AICE-AS
German	German: Cambridge AICE-AS
Japanese	Japanese: Cambridge AICE-AS
Physical Science	Principles of Engineering PLTW Principles of Engineering
Physics I	Physics I: Cambridge IGCSE
IB Physics II	Physics II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Pre-Calculus	Math I (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE-AS
Probability and Statistics	Statistical Reasoning Math I (Probability and Statistics): Cambridge AICE
Spanish	Spanish: Cambridge AICE-AS
Spanish IV	Spanish Literature: Cambridge ACE
Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics Economics, AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	AP Psychology IB Psychology
World Geography	Physical Geography Geography: Cambridge AICE-AS
World History	History International: Cambridge AICE-AS
Any listed core course or its equivalent	Any core curriculum course taken by a student who has been deemed to be gifted and talented pursuant to R.S. 17:1941 et. seq. as implemented in State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy and in fulfillment of the student's Individualized Education Program shall be considered a gifted and talented course and shall fulfill the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

C.- C.3.e. ...

4. For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2028-2029 and after:

a. Advanced Placement Courses

TOPS Core Course	Advanced Placement
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Art	AP Art History AP Studio Art: 2-D Design AP Studio Art: 3-D Design AP Studio Art: Drawing
AP Computer Science A	AP Computer Science A
Biology II	AP Biology
Calculus	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC
Algebra III; Advanced Math- Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL	AP Computer Science A AP Pre-Calculus
Chemistry II	AP Chemistry
Chinese	AP Chinese Language and Culture
Economics	AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics
English III	AP English Language and Composition
English IV	AP English Literature and Composition
Environmental Science	AP Environmental Science
European History	AP European History
Fine Arts Survey	AP Music Theory
French	AP French Language and Culture
German	AP German Language and Culture
Italian	AP Italian Language and Culture
Japanese	AP Japanese Language and Culture
Latin	AP Latin
Physics I	AP Physics I: Algebra Based AP Physics II: Algebra Based AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism AP Physics C: Mechanics
Probability and Statistics	AP Statistics
Spanish	AP Spanish Language and Culture
US Government or Civics	AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
US History	AP U.S. History
Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics Economics, AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	AP Psychology
World Geography	AP Human Geography
World History	AP World History

b. International Baccalaureate® Courses

TOPS Core Course	International Baccalaureate
Advanced Math–Pre Calculus	IB Math Studies (Math Methods)
Arabic	IB Language ab initio: Arabic IB Language B: Arabic
Art	IB Visual Arts
Biology II	IB Biology I IB Biology II
Calculus	IB Mathematics SL IB Mathematics HL
Chemistry II	IB Chemistry I IB Chemistry II
Chinese	IB Language ab initio: Chinese IB Language B: Chinese
Economics	IB Economics
English III	IB Literature IB Language and Literature IB Literature and Performance
English IV	IB Literature IB Language and Literature IB Literature and Performance
Environmental Science	IB Environmental Systems
French	IB Language ab initio: French IB Language B: French
German	IB Language ab initio: German IB Language B: German
Italian	IB Language ab initio: Italian IB Language B: Italian
Japanese	IB Language ab initio: Japanese IB Language B: Japanese
Latin	IB Classical Language
Music (Performance)	IB Music
Physics I	IB Physics I IB Physics II
Pre-Calculus	IB Math Studies (Math Methods)
Spanish	IB Language ab initio: Spanish IB Language B: Spanish
Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics Economics, AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	IB Psychology
Theatre (Performance)	IB Film Study IB Theatre IB Dance
US History	IB History of the Americas I
World Geography	IB Geography
World History	IB History of the Americas II

c. Gifted and Talented Courses

TOPS Core Course	Gifted and Talented
Art	Art History Talented Visual Arts I Talented Visual Arts II Talented Visual Arts III Talented Visual Arts IV
Biology II	Biology II

