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Title 28
EDUCATION
Part III. Proprietary Schools

Editor's Note: The Statutory Authority for the rules contained in this Part were recodified in 2019 and moved from R.S. 17:3141 et seq. to R.S. 17:3140.1 et seq.

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§101. Citation and Abbreviation

A. These rules and regulations of the Board of Regents (board) govern the licensing and monitoring of proprietary schools operating in Louisiana upon the recommendation and advice of the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools (commission).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2(F).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1857 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1297 (September 2021).

§103. Definitions

Branch School—a separate facility established by a main school, under the main school's management, control and supervision. The branch may offer full student services and is under the supervision of a designated on-site employee responsible for the day-to-day operation of the branch. Each branch school shall be separately licensed and bonded.

Commission Staff—the staff of the board's Proprietary Schools Section, authorized to aid in the administration of the commission's functions.

Proprietary Schools—hereinafter referred to as "school", as defined in R.S. 17:3141.2 and R.S. 17:3141.16(B)(4).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2(F).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1857 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary School Section, LR 44:1005 (June 2018).

§105. Proprietary Schools Law and the Administrative Procedure Act Incorporated

A. R.S. 17.3140.1 et seq., inclusive, known as the Proprietary Schools Law, and R.S. 49:951 et seq., known as the Administrative Procedure Act, in their currently existing form and as may be amended, are hereby incorporated herein. All remedies and procedures available to the public under these laws, as they pertain to this commission, are hereby made available herein as rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.1, R.S. 49:954.1(A), R.S. 17:3140.2(F).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1857 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1297 (September 2021).

§107. Computation of Time

A. In computing a period of time allowed or prescribed by these rules, by law or by order of the commission or of court, the date of the act, event, or default after which the period begins to run is not to be included. The last day of the period is to be included, unless it is a legal holiday or a day of the weekend, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day, which is not a legal holiday or a day of the weekend.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2(F), La. C.C.P. art. 5059.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1858 (September 2007).

Chapter 3. Procedures

Subchapter A. General Procedural Rules

§301. Initiation of Proceedings

A. Proceedings. Proceedings for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule may be commenced by the board or commission upon its own initiative or pursuant to reasonable grounds therefore. The commission however, shall initiate procedures to adopt, amend or repeal a rule whenever the attorney general requests same.

B. Process for Initiation. Any interested person may petition the commission requesting the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule. The petition shall be filed in the office of the commission located at the Claiborne Building, the Louisiana Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, 1201 N. Third St., Suite 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or P.O. Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or such other address in the event the commission relocates, at any time during normal office hours, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 pm, except for legal holidays and the weekend. Within 90 days after submission of a petition, the commission shall either deny the petition in writing stating reasons for the denial, or shall initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with these rules. Any person whose petition is not deemed by the commission sufficient to warrant the holding of a rule-making proceeding will be promptly notified of that determination and may be given an opportunity to submit additional data.

C. Investigations and Conferences. In connection with any rule-making proceedings, the commission at any time

may conduct such investigations, make such studies, and hold such conferences as it may deem necessary.

D. Notice. Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule, the commission shall give notice of its intended action in accordance with R.S. 49:953(A)(1). The notice shall include a statement of either the terms or substance of the intended action or a description of the subjects and issues involved, and the time when, the place where, and the manner in which interested persons may present their views thereon. The notice shall be mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of the agency for advance notice of its rule-making proceedings and shall be published at least once in the official state journal.

E. Opportunity to be Heard. Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule, the commission shall afford all interested persons reasonable opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing, in accordance with R.S. 49:953(A)(2).

F. Emergency Rules. If the commission finds that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare requires adoption of a rule upon shorter notice than that provided above, it may proceed to adopt emergency rules in accordance with R.S. 49:953(B). The emergency rule thus adopted may be effective for a period not to exceed 60 days, but the adoption of an identical rule otherwise under these rules is not precluded.

G. Filing, Publication and Effective Date of Rule. The commission shall file with the Office of State Register a certified copy of any rule or regulation adopted upon the completion of a rule-making proceeding and publish the same in the official state journal in accordance with R.S. 49:954. Such rules or regulations shall become effective pursuant to R.S. 49:954(B).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:953, R.S. 49:954.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1858 (September 2007).

Subchapter B. Pleadings

§303. Petition to Adopt, Amend or Repeal a Rule

A. Petition to Adopt, Amend, or Repeal a Rule

1. A petition to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule shall be typed or printed on either standard letter size bond paper or on standard legal size bond paper;

2. the petition shall be dated and shall contain the following:

a. the title of the pleading (i.e., "petition");

b. the names of the petitioners;

c. the names of representatives and legal counselors of such petitioners (if applicable);

d. all pertinent allegations of fact, data, views, arguments and reasons supporting the action sought by the petition;

e. a statement or prayer expressing the exact action sought by the petition; and

f. the signatures of all petitioners, if individual, natural persons, or the signatures of duly qualified representatives of petitioner, if a governmental agency or subdivision or an association of persons;

3. the petition, in setting forth all pertinent allegations of fact, data, views, arguments, and reasons supporting the action sought by the petition, shall contain separate, numbered paragraphs, one for each fact, data, view, argument, and reason set forth;

4. the petition, in expressing the exact action sought by it, shall cite and quote the rule to be adopted, amended, or repealed; and if a rule is sought to be amended, the petition shall quote the rule as it would read after amendment, if it were in fact amended; and

5. only substantial compliance is necessary to meet the requirements of form, and to that end, the provisions of this section shall be liberally construed in favor of accepting the petition.

B. Other Pleadings. Pleadings of any type may be submitted to the commission. They shall be similar in form to that of petitions, except that they may exclude those things peculiar to petitions and shall include those things to which they pertain.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:953.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1858 (September 2007).

Subchapter C. Citation and Production of Evidence for Rule-Making Procedures

§305. Voluntary Submission of Evidence

A. Any interested person may voluntarily submit evidence, testimonial or real, to the commission, such evidence being relevant and material to any issue involved in the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule, to the corroboration of or to the unreliability or inaccuracy of any witness or other source of evidence submitted, or to the credibility or non-credibility of any witness or other source of evidence submitted, in the same form and manner as otherwise provided herein or by law.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:953.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1859 (September 2007).

Subchapter D. Public Hearings

§307. Adjudication

A. Process. In any matter defined as adjudication in R.S. 49:951(1), notice shall be given, hearings held and a decision or order issued, all in accordance with the procedures provided for adjudications in R.S. 49:955-961. Upon the conclusion of the hearing and consideration of all

evidence presented, the commission shall submit a recommended decision or order to the board for board approval.

B. Rules of Evidence

1. The commission may admit and give probative effect to evidence which possesses probative value and which is commonly accepted by reasonably prudent men in the conduct of their affairs. It shall give effect to the rules of privilege recognized by law. It shall exclude incompetent, irrelevant, immaterial, and unduly repetitious evidence. Objections to evidentiary offers may be made and shall be noted in the record. Subject to these requirements, when a hearing will be expedited and the interests of the parties will not be prejudiced substantially, any part of the evidence may be received in written form;

2. all evidence, including records and documents in the possession of the commission of which it desires to avail itself, shall be offered and made a part of the record, and all such documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts, or by incorporation by reference. In case of incorporation by reference, the materials so incorporated shall be available for examination by all interested persons before being received in evidence; and

3. notice may be taken of judicially recognizable facts. In addition, notice may be taken of generally recognized technical or scientific facts within the commission's specialized knowledge. All persons who have shown an interest therein shall be notified either before or during the hearing, or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise, of the material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data, and they shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the material so noticed. The commission's experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge may be utilized in the evaluation of the evidence.

C. Admission of Depositions. The presiding officer or any person interested in a proceeding before the commission may take the depositions of witnesses, within or without the state, in the same manner clothed with all the formalities as provided by law for the taking of depositions. Depositions so taken shall be admissible in any proceeding affected by this Chapter. The admission of such depositions may be objected to at the time of hearing and may be received in evidence or excluded from the evidence by the presiding officer in accordance with the rules of evidence provided in this Chapter above.

D. Reopening Hearing and Rehearings. The commission may reopen any hearing for good cause shown, and may grant a rehearing in accordance with R.S. 49:959.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:955, R.S. 49:956, R.S. 49:959.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1859 (September 2007).

Subchapter E. Declaratory Orders and Rulings

§309. Declaratory Orders and Rulings

A. The commission shall consider petitions for a declaratory order or ruling as to the applicability of any statutory provision or of any rule or order of the board, submitted pursuant to R.S. 49:962, hold hearings if necessary, and submit a recommended declaratory order or ruling. A petition for a declaratory order or ruling shall contain:

1. the title of the pleading (e.g., "Petition for Declaratory Order");

2. the names of the petitioners;

3. the names of representatives and legal counselors of such petitioners (if applicable);

4. a concise statement of the issue posed, along with citations to the statute, rule or order at issue;

5. a clearly organized statement of all pertinent allegations of fact and data, and if the petitioner takes a specific position on the issue, the arguments and reasons supporting such position;

6. a statement or prayer expressing the exact action sought by the petition;

7. the signatures of all petitioners, if individual, natural persons, or the signatures of duly qualified representatives of petitioner, if a governmental agency or subdivision or an association of persons; and

8. only substantial compliance is necessary to meet the requirements of form, and to that end, the provisions of this section shall be liberally construed in favor of accepting the petition.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:962.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1859 (September 2007).

Chapter 5. License Requirements

§501. Applications

A. General

1. All applications must comply with the provisions of R.S. 17:3141.4, as well as any applicable provisions of these regulations. All applications concerning licenses are to be submitted to the commission in the manner as directed by commission staff.

2. All applicable fees, as provided below, must be by company, institutional, certified check, or by money order and must be made payable to the "Louisiana Board of Regents", with the exception of the Student Protection Fund which is to be made payable to the "Student Protection Fund." Except for overpayments toward the Student Protection Fund, no portion of any license fee shall be subject to refund.

B. Initial Application and License Fee. The initial license application fee shall be $2,000. A payment of $1,000 toward the student protection fund must be paid along with the license fee.

C. Renewal Application and Fee

1. The annual renewal application fee is based on the school's gross tuition revenues for the previous year as follows:

a. under $50,000—$500;

b. $50,000 and up—greater of $1,000 or 0.25 percent of gross tuition income.

2. If a complete license renewal application is not received at least 30 days prior to its expiration date, in addition to the renewal fee, there shall be a delinquent fee of $500. In addition to the renewal application fee and any delinquent fee, a payment to the Student Protection Fund, if applicable, must be made in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.11.

D. License Fee for Solicitors. The annual license fee for each solicitor/sales representative of a school shall be $100.

E. Reinstatement Licensure Fee. The reinstatement licensure fee for a suspended school shall be $500.

F. Change of Ownership Application and License Fee. All changes of ownership are contingent upon approval from the board. Applications for a new license must be requested within 10 days of the change of ownership. No license shall be transferable. The application fee is $2,000. A payment of $1,000 toward the student protection fund must be made along with the application fee.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.1, R.S. 17:3140.3.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1859 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1297 (September 2021).

§503. Student Protection Fund

A. First Payment. Initial (new) schools and change-of-ownership schools shall be required to submit their first payment of $1,000 made payable to the "Student Protection Fund" with their application.

B. Annual Payment. The required annual payments, if applicable, to the Student Protection Fund shall be collected based on the schedule provided in R.S. 17:3140.11.

C. Collection Schedule. Annual payments shall cease when the fund accumulates to $800,000 but shall resume when the fund drops below $750,000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.11.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1297 (September 2021).

§505. Affidavits

A. Applications and renewal applications must be accompanied by affidavits by each owner, and director unless previously approved, and Solicitor Permit Applications (PSC-4 Form) by each solicitor containing the information prescribed by R.S. 17:3140.13 (for solicitor renewal, see §703). In the case of office and clerical personnel, in lieu of the affidavits of such personnel, the owner may submit an affidavit setting forth the information prescribed R.S. 17:3140.13 concerning such personnel. Such information shall be based on the owner's investigation and knowledge. For solicitor renewal, see §703.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2(F).
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1297 (September 2021).

§507. Surety Bond

A. Each license application must be accompanied by a surety bond in the amount of $10,000 issued by a surety authorized to do business in Louisiana. The bond must meet the requirements set forth in R.S. 17:3140.5 and the PSC-3 Form. Bond releases and terminations shall be as provided in R.S. 17:3140.5(D) and (E), and suspension of operating license for lack of surety bond coverage is governed by. R.S.17:3140.5(F). A school may be exempted from filing a surety bond if it meets all of the following requirements:

1. does not require students to pay tuition for course of study more than one month in advance;

2. has been in continuous operation for at least five years; and

3. has met all the requirements of the commission.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2(F).
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1297 (September 2021).

§509. Other Provisions Concerning License

A. A license shall be valid only for the school and shall not include other schools or branches operated by the owner. Each separate location or branch school shall be licensed and bonded. No new courses shall be offered by any school holding a license until it is approved by the commission staff in accordance with procedures to be established by the commission.

B. Each license must be displayed on the premises. No license shall be transferable. In the event of a change of ownership of the school, the license shall be revoked unless the new owner, within 10 days after the change of ownership, the new owner shall submit a copy of the bill of sale to commission staff, and is required to submit a new application two months prior to the date of the expiration of the license.

C. Any person who contemplates the purchase of a school may apply for a license. If the board grants such a license, it shall become a valid license only upon completion of the proposed sale.

D. All licenses shall be renewed annually, not less than 30 days prior to expiration date thereof. Updated information must contain all changes in staff, school programs, etc., including all additions and deletions.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. R.S. 17:3140.2(F).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1298 (September 2021).

§511. Denial of Recommendation of License and Commission Hearing

A. If the commission or commissioner recommends the denial of a license, the commission shall hold a hearing upon the applicant's request, as provided in R.S. 17:3140.6. The applicant may appear in person or by counsel and may present evidence in support of granting the license. The decision or order resulting from a hearing before the commission is subject to rehearing, reopening, or reconsideration by the commission within 10 days from the date of its entry on the grounds set forth in R.S.49:959 and in accordance with the procedures therein.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.6.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1298 (September 2021).

§513. Revocation of License

A. Licenses may be revoked by the board in accordance with the standards and procedures set forth in R.S.17:3140.7 and statutory and regulatory provisions applicable thereto.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1861 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1298 (September 2021).

