

Louisiana Believes

Fall 2020 *Virtual Counselor Institutes* Part Two



Agenda

- LOSFA Updates
- Jump Start 2.0
- STEM Pathways

LOSFA Updates

NCAN Fellowship

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) recently announced a fellowship with the National College Attainment Network (NCAN). Through the fellowship, college students and recent graduates will learn about the importance of financial aid to student success and share that information with various stakeholders, including state and federal policy makers.

Applications should be submitted to Lfosadmin@la.gov by **12:00 noon, October 29, 2020**. Two fellows will be selected and announced by October 30. Student Fellows will receive a stipend in two distributions: \$550 in the fall and \$550 in the spring.

Please see the [NCAN Student Fellowship Application](#) for commitment and eligibility requirements.

2020 Legislative Changes

- Acts 245 and 346: These bills codify waivers of certain TOPS initial and continuing eligibility requirements that were implemented through Proclamation 41-JBE-2020 to address concerns regarding students' ability to comply with the requirements of the law due to the efforts implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Any modifications of initial or continuing eligibility requirements for the 2020-2021 academic year will have to come from the Governor and/or legislative action.

- Act 346 also includes a provision that delays the implementation of the increased high school GPAs required to qualify for a TOPS Performance or Honors Award. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, students would have to achieve a 3.25 to qualify for a Performance Award or a 3.50 to qualify for an Honors Award. **The act delays the implementation until 2022.**

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 - ***Any modifications of initial or continuing eligibility requirements for the 2020-2021 academic year will have to come from the Governor and/or legislative action.***
- Act 346 also includes a provision that delays the implementation of the increased high school GPAs required to qualify for a TOPS Performance or Honors Award. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, students would have to achieve a 3.25 to qualify for a Performance Award or a 3.50 to qualify for an Honors Award. **The act delays the implementation until 2022.**

2020 Legislative Changes

Act 346 waives home study requirements if it is determined by the administering agency that a student's failure to comply was more likely than not due to efforts made to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Students had to enroll as a home study student for their 12th grade year no later than August 31, 2020, if the student previously attended a public or approved nonpublic high school for grades 9, 10 and 11 .

Students must be enrolled in a BESE-approved home study program and meet all other home study TOPS qualifications to be eligible for a TOPS Award.

2020 Legislative Changes

Act 225 provides that a former member of the United States Armed Forces who was honorably discharged from a military installation in Louisiana will qualify for a TOPS Tech Award if he establishes domicile in Louisiana within one year of discharge on or after January 1, 2020. The provisions of the bill are effective for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 academic years.

2020 Legislative Changes

2nd Extraordinary Session

- HB40 and SB36
 - Provides relative to qualifications for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarships (Item #43) for Hurricane Laura affected students. A brief summary of the proposed changes includes:
 - Extends the ACT deadline to Dec. 31, 2020
 - Permits an exception to the deadline if student's ACT test date was cancelled due to Hurricane Laura.
 - Requires the in-state ACT score instead of the higher ACT score for students that graduate from an out of state high school
 - Removes the core curriculum requirement if student's principal certifies that failure to comply was due to lack of course availability.

2020 Legislative Changes

- Modifies state residency requirements and home study requirements for Hurricane Laura affected students
- Waives steady academic progress and cumulative GPA requirements for continuing students
- Extends the deadline to reinstate an award after suspension one semester for each semester they are unable to enroll
- Waives the eligibility reduction for attendance at an out of state institution

Hurricane Laura exceptions apply to students who had a home of record in an affected parish or was enrolled in an eligible college or university in an affected parish.

Hurricane Laura

On September 18, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards signed Proclamation 124JBE2020. This Proclamation suspends certain provisions of law related to TOPS for students who were living in a parish or attending an institution in a parish in which an emergency declaration was issued due to Hurricane Laura. As of September 15, the list includes the following parishes:

Acadia	Allen	Beauregard	Caddo
Calcasieu	Cameron	Grant	Jackson
Jefferson Davis	Lasalle	Lincoln	Morehouse
Natchitoches	Ouachita	Rapides	Sabine
St. Landry	Union	Vermilion	Vernon
Winn			

Hurricane Laura

Current High School Students

- The requirement that students must live in Louisiana and complete their last four (4) semesters at a Louisiana high school or that their parents must reside in Louisiana for the 24 months preceding high school graduation.
- The requirement that a student score a minimum of 23 on the ACT to receive the Opportunity Award if they graduate from an out of state high school.
- The requirement that a student begin a home study program no later than the end of their 10th grade year.

Hurricane Laura

College Students

- The annual hours requirements
- The steady academic progress requirements
- The minimum grade point average requirements
- The deadlines requiring that a student whose award is suspended for failure to meet the grade point average requirements must bring his grade point average up to that required in the applicable statute within a specified time period
- The requirement that one semester of TOPS eligibility be reduced for each semester attended full time at an out of state institution.

Residency Check Process, contd.

