

Louisiana Believes

High School Policy Updates

Tristen Guillory, M.Ed.
College Readiness Coordinator
Office of Student Opportunities



Overview

The objective for today's session is to inform high school and district leaders of key policies, programs, and resources which will assist students and schools in achieving their goals.

Topics for Consideration

- I. Pupil Progression Plan Update
- II. TOPS University policy updates
- III. AP[®] Physics options for 2018 graduates
- IV. Low income AP[®] exam fee funding opportunities

2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan Update

The Department is working to update the **Pupil Progression Plan template** based on recommendations approved by BESE in October. As a result of the delayed release, the submission deadline will be extended to February 1, 2018. The template will be released **November 7** and will be available in Superintendent's weekly newsletter and www.louisianabelieves.com.

An informational webinar will be held to provide updates and to assist districts in completing and submitting the 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan. District personnel are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- Friday, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 28, from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Webinar Login Information (*no pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan Information Webinar
- To join the meeting go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ppp>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Audio access: (855) 240-2575 / access code: 38582295

For additional information please contact PPP@la.gov.

Graduation Diploma Pathways

TOPS University Pathway

- Ensures that students have every chance possible to receive TOPS
- Students are rewarded for completing more rigorous AP[®], IB[®], Gifted, Honors, and Dual Enrollment coursework with increased weights in the calculation of the **TOPS GPA**

Jump Start TOPS Tech Pathway

- Provides students the opportunity to graduate high school by earning an Industry Based Credential(s).
- Prepares students to engage in post-secondary opportunities.

TOPS University

Foreign Language Course Options

Historical Foreign Language Course Offerings:

French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, Spanish, Greek, Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew, Arabic, and American Sign Language

Recent Foreign Language Course Approvals (Retroactive):

Hindi, Portuguese, Vietnamese (June 2017)

Korean (August 2017)

PLEASE NOTE:

TOPS University diploma policy does not provide for a Foreign Language waiver.

Foreign Language Credit Options:

- Student successfully completes two units from the same foreign language (Bulletin 741, §2345);
- Student successfully earns credit in American Sign Language I and II
- Student may choose to pursue a Jump Start diploma

TOPS University Science Course Options

Historical Science Course Offerings:

Biology I, Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Agriscience II, Chemistry II, AP[®] Environmental Science, IB[®] Environmental Science, Physics I, IB[®] Physics I, AP[®] Physics C, IB[®] Physics II, AP[®] Physics I and II*, Biology II, AP[®] Biology, IB[®] Biology I, IB[®] Biology II

Recent Science Course Approval (Retroactive):

Human Anatomy and Physiology (March 2017)

Students who chose to use AP[®] Physics I and AP[®] Physics II to fulfill their TOPS Core science requirements for a TOPS award **must take and earn credit for both AP[®] Physics I and AP[®] Physics II.*

AP[®] Physics I and II

TOPS University Diploma Requirements

A student can satisfy the 3rd or 4th science graduation requirement by taking **AP[®] Physics I or AP[®] Physics II** and each course will be given a full Carnegie Unit of credit.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that this change does not apply to TOPS eligibility requirements.

TOPS Core Curriculum Requirements

Students who chose to use AP[®] Physics I and AP[®] Physics II to fulfill their TOPS Core science requirements for a TOPS award **must take and earn credit for both AP[®] Physics I and AP[®] Physics II.**

If a student only takes **one** of these courses, **he/she will not receive any credit towards the two units of science electives required for TOPS.**

View more information and options that satisfy science requirements for both the TOPS University diploma and the TOPS Core Curriculum [here](#).

AP[®] Physics I and II

Required Action	Meets Graduation Requirements?	Meets TOPS Core Curriculum Requirements for Science?
OPTION 1: In addition to satisfying the Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student also earns credit in both AP Physics I and AP Physics II	Yes	Yes
OPTION 2: In addition to satisfying Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student earns credit by way of proficiency exam for Physics I or Physics I (Honors) and successfully completes one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of: Chemistry II, AP Chemistry II, IB Chemistry I, IB Chemistry II • One of: AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems • One of: AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, IB Physics II • One of: Biology II, AP Biology, IB Biology I, IB Biology II, Human Anatomy and Physiology 	Yes	Yes*
OPTION 3: In addition to satisfying Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student earns credit in two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of: Chemistry II, AP Chemistry II, IB Chemistry I, IB Chemistry II • One of: AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems • One of: Physics I, IB Physics I • One of: AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, IB Physics II • One of: Biology II, AP Biology, IB Biology I, IB Biology II, Human Anatomy and Physiology 	Yes	Yes