Chapter 7. Personnel Affidavits/Permits

§701. Completion of Affidavits by Non-Instructional Personnel/Instructional Personnel

A. Completion of Affidavit by Non-Instructional Personnel

1. An affidavit (PSC-9 Form) containing the following information must be submitted by the owner of each school (if a corporation, by each officer and by each director) and by each staff person, except solicitors, instructors, and office and clerical personnel:

a. full name and address of said person and the capacity in which he/she serves the school;

b. the city, parish/county, and state of said person's permanent residence and places of residence for the past five years;

c. the names and addresses of said person's employer or employers for the past five years;

d. whether or not said person has ever been convicted of a felony for a crime involving fraud or any misdemeanor other than a traffic violation; and

e. three persons who may be contacted concerning such person's good moral character.

2. Minimum qualifications of an instructor include the following:

a. an instructor in an academically-credentialed area shall have a baccalaureate degree from a bonafide, accredited college or university, and demonstrate appropriate familiarity with the subject matter taught as evidenced by an academic transcript and/or occupational experience;

b. an instructor, in other than an academically-credentialed area, shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent; a license, diploma, certificate, other degree from a recognized institution or organization in the area taught, or documented evidence of on-the-job training in the area taught; and four years of documented occupational experience in the area taught;

c. as used in this Subsection, a "recognized institution or organization" shall mean any bonafide, licensed, chartered or traditionally accredited business or association legally engaged in commerce, education, training, or advocacy. Recognized institutions or organizations shall include, but not be limited to, governmental agencies, labor unions, trade and professional corporations, and retail, financial, and commercial entities. The commission shall reserve the right to use all reasonable means in verifying the validity of credentials;

d. at the board's discretion, the minimum four years experience required for instructors may be waived for those disciplines where teaching credentials are officially certified, licensed, or otherwise approved or granted by a federal agency; and

e. employees employed prior to May 30, 1989 will be exempted from occupational experience.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1861 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1298 (September 2021).

§703. Solicitor Application, Bonds, Renewal, Denial, and Revocation

A. All forms are prepared and provided by the commission staff.

1. Permits and Applications. No person shall sell any course of instruction or solicit students therefore in Louisiana for any school unless he has obtained a solicitor's

permit from the commission. A separate permit is required for each school the solicitor represents. A separate application (PSC-4 Form) with required fee and bond must be submitted for each permit sought (i.e., for each school to be represented).

2. Bonds. Surety bonds for permits must be in the amount of $1,000 for each permit issued. The bond must be continuous and must be issued by a solvent surety authorized to do business in Louisiana (see PSC-5 Form). The bond may be supplied as a blanket bond by a school covering each agent, $1,000 in amount for each agent. This bond is set forth in PSC-6 Form. If a surety cancels a bond (as provided in R.S. 17:3140.13C(3)) then a substitute bond (meeting all conditions for the original) must be furnished and the solicitor's permit shall be in a state of suspension for any period of time not covered by a proper bond.

3. Renewals. Each permit is valid for one year from date of issuance unless revoked and must be renewed not less than 30 days prior to expiration date. At the time of renewal, the owner/director must submit a PSC-4 Form, (unless the owner/director submits written notification of continued employment of solicitor); a $100 renewal fee (made payable to the "Louisiana Board of Regents"); and proof of continuous bond coverage.

4. Denial of Permits. The commission may deny recommendations of issuance of a permit when proper grounds exist therefore. The procedures in such cases shall be in accordance with the applicable provision of R.S. 17:3140.6 and R.S. 49:951-966.

5. Revocation of Permits. A permit may be revoked for any of the causes set forth in R.S. 17:3140.7. Notice of contemplated revocation must be given in writing at least 30 days prior to the effective date of revocation. At any time within 30 days prior to the revocation, upon request of the solicitor, the commission shall afford the solicitor an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel. On or before 30 days prior to the date set for hearing, the commission shall notify the aggrieved solicitor of the date and purpose of the hearing and the grounds for the contemplated revocation of the permit. The procedure for revocation shall be in accordance with those prescribed by R.S. 49:951-966 and by R.S.17:3140.7 as applicable to such action.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2 (F), R.S. 17:3140.7. R.S. 17:3140.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1861 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1299 (September 2021).

Chapter 9. Proprietary Schools Applications

§901. Initial License or Change of Ownership License Procedures

A. Refer to the PSC-14 Form, Proprietary Schools License Requirements Checklist. Enclose one original application in a binder, with tabs of the applicable items as listed on the PSC-14.

B. Louisiana Minimum Cancellation and Refund Policy

1. Three-Business-Day Cancellation. All monies paid by a student shall be refunded if requested within three business days after signing an enrollment agreement and making an initial payment.

2. Cancellation after the Three-Business-Day Cancellation Period but Before Commencement of Classes by the Student. If tuition or fees are collected in advance of entrance, and if the student does not begin classes, not more than a $150 registration fee shall be retained by the institution. Appropriate refunds shall be made within 30 days of the start of the quarter, term, or semester.

3. For programs less than 300 clock hours, the withdrawal after commencement of classes refund policy shall be:

a. after a student has completed less than 15 percent of the program, the institution shall refund at least 80 percent of the tuition, less the registration fee, thereafter;

b. after a student has completed less than one fourth of the program, the institution shall refund at least 70 percent of the tuition, less the registration fee, thereafter;

c. after a student has completed one fourth, but less than one half of the program, the institution shall refund at least 45 percent of the tuition, less the registration fee, thereafter;

d. after a student has completed one half or more of the program, the institution may retain 100 percent of the stated program price.

4. Any unused portion of the book fee will be refunded.

5. For programs 300 clock hours or longer, the withdrawal after commencement of classes refund policy shall be:

a. during the first week of the program, the institution shall refund at least 90 percent of the tuition, less the registration fee, thereafter;

b. during the next three weeks of the program, the institution shall refund at least 75 percent of the tuition, less the registration fee, thereafter;

c. during the first 25 percent of the program, the institution shall refund at least 55 percent of the tuition, less the registration fee, thereafter;

d. during the second 25 percent of the program, the institution shall refund at least 30 percent of the tuition, less the registration fee, thereafter;

e. during the third and fourth 25 percent of the program, the institution shall retain 100 percent of the stated program price. Percentages of the program completion are to be computed on the basis of clock hour. For programs longer than one year (12 calendar months) in length, 100 percent of

the stated program price attributable to the period beyond the first year will be refunded when the student withdraws during the prior period.

6. Any unused portion of the book fee will be refunded.

C. Items to be Included in School Catalog

1. A prospective student is entitled to sufficient data to make an informed decision on training opportunities and institutions. A school is therefore obligated to provide sufficiently detailed information in advance of enrollment to enable prospective students to clearly understand their opportunities, limitations, and obligations.

2. Each school shall prepare and make available a typed and bound publication which is readily identifiable as a catalog and each student shall receive a copy. This catalog shall be designed and written to convey accurate information on the school. It shall avoid false, misleading, or exaggerated statements.

3. The following items shall be listed in the catalog:

a. the name, address, phone number, email, and fax of school;

b. the date of publication;

c. a statement of institutional philosophy;

d. licensure statement;

e. the admission requirements and procedures;

f. the educational objectives of each program offering, including the name, nature, and level of occupations for which training is provided;

g. a detailed program outline for each program of study that includes subject abbreviations and numbers, subject titles, the number of clock and/or credit hours of instruction in lecture, lab, and/or clinical/externship, and the length of time in weeks or months normally required for completion;

h. the subject descriptions for each program of study;

i. a brief description of the school's physical facilities, equipment to be used in class, and the maximum class size;

j. the school policies relative to tardiness, absences, make-up work, conduct, termination, re-entry, and other rules and regulations of the school;

k. the grading system, including a definition of ratings;

l. the required levels of performance for graduation;

m. a statement of certificates, diplomas, or degrees awarded upon graduation;

n. a statement of student charges related to enrollment: registration fee, tuition, book fee, lab fee, and any other charges for which a student will be responsible;

o. a statement of the cancellation and refund policy of the school;

p. a detailed and explicit description of the extent and nature of job placement assistance that is available to graduates, if any;

q. specifics describing the availability of residential housing, vocational counseling services, scholarships, and the extent of other services available to students, if any;

r. a school calendar including holidays and other dates of importance;

s. the school's student complaint procedure;

t. any other facts concerning the school and its programs of instruction.

D. Institutions seeking initial licensure shall certify in writing that they have the capabilities to annually submit to the Board of Regents student-level data for each student, in a format prescribed by the Board of Regents and the capabilities to electronically store student transcript data.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Regents, LR 33:1862 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary School Section, LR 40:1687 (September 2014), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1299 (September 2021)..

§903. License Renewal

A. Renewal letters are sent to the school owners annually. A license renewal application must be received in this office 30 days prior to the license expiration. If it is not, there shall be a $500 delinquent fee. Failure to furnish all the renewal information prior to the license expiration date will cause the license to expire. There can be no exceptions or any other extension. The following paperwork must be submitted:

1. a completed PSC-1 Form;

2. verification from the bonding company that the surety bonds ($10,000 for school and $1,000 per solicitor) are still in effect must accompany the renewal application. The premium period must coincide with the school's licensure period.

3. a completed PSC-12 form;

4. the renewal fee based upon the school's previous year's gross tuition revenues. The check is to be made payable to the "Louisiana Board of Regents." Refer to the PSC-12 form;

5. financial statements:

a. for those schools which participate in Title IV funding, an original set of financial statements that have been audited by an independent certified public accountant

licensed in the state of Louisiana, including a current balance sheet and an income statement showing gross tuition receipts for the school's last fiscal year, and in the case of a corporation, signed by an officer of the corporation, sole proprietorship or partnership, signed by the owner(s) or a duly authorized agent acting on behalf of the owner(s), stating that it is true and correct; and

b. for those schools which do not participate in Title IV funding, an original set of financial statements that have been reviewed by an independent public accountant licensed in the state of Louisiana, including a current balance sheet and an income statement showing gross tuition receipts for the school's last fiscal year, and in the case of a corporation or sole proprietorship or partnership, signed by the owner(s) or a duly authorized agent acting on behalf of the owner(s) stating that it is true and correct;

6. an internal compilation reflecting the school's most recent quarter, if the audit/review submitted with the renewal materials, reflects a business year that ended more than 120 days prior to the submission of the renewal materials;

7. a completed PSC-18 Form reflecting the application date listed on the PSC-1 Form;

8. a completed PSC-4 Form for any new solicitor employed with the school. The initial and/or renewal fee is $100 per solicitor is to be made payable to the "Louisiana Board of Regents";

9. a completed PSC-9 Form on all instructors and staff employed since the last school renewal, unless previously approved during the year;

10. a current school catalog;

11. a current copy of the enrollment agreement/enrollment contract;

12. proof of the ability to electronically store student transcript data;

13. Institutions seeking renewal licensure shall annually collect, and all institutions licensed by the Board of Regents shall annually report, student-level data from the prior year for each student, in a format prescribed by the Board of Regents. At minimum, data from the prior year must include

a. withdrawal data,

b. program completion/ graduation data,

c. student demographic information (including full name, date of birth, social security number, sex, race/ethnicity), type of credential earned.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.3 and R.S. 17:3140.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1862 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1300 (September 2021).

§905. Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS) Degree Application

A. Requirements. An eligible post-secondary school may award a non-academic degree entitled "The Associate in Occupational Studies."

1. The school must be licensed by the board, domiciled in the state of Louisiana, and accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

B. The board shall revoke the degree-granting status of any post-secondary school that loses or withdraws its accreditation.

C. No school shall be licensed to award the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science. All advertising, recruiting, and publications shall state clearly that such occupational degree awarded by a post-secondary school is non-academic and does not imply, promise, or guarantee transferability.

D. Each student admitted to an occupational degree program in an accredited post-secondary school shall be required to:

1. have a high school diploma or equivalent; and

2. complete a minimum of two years, four semesters, or six quarters of course work for each occupational degree program.

E. Each AOS degree program shall have a minimum of 75 percent of its course of study in a specific occupational area.

F. Each course of study shall have a minimum of 96 quarter hours if using quarter hours, a minimum of 1800 clock hours if using clock hours, and a minimum of 64 semester hours if using semester hours.

G. Application Enclosures. Enclose one original and eight copies, in binders with tabs, of the following:

1. a completed PSC-1 Form, including the title of the proposed AOS degree program;

2. the completed PSC-11 Form;

3. a blank copy of the diploma that would be awarded upon successful completion of the AOS degree program;

4. a detailed program outline including subject numbers, subject titles, clock hours, quarter hours or semester hours (whichever is used for each subject), and total clock hours, quarter hours, or semester hours (whichever is used for each program);

5. a description of each subject listed on the outline; and

6. an inventory list of equipment/supplies/furnishings available for the AOS degree program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.17.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1862 (September 2007).

Chapter 11. Student Protection Fund

§1101. Policies and Procedures

A. Student Protection Fund Policy

1. The Student Protection Fund is administered by the board and the commission; shall be subjected to audit and review by the Legislative Auditor's Office.

2. Required refunds due from the Student Protection Fund will be provided on a pro rata basis, or other means as appropriate. Prior to any funds being released from the Student Protection Funds, the school's surety bond must be exhausted.

3. For students that have loans, the administrator of the Student Protection Fund will enter into an agreement with the state guaranty agency that any refunds will be allocated as follows:

a. present holder of the loan, whether lender or LOSFA, and any remaining balance to the borrower;

b. for students without loans, appropriate tuition repayment.

4. Administration of the Student Protection Fund is subject to review by the U.S. Department of Education and the state guaranty agency:

a. the commission staff shall retain all records pertaining to the determination of payment or denial of refunds for a period of not less than one year after the final determination has been made;

b. records shall be maintained in an organized manner; and

c. records shall be readily accessible to the U.S. Department of Education and guarantee agency auditors.

B. Student Protection Fund Procedures

1. The application for tuition recovery (PSC-15 Form), may be submitted after reasonable efforts to compensate the student from the following resources have been exhausted (see PSC-15 Form for instructions):

a. provide teach-out;

b. acquire refund from the school;

c. acquire refund from any other school resources; and

d. acquire refund from U.S. Department of Education, Closed School Section;

2. lenders holding loans eligible for refunds under the Student Protection Fund may submit the claims to the commission without undertaking any additional collection activity, if the commission determines that the student has not submitted a claim. Submission of a claim by the lender will preclude the student from filing a claim at a later time;

3. refund calculations will be based upon copies of enrollment contracts, student ledger cards, and other pertinent documents submitted by the student; and

4. students and/or lenders applying for relief to the Student Protection Fund will be notified of the status of the request within 60 days of receipt of the application by the commission staff.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.11 and R.S. 17:3140.12.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1863 (September 2007).

