



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 25-083**

***PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM
TASK FORCE***

WHEREAS, public higher education systems are responsible for providing learning environments and experiences that promote intellectual development and foster moral and civic virtue through rigorous, content-rich education across disciplines such as the arts, sciences, engineering, and other academic disciplines, ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity to realize their full potential;

WHEREAS, under the Higher Education Act of 1995, institutions of higher education must be accredited or pre-accredited by a recognized accrediting agency to qualify for Title IV federal funding;

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 14279 ordering the U.S. Secretary of Education to implement reforms ensuring that:

(i) accreditation requires higher education institutions to provide high-quality, high-value academic programs free from unlawful discrimination or other violations of Federal law;

(ii) barriers are reduced that limit institutions from adopting practices that advance credential and degree completion and spur new models of education;

(iii) accreditation requires that institutions support and appropriately prioritize intellectual diversity amongst faculty in order to advance academic freedom, intellectual inquiry, and student learning;

(iv) accreditors are not using their role under Federal law to encourage or force institution to violate State laws, unless such State laws violate the Constitution or Federal law;
and

(v) accreditors are prohibited from engaging in practices that result in credential inflation that burdens students with additional unnecessary costs.

WHEREAS, to advance these objectives, the Executive Order also directs the U.S. Secretary of Education to resume recognition of new accrediting agencies to increase competition and accountability in promoting high-quality, high-value academic programs focused on student outcomes;

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2025, the Acting Under Secretary of the United States Department of Education issued guidance on accrediting agencies and stated the U.S. Department of Education will conduct expeditious review of applications for a change in accrediting agencies or maintaining multiple accreditations received except in rare cases where an institution lacks a reasonable cause for making a change. This guidance also stated that Department guidance should allow institutions the freedom to develop unique partnerships with accrediting agencies;

WHEREAS, the State University System of Florida, the University System of Georgia, the University of North Carolina System, the University of South Carolina System, the Texas A&M University System, and the University of Tennessee System have recently founded the Commission for Public Higher Education (“CPHE”);

WHEREAS, the mission of CPHE is to advance the quality and improvement of higher education by accrediting and pre-accrediting state public colleges and universities that are incorporated, chartered, licensed, or authorized in the United States;

WHEREAS, CPHE will focus on student outcomes, streamline accreditation standards, focus on emerging educational models, modernize the accreditation process, maximize efficiency, and ensure no imposition of divisive ideological content on institutions;

WHEREAS, CPHE will establish accreditation standards, policies, and procedures prior to pursuing recognition as a Title IV gatekeeper by the U.S. Department of Education, and intends to accredit public institutions nationwide;

WHEREAS, Louisiana’s public institutions are currently accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC);

WHEREAS, currently, 55% of states with public university systems accredited by SACSCOC are represented on the CPHE Board of Directors;

WHEREAS, Louisiana stands to benefit from early engagement with CPHE, both by diversifying accreditation options and by shaping the standards and procedures that align with the public mission of its institutions;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: The Governor's Task Force on Public Higher Education Reform is hereby established within the Executive Department, Office of the Governor to lead statewide engagement on accreditation reform aligned with institutional autonomy, academic excellence, and federal requirements.

Section 2: The duties of the Task Force shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Identify all items necessary to leverage accreditation to improve student success, accountability, and drive strong outcomes.
- B. Engage with the Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE) to assess the potential benefits of membership for Louisiana's public university systems and provide formal recommendations to the Office of the Governor on pursuing membership.
- C. Identify any legislative or administrative actions necessary to authorize and support Louisiana institutions in pursuing recognition from CPHE, if such action is recommended by the Task Force.
- D. Develop a plan to pilot dual accreditation for public post-secondary institutions in Louisiana.
- E. Coordinate with other states participating in CPHE to identify opportunities for regional collaboration.

Section 3: The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations no later than January 30, 2026, including those for the 2026 Regular Legislative Session.

Section 4: The Task Force shall be comprised of thirteen (13) members who, unless otherwise specified, shall be designated by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The membership shall be composed of the following:

- A. The Commissioner of Higher Education;
- B. The Chair of the Board of Regents;
- C. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System;
- D. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors for the Louisiana State University System;
- E. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the Southern University System;
- F. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the Community and Technical Colleges System;
- G. The Chair of the Senate Education Committee;
- H. The Chair of the House of Representatives Education Committee;
- I. The Executive Counsel for the Governor, or her designee;
- J. The Commissioner of Administration, or his designee;
- K. Three (3) additional members appointed by the Governor.

Section 5: The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Task Force from its members. All other officers, if any, shall be elected by the members of the Task Force.

Section 6: The Task Force shall convene its initial meeting no later than August 31, 2025, and shall meet at least once every two months thereafter until it has completed its assigned duties.

Section 7: Task Force members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem from the Office of the Governor for serving on the Task Force. A Task Force member who is an employee or an elected public official of the State of Louisiana or a political subdivision thereof may seek reimbursement of travel expenses, in accordance with PPM 49, from his or her employing and/or elected department, agency and/or office.

A Task Force member who is also a member of the Louisiana Legislature may seek a per diem from the Louisiana State Senate or House of Representatives, as appropriate, for his or her attendance.

Section 8: Support staff, facilities, and resources for the Task Force shall be provided by the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Section 9: All departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies, and officers of the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Task Force in implementing the provisions of this Order.

Section 10: This order is effective upon signature of the Governor, and it shall remain in effect until the Task Force has completed the tasks identified in Sections 2 and 3 of this Order, or until amended, modified, terminated or rescinded by the Governor, or until terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 22nd day of July, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Landry', is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Landry', is written over a horizontal line.

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE