

# Louisiana Believes

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**FAST FORWARD**

**Jump Start and TOPS University  
Associate Degree Opportunities**

# Aligning Pathway Opportunities

- The **Board of Regents and BESE** have a joint goal that beginning with the freshman class of 2025 all Louisiana public high school graduates will complete high school with college credit (academic and/or career-technical), a postsecondary credential of value or both.
- The **Dual Enrollment Task Force** recommended each high school student have the opportunity to enroll in at least four dual enrollment courses before graduation, and that the accountability system provide corresponding incentives that reflect the need for career and college readiness.
- The **Louisiana legislature** stressed through ACT 204 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session that *“the availability of dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses, or any combination thereof, in core academic areas in all high schools is critical.”*

# Fast Forward Jump Start/TOPS University Associate Degree Pathway Program

The proposed Fast Forward Associate Degree Pathway Program will provide Louisiana students access to an **immersed high school experience with a segue to college or the workforce** that leads to both a high school diploma and an associate degree. This is not a replacement for high school diploma options presently in place; it simply adds more options for schools, families and students.

- Students will spend grades 9 and 10 on the high school campus earning required diploma coursework in core academic areas.
- Students will have an opportunity to spend the majority of grades 11 and 12 on a postsecondary campus, on a high school postsecondary satellite campus or fully immersed in a state recognized [pre-apprentice/apprentice](#) program.

# Importance of Access to Dual Diploma Programs

The U.S. Department of Education published the [What Works Clearinghouse Intervention Report](#) which documented a medium to large extent of evidence in **dual enrollment programs having positive effects on students** in the below domains:

- Students' college degree attainment
- College access and enrollment, credit accumulation, completing high school
- General high school academic achievement, staying in high school, college readiness and high school attendance

The James Irvine Foundation published the [Broadening the Benefits of Dual Enrollment](#) report with a focus on its **positive impact on reaching underachieving and underrepresented** students in career focused programs which found that career pathway students participating in dual enrollment programs were:

- More likely to graduate from high school, transition to a four year college and persist in postsecondary education
- Less likely to take basic skills courses in college
- Accumulating more college credits than comparison students

# Importance of Access to Dual Diploma Programs

## Dual Enrollment Has Large Benefits for Students but Rigor and Location Are Critical, New Studies Find

- **Dual enrollment students were substantially more likely to be White and female and to not participate in free or reduced-price lunch** than students who did not participate in dual enrollment.
- Students who participated in dual enrollment (DE) were 12 percent more likely to go to college and 7 percent more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than similar students who did not participate.

## Dual Enrollment: A Strategy to Improve College-Going and College Completion among Rural Students

- **Dual enrollment can greatly benefit students in rural areas**, which report lower college-going and postsecondary attainment rates than other locales.
- Rural areas face unique challenges in providing high-quality dual enrollment programs: (1) Securing qualified instructors; (2) Covering program costs, as many rural districts face declines in enrollment and the funding that follows students in many states; and (3) Addressing program logistics, including the challenges of offering a course to a small number of students and offering career/technical education coursework when high schools may not have the latest technical equipment but the nearest community college is a long drive away.

# Dual Diploma Attainment

There are an increasing number of students in the state graduating with both a diploma and associate degree. While the number of traditional school systems with this option has increased, the numbers of students remain small.

With the appropriate collaboration, structures, incentives and blueprint frameworks in place we believe there is room to increase this opportunity for all Louisiana students. The average age of an attaining an associate degree is 27.

- **The 2019 Graduation Cohort Data indicated that 159 students out of 42,650 graduates, or 0.37 percent, received both a diploma and an associate degree upon graduation.**
- 77 percent of students are graduating with a TOPS University college prep focused diploma yet only 57 percent are enrolling in college the year after graduation.

# Associate Degree Attainment and Demographics

- 159 Associate Degrees were earned by the 2019 graduation cohort
- 55 percent were earned by females, 45 percent were male
- 44 percent were economically disadvantaged, 56 percent were not economically disadvantaged
- 57 percent were white, 33 percent were black, 5 percent were Asian, 3 percent were Hispanic, 2 percent were multirace



# FAST FORWARD

## Associate Degree Pathway Options

### Jump Start 2.0 Associate Degree Pathway

- Encompasses a vast array of careers or postsecondary pathways aligned to the state's occupational forecasting needs
- Students will have the opportunity to earn a technical associate degree on a Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) campus, Board of Regents approved satellite campus, other postsecondary campus or participate in a Louisiana Workforce Commission approved [pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship](#) program while dually earning a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma.