- The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will review the Student Transcript System (STS) to ensure the student earned credit for the last four semesters of high school immediately before graduation and graduated from an approved Louisiana high school. **A student must have lived in Louisiana for the last two full years of high school.**
- LOSFA also checks that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) indicates Louisiana residency for 24 months before the high school graduation date.
- If residency is listed as Louisiana for the student but listed as out-of-state for the parent, a letter with the student's name and high school's name will be sent to the school's district to verify enrollment, as stated above, and that the student lived in Louisiana.

Residency Check Process

- If LOSFA determines the student earned credit the last four semesters and resided in Louisiana from the information provided by the district, LOSFA will send the Affidavit of Residency - Student if the FAFSA application shows a state other than Louisiana for the parent.
- If the information from STS and the FAFSA confirm the student resided in a state other than Louisiana, the student is automatically denied the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Award due to residency. A student and/or parent can submit a Residency Affidavit to LOSFA to prove Louisiana Residency.
- If the student is independent, LOSFA will only check the student's residency.

Event Request

- LOSFA has moved to scheduling events online.
- To schedule an event for your high school, student and/or parents as a group, please visit www.mylosfa.la.gov. Click on Schools, Counselor's Corner, Event Request Form
- Events must be scheduled 30 days in advance.
- If a student, parent or counselor needs individual assistance, they can schedule Virtual Office Hours via the Website. Virtual Office Hours are weekdays 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
- Currently, all events will be done in a virtual platform. LOSFA staff will not be available to travel for in-person events.

Blast Email List

- In order to make sure you are receiving LOSFA updates, please email Rhonda.Bridevaux@la.gov to be added to the list.
- Please send new email address if your information has changed or if you have moved to a different school/district.
- Emails are now sent through Constant Contact from the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA). Please make sure to check your junk/spam folder for emails and make sure Rhonda.Bridevaux@la.gov is not blocked by your school system.

Contact LOSFA

www.mylosfa.la.gov

custserv@la.gov

GeauxFAFSA@la.gov

Virtual Office Hours

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Jump Start

Jump Start 2.0

In March, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved 11 [Jump Start 2.0 pathways](#), along with a waiver process for facilitating changes late in students' progressions. As a condition of approving the pathways, the board commissioned a panel that included CTE directors to bring back to BESE [further enhancements to Jump Start 2.0](#), including additional universal courses.

This committee consists of members from Louisiana Economic Development, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Louisiana Board of Regents, Board of Secondary and Elementary Education, small school systems, large school system, and Louisiana Department of Education.

Jump Start 2.0

Approved additions at the August BESE meeting included

- Expanded Universal courses to include an additional 19 courses such as Customer Service, Foreign Language, STAR, Accounting, Law Studies and Biodefense in the Workforce
- IBCs have been added to multiple pathways including Adobe Suite, FAA Part 107, Operation Spark and GIS
- Emerging IBCs, not included as Core IBCs in JS 1.0, were added including OSHA 10, Certified Restaurant Server, ServSafe Food Handler, Microsoft Access and I-Car Student Certification
- Courses have been added to multiple pathways including Keyboarding, Desktop Publishing, Geometry and Publications
- The K16 pathways including both STEM and pre-Educator were updated to include additional courses such as dual enrollment academic courses and CTE courses

Jump Start 2.0

- **Jump Start 1.0** course sequences will be available for incoming freshmen through 2020-2021.
- **Jump Start 2.0** course sequences will be available for incoming freshmen beginning in 2020-2021 and beyond.

Jump Start 2.0

The Department has redesigned the [Industry-Based Certification Fact Sheets](#) (IBCs).

Redesigned fact sheets appear under **updated fact sheets**. Improvements/additions include

- IBC STS code and an example of each IBC
- Certification resources to prepare for the exam
- System requirements for computer-based testing
- Direct links to accommodation and language access information (where available)
- Information on costs (where available)

