

NOTICE OF INTENT
Student Financial Assistance Commission
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Scholarship/Grant Programs
(LAC 28:IV.301, 703, 1701, 1703)

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) 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 140 and 359 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by amending the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) rules. The list of high schools from which students may graduate and participate in TOPS is expanded to include high schools outside of Louisiana that are authorized to offer an International Baccalaureate Diploma when the student graduates with such a diploma in 2009-2010 or later.

The TOPS core curriculum is revised to change the courses required for students graduating in 2017-2018 and thereafter to qualify for a TOPS award. The calculation of the TOPS Cumulative Grade Point Average is revised for students graduating in 2017-2018 and thereafter to provide that Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Gifted and Dual Enrollment courses are graded on a 5.00 scale.

The proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, or autonomy, as described in LSA-R.S. 49:972. The proposed rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as described in LSA-R.S. 49:965.2 *et seq.* The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in LSA-R.S. 49:973. (SG13147NI)

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.

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Dual Enrollment Course—A course for which both high school and college credit may be granted.

Gifted Course—A course developed and provided to fulfill an Individualized Education Program for a student who has been deemed to be gifted pursuant to R.S. 17:1941 *et seq.* as implemented in State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy.

TOPS Cumulative High School Grade Point Average—

a. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2002-2003, the grade point average calculated by LOSFA including only the grades achieved in those courses that were used to satisfy core curriculum requirements. In the event a student has received

credit for more than 16.5 hours of courses that are included in the core curriculum, the TOPS cumulative high school grade point average shall be calculated by using the course in each core curriculum category for which the student received the highest grade. For example, if a student has taken more than one advanced mathematics course, the cumulative grade point average shall be determined by using only the course in which the student has received the highest grade;

b. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2002-2003, the grade point average for students qualifying for a performance award using a minimum ACT score of 24 and a minimum grade point average of 3.00 must include at least 10 units of honors curriculum courses (see §703.A.5.f.ii);

c. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2007-2008, the grade point average shall be calculated on 17.5 hours of units of courses that are used to satisfy the core curriculum;

d. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2013-2014, the grade point average shall be calculated on 19.0 hours of units of courses that are used to satisfy the core curriculum;

e. effective for high school graduates through academic year (high school) 2016-2017, for those high schools that utilize other than a 4.00 scale, all grade values shall be converted to a 4.00 scale utilizing the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Quality Points Awarded for the Course}}{\text{Maximum Points Possible for the Course}} = \frac{X (\text{Converted Quality Points})}{4.00 (\text{Maximum Scale})}$$

For example, if a school awards a maximum of 5 points for honors courses, the school must use the following formula to convert an honors course grade of "C":

$$\frac{3.00}{5.00} = \frac{X}{4.00}$$

By cross multiplying,

$$5X = 12; X = 2.40$$

Quality points = Credit for course multiplied by the value assigned to the letter grade.

f. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2017-2018, the TOPS Cumulative Grade Point Average will be calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned on the courses used to complete the TOPS core curriculum by the total units earned to complete the TOPS core curriculum.

Quality points equal the credit for the course multiplied by the value assigned to the letter grade.

The quality points for courses used to complete the TOPS core curriculum, except for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Gifted and dual enrollment courses, shall be converted to a 4.00 scale utilizing the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Quality Points Awarded for the Course}}{\text{Maximum Points Possible for the Course}} = \frac{X (\text{Converted Quality Points})}{4.00 (\text{Maximum Scale})}$$

The quality points for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Gifted and Dual Enrollment courses used to complete the TOPS core curriculum shall be converted to a 5.00 scale utilizing the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Quality Points Awarded for the Course}}{\text{Maximum Points Possible for the Course}} = \frac{X (\text{Converted Quality Points})}{5.00 (\text{Maximum Scale})}$$