Calculus	Calculus I Calculus II
Chemistry I	Chemistry I
Chemistry II	Chemistry II
Chinese	Chinese III Chinese IV
Economics	Economics
English III	English III
English IV	English IV
Environmental Science	Environmental Science
European History	European History
French	French III French IV
German	German III German IV
Italian	Italian III Italian IV
Japanese	Japanese III Japanese IV
Latin	Latin III Latin IV
Music (Performance)	Talented Music I, II, III, IV Small Voice Ensemble II Choir: Intermediate Choir: Advanced Orchestra: Intermediate Orchestra: Advanced
Physics I	Physics
Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus
Spanish	Spanish III Spanish IV
Theatre (Performance)	Introduction to Film Studies Talented Theater I, II, III, IV
US Government or Civics	Government
US History	U.S. History
World Geography	World/Human Geography

d. Dual Enrollment Courses

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
Advanced Math–Pre Calculus	Trigonometry	CMAT 1223
Advanced Math-Functions and Statistics	Introductory Statistics	CMAT 1303
Algebra III	College Algebra	CMAT 1213

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
Arabic	Elementary Arabic I Elementary Arabic II	CARB 1013/1014 CARB 1023/1024
Art	Art History I or II Art Structure/2-D Design Beginning Drawing	CART 2103/2113 CART 1113 CART 2203
Biology I	General Biology I General Biology I (Science Majors)	CBIO 1013 CBIO 1033
Biology II	General Biology I General Biology I (Science Majors) General Biology II General Biology II (Science Majors) Human Anatomy & Physiology I Human Anatomy & Physiology I (Lec/Lab) Human Anatomy & Physiology II Human Anatomy & Physiology II (Lec/Lab)	CBIO 1013 CBIO 1033 CBIO 1023 CBIO 1043 CBIO 2213 CBIO 2214 CBIO 2223 CBIO 2224
Calculus	Applied Calculus Calculus I Calculus II Differential Calculus I Integral Calculus I	CMAT 2103 CMAT 2113-5 CMAT 2123-5 CMAT 2113 CMAT 2116
Chemistry I	General Chemistry Survey I Chemistry I Chemistry I (Science Majors)	CCEM 1013 CCEM 1103 CCEM 1123
Chemistry II	General, Organic and Biochemistry General Chemistry Survey I Chemistry I Chemistry I (Science Majors) Chemistry II Chemistry II (Science Majors)	CCEM 1003 CCEM 1013 CCEM 1103 CCEM 1123 CCEM 1113 CCEM 1133
Earth Science	Physical Geology Historical Geology	CGEO 1103 CGEO 1113
Economics	Economic Principles Macroeconomics Microeconomics	CECN 2113 CECN 2213 CECN 2223
English III	English Composition I English Composition II American Literature I American Literature II Major American Writers	CENL 1013 CENL 1023 CENL 2153 CENL 2163 CENL 2173
English IV	English Composition I English Composition II British Literature I British Literature II Major British Writers World Literature I World Literature II Major World Writers Introduction to Fiction Introduction to Literature Introduction to Poetry and/or Drama Introduction to African American Literature	CENL 1013 CENL 1023 CENL 2103 CENL 2113 CENL 2123 CENL 2203 CENL 2213 CENL 2223 CENL 2303 CENL 2323 CENL 2313 CENL2403
Environmental Science	Environmental Science	CEVS 1103
Fine Arts Survey	Exploring the Arts Introduction to Visual Arts Dance Appreciation Music Appreciation	CART 1013 CART 1023 CDNC 1013 CMUS 1013
French	Elementary French I Elementary French II Intermediate French I Intermediate French II	CFRN 1013/1014 CFRN 1023/1024 CFRN 2013/2014 CFRN 2023

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
German	Elementary German I Elementary German II Intermediate German I Intermediate German II	CGRM 1013/1014 CGRM 1023/1024 CGRM 2013 CGRM 2023
History Of Religion	World Religions	CPHL 2213
Latin	Elementary Latin I Elementary Latin II Intermediate Latin I Intermediate Latin II	CLTN 1013/1014 CLTN 1023/1024 CLTN 2013 CLTN 2023
Physical Science	Physical Science I	CPHY 1023
Physics I	Physics I (Algebra/Trigonometry Based) Physics I (Lecture and Lab) Physics I (Calculus Based)	CPHY 2113 CPHY 2114 CPHY 2133
Pre-Calculus	Algebra and Trigonometry	CMAT 1233
Probability and Statistics	Introductory Statistics	CMAT 1303
Spanish	Elementary Spanish I Elementary Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I Intermediate Spanish II	CSPN 1013/1014 CSPN 1023/1024 CSPN 2013/2014 CSPN 2023
Theatre (Performance)	Acting I or II Introduction to Theatre	CTHE 2103/2113 CTHE 1013
US Government or Civics	Introduction to American Government Introduction to State and Local Government Introduction to Comparative Government	CPOL 2013 CPOL 2113 CPOL 2213
US History	American History I or II	CHIS 2013/2023
Western Civilization	Western Civilization I or II	CHIS 1013/1023
Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics Economics, AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	Introduction to Psychology	CPSY2013
World Geography	World Regional Geography	CGRG 2113
World History	World Civilization I or II	CHIS 1113/1123

e. Honors Courses

TOPS Core Course	Honors
Arabic	Arabic: Cambridge AICE-AS
Biology II	Biology II: Honors
IB Biology II	Biology II: Cambridge AICE-AS

