

# Louisiana Believes

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## Louisiana Extension Academy Informational Webinar

# Announcement and Purpose

On April 4 the Louisiana Department of Education released a request for applications pertaining to the establishment, in the academic year of 2019-2020, of an alternative graduation model for a period of 3 years that will include, for a designated cohort of students, a fifth year of high school.

The purpose of this innovation is to provide students, who are on track to graduate but not on track to participate in a low-cost postsecondary college or training program, with a one year extension to attain a Regents-recognized associate degree, a registered pre-apprenticeship or an advanced Industry Based Credential (IBC). Extension Academy students shall be counted in the LEA's MFP formula.

# Enabling Legislation

Under authority of [R. S. §17:151.1](#) the Department and the Board of Regents will release a request for application for Extension Academy pilots. This is in response to the need for a greater connection between high schools, colleges, and employers. These pilots will serve students who are on track for high school graduation, but not currently qualified for low-cost, high-value post-secondary credentials.

# Extension Academy Pilot Timeline

## Timeline:

Process Step	Timeline
Announcement and Application Release	April 4, 2019
Informational Webinar	April 9, 2019 and April 16, 2019
Application Deadline	May 3, 2019 4:00 pm CST
Notice of Preliminary Approval	June 8, 2019: Regional Consortium members will notified that proposal has been pre-approved for consideration during the June Joint Board Meeting.
BESE Approval: Course Providers	June 19, 2019: The Superintendent proposes pre-approved Extension Academy applications to BESE/ Regents Joint Board Meeting

The Board of Regents and Department of Education will approve Extension Academy pilot sites for a fifth year of high school during the 2019-2020 academic year. BESE/BoR pilot site recommendations will be brought to the June BESE/BoR joint meeting for an initial 3 - year authorization period .

# Key Principles

The Extension Academy pilots will:

- provide a debt free, accelerated, dual enrollment college experience for a period of no more than five years of high school that is aligned to Louisiana's top-rated 4 and 5 star jobs;
- prepare students for work, through employer driven work-based learning experiences, internships, or apprenticeships;
- ensure the attainment of Regents-recognized associate degrees, registered apprenticeships, or an advanced Industry Based Credential; and
- facilitate student success after graduation through post-secondary transitional coaching.

# Target Audience

Extension Academy Pilots will specifically support students on track for high school graduation, but have yet to acquire high-value post-secondary credentials:

- Students graduating on a TOPS University diploma pathway not eligible for TOPS ~15,000
- Students graduating on a Jump Start TOPS Tech diploma not on track to earn an advanced credential and not TOPS The eligible ~3,200

# Policy Considerations

Students that participate in the Extension Academy Pilot are members of a clearly defined cohort with an explicit purpose and goal. State and federal policy impacting the fiscal support, duration and status of these students are as follows:

- Fifth year students shall be counted in the MFP membership count of each participating LEA
- Fifth year students shall be counted in the graduation cohort after their fourth year of high school. Per federal guidance, they will be considered graduates upon completion of all high school graduation requirements.
- If approved implementing schools will be authorized by BESE and the Board of Regents for a period of 3-years

# Regional Consortium

## Required Signatories

- School Board President
- Industry Aligned Employer Partner(s)
- School System Administrator(s) – Superintendent, Principal, Director(s) etc.
- Higher Education Partner(s)



# Logistical Considerations

As you consider adopting the extension academy model consider those essential elements to successful rollout and implementation.

- Number of School Sites
- Participating Post-Secondary Campuses
- Enrollment Target(s)
- Transportation/ Class Locations and Apprenticeships
- Instructors
- Implementation timeline/ key monthly activities starting June 2019

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