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## Description: The Jump Start Graduation Pathways Review Panel

(Revised October 5, 2018)

### What is the Graduation Pathways Review Panel?

The Jump Start Graduation Pathways Review Panel consists of three representatives, one each from the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the Department of Education (LDE).

These three government agencies work together to make sure that Jump Start implementation is aligned with Louisiana's economic development strategies.

The Graduation Pathways Review Panel *reviews* but does not *approve* Jump Start graduation pathways. Jump Start pathways are recommended by the Department of Education Superintendent and approved for use by BESE.

### What is the Mission of the Graduation Pathways Review Panel?

The Panel's mission is to make sure that all graduation pathways have rigorous credentials and appropriate course progressions, so that students attain a TOPS Tech Jump Start Career Diploma with substantial "employability value" (i.e., content and credentials that help students secure entry-level employment in a high-demand industry sector).

The Panel provides feedback to school systems on the credentials and courses included in proposed graduation pathways. The goals of the Panel are: a) to maintain rigorous standards in terms of industry credentials and appropriate coursework; while b) providing implementation flexibility for schools ("a pathway for every student") so that students of various interests and abilities graduate with capabilities and credentials that will help them succeed as adults.

### What Happens at a Graduation Pathways Review Panel Meeting?

The Panel's meeting facilitator (currently one of the Jump Start program's co-leaders) develops an agenda for each meeting. Each agenda contains: a) any graduation pathways seeking review; and b) recommendations to add additional credentials and/or courses to existing pathways.

The Panel – often joined by Jump Start team leaders – discusses each of the agenda items. Each Panel member then votes. If a majority of the Panel votes to recommend a new graduation pathway, this pathway is then forwarded to the LDOE Superintendent for a confirmation vote by BESE. If a majority of the Panel votes to accept recommended credentials and/or courses, the Jump Start team then makes these changes to the relevant graduation pathways.

### What Feedback Does the Graduation Pathways Review Panel Provide?

The feedback this Panel provides includes but is not limited to the following:

- requiring more rigorous credentials and/or new credentials based on industry changes and/or best practices from Jump Start implementation;
- removing course offerings that seem unrelated to the focus of the pathway;
- deferring or withholding approval for a pathway that does not meet the Panel's "employability value" litmus test.

The meeting facilitator captures all Panel's feedback. This feedback is communicated in writing to the school systems making recommendations. When the results of a meeting have broader value to all school systems, the Panel may develop a summary memo that it then sends out to all school systems.

### **How Often Does the Graduation Pathways Review Panel Meet?**

The Panel meets “upon demand” and usually meets three a year.

*Graduation pathways will be updated three times each year:*

- 1) in August to start the new school year;*
- 2) in January to reflect any “lessons learned” during the Fall semester; and*
- 3) in April to accommodate changes that address potential graduation issues with seniors.*

The Panel suspects it will schedule its meetings to correspond with the BESE meetings timed to allow approval of new pathways prior to each of these updates (i.e., BESE’s August, December and March meetings).

The Panel may also convene informal virtual meetings if there is a limited agenda that it can address and resolve in-between more extensive meetings.

### **Can Anyone Attend a Graduation Pathways Review Panel Meeting?**

Yes.

Meetings are both virtual and in-person. Anyone can learn about scheduled Panel meetings by contacting [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov)

### **How Can School Systems Submit Recommendations to the Graduation Pathways Review Panel?**

- 1) School systems that want to submit new pathways or recommended changes to existing pathways should contact [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov)
- 2) When submitting requests for new pathways or recommended changes to existing pathways, include at least two (2) emails or letters from surrounding industries that support this request.
- 3) All requests should include justification why this change is beneficial to students from the requesting school system.

Additional Instructions may be found at [Process for Developing a New Jump Start Graduation Pathway](#) and on the *All Things Jump Start* web portal. (<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/all-things-jump-start/>)