**NOTE: For calculation of the TOPS GPA, AP, IB, gifted, talented, and honors courses are graded on a 5.0 scale. "P" (proficiency exam) is not a grade and therefore will not receive any points. The TOPS GPA is calculated based on 19 qualifying credits, except in cases where a student has "P" grades. With a "P" test grade, the GPA will be determined based on grades for 18 courses instead of 19.*

TOPS University

Social Studies Course Options

Historical Social Studies Course Offerings:

U.S. History, AP[®] U.S. History, IB[®] History of the Americas, Civics, Government, AP[®] U.S. Government and Politics, European History, AP[®] European History, Western Civilization, World Geography, AP[®] Human Geography, IB[®] Geography, World History AP[®] World History, IB[®] Economics, Economics, AP[®] Macroeconomics, AP[®] Microeconomics

Recent Social Studies Course Approval (Retroactive):

AP[®] Psychology (June 2017)

For more information on TOPS University graduation requirements and unique course codes for those courses qualifying for the TOPS weighted GPA, click [here](#).

Jump Start Mathematics Course Options

Historical Mathematics Course Offerings:

Algebra I, Applied Algebra I, Algebra I – Part 2, Geometry, Financial Literacy, Math Essentials, Algebra II, Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Pre-Calculus, Business Math

Recent Mathematics Course Approval (Retroactive):

Probability and Statistics (June 2017)

For more information on [Jump Start](#) graduation requirements and course codes, click [here](#).

Financial Aid Planning

Louisiana requires public school students graduating spring 2018 and beyond to take one of the following steps as part of their Individual Graduation Plan:

- Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA); or
- Complete the [Louisiana TOPS form](#); or
- A parent or legal custodian, or a student legally emancipated or of the legal age of majority, may certify a waiver in writing to the school system (sample: [non-participation form/Letter](#)); or
- Receive a waiver through the district hardship waiver process.

The LDOE has a [Financial Aid Planning Regional Resource Catalog](#) to inform students, parents, and schools/districts of upcoming financial aid events in the area. The catalog, along with other helpful financial aid resources, can be accessed at the department's [Financial Aid web page](#).

For questions or assistance with financial aid planning resources contact LDEfinancialaid@la.gov.

Funding Options for AP[®] Programs

With the passage of the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), the **Federal AP[®] Test Fee Program will not be renewed**, which means that districts and schools will need to offset the prior federal exam subsidy with funds from the options outlined below, if they choose.

TITLE I

TITLE II, PART A

TITLE IV, PART A

TITLE V, PART B

By subsidizing the AP[®] exam fees for eligible public school students, schools and school districts will ensure that **all students have access to opportunities to earn postsecondary credit at minimal cost.**

If districts and schools choose to fully replace the federal exam subsidy amount, then they should **budget \$53 for each eligible AP[®] exam.**

Funding Options for AP[®] Programs

Strategic Priority Guide

Recommended Initiatives and Best Practices	ESSA						
	Title I				Title II	Title IV	Title V
	A†	1003 (a)†	C††	D	A†††	A	B††††
Recommended Uses of ESSA Funds							
Early College High School	X	X	X	X		X	X
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	X	X	X	X		X	X
Advanced Placement exam reimbursement for low-income students	X	X	X	X		X	X
Other Best Practices							
Advanced Placement teacher training	X				X		X
Dual credit enrollment programs, including teacher training	X	X			X	X	X
College readiness programs supporting first-generation college students, including materials and teacher training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Buy effective instructional materials to improve postsecondary outcomes	X	X	X	X		X	X
Professional development, including teacher mentoring and coaching, for serving students with disabilities, focused on postsecondary outcomes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Education technology (blended learning) to increase student outcomes, expand access and successful completion of advanced coursework	X	X	X	X		X	X
†Title I, Part A refers to schoolwide programs ††Title I, Part C is restricted to special populations (Migrant) and must supplement the other funding sources identified above.				†††Title II, Part A is restricted to professional development activities ††††Title V, Part B refers to qualifying rural school systems that serve concentrations of children from low-income families			

[View more information on available funding options for AP[®] Programs here.](#)

Next Steps

1. Provide ongoing guidance and resources to assist students and parents in meeting [Financial Aid planning requirements](#).
2. Develop a plan to support students in exploring [science credit options](#) to ensure that students graduating in 2018 with credit in AP[®] Physics I have every opportunity to receive TOPS.
3. Review [funding options](#) in order to budget \$53 for each 2018 low-income AP[®] exam as a result of the expiration of the historical Federal AP Test Fee Program.
4. Review student [Individual Graduation Plans \(IGP\)](#) to ensure requirements are met for an on-time graduation.

Contact Information

For more information on
High School Policy and Programs,
please contact: HighSchoolAcademics@la.gov