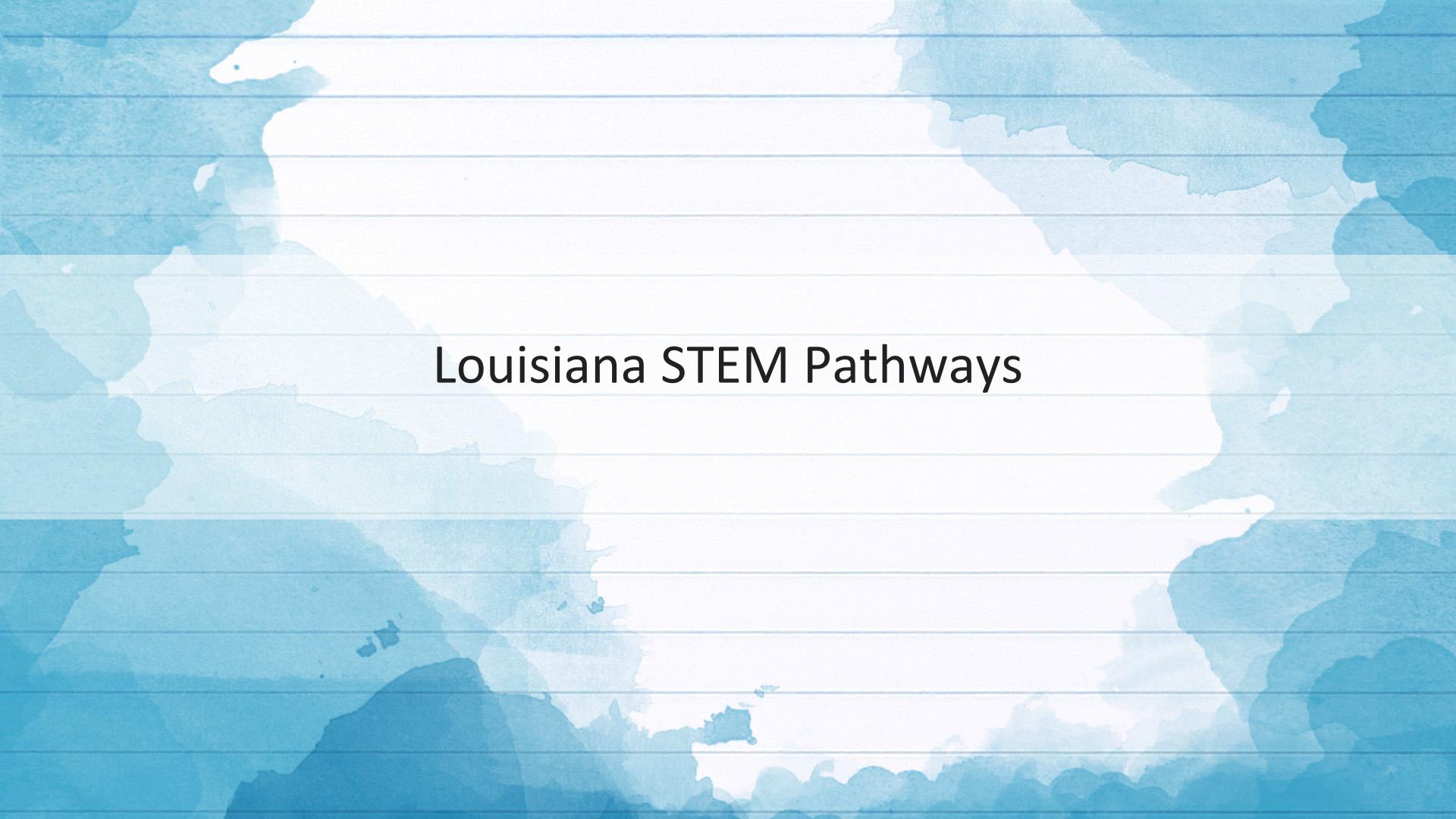
Jump Start 2.0

[Adobe Certified Associate PDF](#)

[Emergency Medical Responder and Technical \(EMR & EMT\) PDF](#)

[Automotive Service Excellence \(ASE\) PDF](#)

Please email jumpstart@la.gov for more information.



Louisiana STEM Pathways

What are Louisiana STEM Pathways?

The Louisiana STEM Pathways

- are innovative, focused STEM experiences;
- lead to the STEM diploma endorsements;
- are built for all students; and
- are constantly evolving.

What's New?

- Pathway participation continues to grow (nearly 50% from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021).
- The pathway briefs have been updated including
 - the new basic career readiness options,
 - new IBC opportunities,
 - increased core dual enrollment opportunities, and
 - a total overhaul of the XULA Pre-Pharmacy Pathway.
- STEM pathway courses were added to Jump Start 2.0 pathways, including some universal electives.
- For the first time, the Department is working with STEM Teacher Leader Advisors.

What's New?

- The Department is overhauling the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Pathway.
- The pathway is being framed now and partners will be engaged by late winter 2020.
- The first courses will be ready for pilot schools in 2021-2022.

Eight Pathways

[Environmental Protection and Sustainability](#) (under redevelopment)

[LSU Biomedical Sciences](#)

[LSU Computing](#)

[LSU Digital Design and Emergent Media](#)

[LSU Pre-Engineering](#)

[PLTW Pre-Engineering](#)

[CYBER.ORG Cyber Security](#)

[Xavier University Pre-Pharmacy](#)

All pathway briefs are available on the [STEM Initiative webpage](#).

Micro-Credentials

- The LDOE received a large federal grant to develop and study the effectiveness of teacher micro-credentials on the Louisiana STEM Pathways.
- Pathway teachers selected for the study earn micro-credentials throughout the year by submitting student work and their own reflections.
- Teachers can earn stipends for their participation and be among the first in the state to earn the micro-credentials.

How Can We Help?

- The LDOE STEM team wants to be a resource for you and your schools. Tell us how we can help.
- We also want to visit your schools, see the awesome things you're doing, and cheer you on.
- Department STEM Specialists
 - nathan.corley@la.gov
 - jeffrey.holcomb@la.gov