TOPS Core Course	Honors
Calculus I	Calculus: Honors Math 2 (Part 1): Cambridge AICE-A Level
Calculus II	Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE – A Level
Chemistry I	Chemistry I: Honors
Chemistry II	Chemistry II: Honors
IB Chemistry II	Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Chinese	Chinese: Cambridge AICE-AS
Economics	Economics: Cambridge AICE - AS
English III	English III: Honors English Language Part 1: Cambridge AICE – AS Literature in English Part 1: Cambridge AICE - AS
English IV	English IV: Honors English Language Part 2: Cambridge AICE – AS Literature in English Part 2: Cambridge AICE - AS
Environmental Science	Environmental Science: Honors
European History	History European: Cambridge AICE-AS
French	French: Cambridge AICE-AS
German	German: Cambridge AICE-AS
Government	Government: Honors
Japanese	Japanese: Cambridge AICE-AS
Physics I	Physics: Honors
IB Physics II	Physics II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus Honors Math 1: (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE-AS
Probability and Statistics	Probability and Statistics: Honors Math 1 (Probability and Statistics)- Cambridge AICE
Spanish	Spanish: Cambridge AICE-AS
Spanish IV	Spanish Literature: Cambridge ACE
US History	U.S. History: Honors
World Geography	Geography: Cambridge AICE-AS
World History	World History: Honors History International: Cambridge AICE-AS

D.1 – E. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 50:188 (February 2024), LR 51:64 (January 2025).

§705. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, ~~or~~ Honors, or Excellence Awards, the recipient must meet all of the following criteria:

A.1.- A.8.d.iii. ...

e. a 3.00 for continuing receipt of either a Performance, ~~or~~ Honors, or Excellence Award; or

f. the minimum grade necessary to maintain good standing, if enrolled in a graduate or professional program; or

g. meet the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school, if enrolled in an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school; and

B.1. Students failing to meet the requirements listed in §705.A.7 or §705.A.8.a, b, d, f, or g may have their TOPS Awards reinstated upon regaining “steady academic progress” (see §301) and/or attainment of the required TOPS cumulative grade point average, if the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than two years from the date of loss of eligibility.

2. If the two-year period is interrupted due to a student's active duty in the United States Armed Forces, the two-year period will be extended for a length of time equal to the student's active duty service.

3.a.-__ Students who fail to meet the requirements of §705.A.8.e, shall no longer be eligible for the stipend authorized for the Performance and Honors Awards, but shall be eligible to receive the award amount for the Opportunity Award if they meet the continuation requirements of §705.A.8.a, b, d, f, or g.

b. Students who fail to meet the requirements of §705.A.8.e, shall no longer be eligible for the Excellence Award, but shall be eligible to receive the award amount for the Opportunity Award if they meet the continuation requirements of §705.A.8.a, b, d, f, or g.

B.4.a.-I.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

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Chapter 8. TOPS-Tech Award

§801. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The TOPS-Tech Award was created by Act of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

B. Description, History and Purpose

1. For students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), the TOPS-Tech Award is a merit-based scholarship program for Louisiana residents pursuing skill, occupational or technical training at eligible colleges and universities that offer a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree. The purpose of TOPS-Tech is to provide an incentive for qualified Louisiana residents to prepare for and pursue technical positions in Louisiana.

2. Beginning with students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school), the TOPS-Tech Award is a workforce scholarship program for Louisiana residents who enroll in an eligible college or university on a full-time basis in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council.

3. Beginning with students graduating in the 2024-2025 academic year (high school), the TOPS-Tech Award is a workforce scholarship program for Louisiana residents who enroll in an eligible college or university on a full-time basis in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is determined eligible by the M.J. Foster Promise Program Advisory Council.

C.-D.3. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 26:1997 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 41:666 (April 2015), LR 41:2596 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:523 (March 2018).