### TOPS University Associate Degree Pathway

- Allows students to earn a universal transfer degree from a postsecondary campus while dually earning a TOPS University Diploma.
- The associate degree curriculum is consistent at all LCTCS campuses and allows students to seamlessly transfer to a four year institution upon earning the degree. Students will have the opportunity to earn an associate degree on a Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) campus, Board of Regents approved satellite campus, other postsecondary campus while dually earning a transfer associate degree.



# Fast Forward Jump Start/TOPS University Associate Degree Pathway Planning Grant

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will release an RFA for the Fast Forward [Planning Grant](#) to support the development of these student pathways.

These grants have the goals of expanding student access to meaningful dual enrollment opportunities, enabling students to leave high school prepared for career or continuing advanced postsecondary pursuits and allowing students to receive funded college experiences or employment in high wage/high demand occupations.

- **Planning grants up to \$50,000 (\$25K LDOE/\$25K BoR) will be awarded to a lead regional secondary school system and its higher education partner in each Regional Labor Market Area (RLMA).**
- Funding will be provided to support planning/program design costs to include, but not exclusive of, meeting space, teacher/counselor stipends, travel, intermediary consulting support, substitute pay, select implementation pilot funding, equipment, etc.

# Jump Start 2.0/TOPS University Associate Degree Pathway Planning Grant

Timeline	
<b>RFA Planning Grant Release</b>	January 6, 2021
<b>Informational Webinar</b>	January 11, 2021
<b>Program Informational Session</b>	Jump Start Convention January 28, 2021
<b>Final Date to Submit Regional Summaries of Planning Grants</b>	February 10, 2021
<b>8 Planning Grant Awards Approved at BESE</b>	March 10, 2021
<b>Regional Program Planning/Design</b>	March, April, May 2021
<b>Final Scholar Pathways Due</b>	May 10, 2021
<b>Pathways Approved by Graduation Review Panel</b>	May/June 2021
<b>BESE Adoption of Pathways</b>	June 16, 2021

# SAMPLE Fast Forward Jump Start Associate Degree Pathway

## Associate of Applied Science in Machine Tool Technology

### Sample Student Schedule on High School Campus

Grade 9		Grade 10	
English I	Physical Education I	English II	½ Health ½ Physical Education II
Algebra I	Quest for Success	Geometry	Algebra II
Physical/Environmental Science	Civics	Biology I	Elective of choice
Elective of choice	Elective of choice	Elective of choice	Elective of choice

*Student elects a regionally relevant Jump Start 2.0 Pathway and continues Dual Enrollment coursework at the postsecondary campus for grades 11 and 12.*

# SAMPLE Fast Forward Jump Start Associate Degree Pathway

## Associate of Applied Science in Machine Tool Technology

### Sample Student Schedule on Postsecondary Campus

Grade 11		Grade 12	
DE English Composition	DE Humanities Elective English	DE Machinist II	DE Advanced Millwright
DE Machine Shop Math	DE College Algebra	DE Millwright II	DE Advanced Machinist
DE Orientation to Safety	DE Machinist I	DE U.S. History	DE Natural Science Elective
DE Introduction to Machinist	DE Millwright I	DE Milling Operations	DE Computer Numerical Control
DE Introduction to Millwright			

*The student meets the requirements to earn a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma and an Associate of Applied Science in Machine Tool Technology.*

# SAMPLE Fast Forward TOPS University Associate Pathway

## Regional Associate of Science

### Sample Student Schedule on High School Campus

Grade 9		Grade 10	
English I	Physical Education I	English II	½ Health ½ Physical Education II
Algebra I	Quest for Success	Geometry	Algebra II
Physical/Environmental Science	Foreign Language I	Biology I	Foreign Language II
Civics	Elective of Choice	Elective of choice	Elective of Choice

*Student elects a regionally relevant TOPS University Pathway and continues Dual Enrollment coursework at the postsecondary campus for grades 11 and 12.*