Chapter 13. Advertising Rules for Proprietary Schools

§1301. Advertising Rules

A. Advertising. All advertising shall forthrightly disclose the purpose of the advertising, that education or training, not a job, is offered, and that the advertiser is a school. Advertising includes any form of public notice however disseminated or utilized. Within this definition would be all publications, communications, promotional items, and efforts which could normally be expected to be seen or encountered by significant numbers of prospective students or their sponsors. Examples include catalogs and other school publications, signs, mailing pieces, radio, television, audio-visual, newspaper, internet or any other form of public notice resulting from the school's recruiting and promotional activities.

B. Solicitation. In the solicitation of students, a school shall not directly, or by implication, misrepresent the services it renders. All advertisements and promotional literature used shall be truthful, informative and constructive; and avoid conveying any false, misleading or exaggerated impressions with respect to the school, its personnel, its courses and services, or the occupational opportunities for its graduates. The true purpose and nature of a school's offerings shall be evident in all advertising. Every advertisement shall constitute to the reader a clear statement of a bonafide offer or announcement made in good faith. It shall be written to its anticipated readership, normally persons unsophisticated in the traditional word usage of the education industry. Therefore, all solicitation must be truthful and conducted with extreme care.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.8.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1863 (September 2007).

Chapter 15. Violations

§1501. Authority, Investigation, and Sanctions

A. Violations. The following is an illustrative, but not exclusive, list of actions constituting a violation:

1. failure to provide the commission with an item of information required by R.S. 17:3140.1 et seq.;

2. misrepresentation about a school's credentials or accreditation;

3. a false claim or guaranty of employment by a school or solicitor;

4. failure to disclose to a student a necessary requirement for employment;

5. false or misleading advertising;

6. unethical behavior by a solicitor;

7. failure to disclose liability for repayment of a student loan;

8. failure to respond to student complaints as provided in the student complaint rule, R.S. 17:3140.9 and 17:3140.2;

9. employment of an instructor who is unqualified;

10. unsafe or unhealthy condition of a school;

11. unsafe, unhealthy, or inadequate instructional equipment;

12. failure to teach the number of hours claimed;

13. failure to maintain attendance records and to provide them for inspection;

14. failure to comply with a contractual relationship with a student;

15. failure to release the grades of a student;

16. failure to cooperate with an investigator from the commission;

17. attempting to obtain, obtaining, or renewing a license to operate a school by fraudulent misrepresentation or bribery;

18. placement of classified advertisement under "employment" or other similar categories related to employment rather than "education" or "instruction";

19. upon closure, failure to transfer student records to the board; and

20. failure to comply with the provision of R.S. 17:3140.1 et seq., or any written rule or regulation of the board.

B. Authority and Scope. The definition of "school" for the purpose of this rule shall include a licensed school and school owners, employees, operators, agents and solicitors. The commission shall use the following procedures prior to making a recommendation to the board under R.S. 17:3140.7 that a school license should be revoked, canceled, or suspended.

1. Any school found to be in violation of any provision of R.S. 17:3140 et seq., or any other state regulation adopted by the commission pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act governing the administration or operation of a school may be sanctioned by one or more of the following remedies:

a. restitution and remedial measures;

b. civil money penalties (fines); and

c. revocation, suspension, cancellation, or other restrictions on the license.

2. The commission's assessment of a sanction shall be based on the following considerations:

a. whether the violation or substantially similar violation has previously occurred;

b. the duration of the violation;

c. the severity of the violation;

d. the school's history of compliance with the regulations;

e. what sanction is most likely to bring the school into compliance in the shortest time;

f. the "good faith" exercised by the school in attempting to stay in compliance with the regulations; and

g. such other factors as the commission deems appropriate.

C. Investigation

1. When the commission's staff becomes aware of a violation, it may conduct an onsite investigation of a school. The inspection may or may not be announced at the discretion of the staff.

2. The agent conducting the investigation shall have the authority to:

a. privately interview administrators, teachers, solicitors, and students;

b. inspect school records, documents, catalogs, forms, and advertisements; and

c. inspect the school facilities and equipment.

3. The school shall cooperate fully with the agent.

4. Within five days of the investigation the agent shall prepare a written report which shall be furnished to the commission staff and the school. The report shall contain:

a. factual findings relevant to the initial violation;

b. factual findings of any additional violations;

c. recommendations of remedial measures to be taken by the school; and

d. recommendations of any sanctions to be taken by the commission including the commission's petition for an injunction to terminate the violation;

e. the procedure by which an administrative hearing may be requested.

5. Additional or follow-up visits may be made to the school to monitor violations or to monitor remedial measures taken to correct prior violations.

D. Notice of a Violation

1. When a violation of state statutes or regulations governing the administration or operation of a school has occurred, in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.8, the commission staff shall give notice of the violation to the school's director by certified mail, return receipt, and shall

afford the school an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel.

2. The written notice of the violation shall:

a. specify the violation(s);

b. cite the legal authority which establishes the violation(s);

c. cite any sanctions assessed for each violation;

d. inform the school's director that the determination of the violation and imposition of the sanction are final, and no further administrative or judicial appeals may be had if a timely appeal is not filed; and

e. inform the school's director if the violation is regarded as a repeat or continuing violation and the manner in which the sanction will be imposed.

3. If the school requests a hearing, the commission staff shall hold a hearing and take evidence. Strict rules of evidence shall not apply. A tape recording of the hearing shall be made. The school may deny the violation, admit the violation in part and deny it in part, or admit the violation but request a reduction or modification of the sanction imposed. The school may present witnesses or documentary evidence in its defense bearing directly on the violation asserted. The school is limited to one witness to attest to its reputation or to remedial measures it has taken. The commission may consider reputation and remedial measures in mitigation of the sanction. For continued or repeat violations, reputation or remedial measures shall not be considered.

4. The commission staff shall have authority to determine for purposes of making a recommendation to the board, whether a violation is a repeat or continuing violation:

a. a repeat violation is the recurrence of the same or a substantially similar violation within a period of 12 months;

b. a continuing violation is one that may be reasonably expected to continue until corrective action is taken. A continuing violation may be considered as a repeat violation for each day following the day on which the initial violation is established, until such time as there is evidence establishing a date by which the violation is corrected. A continuing violation may be subject to appropriate sanctions for repeat violations up to the number of days of the violation at the discretion of the commission staff.

5. After holding a hearing, the commission shall submit its findings to the board, and may recommend any of the penalties listed in Paragraph 1501.B.1 and Subsection 1501.F, as it deems appropriate. The commission shall also forward a copy of its findings and recommendation to the school, notify the school of the date of the board meeting when the commission's recommendation will be considered, and advise the school of the opportunity to appear at the board's meeting by person or by counsel and be heard. After due consideration of the commission's recommendation and the school's arguments (if the school presents any arguments) and upon a vote of two-thirds of the authorized membership of the board, the board may revoke, cancel, suspend or restrict the school's license, or impose fines or refunds.

6. A sanction which requires monetary payments, either fines or restitution, shall be paid within a timeframe as determined by the board following its notification.

E. Description of Sanctions

1. Restitution and Remedial Measures. The commission may impose sanctions consisting of, but not limited to, the following measures:

a. rebate of all or a portion of the tuition to the students;

b. modification or termination of advertising when unwarranted, false, or misleading claims are made, or placement of corrective ads;

c. counseling of students when they have been misinformed about a material matter;

d. the posting of a sign in a prominent position in a school correcting a false representation made to the students;

e. the distribution of an informational leaflet to the students informing them of their rights;

f. the inclusion or exclusion of information from the student catalog to correct a misrepresentation;

g. repairs or modification to a physical facility when health or safety is jeopardized;

h. repairs or modification to equipment when health or safety or delivery of quality instruction is jeopardized;

i. an order to terminate a gross violation of the statutes or regulations;

j. an order to cease the enrollment of new students or to limit enrollment to those students who meet more restrictive admission standards; and

k. modification of the curricula or methods of instruction.

2. Civil Money Penalties (Fines). The commission has the authority to impose a fine up to $500 for each violation. Repeat or continuing violations may be assessed separate fines up to $500 for each day of violation. After a fine is imposed, the commission may allow a specified period of time for the correction of the violation. If the violation is corrected, the commission may waive the payment of the fine. The school may be given the opportunity to demonstrate compliance before the fine becomes final. A violation for which a fine is waived shall still be counted for repeat and continued violations. The right to assess civil fines is not merged in other remedies, and the commission may impose other sanctions in addition to the fines.

3. Revocation of License. The commission may recommend the revocation of a school's license to the board.

F. Appeal Procedure. Any sanction may be administratively appealed as long as the appeal is timely filed in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.6.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2, R.S. 17:3140.7, R.S. 3140.8, and R.S. 17:3140.9.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1863 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1301 (September 2021).

Chapter 17. Student Complaint Procedure

§1701. Policies, Conciliation, Conference, Hearing, and Review

A. General Policies

1. The purpose of this complaint procedure is to provide an effective and efficient method by which students may resolve their complaints with the commission staff under the jurisdiction of the board;

2. the commission staff shall prepare and provide a copy of the complaint procedure to each licensed school; and

3. each school shall include in either their catalog or enrollment agreement the following:

a. complaints relative to actions of school officials may be made and must be in writing, addressed to the Louisiana Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, Program Administrator, P.O. Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677, 225/342-4253. Such complaints may be made only after the student has unsuccessfully attempted to resolve the matter with the school by having first filed a written and signed complaint with that school's officials. Any student who wishes to review the student complaint procedure may make a request for a copy of the procedure, in writing, to the Louisiana Board of Regent,

B. Conciliation

1. Any student who believes he/she has been aggrieved by actions of school officials shall first file a written and signed complaint with school officials. School officials must respond with a decision within 10 calendar days of the date of the complaint.

2. No later than one year from date of the last alleged grievance, the student may appeal the decision of the school officials in writing to the commission staff at Louisiana Board of Regents, Program Administrator, Proprietary Schools Section. The student shall submit a copy of the original grievance with their appeal.

3. Copies of this appeal and notice of the complaint will be sent to the school and to the complainant. A copy must also be retained in the commission staff files.

4. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal, commission staff will request that the student and the school meet and discuss the complaint in a conciliation effort or commission staff will independently evaluate the appeal within 10 days after receipt of the notice.

5. If no amicable resolution is achieved via a conciliation effort, either party may request, within seven days, a hearing before the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools. Within five working days following a request for a hearing, the commission staff shall send written notice to the parties containing the following:

a. an explanation of the hearing procedures; and

b. the date, time and place for the hearing.

C. Hearing

1. A public hearing shall be held before the commission. The parties shall be given 15 days notice in advance of the hearing, including the time, place and nature of the hearing and a statement of the alleged complaints to be the subject of the hearing.

2. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act;

D. Judicial Review. Either party may appeal to the Nineteenth Judicial District in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.9.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1865 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary School Section, LR 44:1005 (June 2018), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1303 (September 2021).

Chapter 19. Student Records

§1901. General Policies

A. All schools shall maintain all student records as required under R.S. 17:3140.15. All student records shall include, but are not limited to student enrollment information, student enrollment agreements, attendance records, financial and academic transcripts, and exit interview.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2 and R.S. 17:3140.15.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1866 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1303 (September 2021).

§1903. Transfer of Student Records

A. A school must make arrangements to transfer all student academic transcripts to the Commissioner of Higher Education at the commission's address within 10 days of closing. If any of the records have been seized or confiscated by legal authorities, the board shall request the authorities for documentation regarding seizure of the records. However, the school remains responsible for turning over unseized student academic transcripts. Any closed school, that maintains student files and electronic files shall make arrangements to electronically transfer such records to the board. The records shall be prepared in the following manner:

1. they shall be filed in alphabetical order;

2. each container will be clearly marked "official records" and will show the alphabetical order within the container (e.g., aa to bc); and

3. the containers shall be sealed to prevent loss or damage and marked in succession.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2 and R.S. 17:3140.15.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1866 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1303 (September 2021).

§1905. Penalties

A. Failure to maintain and/or turn over student records as provided above will result in the assessment of penalties.

B. If necessary, a claim shall be made against the surety bond posted at the time of submission of the license application to satisfy any penalties for failure to maintain and/or turn over student records pursuant to R.S. 17:3141.5 (D)(1)(b)(iv).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2 and R.S. 17:3140.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1866 (September 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, LR 47:1303 (September 2021).

Chapter 21. Exceptions

§2101. Board Authority

A. The board retains the authority to waive or make exceptions to any provision of these regulations if it deems such waiver or exception to be in the public interest. This authority shall be exercised by majority vote of the Louisiana Board of Regents pursuant to request by a school, any interested party, recommendation of the commission, or upon its own motion.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1866 (September 2007).

Chapter 23. Forms

§2301. Proprietary Schools Licensure Forms

A. In order to obtain a new proprietary school license, an individual or organization will have to fill out forms published by the commission that include the following information:

a. institutional contact information;

b. programmatic information;

c. surety information;

d. recruitment and instructional staff information;

e. tuition and financial documentation.

B. In order to renew a proprietary school license, an individual or organization will have to fill out forms published by the commission that include the following information:

a. institutional contact information;

b. programmatic information;

c. surety information;

d. recruitment and instructional staff information;

e. tuition and financial documentation;

f. student data.

C. In order for an individual or institution to amend a licensed school's data or programs, an individual or organization will have to fill out forms published by the commission that include the following information:

a. institutional contact information;

b. programmatic information;

c. surety information;

d. recruitment and instructional staff information;

e. tuition and financial documentation.

D. In order for a former student to receive records or restitution, an individual will have to fill out forms published by the commission that include the following information:

a. student contact and identifying information;

b. school, program and enrollment information;

c. tuition and payment information;

d. direction of requested materials.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3140.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Regents, Proprietary School Section, LR 40:1688 (September 2014), amended LR 44:1005 (June 2018), amended LR 48:2287 (September 2022).

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part IV. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education Scholarship and Grant Programs

Chapter 1. Scope

§101. Introduction

A. Statutory Authority. The Louisiana Board of Regents (board), formerly the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, was created by chapter 20, Higher Education Assistance, *Revised Statutes* of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:3021-3036, for the purpose of supervising, controlling, directing and administering state and federal programs to provide loans to assist persons in meeting the expenses of higher education, and state and federal scholarship and grant programs for higher education. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), under authority of the board, administers state and federal post-secondary student scholarship, grant and loan programs.

B. Agency's Mission Statement. The mission of LOSFA is to administer the federal and state student aid programs that are assigned to the board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1897 (October 1998), LR 27:1841 (November 2001), LR 33:439 (March 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:484 (March 2018).

