

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

***Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)  
Bulletin***

TOPS BULLETIN NUMBER:	T2014-1
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DISTRIBUTION:	High School Counselors, College and University Financial Aid Offices and Registrars, LAICU Financial Aid Offices and Registrars, Technical School Deans and Technical School Personnel
TOPICS:	Revises the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to Change the Definition of Tuition and adds New Responsibilities for Public Post-Secondary Schools: <b>Replaces T2013-04</b>

At its meeting on September 17, 2013, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) approved an Emergency Rule and authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to make the rules permanent that revises the Scholarship and Grant Program rules to change the definition of tuition and add new responsibilities for public post-secondary institutions.

The changes are summarized as follows:

- For the 2013-2014 academic year, the TOPS Award amount has been set at the postsecondary institution's published tuition as of August 1, 2013.
- For the 2014-2015 academic year and thereafter, the TOPS Award amount shall be the tuition amount published by the postsecondary institution as of August 1, 2013, plus any increase in tuition authorized by the Legislature which is not attributable to any fees.
- Beginning with the Spring semester of 2014, public postsecondary institutions are required to post on student's fee bills the "Tuition Only" amount charged the student, the "TOPS Award Amount" (which must equal the "Tuition Only" amount) and "TOPS Stipends" in order for the college or university to be permitted to bill for a TOPS award amount.

**NOTE:** The requirement that public postsecondary institutions include a Tuition Only line item on its fee bills that equals the TOPS award amount does not apply to fee bills for students enrolled in graduate or professional programs of study. The TOPS award amount for students enrolled in graduate or professional programs of study at public postsecondary institutions will be equal to the institution's 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.

See Emergency Rule at [http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/policy4\\_SG14150E.pdf](http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/policy4_SG14150E.pdf)

See Notice of Intent [http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/policy4\\_SG14150NI.pdf](http://www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/policy4_SG14150NI.pdf)

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