§803. Establishing Eligibility

A.-A.4.d. ...

5. graduate from:

a. an eligible public or nonpublic high school or non-Louisiana high school as defined in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

b. an out-of-state high school as defined in §1701.A.4; or

c. an out of country high school as defined in §1701.A.5; or

d.i. successfully complete at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE; or

ii. if ever was enrolled in a Louisiana public or nonpublic school approved by BESE, successfully completed at least the 11th and 12th grade levels of a home study program approved by BESE; and

iii. if having previously attended an eligible high school as defined in §1701.A.1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, has provided the board with certification by the previously attended high school that said student was in good standing at the time the student last attended such school;

6. if qualifying under the terms of §803.A.5.a, at the time of high school graduation:

a. have successfully completed one of the following core curriculums:

i. high school course work constituting the TOPS core curriculum for the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards as defined in §704 and documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education;

ii. high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the TOPS-Tech core curriculum for the applicable year as set forth in §804.

b. for students in graduating classes prior to 2004, core units may be waived upon sworn affidavit by the principal or headmaster or authorized designee that the course was not available to the student at the school attended;

c. for students in graduating classes prior to 2004, core units may be waived upon sworn affidavit by the principal or headmaster or authorized designee that the course was not available to the student at the school attended;

7. have achieved an *ACT score*, as defined in §301, of at least:

a. if qualifying under §803.A.5.a, an ACT composite score of at least 17 or beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, or in the alternative, have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system; or

b.i. if qualifying under §803.A.5.b or c and is a Louisiana resident, except as defined in Subparagraph h of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §301, an ACT composite of at least 20; or

ii. if qualifying under §803.A.5.b is a *Louisiana resident* as defined in Subparagraph h of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §301, an ACT composite of at least 19; and

c. if qualifying under §803.A.5.d and successfully completing the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE during or before the academic year (high school) 2003-2004 or during or after the academic year (high school) 2008-2009, an ACT composite of at least 20; and

d.i. if qualifying under §803.A.5.d and successfully completing the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE during or after the academic year (high school) 2004-2005 or during the academic year (high school) 2007-2008, an ACT composite of at least 19; and

ii. if qualifying under §803.A.5.d and successfully completing the 12th grade level in a home study program approved by BESE during or after the academic year (high school) 2024-2025, an ACT composite score of at least 17; and

A.8.-F.1.e. ...

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means a student who on August 27, 2021, was actually

residing in Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, or Terrebonne Parish, and:

a.† was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

b.‡ was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:1795 (October 1999), LR 26:65 and 67 (January 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1997 (September 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 26:2754 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:773 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 (November 2002), LR 29:554 (April 2003), LR 30:1164 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:39 (January 2005), LR 31:3114 (December 2005), LR 33:437 (March 2007), LR 33:2614 (December 2007), LR 35:230 (February 2009), LR 36:491 (March 2010), LR 36:2270 (October 2010), LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 38:3159 (December 2012), LR 41:654 (April 2015), LR 41:2597 (December 2015), LR 42:48 (January 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:523 (March 2018), amended LR 44:1874 (October 2018), LR 45:1172 (September 2019), LR 47:40 (January 2021), LR 47:866 (July 2021), amended LR 47:870 (July 2021), LR 49:51 (January 2023), LR 50:205 (February 2024), LR 50:205 (February 2024).

Chapter 10. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award

§1001. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award was created by Act 348 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and amended by Act 737 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature.

B.1. Description, History and Purpose. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award is established as part of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) to provide grants for Louisiana residents taking a technical or applied course in pursuit of occupational or vocational training while being dually enrolled in a state public high school at the 11th and 12th grade levels and at a Louisiana public or nonpublic postsecondary institution or in an approved training program that offers an occupational or vocational education credential in a top demand occupation. The purpose of TOPS-Tech Early Start is to provide an incentive for qualified Louisiana public high school students to prepare for and pursue an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential in a top demand occupation while still in high school.

2. Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year (college), a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award may be used to fund any qualified program as determined by the M.J. Foster Promise Program Advisory Council.

C. -E. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3109 (December 2005), amended LR 35:231 (February 2009), LR 41:374 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:531 (March 2018).