§103. Purpose

A. LAC 28:IV provides the rules and regulations governing participation in the scholarship and grant programs administered by the board including, but not limited to:

1. applicants and recipients;

2. high school counselors;

3. principals and headmasters;

4. superintendents;

5. college and university financial aid directors and staff; and

6. federal and state authorities.

B. LAC 28:IV was developed to meet the following objectives:

1. establish scholarship and grant policies and procedures that implement and explain or interpret statutes;

2. define the program responsibilities of participants (applicants, recipients, and high school, school board and post-secondary institution officials);

3. ensure that scholarships and grants are awarded in accordance with statute and legislative intent;

4. establish procedures to monitor the performance of scholarship and grant recipients;

5. ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory provisions governing the administered programs.

C. Since these rules and regulations can neither anticipate nor address every situation that might be encountered in the administration of the scholarship and grant programs included herein, participants in doubt about the applicability or interpretation of a rule or regulation in LAC 28:IV are advised to contact LOSFA for guidance.

D. LAC 28:IV shall be amended and updated as necessary. Such updates will be forwarded to institutions in the form of scholarship and grant program memoranda (SGPM), or Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) bulletins. These memoranda and bulletins will cover additions, deletions, revisions and clarifications to the rules and regulations. In compliance with R.S. 17:5063, information shall be mailed to the president and superintendent of each city and parish school board in the state, the principal and counselors of each high school in the state, the chancellor, director of financial aid, business office, auditor and registrar of each public post-secondary school in the state and each institutionally accredited independent college or university which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1897 (October 1998), LR 26:65 (January 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1841 (November 2001), amended LR 35:227 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:484 (March 2018), LR 48:479 (March 2022).

§105. Effective Date

A. These rules and regulations are effective for awards beginning with the 1998-99 academic year.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance,

LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:632 (April 1998), LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 27:1841 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:485 (March 2018).

§107. Authority to Audit

A. By participating in the scholarship and grant programs administered by the board and described in LAC 28:IV, all participants, including high schools and post-secondary institutions, grant the board and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's administration of the programs for the purpose of determining the institution's compliance with state law and the board's rules and regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 27:1841 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:485 (March 2018).

§109. Discrimination Prohibition

A. The exclusion of a person from equal opportunity for a Louisiana scholarship and/or grant program administered by the board because of race, religion, sex, handicap, national origin or ancestry is prohibited. No policy or procedure of this agency shall be interpreted as superseding or contradicting this prohibition.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 27:1841 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:485 (March 2018).

§111. Criminal Penalties

A. All certifications of student performance which are submitted to the board for the purpose of determining a student's eligibility for an award under a student aid program administered by the board shall be by sworn affidavit of the certifying official and such official shall be subject to criminal law applicable to false swearing.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 27:1841 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:485 (March 2018).

§113. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

A. The board recognizes that personally identifiable information must be collected and maintained to determine whether a student meets the initial and continuing eligibility requirements for state and federal financial aid programs administered by the board, and when required by law for use in preparing and submitting reports required by state and federal law.

B. The board is required by the TOPS statute to inform "all students of the availability of the assistance...early enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational effect is possible."

C. It is the intent and policy of the board that:

1. LOSFA will collect and maintain only that PII necessary to fulfill the board's program responsibilities and duties, including but not limited to:

a. providing information to participating students beginning in the eighth grade that will guide and motivate students to prepare for and to achieve eligibility for financial aid programs to attend postsecondary education;

b. determining the initial eligibility of participating students for financial aid;

c. determining the continuing eligibility of students awarded financial aid;

d. making payments for students who have been awarded financial aid; and

e. submitting reports and assessments required by state or federal law regarding the effectiveness of the financial aid programs administered by LOSFA;

2. LOSFA will maintain and comply with policies and procedures to protect PII from disclosure to third parties/entities that have not been authorized to have access by:

a. state or federal law;

b. the parent or legal guardian of the person to whom the PII applies, if the person is not at least 18 years old or judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage; or

c. the person to whom the PII applies, if the person is at least 18 years old or judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage;

3. LOSFA will ensure that LOSFA employees will have access only to that PII that is necessary to perform their duties;

4. LOSFA will provide information to parents, legal guardians, students and schools regarding:

a. requirements for consenting to the release of PII to LOSFA;

b. possible college access advantages provided to students by consenting to the release of PII to LOSFA; and

c. adverse consequences of withholding consent for release of PII to LOSFA;

5. LOSFA will develop and use consent forms that inform students, parents, and legal guardians of:

a. purpose(s) for which the PII will be used;

b. who will have access to the PII;

c. how long the PII will be retained by LOSFA; and

d. how the PII will be destroyed at the end of the retention period;

6. LOSFA will destroy PII that is no longer necessary to fulfill the board's program responsibilities and duties.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 41:649 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:485 (March 2018).

Chapter 3. Definitions

§301. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa. The term "the board" refers to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

ACT Score—the highest composite score achieved by the student on the official ACT test (including national, international, military or special test types) or an equivalent score, as determined by the comparison tables used by the board, on an equivalent scholastic aptitude test (SAT). ACT or SAT test scores which are unofficial, including so-called "residual" test scores, are not acceptable for purposes of determining program eligibility.

Academic Year (*College*)—begins with the fall term of the award year and concludes immediately before the next fall term commences unless specifically provided otherwise in these rules. All intersessions and summer sessions are included.

Academic Year (*High School*)—the annual academic year for high school begins on September 1 of the fall term, includes the winter, spring, and summer terms and ends on the next August 31. This definition is not to be confused with the Louisiana Department of Education's definition of school year, which is found in Louisiana Department of Education Bulletin 741.

Academic Year (*TOPS*)—

a. for students who are eligible for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award:

i. through the 2007-2008 academic year, the two- and four-year college and university academic year begins with the fall term of the award year, includes the winter term, if applicable, and concludes with the completion of the spring term of the award year. Intersessions ending during the academic year are included in the academic year. The two- and four-year college and university academic year does not include summer sessions or intersessions that do not end during the academic year;

ii. during the 2008-2009 academic year, the academic year begins with the fall term of the award year, includes the winter term, if applicable, and concludes with the completion of the intersession immediately following the spring term of the award year. Intersessions ending during the academic year, including the intersession immediately following the spring term, are included in the academic year. The two- and four-year college and university academic year does not include summer sessions or other intersessions;

iii. during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years, the academic year begins with the fall term of the award year and concludes with the completion of the spring term of the award year or the intersession immediately following the spring term if such intersession ends no later than June 15, whichever is later. Any intersession or term that begins and ends during the academic year is included. The two- and four-year college and university academic year does not include other intersessions or summer sessions. See the definition of intersession below;

iv. beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter, the academic year begins with the fall term of the award year and concludes immediately before the next fall term commences. All intersessions and summer sessions are included;

b. for students who are eligible for a TOPS Tech Award, the academic year begins with the fall term of the award year and concludes immediately before the next fall term commences. All intersessions and summer sessions are included.

Application to Return from an Out-of-State College—a form that must be submitted by students who first enroll full time in an accredited out-of-state college or university and who then return to an eligible Louisiana college or university and want to apply for TOPS eligibility.

Articulated Courses for College Credit—courses offered by the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts for which eligible Louisiana colleges have agreed to give college credit if the student successfully completes the course and attends a participating college.

Average Award Amount (*TOPS-Tech*)—is applicable to those students awarded the TOPS-Tech and TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards who attend an institutionally accredited independent college or university in Louisiana that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or who attend an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school and are enrolled in a vocational, technical education certificate or diploma program or non-academic undergraduate degree program, and is determined by dividing the total dollar value of awards, which are made to students enrolled in the same types of programs in the 2016-2017 academic year (TOPS) at eligible public colleges and universities that do not offer academic degrees at the baccalaureate level, by the total number of students that received the awards.

Award Amount—

a. through the 2015-2016 academic year (college), an amount equal to tuition at the school attended, for those students attending a Louisiana public college or university, as determined by the board, which may be used by the student to pay any educational expense included in that student's "cost of attendance." The amount paid for TOPS and TOPS-Tech Awards shall be as follows:

i. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending a Louisiana public college or university and enrolled in an academic degree program, the amount shall equal the actual cost of tuition;

ii. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending an institutionally accredited independent college or university in Louisiana that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or an out-of-state college or university if all of the conditions of §703.I are met and enrolled in an academic degree program, the amount shall equal the weighted average award amount;

iii. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending a Louisiana public college or university and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the actual cost of tuition;

iv. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending an institutionally accredited independent college or university in Louisiana that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or who attend an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the average award amount (TOPS-Tech);

v. for students with the TOPS-Tech Award attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the actual cost of tuition;

vi. for students with a TOPS-Tech Award attending an eligible college or university that offers an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher and enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, the amount shall equal the average award amount (TOPS-Tech);

vii. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award enrolled in a Louisiana professional school, the amount shall be equal to the tuition charged or the tuition charged a student pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the highest cost public school, whichever is less or the weighted average award amount, depending upon whether the Louisiana professional school is a public or private school;

viii. for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award enrolled in a Louisiana graduate degree program, the amount shall be equal to the tuition or the tuition charged for a student while pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the highest cost public school in the state, whichever is less;

b. beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year (college), the award amount determined by the board in accordance with Subparagraph a.i-viii above during the 2016-2017 academic year (college), plus any increase in the award amount specifically authorized by the Louisiana Legislature.

Award Year—the academic year (TOPS) during which a TOPS Award is paid.

BESE—Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, elected and appointed body with statutory oversight of Louisiana special, elementary and secondary schools.

Cost of Attendance—the total amount it will cost a student to go to school, usually expressed as an academic year figure. This cost is determined by the school in compliance with title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and is annually updated and adopted by the institution. The cost of education covers tuition and fees, on-campus room and board (or a housing and food allowance for off-campus students) and allowances for books, supplies, transportation, childcare, costs related to a disability, and miscellaneous expenses. Also included are reasonable costs for eligible programs of study abroad. An allowance (determined by the school) is included for reasonable costs connected with a student's employment as part of a cooperative education program.

Court-Ordered Custodian—an adult appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to have custody and care of a minor, and who demonstrates the requirement to provide the primary support for such minor.

Dependent Student—a student who is dependent on his parents for support and therefore is required to include parental information on the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or renewal FAFSA.

Disabled Student—a student who has one or more learning, visual, hearing, or physical disabilities diagnosed by a person licensed or certified to diagnose such disability, when the diagnosis states the need for the student to be provided special accommodations relative to the curriculum requirement.

Dual Enrollment Course—a course for which both high school and college credit may be granted.

Eligible Colleges or *Universities*—Louisiana public colleges or universities and institutionally accredited independent colleges or universities in the state that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; for recipients of the TOPS Tech Award only, beginning with the 2009-2010 academic year

(TOPS), and for recipients of the TOPS Tech, Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award, beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year (TOPS), any school that has a valid and current certificate of registration issued by the state Board of Cosmetology in accordance with law and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and any proprietary school that has a valid and current license issued by the board in accordance with law and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education.

Eligible Cosmetology or Proprietary School—a cosmetology or proprietary school that is included as an eligible college or university in this Section.

Eligible Noncitizen—

a. an individual who can provide documentation from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor that he is in the U.S. for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident, including, but not limited to, refugees, persons granted asylum, Cuban-Haitian entrants, temporary residents under the recent Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, and others. A permanent resident of the United States must provide documentation from the USCIS to verify permanent residency. For 1997, 1998 and 1999 high school graduates, an eligible noncitizen shall be treated as meeting the citizenship requirements for an award under this Part;

b. beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year (high school) and later, a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is the child of a non-United States citizen who is either serving in any branch of the United States Armed Forces or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces shall be treated as meeting the citizenship requirements for an award under this Part.

Eligible Non-Graduate—a student who has not graduated from high school or completed a home study program approved by BESE, but who meets all the criteria listed in §703.A.5.g.

Eligible Non-Louisiana High School and *Eligible Out-of-State High School* and *Eligible Out-of-Country High School*—see §§1701.A.3, 1701.A.4, and 1701.A.5, respectively.

Exceptional Child—a student defined as an exceptional child in accordance with R.S. 17:1943(4), excluding gifted and talented.

Expected Family Contribution (*EFC*)—an amount, determined by a formula established by Congress, that indicates how much of a family's financial resources should be available to help pay for the student's cost of attendance. Factors such as taxable and nontaxable income, assets (such as savings and checking accounts), and benefits (for example, unemployment or Social Security) are all considered in this calculation.

Fee Schedule—a listing of the actual tuition and mandatory fees for attendance at a post-secondary school as defined by the institution.

First-Time Freshman—a student who is awarded TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors and enrolls for the first time as a full-time freshman in an academic program in a post-secondary school subsequent to high school graduation, and is enrolled full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day or later (ninth class day or later for Louisiana Tech) or enrolls for the first time, full-time in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree to pursue a skill, occupational training, or technical training subsequent to high school graduation, and is enrolled full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day or later (ninth class day or later for term and quarter institutions). A student who is awarded TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors and begins in an academic program in a post-secondary college or university in a summer session will be considered a first-time freshman for the immediately succeeding fall term. A student who is awarded TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors and begins in a non-academic program in a post-secondary school in a summer term will be considered a first-time freshman at the time of such enrollment. The fact that a student enrolls in a post-secondary school prior to graduation from high school and/or enrolls less than full-time in a post-secondary school prior to the required date for full-time enrollment shall not preclude the student from being a first-time freshman.

First-Time Student—

a. for students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), a student who is awarded TOPS-Tech and enrolls for the first time, full-time in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree to pursue a skill, occupational training, or technical training subsequent to high school graduation, and is enrolled full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day or later (ninth class day or later for quarter schools). The fact that a student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award enrolls in an academic program at a post-secondary school prior or subsequent to graduation from high school, but prior to the required date for full-time enrollment in a Louisiana public community or technical college that offers a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree, shall not preclude the student from being a first-time student;

b. for students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school) or later, a student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award and enrolls for the first time, full-time in an eligible college or university in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the board and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council and is enrolled full-time at

the end of the fourteenth class day or later (ninth class day or later for quarter schools).

