



MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT TOPS

Perception: Most TOPS students lose their award during the first year of college.

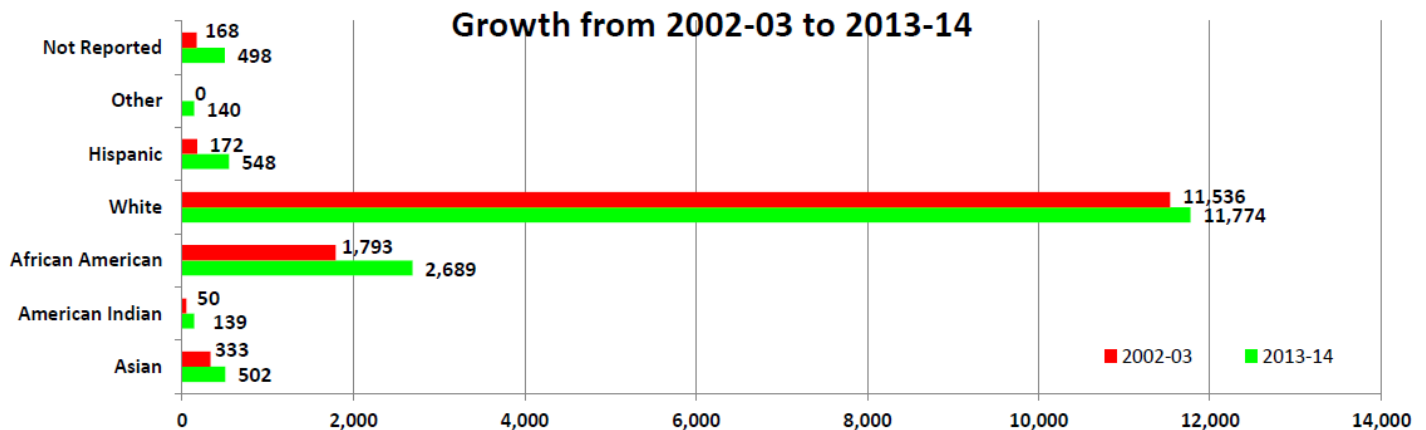
Truth: The number of students losing their TOPS Award during the first year of college has decreased from 41% in the 2004-2005 academic year to 8% in the 2014-2015 academic year.

**Final Status of All TOPS Recipients
Paid during the 2014-15 Academic Year**

Eligible for Renewal	33,378	
Eligible Graduate/Professional	554	
Eligible for 2015-16 TOPS Payments	33,932	68.6%
Graduated	3,483	
Death	4	
Max TOPS Terms	4,665	
TOPS Eligibility Completed	8,152	16.5%
TOPS Eligibility Suspended GPA	3,261	6.6%
Cancelled Hours	3,129	
Cancelled Non Continuous Enrollment	220	
Cancelled Resignation	625	
TOPS Cancelled	3,974	8.0%
TOPS No Grades Reported	169	0.3%
Total	49,488	100.0%

Perception: TOPS awards do not benefit minorities.

Truth: The number of minorities receiving TOPS has significantly increased over time.



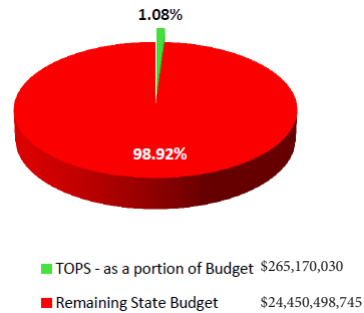
	Asian	American Indian	African American	White	Hispanic	Other	Not Reported
Growth 2002-03 to 2013-14	50.8%	178.0%	50.0%	2.1%	218.6%	-	196.4%

Perception: TOPS covers all costs of attending college.

Truth: TOPS only pays tuition at public schools (or a portion of tuition at certain private schools). Students still have to pay all other costs of attendance (COA).

Perception: TOPS consumes a large percentage of the state budget.

Truth: For FY2015-2016 TOPS is equal to 1.08% of the total state budget.



Perception: TOPS expenditures are growing at an astronomical rate.

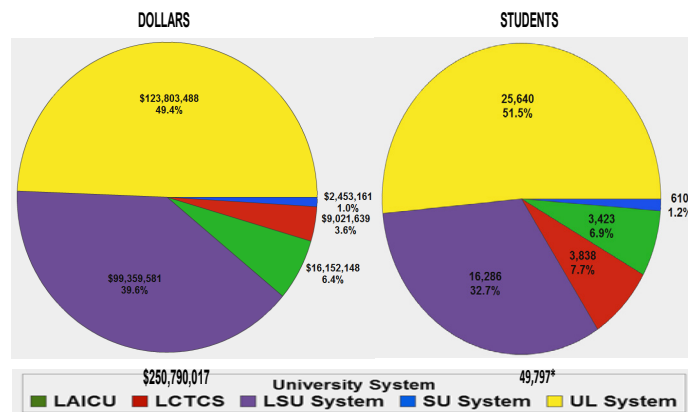
Truth: The projected increase in TOPS from 2016 to 2017 is \$8,587,273 or 3%. Although the amount requested for TOPS for FY 17 is \$28,323,262, or 10.7% more than the amount appropriated for FY 16, that amount includes a budget shortfall from the prior year.

Perception: TOPS awards are disproportionately awarded to wealthy students.

Truth: Overall from 2002-03 through 2013-14, TOPS OPH recipients were relatively equally spread across income ranges. The recent trend of more higher income students accepting TOPS awards indicates the goal of providing incentives for LA graduates to pursue postsecondary education in this state is working.

Perception: Only LSU students benefit from TOPS.

Truth: Every public higher education institution in the state has TOPS students, and the University of Louisiana system has the most TOPS students.



Data as of 8-20-15

Perception: TOPS students are just mediocre/average students.

Truth: In 2014-15, TOPS OPH recipients had an average ACT of 24 (Statewide average =19.2) and an average HS GPA of 3.37 (Statewide average = 2.19) on the TOPS Core Curriculum. The TOPS Core Curriculum is a rigorous set of requirements: 4 units of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, 2 units of Foreign Language and 1 unit of Fine Arts. TOPS encourages students to pursue AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment courses by grading these courses using a 5 point scale.

Perception: Needy students don't get TOPS

Truth: Of the 23,696 TOPS eligible students from HS Grad Year 2013-14, 10,956 or 46.2% were Pell eligible. Of the 23,946 GO Grant recipients for Academic Year 2014-15, 7,333 or 30.06% were also TOPS recipients.