§1005. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be in the 11th or 12th grade in a Louisiana public high school; and

2. have prepared a five-year education and career plan, including a sequence of related courses with a career focus as provided by the high school career option subchapter in R.S. 17:183.2 et seq.; and

3. have a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale; and

4. meet one of the following criteria:

a. score at least 15 on the English subsection and 15 on the mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment or a successor assessment administered as part of Louisiana's educational planning and assessment system or the ACT or an equivalent concordant value of the SAT; or have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system;

b. have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system; or

c. meet the eligibility requirements for technical dual enrollment courses as determined by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

5. enroll in a course in an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential program in a top demand occupation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3110 (December 2005), amended LR 41:375 (February 2015), LR 41:2599 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:532 (March 2018).

§1007. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, the recipient must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be a student in good standing in a Louisiana public high school; and

2. maintain a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale; and

3. continue to ~~pursue one or more courses leading to a credential in a top demand occupation~~ enroll in eligible courses; and

4. be a student in good standing while enrolled in a Louisiana public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution or an approved training program; and

5. maintain steady academic progress as defined in §301.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3110 (December 2005), amended LR 41:375 (February 2015), LR 41:2599 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:532 (March 2018).

§1013. Responsibilities of Louisiana Public and Nonpublic Postsecondary Institutions and Approved Training Providers

A. Each Louisiana public and nonpublic postsecondary institution and each approved training provider that offers an industry based occupational or vocational education credential in a top demand occupation shall:

1. determine whether an eligible student has applied for enrollment in a course at that institution or provider to pursue an industry based occupational or vocational education credential in a top demand occupation in accordance with §1903.C.5;

2. determine whether the student has met the requirements to maintain an award as required by §1007.A.3-5;

3. submit bills to LOSFA in accordance with §1903.B for each eligible student so enrolled; and

4. comply with the reporting and records retention requirements of §1903.A and E.

B. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, training providers will no longer be eligible to participate in the TOPS Tech Early Start Program unless such programs are approved by the M.J. Foster Promise Advisory Council.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3111 (December 2005), amended LR 36:2030 (September 2010), LR 41:376 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:532 (March 2018).

§1015. Responsibilities of the Workforce Investment Council

A. The Workforce Investment Council shall define, maintain, and make available to LOSFA and to public and nonpublic postsecondary institutions and to Louisiana training providers a list of industry-based occupational or vocational education credentials.

B. Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year (high school), the Workforce Investment Council’s responsibilities

for the TOPS Tech Early Start Award are limited to its role on the M.J. Foster Promise Program Advisory Council.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3111 (December 2005), amended LR 36:2030 (September 2010), LR 41:376 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:533 (March 2018).

§1017. Responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)

A. BESE shall determine which training providers are approved to provide courses each academic year for the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award in accordance with R.S. 17:5081.

B. BESE shall notify LOSFA of the names and addresses for the approved training providers no later than March 1 for the fall of that year.

C. Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year (high school), the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has no responsibility with respect to eligible training providers.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 41:376 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:533 (March 2018).

§1903. Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

A.-B.10. ...

11.a. upon the school's certification that a student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award is enrolled in an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential program in a top demand occupation, institutions shall bill for and the board will pay the institution for each such recipient according to the following schedule;

Credit Hours	Payment
1	\$50
2	\$100
3	\$150
4	\$200
5	\$250
6	\$300

b. beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year (high school), upon the school’s certification that a student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award is enrolled in an eligible program of study, institutions shall bill and the board will pay the institution for each such recipient according to the following schedule:

Credit Hours	Payment
1	\$50
2	\$100
3	\$150
4	\$200
5	\$250
6	\$300

bc. the maximum that may be billed is \$300 per semester and \$600 per academic year (TOPS);

ed. institutions may not bill for summer semesters or sessions;

B.12.a.-F.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.15, 17:3041.21-3041.26, R.S. 17:5001 et seq., and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:645 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1914 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), LR 26:1998 and 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 28:1760 (August 2002), LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 30:1166 (June 2004), LR 31:40 (January 2005), LR 31:3111, 3114 (December 2005), LR 33:1340 (July 2007), LR 35:1233 (July 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 35:1491 (August 2009), LR 36:2857 (December 2010), LR 40:282 (February 2014), LR 40:1003 (May 2014), LR 41:667 (April 2015), LR 41:2599 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:519 (March 2017), LR 44:557 (March 2018), LR 45:1173 (September 2019), LR 48:487 (March 2022).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:646 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1915 (October 1998), LR 26:68 (January 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1866 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:562 (March 2018).