Full-Time Student—

a. a student enrolled in an institution of higher education who is carrying a full-time academic workload as determined by the school under the standards applicable to all students enrolled;

b. for continuation purposes, a student must be enrolled full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day or later at a semester school or the ninth class day or later at a quarter or term school;

c. for continuation purposes, a student is considered to have met the full-time requirement if by the completion of the academic year he has earned at least 24 hours of total credit as reported by the institution for the fall and spring semesters at institutions defining 12 semester hours as the minimum for standing as a full-time undergraduate or as reported by the institution for the fall, winter and spring quarters at institutions defining 8 quarter hours as the minimum for standing as a full-time undergraduate. For purposes of TOPS and except where specified otherwise within these rules, a student shall be credited for hours earned as reported by the institution which the student attends in accordance with that institution's published policies. Students should be aware that these policies may differ depending on the school the student attends (see §§705.A, 705.D, 805.A, and 907.A for more expanded TOPS requirements);

d. for programs which permit graduate study, a graduate student must have earned at least 18 hours of total credit during the fall, winter and spring terms;

e. a student enrolled in two or more institutions of higher education when such multiple enrollment is necessary for the student to gain access to the courses required for completion of the degree in the chosen discipline and where the total number of hours earned at all institutions during the academic year is the equivalent of carrying a full-time academic workload as determined by the institution which will award the degree;

f. correspondence courses may not be used to establish full-time status;

g. a student enrolled in an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school who is considered by the school to be enrolled full-time on a billing date as provided in §1903.B.2.b.

Gifted Course—a course developed and provided to fulfill an individualized education program for a student who has been deemed to be gifted pursuant to R.S. 17:1941 et seq., as implemented in state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy.

High School Graduate—for the purposes of these rules, is defined as a student certified by award of a high school diploma to have satisfactorily completed the required units at a high school meeting the eligibility requirements of these rules or a student who has completed a BESE-approved home study program in accordance with the requirements of this Chapter and has reported such to BESE. A student who graduates at any time during an academic year (high school) shall be deemed to have graduated on May 31 of that year for the purpose of applying deadlines. For the purpose of determining when a student must begin post-secondary enrollment, all students that report completion of an approved home study program to BESE during an academic year (high school) are deemed to have graduated on May 31 of that year.

Honors Courses—a rigorous high school course used to complete the TOPS core curriculum approved as an honors course for grading on a 5.00 scale by BESE and the board.

Honors Curriculum Courses—any course designated by the respective school district as advanced placement, honors or gifted.

Independent Student—a student who meets at least one of the criteria listed in Subparagraphs a-f or has been determined independent by a financial aid officer exercising professional judgment in accordance with applicable provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended:

a. reached 24 years of age prior to January of the year preceding the academic year for which the student is applying for aid;

b. is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, including a student who was activated to serve in Operation Desert Storm;

c. is an orphan or a ward of the court or was a ward of the court until age 18;

d. has legal dependents other than a spouse;

e. is a graduate or professional student;

f. is married.

Intersession—

a. during the 2008-2009 academic year, an academic term between regular semesters/terms that provides credit courses to students in an intensive, condensed format;

b. beginning with the 2009-2010 academic year, any academic term that provides credit courses to students in an intensive, condensed format that is no longer than 15 class days.

Join—enters on active duty.

Legal Guardian—

a. an adult appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to have custody and care of a minor, and who demonstrates the requirement to provide the primary support for such minor. Also referred to as a court-ordered custodian;

b. for the purposes of consenting to the collection and disclosure of personally identifying information, the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for the student.

Louisiana Resident—

a. any independent student or any dependent student with at least one parent or court-ordered custodian who has resided in the state for a minimum of 24 consecutive months immediately preceding the month of high school graduation or the month of May in the academic year (high school) that a student completes a home study program or some other period of residency which is required to qualify the person for a specific program administered by the board. To qualify for a program under Part IV of these rules, in addition to the certification of residency found on the application form, the board may require an independent student applicant or the parent(s) or court-ordered custodian of a dependent student applicant to show proof of residency. Residency may be established by completion of a standard affidavit developed by the board. Such affidavits must be completed in their entirety by the independent student applicant or by at least one parent or court-ordered custodian of the dependent student applicant and be sworn to and notarized by a licensed notary public. Further, the affiant shall be required to submit records in support of the affidavit to include the following records and such other records as may be required by the board:

i. if registered to vote, a Louisiana voters registration card; and

ii. if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, a Louisiana driver's license; and

iii. if owning a motor vehicle located in Louisiana, a Louisiana registration for that vehicle; and

iv. if earning a reportable income, a Louisiana tax return;

b. any member of the Armed Forces on active duty whose official state of legal residence is Louisiana as demonstrated by the member's DD Form 2058 validated by the member's military personnel officer or other documentary proof and who has filed a Louisiana tax return for the most recent two years in compliance with Clause a.iv above;

c. any member of the Armed Forces who is stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders and who, not later than 180 days after reporting to such station, changes his military DD Form 2058 to reflect Louisiana as his state of legal residence, and complies with all Louisiana income tax laws and regulations while stationed in Louisiana. A copy of the permanent change of station (PCS) orders and a DD Form 2058 validated by the member's military personnel officer and showing Louisiana as the member's state of legal residence must be submitted to the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) at the time the service member's dependent applies for TOPS. The DD Form 2058 must reflect that it was filed within 180 days after the member reported to duty at a duty station in Louisiana;

d. a parent or court-ordered custodian who is living outside the United States and its territories, is actively engaged in work or another activity on behalf of a Louisiana employer or sponsor, and is not on active duty with the United States armed forces, may meet the residency requirement for dependent students by providing a sworn affidavit with supporting evidence that the parent or court-ordered custodian complies with all of the following:

i. was a resident of Louisiana who actually lived in Louisiana for at least the 24 months preceding the date he started the work or activity outside the United States and its territories;

ii. was assigned duties outside the United States and its territories by a Louisiana employer or sponsor and continues to be employed by the employer or perform duties for the sponsor through the date of the student's graduation from high school or completion of a home study program approved by BESE;

iii. has remained a resident of Louisiana through the date of the student's graduation from high school or completion of a home study program approved by BESE. Evidence may include a Louisiana voters registration card, a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana registration for an owned vehicle, a Louisiana tax return, notarized affidavits, copies of correspondence from the employer or sponsor providing the reason for living outside the United States and its territories and the time period of the work or activity, copies of visas, copies of foreign housing documentation, and copies of other documents that demonstrate a presence in Louisiana or a foreign country during the required period of time;

e. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2002-2003, any independent or dependent student who actually resides in Louisiana during his last two full years of high school. In order to qualify pursuant to this Subsection, the student's high school transcript must reflect that the student earned credit for the last four semesters of high school immediately prior to graduation and graduated from an approved Louisiana high school;

f. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2000-2001, any dependent student who actually resided in Louisiana during his last two full years of high school and whose parent is a member of the United States Armed Forces living in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders, but who does not claim Louisiana as his official state of legal residence. In order to qualify pursuant to this Subsection, the student's high school transcript must reflect that the student earned credit for the last four semesters of high school immediately prior to graduation and graduated from an approved Louisiana high school;

g. effective for high school graduates of academic year (high school) 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, any dependent student who was continuously enrolled in a Louisiana public high school or nonpublic high school that is approved by BESE during his last two full years of high school, whose parent or court-ordered custodian:

i. is a resident of a state that adjoins Louisiana; and

ii. actually resides in a county that adjoins a Louisiana parish having a population greater than 41,600 and less than 42,400 according to the federal 2000 census; and

iii. has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and complied with state income tax laws and regulations; or

iv. is assessed ad valorem taxes on property owned in Louisiana;

In order to qualify pursuant to this Subsection, the student's high school transcript must reflect that the student earned credit for the last four semesters of high school immediately prior to graduation and graduated from an approved Louisiana high school.

h. for any dependent student graduating from an out-of-state high school during the 2006-2007 academic year (high school) whose parent or court-ordered custodian was a member of the United States armed forces who, in the year 2006, moved from Louisiana under permanent change of station orders and retired from the armed forces, and changed his military personnel records to reflect a change of his state of legal residence from Louisiana to another state, shall meet the requirements of this Item, provided that such parent or court-ordered custodian changes his military personnel records from the other state to reestablish Louisiana as his state of legal residence no later than July 1, 2007, and has filed a Louisiana state income tax return for the two years preceding the date of the dependent's graduation from high school.

Merit-Ranking Formula—a mathematical equation incorporating selected merit factors that is used to rank eligible applicants in the priority by which initial competitive scholarships are to be awarded. As of July 1, 1997, the TOPS Teacher Award and Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship are the only programs in which applicants are competitively ranked. The following formulas for the merit-ranking of scholarship applicants provide for the equating of scores for high school graduating seniors and college students.

a. Formula I—applies to applicants for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship with less than 24 hours of graded college credit and to applicants for the TOPS Teacher Award with less than 48 hours of graded college credit:

$$Merit\ Score = \left(\left(\frac{HSGPA}{4.00}\right) x\ 60\right) + \left(\left(\frac{ACT}{36}\right) x\ 40\right)$$

b. Formula IA—applies to applicants for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship who are qualified home study completers with less than 24 hours of graded college credit:

$$Merit\ Score = \left(\frac{ACT}{36}\right) x\ 100$$

c. Formula II—applies to applicants for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship with 24 or more hours of graded college credit and to applicants for the TOPS Teacher Award with 48 or more hours of graded college credit:

$$Merit\ Score = \left(\left(College\ \frac{GPA}{4.00}\right) x\ 90\right) + \left(\left(\frac{College\ Level}{4}\right) x\ 10\right)$$

d. Formula III—applies to applicants for the TOPS Teacher Award. For those applicants majoring in math or chemistry, an additional 10 points are added to the merit score determined by formula I or II, resulting in an adjusted merit score.

e. Applicants' merit scores are ranked in descending order with the applicant with the highest merit score ranked first. The number of applicants selected for award is dependent upon the amount of award funds available.

f. In the event of a tie, the eligible applicants will be ranked based on the following criteria in the order listed:

i. the applicant with more college hours earned; or

ii. the student with the highest ACT (or equivalent SAT) score.

Monetary Repayment—for purposes of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship and TOPS Teacher Award programs, repaying the scholarship funding received, plus any interest accrued under the terms of the promissory note signed by the recipient, if the recipient fails to fulfill the terms of the program. See *repayment.*

On-Line Application—submission of a request for a TOPS eligibility determination via the LOSFA TOPS website. If the applicant does not submit a FAFSA, the on-line application will require the student to declare that he can demonstrate that he is not eligible for federal grant aid.

Orphan—a person who does not live with either parent because the parent(s) is/are dead or has/have abandoned him or the parental rights of the parent(s) has/have been severed by competent authority.

Over Award—for the purposes of LAC 28:IV, an over award occurs when a student received financial aid in excess of the cost of attendance as established in accordance with federal title IV regulations or an award under state programs to which the student was not entitled.

Personally Identifiable Information or *PII*—personal information about an individual that can be used on its own or with other information to identify, contact, or locate a single individual.

Qualified Summer Session—those summer sessions (includes terms and semesters conducted during the summer) for which the student's institution certifies that:

a. the summer session is required in the student's degree program for graduation and the student enrolled for at least the minimum number of hours required for the degree program for the session; or

b. the student can complete his program's graduation requirements in the summer session; or

c. the course(s) taken during the summer session is required for graduation in the program in which the student is enrolled and is only offered during the summer session; or

d. the course(s) taken during the summer session is in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree; or

e. for the summer of 2006 only, the student is a displaced student as identified in §2103.G.1 of these rules, whose TOPS Award was not paid for one or more semesters during the 2005-2006 academic year; or

f. beginning with the summer of 2010, prior to the beginning of the summer session, the student:

i. has at least 60 academic college credit hours;

ii. has enrolled as a full-time student for the summer session; and

iii. has signed a form provided by LOSFA:

(a). requesting payment for the summer session from the student's remaining TOPS eligibility;

(b). stating the student understands that the use of the TOPS Award for the summer session reduces the student's TOPS eligibility by one semester or term; and

(c). stating the student understands that the grades earned during the summer session will be included in the student's cumulative grade point average.

Refund—a refund of school charges that the school makes to a student or to a creditor on behalf of the student, usually after the student has withdrawn from school. The refund to the student is the difference between the amount the student paid toward school charges minus the amount the school keeps for the portion of the payment period that the student was enrolled.

Repayment—the amount of the cash disbursement that a student must pay back to the school if the student withdraws from the program. If the cash disbursement was greater than the student's cost of attendance (student's education costs above and beyond the amount of tuition and fees) up to the withdrawal date, the student must repay the excess amount. The actual amount of the refund/repayment is determined according to the school's policy in accordance with federal regulations. See *monetary repayment*.

Reporting Institution—the post-secondary institution required by §1903.A of these rules to report a student's college/university cumulative grade point average.

Returning Student—a student who graduated from high school beginning with academic year (high school):

a. 2001-2002, and met all the academic requirements for a TOPS Award, but who enrolled for the first time as a full-time student no later than the deadline established in §703.A.4 in an out-of-state postsecondary institution accredited by an institutional accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and, thereafter, returns to Louisiana and enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible college or university; or

b. who was determined eligible for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award and enrolled for the first time as a full-time student no later than the deadline established in §703.A.4 in an eligible college or university in Louisiana, subsequently enrolled in an out-of-state postsecondary institution accredited by an institutional accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and, thereafter, returns to Louisiana and enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible college or university during or after the 2009-2010 academic year (TOPS).

Selective Enrollment Program—a course of study with competitive admissions based on a student's qualifications including successful completion of required college courses and a minimum college cumulative grade point average. Examples of selective enrollment programs include, but are not limited to, medical technology, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and radiation technology.

Skill and Occupational Training—

a. any and all certificate, diploma, associate of applied technology, and associate of applied science programs offered by eligible colleges/universities;

b. any coordinated and comprehensive course of study offered by eligible colleges/universities which qualifies a student upon completion to sit for testing leading to and/or meeting national and/or state professional/occupational licensure and/or certification requirements; and

c. any training leading to an industry-based certification, a certificate of applied science or a certificate of technical sciences approved by the Workforce Investment Council offered by a provider recognized by the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Steady Academic Progress—the maintenance of a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale, except at eligible cosmetology or proprietary schools, where it is meeting the federal grant aid requirement for steady academic progress at that school.

Substantial Financial Need—for purposes of the LEAP (formerly SSIG) Program only, substantial financial need is the difference between the student's cost of attendance and the sum of that student's expected family contribution (EFC), plus other student aid the student is due to receive. The difference thus computed must exceed $199.

TOPS Cumulative Grade Point Average (*Academic*)—through the 2014-15 academic year (TOPS), the grade point average calculated by LOSFA on all

academic courses taken by a student at postsecondary institutions to determine whether the student has maintained steady academic progress and whether the student has met the minimum grade point average required to maintain eligibility for continuation of a TOPS Award. The cumulative grade point average shall be calculated on a 4.00 scale and must include all academic courses from all postsecondary institutions attended for which the student has been awarded a grade. Academic courses taken at a college or university while the student was still in high school and at postsecondary institutions other than the institution at which the student is currently enrolled must be included in the calculation. Grades earned in non-academic courses and courses taken on a pass/fail basis are not considered in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average.