# SAMPLE Fast Forward TOPS University Scholar Pathway

## Associate of Science

### Sample Student Schedule on Postsecondary Campus

Grade 11		Grade 12	
DE English Composition I	DE English Composition II	DE Humanities Elective	DE Natural Science
DE College Algebra	DE Math choice	DE Natural Science	DE Literature Elective
DE Biology I for Science Majors	DE Biology II for Science Majors	DE Natural Sc., Humanities or Math	DE Natural Sc., Humanities or Math
DE Biology I Lab for Science Majors	DE Biology II Lab for Science Majors	DE Chemistry I	DE Natural Sc., Humanities or Math
DE Humanities U.S. History	DE Elective Western Civilizations	DE Chemistry I Lab	DE Social Science
		DE Elective Economics	DE Arts Elective

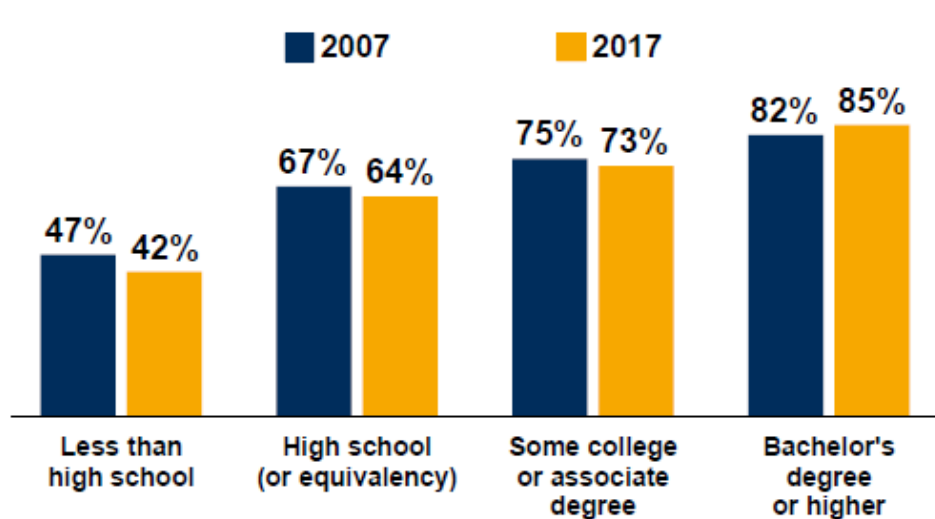
*The student meets the requirements to earn a TOPS University Diploma and an Associate of Science Degree.*

# Louisiana Workforce

The entry point for work has shifted.

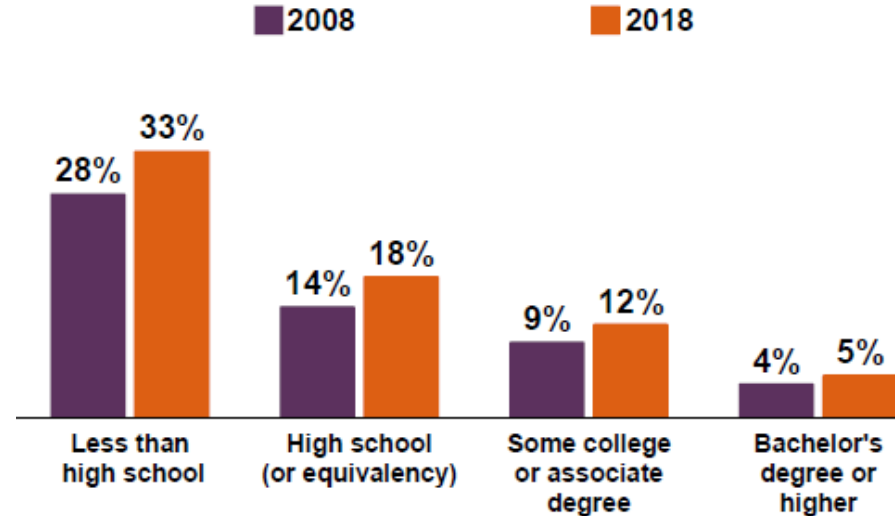
## Employment Rates by Education Level

Percentage of All Adults 25-64 in Louisiana



## Percentage of Adults in Poverty by Attainment

Adults 25 and Older in Louisiana





# Question and Answer Session