§2103. Circumstances Warranting Exception to the Initial and Continuous Enrollment Requirements

A. Initial Enrollment Requirement. Initially apply and enroll as a first-time freshman as defined in §301, unless granted an exception for cause by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board), in an eligible college or university defined in §301. Initial enrollment requirements specific to TOPS are defined at §703.A.4, for TOPS-Tech at §803.A and for Louisiana GO-Youth Challenge Program at §1505.

B. Continuous Enrollment Requirement. To maintain eligibility, all scholarship programs, with the exception of the M.J. Foster Promise Program, require recipients to continue to enroll as full-time students, as defined in §301, each consecutive semester or quarter, excluding summer sessions and intersession, at two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Recipients who cannot meet this requirement may be granted an exception for cause, as determined by the board. M.J. Foster Promise Program recipients may enroll and receive their award for less than full time enrollment, and must continue to enroll, whether part-time or full-time, in all semesters/terms of the academic year.

C. - I.6. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:5001 et seq., and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1648 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:647 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1916 (October 1998), LR 26:1015 (May 2000), LR 26:2002 (September 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1866 (November 2001), amended LR 27:1875 (November 2001), LR 28:46 (January 2002), LR 28:449 (March 2002), LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 and 2333 (November 2002), LR 29:126 (February 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:785 (April 2004), LR 30:1167 (June 2004), LR 31:1060 (May 2005), LR 33:440 (March 2007), LR 35:1233 (July 2009), LR 38:3160 (December 2012), LR 41:657, 667 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:562 (March 2018), LR 45:1173 (September 2019), amended LR 47:862 (July 2021), LR 47:867 (July 2021), amended LR 47:871 (July 2021), LR 48:2731 (November 2022), LR 49:54 (January 2023), LR 49:1211 (July 2023), LR 51:530 (April 2025), LR 51:531 (April 2025).

§2107. Funding and Fees

A. Limitation of Terms Funded. Routine funding for all scholarship and grant programs is limited to the fall, winter and spring school terms.

B. Less than Full-Time Attendance. The board will authorize awards under the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors and ~~Teachers~~**Excellence** Awards for less than full-time enrollment provided that the student meets all other eligibility criteria and the requirements of §2103.C.

C. - D. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1648 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:649 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1919 (October 1998), LR 26:1998 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1869 (November 2001), amended LR 28:449 (March 2002), LR 28:777 (April 2002), LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 31:40 (January 2005), LR 38:3162 (December 2012), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 42:1883 (November 2016), LR 44:568 (March 2018).

Family Impact Statement: The proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, or autonomy, as described in LSA-R.S. 49:972.

Poverty Impact Statement: The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in LSA-R.S. 49:973.

Business Analysis Statement: The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as described in LSA-R.S. 49:965.2 et seq.

Provider Impact Statement: The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on providers of services for individuals with developmental disabilities as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed changes (SG22202NI) until 4:30 p.m., October 10, 2025, by email to LOSFA.Comments@la.gov or to Sujuan Williams Boutté, Ed. D., Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, P. O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202.

DocuSigned by:
Robyn Lively
29CBA81C4E348E

Robyn Rhea Lively
Senior Attorney

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

Proposed rule change is anticipated to increase SGF expenditures at the Board of Regents by \$3,184,276 in FY 26 and annualized in future fiscal years associated with additional TOPS awards (\$3,147,964) and one-time expenses associated with programming changes to computer systems (\$33,000) and administrative costs (\$3,312). The annualized cost associated with additional TOPS awards in FY 27 and FY 28 are estimated to be \$6,123,744 and \$9,099,524 respectively.

The proposed change aligns rules with the provisions contained in Acts 152, 268, 347, and 359 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature with respect to various aspects of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). The proposed rule change is anticipated to annually increase state expenditures directly related to additional students meeting the requirements for an award through the revised alternative eligibility requirements that were lowered in Act 359 and the creation of the new highest-tier TOPS Excellence award level through Act 347.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

There are no anticipated impacts to revenues of state and local governmental units from the proposed rule change.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

Students who qualify for the TOPS Excellence award will benefit from the increased value of the award compared to the TOPS Honors award which they would have previously earned. Home schooled students seeking TOPS eligibility through the alternative requirements could benefit should they now qualify for an award or a higher tier award based on the change lowering their required

standardized test score.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

There is no anticipated impact on competition and employment resulting from the proposed rule change.