TOPS Cumulative Grade Point Average (*Non-Academic*)—through the 2014-15 academic year (TOPS), the grade point average calculated by LOSFA on all non-academic courses taken by a student at postsecondary institutions to determine whether the student has maintained steady academic progress and whether the student has met the minimum grade point average required to maintain eligibility for continuation of a TOPS Award. The cumulative grade point average shall be calculated on a 4.00 scale and must include all non-academic courses from all postsecondary institutions attended for which the student has been awarded a grade. Non-academic courses taken at a college or university while the student was still in high school and at postsecondary institutions other than the institution at which the student is currently enrolled must be included in the calculation. Grades earned in academic courses and courses taken on a pass/fail basis are not considered in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average.

TOPS Cumulative Grade Point Average (*Opportunity, Performance, Honors*)—beginning with the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS), the grade point average for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards shall be calculated by LOSFA on all courses taken by a student at postsecondary institutions.

a. These courses shall include those taken at postsecondary institutions while the student was still in high school and at postsecondary institutions other than the institution at which the student is currently enrolled.

b. The average for these courses shall be calculated on a 4.00 scale and shall include all courses for which the student has been awarded a grade. The average shall not include courses graded on a pass/fail basis.

c. This average will be used to determine whether the student has maintained steady academic progress and whether the student has met the minimum grade point average required to maintain eligibility for continuation of a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award.

TOPS Cumulative Grade Point Average (*TOPS Tech*)—beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year (TOPS) the grade point average for a student with the TOPS Tech Award shall be calculated by LOSFA on all courses taken by a student at postsecondary institutions while enrolled in a skill, occupational or technical program.

a. These courses shall include all those taken in skill, occupational or technical programs at postsecondary institutions while the student was still in high school and at postsecondary institutions other than the institution at which the student is currently enrolled.

b. The average for these courses shall be calculated on a 4.00 scale and shall include all courses while enrolled in a skill, occupational or technical program for which the student has been awarded a grade. The average shall not include courses graded on a pass/fail basis.

c. This average will be used to determine whether the student has maintained steady academic progress and whether the student has met the minimum grade point average required to maintain eligibility for continuation of a TOPS Tech Award.

TOPS Cumulative High School Grade Point Average—

a. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2002-2003, the grade point average calculated by LOSFA including only the grades achieved in those courses that were used to satisfy core curriculum requirements. In the event a student has received credit for more than 16.5 hours of courses that are included in the core curriculum, the TOPS cumulative high school grade point average shall be calculated by using the course in each core curriculum category for which the student received the highest grade. For example, if a student has taken more than one advanced mathematics course, the cumulative grade point average shall be determined by using only the course in which the student has received the highest grade;

b. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2002-2003, the grade point average for students qualifying for a Performance Award using a minimum ACT score of 24 and a minimum grade point average of 3.00 must include at least 10 units of honors curriculum courses (see §703.A.5.f.ii);

c. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2007-2008, the grade point average shall be calculated on 17.5 hours of units of courses that are used to satisfy the core curriculum;

d. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2013-2014, the grade point average shall be calculated on 19.0 hours of units of courses that are used to satisfy the core curriculum;

e. effective for high school graduates through academic year (high school) 2016-2017, for those high schools that utilize other than a 4.00 scale, all grade values shall be converted to a 4.00 scale utilizing the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Quality Points Awarded for the Course}}{\text{Maximum Points Possible for the Course}} = \frac{X\ \text{(Converted Quality Points)}}{4.00\ \text{(Maximum Scale)}}$$

For example, if a school awards a maximum of 5 points for honors courses, the school must use the following formula to convert an honors course grade of "C":

$$\frac{3.00}{5.00} = \frac{X}{4.00}$$

By cross multiplying,

$$5X = 12;\ X = 2.40$$

Quality points = Credit for course multiplied by the value assigned to the letter grade.

f. effective for high school graduates beginning with academic year (high school) 2017-2018, the TOPS cumulative grade point average will be calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned on the courses used to complete the TOPS core curriculum by the total units earned to complete the TOPS core curriculum.

Quality points equal the credit for the course multiplied by the value assigned to the letter grade.

The quality points for courses used to complete the TOPS core curriculum, except for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Gifted and Talented, Honors, Articulated Courses for College Credit and Dual Enrollment courses approved by the board and BESE, used to complete the TOPS core curriculum on a 5.00 scale, shall be converted to a 4.00 scale utilizing the following formula:

An “A” shall equal 4.0.
A “B” shall equal 3.0.
A “C” shall equal 2.0.
A “D” shall equal 1.0.
An “F” shall equal zero (0.0).

The quality points for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Gifted and Talented, Honors, Articulated Courses for College Credit and Dual Enrollment courses approved by the board and BESE used to complete the TOPS core curriculum shall be converted to a 5.00 scale as follows:

An “A” shall equal 5.0.
A “B” shall equal 4.0.
A “C” shall equal 3.0.
A “D” shall equal 2.0.
An “F” shall equal zero (0.0).

Talented Course—a course developed and provided to fulfill an individualized education program for a student who has been deemed to be gifted pursuant to R.S. 17:1941 et seq., as implemented in state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy.

Tuition—

a. through the fall semester or term and winter quarter of the 2010-2011 award year, the fee charged each student by a post-secondary institution to cover the student's share of the cost of instruction, including all other mandatory enrollment fees charged to all students except for the technology fee authorized by Act 1450 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Legislature:

i. which were in effect as of January 1, 1998;

ii. any changes in the cost of instruction authorized by the legislature and implemented by the institution after that date; and

iii. for programs with alternative scheduling formats that are approved in writing by the board after that date. Any payment for enrollment in one of these programs shall count towards the student's maximum eligibility for his award:

(a). up to the equivalent of eight full-time semesters of postsecondary education in full-time semesters for the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award; or

(b). up to the equivalent of two years of postsecondary education in full-time semesters and summer sessions for the TOPS Tech Award;

b. beginning with the spring semester, quarter or term of the 2010-2011 award year and through the spring semester, quarter, or term of the 2012-2013 award year;

i. the tuition and mandatory fees authorized in Subparagraph a above; or

ii. the tuition fee amount published by the postsecondary institution, whichever is greater;

c. beginning with the fall semester, quarter, or term of the 2013-2014 award year, the tuition amount as of August 1, 2013, published by the postsecondary institution for the 2013-2014 award year for paying students;

d. beginning with the fall semester, quarter, or term of the 2014-2015 award year, the tuition amount as of August 1, 2013, published by the postsecondary institution for the 2013-2014 award year for paying students, plus any increase authorized by the legislature which is not attributable to any fees. No fees or increases attributable to fees of any kind shall be included in the TOPS Award amount. Stipends for TOPS Performance and Honors Awards shall not be included in the TOPS Award amount.

Undergraduate Student—a student who has not completed the requirements for a baccalaureate degree program.

Weighted Average Award Amount—for those students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award attending an institutionally accredited independent college or university in this state which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and enrolled in an academic program, the total dollar value of awards made under TOPS in the 2016-2017 academic year, excluding award stipends, to students attending public colleges and universities that offer academic degrees at the baccalaureate level, divided by the total number of students that received the awards.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:632 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1898 (October 1998), LR 24:2237 (December

1998), LR 25:256 (February 1999), LR 25:654 (April 1999), LR 25:1458 and 1460 (August 1999), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:65 (January 2000), LR 26:688 (April 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1601 (August 2000), LR 26:1993, 1999 (September 2000), LR 26:2268 (October 2000), LR 26:2752 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:284 (March 2001), LR 27:1219 (August 2001), LR 27:1840 (November 2001), LR 27:1875 (November 2001), LR 28:45 (January 2002), LR 28:446 (March 2002), LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2330, 2331 (November 2002), LR 29:555 (April 2003), LR 29:879 (June 2003), LR 30:1159 (June 2004), LR 30:2015 (September 2004), LR 31:36 (January 2005), LR 31:3112 (December 2005), LR 33:86 (January 2007), LR 33:439 (March 2007), LR 33:1339 (July 2007), LR 33:2612 (December 2007), LR 34:234 (February 2008), LR 34:1388 (July 2008), LR 34:1884 (September 2008), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 36:311 (February 2010), LR 36:490 (March 2010), LR 36:2854 (December 2010), LR 37:1561 (June 2011), LR 37:1562 (June 2011), LR 38:1953 (August 2012), LR 38:3156 (December 2012), LR 39:308 (February 2013), LR 40:53 (January 2014), LR 40:281 (February 2014), LR 41:649, 658 (April 2015), LR 41:2595 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 42:1880 (November 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:486 (March 2018), LR 45:1172 (September 2019), LR 48:479 (March 2022).

Chapter 5. Applications, Federal Grant Aid and ACT Test

§501. Initial Application

A. Initial Application for High School Graduates of 2002-2003 or Earlier

1. Except as provided in Subparagraph A.2.b below, all new applicants for Louisiana scholarship and grant programs must apply for federal aid by completing the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) for the academic year following the year the student graduated from high school. For example, if the student will graduate from high school in school year 2002-2003, submit the 2003-2004 version of the FAFSA.

2. All new applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors and TOPS-Tech Awards who graduate from high school during the 2001-2002 or 2002-2003 academic years (high school) must apply for federal aid by completing the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) for the academic year (TOPS) the applicant will be a first-time, full-time student. For example, if the applicant will graduate from high school in the 2002-2003 academic year (high school) and does not intend to enroll as a first-time, full-time student until the fall semester of 2004, he must submit the 2004-2005 version of the FAFSA.

a. All applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards and TOPS-Tech Awards (except those students who can demonstrate that they do not qualify for federal grant aid because of their family's financial condition) must complete all applicable sections of the initial FAFSA.

b. Applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards and TOPS-Tech Awards who can demonstrate that they do not qualify for federal grant aid because of their family's financial condition must complete all applicable sections of the initial FAFSA except those sections related to the income and assets of the applicant and the applicant's parents.

c. In the event of a budgetary shortfall, applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards and TOPS-Tech Awards who do not complete all sections of the FAFSA will be the first denied a TOPS Award.

B. Initial Application for a TOPS Award for High School Graduates and Home Study Completers of 2003-2004 and Thereafter, and Eligible Non-Graduates

1. Students who graduate from a Louisiana public high school as defined in §1703.A.1, an approved Louisiana non-public school as defined in §1701.A.2, or an eligible non-Louisiana public school as defined in §1701.A.3 must:

a. submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA); or

b. if the student can demonstrate that he does not qualify for federal grant aid because of his family's financial condition, submit the initial FAFSA after completing all applicable sections except those sections related to the income and assets of the student and the student's parents; or

c. complete an on-line application.

2. Students who graduate from an eligible out-of-state or out-of-country high school or complete a home study program approved by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or enroll for the first time as a full-time student in an out-of-state college or university following graduation from an eligible high school (Louisiana public high school as defined in §1703.A.1, an approved Louisiana non-public school as defined in §1701.A.2, an eligible non-Louisiana public school as defined in §1701.A.3, out-of-state high school as defined by §1701.A.4 or an out-of-country high school as defined by §1701.A.5) must:

a. submit a free application for federal student aid; or

b. if the student can demonstrate that he does not qualify for federal grant aid because of his family's financial condition, submit the initial FAFSA after completing all applicable sections except those sections related to the income and assets of the student and the student's parents; or

c. complete an on-line application; and

d. submit an official transcript from the out-of-state or out-of-country high school from which the student graduated; and

e. submit the official transcripts from each out-of-state college or university attended; and

f. submit an affidavit attesting to Louisiana residency, except those students who completed their last two years in and graduated from a Louisiana public or approved non-public high school.

3. Eligible non-graduates must:

a. submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA); or

b. if the student can demonstrate that he does not qualify for federal grant aid because of his family's financial condition, submit the initial FAFSA after completing all applicable sections except those sections related to the income and assets of the student and the student's parents; or

c. complete an on-line application.

4. Applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards and TOPS-Tech Awards who submit the on-line application in lieu of the FAFSA or who do not complete all sections of the FAFSA will be ineligible for federal grant aid and federally guaranteed student loans.

5. In the event of a budgetary shortfall, applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards and TOPS-Tech Awards who submit the on-line application in lieu of the FAFSA or who do not complete all sections of the FAFSA will be the first denied a TOPS Award.

C. Initial Application for Louisiana Scholarship and Grant Programs other than TOPS for High School Graduates of 2004 and Thereafter

1. All new applicants for Louisiana scholarship and grant programs other than TOPS and the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship must apply for federal grant aid by completing the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) for the academic year following the year the student graduated from high school. For example, if the student will graduate from high school in school year 2003-2004, submit the 2004-2005 version of the FAFSA.

2. All new applicants for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship must apply for federal grant aid by submitting the FAFSA so that it is received no later than July 1 immediately preceding the academic year (college) for which the scholarship is sought. For example, if the student wants to apply for a Rockefeller Scholarship to be awarded during the 2005-2006 academic year (college), submit the 2005-2006 version of the FAFSA no later than July 1, 2005.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:635 (April 1998), LR 24:1900 (October 1998), amended LR 26:1994 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1846 (November 2001), amended LR 29:554 (April 2003), LR 30:2015 (September 2004), LR 31:36 (January 2005), LR 31:1060 (May 2005), LR 41:659 (April 2015), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:494 (March 2018).

§502. Consent Required to Process Applications and Deadlines

A. To process an application for financial aid or to allow participation in LOSFA programs to provide guidance and motivation in preparing for and achieving eligibility for financial aid programs, certain student personally identifiable information (PII) must be provided to the board. The PII required depends on the financial aid program for which the student is applying. If the required PII is not provided, an applicant will not be determined to be eligible.

B. The submission of an application for a financial aid program administered by the board or for participation in LOSFA programs to provide guidance and motivation in preparing for and achieving eligibility for financial aid programs constitutes consent for the student’s school to collect and disclose the student’s PII to LOSFA, and for LOSFA to collect, maintain, and use the PII for the program in which the student has indicated a desire to participate, if submitted by:

1. a student who is judicially emancipated, or emancipated by marriage, or who is 18 years old or older; or

2. a parent or legal guardian on behalf of a student who is not at least 18 years old and who is not emancipated.

C. To grant consent for a public school to collect the student’s PII and disclose it to LOSFA, the student, parent or legal guardian, as applicable, must sign a consent form provided by the public high school that includes the following:

1. purpose(s) for which the PII will be used;

2. who will have access to the PII;

3. how long the PII will be retained by LOSFA; and

4. how the PII will be destroyed at the end of the retention period.