Examples

1. If a school awards a maximum of 5 points for honors courses, use the following formula to convert an honors course grade of "B" to the 4.00 scale:

$$\frac{4.00}{5.00} = \frac{X}{4.00}$$

By cross multiplying,

$$5X = 16; X = 3.20$$

2. If a school awards a maximum of 6 points for Advanced Placement courses, use the following formula to convert an Advanced Placement course grade of "C" to the 5.00 scale:

$$\frac{3.00}{6.00} = \frac{X}{5.00}$$

By cross multiplying,

$$6X = 15; X = 2.50$$

3. If a school awards a maximum of 4 points for Gifted courses, use the following formula to convert an Gifted course grade of "A" to the 5.00 scale:

$$\frac{4.00}{4.00} = \frac{X}{5.00}$$

By cross multiplying,

$$4X = 20; X = 5.00$$

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 24:632 (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).

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

§703. Establishing Eligibility

A. – A.5.a.i.(e).

(f) beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2013-14 through 2016-2017, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 19 units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education as follows.

Units	Course
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Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
2	Geometry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III, Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus, Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics, Integrated Mathematics III
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
2	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit)
1	American History
2	World History, Western Civilization, World Geography or History of Religion
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute one unit of a performance course in music, dance, or theater; or substitute one unit of a visual art course; or substitute one unit of a studio art course)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language

(g). beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2017-2018, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 19 units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana 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
Science – 4 Units	
1	Biology I
1	Chemistry I

Units	Course
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 B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; Biology II or AP Biology or IB Biology II
Social Studies – 4 Units	
1	U.S. History or AP U.S. History or IB U.S. History
1/2	Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States
1/2	Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics
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
Foreign Language – 2 Units	
2	Foreign Language, both 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
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; or Theatre I IB
Note: AP = Advanced Placement IB = International Baccalaureate	

A.5.a.ii(a)- A.5.a.ii(d) ...

(b). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2006-2007 through the 2008-2009 academic year (high school), for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i 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.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Physical Science	Integrated Science
Algebra I	Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2, Integrated Mathematics I
Applied Algebra IA and IB	Applied Mathematics I and II
Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics II
Geometry	Integrated Mathematics III
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III*, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math –Functions and Statistics]
Chemistry	Chemistry Com
Fine Arts Survey	Speech III and Speech IV (both units)
Western Civilization	European History
World Geography	AP Human Geography
Civics	AP American Government

*Applied Mathematics III was formerly referred to as Applied Geometry

(c). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2009-2010, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i 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.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Physical Science	Integrated Science
Algebra I	Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2, Integrated Mathematics I, Applied Algebra I
Applied Algebra IA and IB	Applied Mathematics I and II
Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics II
Geometry	Integrated Mathematics III, Applied Geometry
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III*, Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus**, Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics***
Chemistry	Chemistry Com
Fine Arts Survey	Speech III and Speech IV (both units)
Western Civilization	European History
World Geography	AP Human Geography
Civics	AP American Government

*Applied Mathematics III was formerly referred to as Applied Geometry
 **Advanced Math—Pre-Calculus was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II
 ***Advanced Math—Functions and Statistics was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II

(d). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2010-2011 ~~and after~~ through academic year (high school) 2016-17, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i 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.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Physical Science	Integrated Science
Algebra I	Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2, Integrated Mathematics I, Applied Algebra I
Applied Algebra IA and IB	Applied Mathematics I and II
Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics II
Geometry	Integrated Mathematics III, Applied Geometry
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III*, Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus**, Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics***
Chemistry	Chemistry Com
Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit;	Anatomy and Physiology
Fine Arts Survey	Speech III and Speech IV (both units)
Western Civilization	European History
World Geography	AP Human Geography
Civics	AP American Government

*Applied Mathematics III was formerly referred to as Applied Geometry
 **Advanced Math—Pre-Calculus was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II
 ***Advanced Math—Functions and Statistics was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II

e). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2017-2018 and after, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i 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.

Core Curriculum Course(s)	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
½ unit: Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States AND ½ unit: Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics	Civics (one unit)
Any listed core course or its equivalent.	Any core curriculum course taken by a student who has been deemed to be gifted 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 course and shall fulfill the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

A.5.a.iii(a) – J.4.b.ii. ...

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).

Chapter 17. Responsibilities of High Schools, School Boards, Special School Governing Boards, the Louisiana Department of Education and LASFAC on Behalf of Eligible Non-Louisiana High Schools

§1701. Eligibility of Graduates Based upon the High School Attended

A. - A3.d. ...

4. Out-of-State High Schools

a. All other public or non-public high schools located in one of the United States or territories of the United States, other than Louisiana;

i. which have been approved by the state or territory's chief school officer as listed in the Louisiana Department of Education Bulletin 1462, or by the public body which is that state's or territory's equivalent of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), or

ii. which high school has been approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Secondary and Middle Schools and can demonstrate that it meets the standards adopted by BESE for approval of nonpublic schools of Louisiana as set forth in §1701.A.2, above or,

iii. for students graduating during the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, which high school has been approved by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and can demonstrate that it meets the standards adopted by BESE for approval of nonpublic schools of Louisiana as set forth in §1701.A.2, above, and ~~those high schools located in foreign countries which have been authorized or approved by a Department in the Executive Branch of the United States government to teach the dependents of members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed abroad;~~

iv. For students graduating during the 2009-2010 school year and thereafter with an International Baccalaureate Diploma, which high school has been approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue such a diploma.

~~b.~~ graduates of out-of-state high schools are eligible to participate in the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program;

~~c.~~ graduates of out-of-state high schools who are Louisiana residents or the dependents of a Louisiana resident serving on active duty with the Armed Forces or who have a parent who is a Louisiana resident are eligible to participate in TOPS.

~~b-d.~~ A school will be deemed to be approved by the appropriate state agency if that state agency certifies:

i. that the high school in question received funding from the state to cover all or a portion of the costs of instruction; and

ii. that the high school in question adopted and does adhere to state and federal non-discrimination policies and statutes.

5. Out of Country High Schools.

a. All other public or non-public high schools located outside the United States or the territories of the United States that meet the standards adopted by BESE for approval of nonpublic schools in Louisiana and which are accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education; and

b. ~~Those high schools located in foreign countries which have been authorized or approved by a Department in the Executive Branch of the United States government to teach the dependents of members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed abroad;~~ and

c. For students graduating during the 2009-2010 school year and thereafter with an International Baccalaureate Diploma, those high schools located outside the United States and its territories that have

been approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue such a diploma.

B. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1, R.S. 17:3048.1, 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 24:642 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1911 (October 1998), LR 25:849 (May 1999), LR 26:67 (January 2000), LR 26:1997 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1862 (November 2001), amended LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 30:1165 (June 2004), LR 34:242 (February 2008).

§1703. High School's Certification of Student Achievement

A. - B.2.a. ...

b. Commencing with the 2003 academic year (high school), certification shall contain, but is not limited to, the following reportable data elements:

- i. student's name and Social Security number;
- ii. month and year of high school graduation;
- iii. the course code for each course completed;
- iv. the grade for each course completed;
- v. designation of each Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Gifted and Dual Enrollment ~~honors-curriculum~~ course;

vi. the grading scale for each course reported;

vii. list the high school attended for each course reported; and

viii. through the graduating class of the academic year (high school) 2002-2003, number of core units earned and the number of core units unavailable to the student at the school attended. After the graduating class of the academic year (high school) 2002-2003, core unit requirements may not be waived.

B.3. - D.3. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, 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 24:643 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1912 (October 1998), LR 25:258 (February 1999), LR 26:1998 (September 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1863 (November 2001), amended LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 30:1165 (June 2004).

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed changes (SG13147NI) until 4:30 p.m., September 10, 2013, to Sujuan Williams Boutté, Ed. D., Interim Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202.

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