D. Submission of one of the following constitutes consent for LOSFA to collect, maintain, and use the PII included in the submission for the purposes of determining eligibility for financial aid:

1. free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) naming LOSFA as a recipient;

2. ACT score naming LOSFA as a recipient;

3. ACT WorkKeys score naming LOSFA as a recipient;

4. SAT score naming LOSFA as a recipient;

5. TOPS on-line application.

E. The required information for consideration for initial eligibility for a TOPS Award, includes, but is not limited to, all the following student information:

1. full name;

2. date of birth;

3. Social Security number;

4. student high school transcript data, including but not limited to:

a. month and year of high school graduation;

b. the course code for each course completed;

c. the grade for each course completed;

d. the term and year each course is completed;

e. designation of each advanced placement, International Baccalaureate®, honors, gifted and talented, articulated course for college credit, and dual enrollment course;

f. the grading scale for each course reported; and

g. the high school attended for each course reported;

5. ACT, ACT WorkKeys, and/or SAT scores;

6. FAFSA data;

7. college transcript data as set forth in §1903.

F. The required information for consideration for eligibility for other awards, grants and programs may include, but is not limited to, the following student information:

1. the information set forth in Subsection E above;

2. student disciplinary data;

3. family income;

4. dual enrollment high school and college transcript data;

5. foster care status;

6. ACT plan score;

7. school lunch program status;

8. standardized test scores;

9. grade point average for each semester and cumulative grade point average.

G. Deadlines to Provide Consent to a Public School for the Release of a Student's PII to LOSFA

1. For participation in LOSFA's program for guidance and motivation to prepare for and to achieve eligibility for financial aid programs, the parent or legal guardian, as applicable, should provide consent by the eighth grade.

2. For eligibility for payment of a TOPS Award for the fall semester immediately following high school graduation, the student, parent or legal guardian, as applicable, should provide consent no later than January 15 of the year of graduation.

3. The final date for receipt of consent is the January 15 immediately following the final deadline for receipt of the student's FAFSA or on-line application. See §505 below.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 41:650 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:495 (March 2018).

§503. Application Deadlines for High School Graduates of 2003 and Earlier

A. Deadline for Priority Consideration

1. For priority consideration for the 1998-99 award year, applicants must submit the FAFSA to be received by the federal processor by June 1, 1998.

2. Priority consideration means that an applicant who submits a FAFSA by this date shall, under normal circumstances, receive notification of his eligibility for a noncompetitive award (TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards) prior to enrolling in the fall term.

3. An applicant for a competitively awarded scholarship (TOPS Teacher Award and Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship) who submits a FAFSA by this date shall be considered for selection of award in the first round of applicants awarded.

4. For priority consideration for award years after 1998-99, applicants must submit the FAFSA to be received by the federal processor by May 1, preceding the award year.

B. Final Deadline for Full Award

1.a. Except as provided in Subparagraph B.1.b below, in order to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E, the final deadline for receipt of a student's initial FAFSA application is July 1 of the academic year (high school) in which a student graduates. For example, for a student graduating in the 2000-2001 academic year (high school), the student must submit the initial FAFSA in time for it to be received by the federal processor by July 1, 2001.

b. For applicants graduating from high school during or after the 2001-2002 academic year (high school), in order to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E, the final deadline for receipt of a student's initial FAFSA application is the July 1 immediately preceding the academic year (TOPS) in which the applicant will be a first-time, full-time student.

c. Examples

i. If an applicant graduates in the 2002-2003 academic year (high school) and will be a first-time, full-time student in the fall semester of 2003, the applicant must submit the initial FAFSA in time for it to be received by the federal processor by July 1, (2003).

ii. If an applicant graduates in the 2002-2003 academic year (high school) and will be a first-time, full-time student in the fall semester of 2004, the applicant must submit the initial FAFSA in time for it to be received by the federal processor by July 1, (2004).

d. Students must also apply in time to meet the first-time freshman enrollment deadlines specified in §703.A.4 (TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors) and §803.A.4 (TOPS-Tech).

2. Notwithstanding the deadline established by §503.B.1 above, applicants who enter on active duty in the

U.S. Armed Forces have a final deadline for receipt of their initial FAFSA application of one year from the date of separation from active duty. In order to be eligible under this Subsection, the applicant must meet the requirements of §703.A.4.b or d or §803.A.4.b or d of these rules and must not have been discharged with an undesirable, bad conduct or dishonorable discharge.

3. Returning Students

a. Notwithstanding the deadline established by §503.B.1 above, returning students, who graduated from high school during the 2001-2002 academic year (high school) and who enroll in an eligible college or university in the spring semester of 2003, must submit the FAFSA to be received by the federal processor no later than July 1, 2004.

b. Notwithstanding the deadline established by §503.B.1 above, returning students, who enroll in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2003 or later, must submit the FAFSA to be received by the federal processor no later than July 1 following the first semester of enrollment.

c. Examples

i. A student who seeks to enroll in an eligible college or university for the spring semester of 2004 must submit his FAFSA to be received by the federal processor no later than July 1, 2004.

ii. A student who seeks to enroll in an eligible college or university for the fall semester of 2004 must submit his FAFSA to be received by the federal processor no later than July 1, 2005.

C. If a prescribed deadline date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will automatically be extended to the next business day.

D. Final Deadlines for Reduced Awards

1. If an application for an initial award under this Chapter is received after the deadline provided in §503.B above, but not later than 60 days after that deadline, the time period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by one semester, two quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters.

2. If an application for an initial award under this Chapter is received more than 60 days after the deadline provided in §503.B above, but not later than 120 days after that deadline, the time period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by two semesters or three quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters.

3. Applications received more than 120 days after the published deadline shall not be considered.

E. The reduction of the applicant's period of eligibility for this award under §503.D above shall not be cumulative with any reduction under §509.C.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

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§504. Out-of-State and Out-of-Country High School Graduates and Eligible Non-Graduates

A. A student who graduates from a high school outside the state of Louisiana or is an eligible non-graduate will not be considered for a TOPS Award unless the board receives the student's FAFSA information from the federal processor or on-line application and the student's ACT and/or SAT score(s). In order for a student who will graduate from a high school outside the state of Louisiana or an eligible non-graduate to assure that his FAFSA information and his ACT/SAT score(s) are received by the board, he should:

1. enter a Louisiana postsecondary institution in the section of the FAFSA that asks the applicant to name the colleges he plans to attend; and

2. enter a Louisiana postsecondary institution and/or 1595 (code for the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program-Students, Baton Rouge, LA) in the “score report choices” section of the ACT and/or 9019 (code for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students) in the “send scores” section of the SAT registration form.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:2017 (September 2004), amended LR 31:36 (January 2005), LR 35:228 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:497 (March 2018).

§505. Application Deadlines for High School Graduates and Home Study Completers of 2004 and Later and Eligible Non-Graduates

A.1. To be considered for a TOPS Award, students who graduate from high school or complete an approved home study program in 2004 or later and eligible non-graduates must:

a. apply for federal grant aid by submitting a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA); or

b. if the student can demonstrate that he does not qualify for federal grant aid because of his family's financial condition, submit the initial FAFSA after completing all applicable sections except those sections related to the income and assets of the student and the student's parents; or

c. complete the on-line application.

2. TOPS will not pay the award amount for any student who has not met the requirements of §505.A.1 above.

3. In the event of a budgetary shortfall, applicants for TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards and TOPS-Tech Awards who submit the on-line application or who do not complete all sections of the FAFSA will be the first denied a TOPS Award.

B. Deadline for Payment for the Academic Year (TOPS) Immediately Following High School Graduation

1. Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year (TOPS), to be determined eligible for payment of TOPS Awards for the academic year (TOPS) immediately following the academic year (high school) of high school graduation, students must submit the initial FAFSA or on-line application so that it is received no later than the July 1 immediately following the academic year (high school) of graduation.

2. Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year (TOPS), students will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E beginning with the academic year (TOPS) immediately after the student's one year anniversary of high school graduation if their initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after the July 1 immediately following the academic year (high school) of high school graduation and no later than the final deadline set forth in Subsection C, below, and if the student was enrolled during the preceding academic year (TOPS), the student has met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

3.a. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year (TOPS), students whose initial FAFSA or on-line application is received on or before July 1 immediately following the one year anniversary of high school graduation will receive payment of their TOPS Award as provided in §701.E beginning with the first semester, quarter or term the student enrolls for the first time as a full-time student in an eligible college or university; provided that no payment of a TOPS Award shall be made until the initial FAFSA or on-line application has been received and the applicant has been determined eligible for a TOPS Award.

b. If the initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1 immediately following high school graduation, the payment of the TOPS Award could be delayed depending on the date the application is received and the date the student enrolls for the first time as a full time student in an eligible college or university.

c. A student who enrolls for the first time as a full time student before his FAFSA or on-line application is received must meet the requirements for maintaining eligibility in §705 to receive payments of his TOPS Award after the first semester, quarter or term of full time enrollment at an eligible college or university.

4. Examples

a. A 2009-2010 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who enrolls in the fall semester of 2010, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award beginning the fall semester of 2010 if the initial FAFSA or on-line application is received on or before July 1, 2010.

b. A 2009-2010 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who enrolls during the 2010-2011 academic year, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award beginning the fall semester of 2010 if the initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2011, and if he has met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

C. Final Deadline for Full TOPS Award

1.a. Except as provided below, through the 2006-2007 academic year (TOPS), in order to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E, the final deadline for receipt of a student's initial FAFSA or the on-line application is July 1 immediately prior to the academic year (TOPS) he first enrolls as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university.

b. Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year (TOPS), in order receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E, the final deadline for receipt of a student's initial FAFSA or on-line application is July 1 immediately prior to the academic year (TOPS) immediately following the one-year anniversary of high school graduation.

c.i. Students who graduated from high school during the 2003-2004 academic year (high school) and enrolled as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university during the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS) are eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E beginning:

(a). with the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS) if their initial FAFSA or on-line application was received no later than October 29, 2004;

(b). with the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) if their initial FAFSA or on-line application was received after October 29, 2004, and no later than July 1, 2005, and, if the student enrolled as a full-time student during the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS), the student has met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

ii. Students who graduated from high school during the 2003-2004 academic year (high school) and enrolled as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university beginning the fall semester of 2005 are eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E beginning the fall semester of 2005 if their initial FAFSA or on-line application was received no later than July 1, 2005.

iii. Students who graduated from high school during the 2003-2004 academic year (high school) and enrolled as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university during either the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS) or fall semester of 2005 are eligible for a reduced TOPS Award (see Subsection 505.D below) beginning with the fall semester of 2005, if their initial FAFSA or on-line

application was received after July 1, 2005 and no later than October 31, 2005, and, if the student enrolled as a full-time student during the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS), the student has met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

d.i. Students who graduated from high school during the 2004-2005 academic year (high school) and enrolled as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E beginning:

(a). with the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) if their initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than October 31, 2005;

(b). with the 2006-2007 academic year (TOPS) if their initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 31, 2005, and no later than July 1, 2006, and, if the student enrolled as a full-time student during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS), the student met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

ii. Students who graduated from high school during the 2004-2005 academic year (high school) and enrolled as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university beginning the fall semester of 2006 are eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E beginning the fall semester of 2006 if their initial FAFSA or on-line application was received no later than July 1, 2006.

iii. Students who graduated from high school during the 2004-2005 academic year (high school) and enrolled as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university during either the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) or fall semester of 2006 are eligible for a reduced TOPS Award (see Subsection 505.D, below) beginning with the fall semester of 2006, if their initial FAFSA or on-line application was received after July 1, 2006, and no later than October 30, 2006, and, if the student enrolled as a full-time student during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS), the student met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

e.i. Students who graduate from high school during the 2005-2006 academic year (high school) and enroll as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university during the 2006-2007 academic year (TOPS) will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E beginning:

(a). with the 2006-2007 academic year (TOPS) if their initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than October 30, 2006;

(b). with the 2007-2008 academic year (TOPS) if their initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 30, 2006, and no later than July 1, 2007, and, if the student enrolled as a full-time student during the 2006-2007 academic year (TOPS), the student met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

ii. Students who graduated from high school during the 2005-2006 academic year (high school) and enrolled as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university beginning the fall semester of 2007 are eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E beginning the fall semester of 2007 if their initial FAFSA or on-line application was received no later than July 1, 2007.

iii. Students who graduate from high school during the 2005-2006 academic year (high school) and enroll as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or university during either the 2006-2007 academic year (TOPS) or the fall semester of 2007 are eligible for a reduced TOPS Award (see Subsection 505.D, below) beginning with the fall semester of 2007, if their initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2007, and no later than October 29, 2007, and, if the student enrolled as a full-time student during the 2006-2007 academic year (TOPS), the student met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

2. Returning Students

a. Beginning with the 2002-2003 through the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS), in order for a returning student to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E, the final deadline for receipt of a student's initial FAFSA or the on-line application is May 1 of the academic year (TOPS) he first enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible college or university.

b. Beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS), in order for a returning student to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E, the final deadline for receipt of the student's initial FAFSA or the on-line application is the July 1 immediately following the academic year (TOPS) he first enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible college or university.

3. Examples

a. A 2003-2004 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2004 or spring semester of 2005, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award beginning with the first semester of enrollment as a full-time student if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2004.

b. A 2003-2004 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2004 or spring semester of 2005, will be eligible for his full TOPS Award beginning with the first semester of enrollment as a full-time student if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2004, but on or before October 29, 2004.

c. A 2003-2004 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2004 or spring semester of 2005, will be eligible for his full TOPS Award beginning with the fall semester of 2005 if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 29, 2004, but on or before July 1, 2005, and if he has met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

d. A 2003-2004 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2005, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2005.

e. A 2003-2004 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2005, will be eligible for a reduced TOPS Award (see Subsection 505.D below) beginning with the fall semester of 2005 if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2005, but on or before October 31, 2005.

f. A 2003-2004 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2005, will not be eligible for a TOPS Award if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 31, 2005.

g. A 2004-2005 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2005 or spring semester of 2006, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award beginning with the first semester of enrollment as a full-time student if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2005.

h. A 2004-2005 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2005 or spring semester of 2006, will be eligible for his full TOPS Award beginning with the first semester of enrollment as a full-time student if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2005, but on or before October 31, 2005.

i. A 2004-2005 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2005 or spring semester of 2006, will be eligible for his full TOPS Award beginning with the fall semester of 2006 if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 31, 2005, but on or before July 1, 2006, and if he has met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

j. A 2004-2005 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2006, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2006.

k. A 2004-2005 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2006, will be eligible for a reduced TOPS Award (see Subsection 505.D below) beginning with the fall semester of 2006 if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2006, but on or before October 30, 2006.

l. A 2004-2005 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2006, will not be eligible for a TOPS Award if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 30, 2006.

m. A 2005-2006 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2006 or spring semester of 2007, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award beginning with the first semester of enrollment as a full-time student if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2006.

n. A 2005-2006 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2006 or spring semester of 2007, will be eligible for his full TOPS Award beginning with the first semester of enrollment as a full-time student if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2006, but on or before October 30, 2006.

o. A 2005-2006 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2006 or spring semester of 2007, will be eligible for his full TOPS Award beginning with the fall semester of 2007 if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 30, 2006, but on or before July 1, 2007, and if he has met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

p. A 2005-2006 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2007, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2007.

q. A 2005-2006 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2007, will be eligible for a reduced TOPS Award (see Subsection 505.D below) beginning with the fall semester of 2007 if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2007, but on or before October 29, 2007.

r. A 2005-2006 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2007, will not be eligible for a TOPS Award if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 29, 2007.

s. A 2006-2007 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2007 or spring semester of 2008, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award beginning with the first semester of enrollment as a full-time student if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2007.

t. A 2006-2007 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2007 or spring semester of 2008, will be eligible to receive his full TOPS Award beginning with the fall semester of 2008 if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2007,

but on or before July 1, 2008, and if he has met the requirements for continuing eligibility.

u. A 2006-2007 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2008, will be eligible to receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2008.

v. A 2006-2007 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2008, will be eligible for a reduced TOPS Award (see Subsection 505.D below) beginning with the fall semester of 2008 if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2008, but on or before October 29, 2008.

w. A 2006-2007 academic year (high school) high school graduate, who is a first-time freshman at an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2008, will not be eligible for a TOPS Award if his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after October 29, 2008.

x. A student, who enrolls for the first time as a full time student at an accredited out-of-state college and subsequently returns to Louisiana and enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible college or university for the fall semester of 2006, will be eligible for his TOPS Award beginning with the fall semester of 2006 if his initial FAFSA or the on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2007.

4. Students must also meet the first-time freshman enrollment deadlines specified in §703.A.4 (TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors) and §803.A.4 (TOPS-Tech).

5. Notwithstanding the deadline established by §505.C above, students who enter on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces have a final deadline for receipt of their initial FAFSA application or their on-line application of one year from the date of separation from active duty. In order to be eligible under this Subsection, the student must meet the requirements of §703.A.4.b or d or §803.A.4.b or d of these rules and must not have been discharged with an undesirable, bad conduct or dishonorable discharge.

D. Final Deadlines for Reduced Awards

1. If an application for an initial award under this Chapter is received after the final deadline provided in §503.C above, but not later than 60 days after that deadline, the time period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by one semester, two quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters.

2. If an application for an initial award under this Chapter is received more than 60 days after the final deadline provided in §503.C above, but not later than 120 days after that deadline, the time period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by two semesters or three quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters.

3. A FAFSA or on-line application received more than 120 days after the published deadline shall not be considered.

E. The reduction of the student's period of eligibility for this award under §505.D above shall not be cumulative with any reduction under §509.C.

F. Renewal FAFSA

1.a. Through the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS), in order to remain eligible for TOPS Awards, a student who is eligible for federal grant aid must file a renewal FAFSA so that it is received by May 1 of each academic year (TOPS) after initial eligibility is established.

b. Beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS), in order to remain eligible for TOPS Awards, a student who is eligible for federal grant aid must file a renewal FAFSA so that it is received by the July 1 immediately preceding each academic year (TOPS) after initial eligibility is established.

2. Students who can demonstrate that they do not qualify for federal grant aid because of their family's financial condition are not required to submit a renewal FAFSA.

3. All recipients of Louisiana scholarship and grant programs other than TOPS and the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship Program must submit a renewal FAFSA for each academic year (TOPS) the student enrolls.

G. If a prescribed deadline date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will automatically be extended to the next business day.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:635 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1901 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1847 (November 2001), amended LR 30:2017 (September 2004), LR 31:37 (January 2005), LR 32:2238 (December 2006), LR 33:83 (January 2007), LR 33:2357 (November 2007), LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 37:588 (February 2011), LR 41:660 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:497 (March 2018).

§506. Proof of Compliance

A. As proof of compliance with the state's final deadline for submitting the FAFSA, or the on-line application, the board will accept the documentation listed in §506.A.1-6. No other form of verification, including notarized or certified statements, will be accepted as proof of compliance with the deadline requirement:

1. a certificate of mailing, registered, certified, certified/return receipt requested, priority or overnight mail receipt from the United States Postal Service, or other authorized mail carriers such as United Parcel Service and

Federal Express, which is dated prior to the state's final deadline;

2. the student aid report (SAR) or the institutional student information report (ISIR), produced by the federal processor, shows that the original application was received by the state's final deadline;

3. the federal processor provides verbal or written verification to the board that the original application was received by the state's final deadline;

4. a printed copy of the electronic receipt for a FAFSA filed on the web shows that the original application was received by the final deadline;

5. a printed copy of the electronic receipt for an on-line application shows that the original application was received by the final deadline;

6. the LOSFA's on-line application submission confirmation code corresponds to a LOSFA database transaction by the final deadline.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:2018 (September 2004), amended LR 31:1060 (May 2005), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:500 (March 2018).

§507. Final Deadline for Submitting Documentation of Eligibility

A. The board will continue to process eligibility for both new and renewal applicants during each award year until July 1 after the spring term of that award year.

B.1. Through the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS), all documentation and certifications necessary to establish student eligibility including, but not limited to, high school and/or college transcripts and certifications, copies of student aid reports, applicant confirmation forms, promissory notes, ACT and/or SAT scores, residency affidavits, proof of citizenship or permanent residency status and other documents that may be utilized in determining eligibility, must be received by the board no later than May 1 of the award year. For example, to receive an award for the 2004-2005 award year, the board must have in its possession all documents relevant to establishing eligibility by May 1, 2005.

2. Beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) through the 2010-11 academic year (TOPS), all documentation and certifications necessary to establish student initial eligibility including, but not limited to, high school and/or college transcripts and certifications, copies of student aid reports, applicant confirmation forms, promissory notes, ACT and/or SAT scores, residency affidavits, proof of citizenship or permanent residency status and other documents that may be utilized in determining eligibility, must be received by the board no later than July 1 immediately following the academic year (TOPS) the student is first eligible for payment of a TOPS Award. For example, if a student’s initial FAFSA is received no later than July 1, 2007, for that student to receive an award for the 2007-2008 academic year (TOPS), the board must have in its possession all documents relevant to establishing eligibility by July 1, 2008.

3. Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year (TOPS), all documentation and certifications necessary to establish student initial eligibility including, but not limited to, high school and/or college transcripts and certifications, copies of student aid reports, applicant confirmation forms, promissory notes, ACT and/or SAT scores, residency affidavits, proof of citizenship or permanent residency status and other documents that may be utilized in determining eligibility, must be received by the board no later than January 15 immediately following the final deadline for receipt of the student's FAFSA or on-line application. For example, if a student’s graduates from high school in May 2011, the final deadline for receipt of the student's FAFSA or on-line application is July 1, 2012, and the deadline for receipt of all documents relevant to establishing eligibility is January 15, 2013.

C. Returning Students

1. Returning students, who graduated high school during the 2001-2002 academic years (high school) and who enroll in an eligible college or university in the spring semester 2003, must submit documentation that establishes TOPS eligibility no later than May 1, 2004.

2. Returning students, who enroll in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2003 through the spring semester of 2005, must submit documentation that establishes TOPS eligibility no later than May 1 of the academic year (TOPS) the student enrolls in an eligible college or university. For example, a student who seeks to enroll in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2003 must submit documentation that establishes TOPS eligibility no later than May 1, 2004.

3.a. Returning students, who enroll in an eligible college or university in academic year (TOPS) 2005-2006 or academic year (TOPS) 2006-2007, must submit an application to return from an out-of-state college no later than July 1 immediately following the academic year (TOPS) the student enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible college or university and must submit any supporting documentation required by the application no later than April 15 following the July 1 deadline.

b.i. To receive the full benefits of a TOPS Award as provided in §701.E, returning students, who enroll in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2007 or later, must submit an application to return from an out-of-state college no later than July 1 immediately following the academic year (TOPS) the student enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible college or university and must submit any supporting documentation required by the application no later than January 15 following the July 1 deadline.

ii. If an application to return from an out-of-state college is received after the July 1 deadline as provided in the clause above, but not later than 60 days after that date,

the time period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by one semester, two quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters.

iii. If an application to return from an out-of-state college is received more than 60 days after the July 1 deadline as provided in the clause above, but not later than 120 days after that date, the time period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by two semesters, three quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters.

iv. An application to return from an out-of-state college received more than 120 days after the July 1 deadline shall not be considered.

v. If a prescribed deadline date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will automatically be extended to the next business day.

c. Examples

i. A returning student who enrolled in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2005 must submit the application to return from an out-of-state college no later than July 1, 2006, and any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts no later than April 15, 2007.

ii. A returning student who enrolled in an eligible college or university in the spring semester of 2007 must submit the application to return from an out-of-state college no later than July 1, 2007, and any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts no later than April 15, 2008.

iii. A returning student who enrolled in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2007 must submit the application to return from an out-of-state college no later than July 1, 2008, and any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts no later than January 15, 2009.

iv. A returning student who enrolled in an eligible college or university in the spring semester of 2008 must submit the application to return from an out-of-state college no later than July 1, 2008, and any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts no later than January 15, 2009.

v. A returning student who enrolls in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2009 must submit the application to return from an out-of-state college no later than July 1, 2010, and any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts no later than January 15, 2011.

vi. A returning student who enrolls in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2009, and whose application to return from an out-of-state college is received on July 10, 2010, will be eligible for a TOPS Award reduced by one semester or two quarters if any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts is received no later than January 15, 2011.

vii. A returning student who enrolls in an eligible college or university in the fall semester of 2009, and whose application to return from an out-of-state college is received on September 10, 2010, will be eligible for a TOPS Award reduced by two semesters or three quarters if any required supporting documentation such as college transcripts is received no later than January 15, 2011.

4.a. Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year (TOPS), all documentation and certifications necessary to establish a returning student's initial eligibility including, but not limited to, high school and/or college transcripts and certifications, copies of student aid reports, ACT and/or SAT scores, residency affidavits, proof of citizenship or permanent residency status and other documents that may be utilized in determining eligibility, must be received by the board no later than January 15 immediately following the deadline for receipt of the student's FAFSA or on-line application.

b. Examples

i. If a returning student enrolls full time in an eligible Louisiana college or university for the fall semester of 2007, his deadline to file the FAFSA or on-line application is July 1, 2008. If his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2008, and if all the necessary supporting documentation relevant to establishing eligibility is in the board's possession by January 15, 2009, the student will receive his TOPS Award (reduced by the number of semesters/terms he enrolled out-of-state) retroactively beginning the fall semester of 2007.

ii. If a returning student enrolls full time in an eligible Louisiana college or university for the spring semester of 2008, his deadline to file the FAFSA or on-line application is July 1, 2008. If his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received no later than July 1, 2008, and if all the necessary supporting documentation relevant to establishing eligibility is in the board's possession by January 15, 2009, the student will receive his TOPS Award (reduced by the number of semesters/terms he enrolled out-of-state) retroactively beginning the spring semester of 2008.

iii. If a returning student enrolls full time in an eligible Louisiana college or university for the spring semester of 2008, his deadline to file the FAFSA or on-line application is July 1, 2008. If his initial FAFSA or on-line application is received after July 1, 2008, but no more than 120 days later, and if all the necessary supporting documentation relevant to establishing eligibility is in the board's possession by January 15, 2009, the student will receive his TOPS Award (reduced by the number of semesters/terms he enrolled out-of-state and further reduced by one additional semester if 1 to 60 days late or by two additional semesters if 61 to 120 days late) retroactively beginning the spring semester of 2008.

D.1. A student who successfully completed an undergraduate degree prior to or during the 2001-2002 academic year (TOPS) and wishes to receive his remaining award eligibility to attend a postgraduate school must provide the documentation and certifications required to establish student eligibility no later than May 1, 2004.

2. A student who successfully completes an undergraduate degree during the 2002-2003 through the 2004-2005 academic year (TOPS) and wishes to receive his remaining award eligibility to attend a postgraduate school must provide the documentation and certifications required to establish student eligibility no later than May 1 of the academic year (TOPS) the student seeks to receive his remaining award eligibility. For example, to receive the remaining award for the 2003-2004 academic year (TOPS), the student must submit the required documents no later than May 1, 2004.

3. A student who successfully completes an undergraduate degree during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) or later and wishes to receive his remaining award eligibility to attend a postgraduate school must provide the documentation and certifications required to establish student eligibility no later than July 1 immediately following the academic year (TOPS) the student seeks to receive his remaining award eligibility. For example, to receive the remaining award for the 2006-2007 academic year (TOPS), the student must submit the required documents no later than July 1, 2007.

E. The reduction of the student's period of eligibility for this award under §507.C above shall not be cumulative with any reduction under §505.D or §509.C.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:635 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1901 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1847 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 30:1161 (June 2004), LR 30:1471 (July 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 32:2238 (December 2006), LR 33:2357 (November 2007), LR 34:1389 (July 2008), LR 34:1884 (September 2008), LR 36:312 (February 2010), LR 38:3157 (December 2012), LR 41:662 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:501 (March 2018).

§509. ACT Testing Deadline

A.1. The student must take the official ACT test (including national, international, military or special test types) on or before the official April test date in the academic year (high school) in which the student graduates or completes a home study program approved by BESE.

2. A student may submit a request for exception to the deadline established in §509.A.1, which will be considered only under the following circumstances:

a. the student was prevented from taking the ACT test on or prior to the official April test date due to circumstances beyond his control and which are attributable to the administration of the test; and

b. the student achieves a qualifying score on or before August 1 of the year of the student's high school graduation.

c. the award for a student whose request for exception is approved under this Section shall not be reduced as set forth in §509.C.

d. except for an applicant who has qualified for a TOPS-Tech Award on or prior to the April national ACT test date, an applicant will not be allowed to use a test score obtained after the April national ACT test date to upgrade a TOPS Award.

3. An eligible non-graduate must take the official ACT test (including national, international, military or special test types) before the first day of the semester the student first enrolls in an eligible college or university.

4.a. Applicable to 2020 graduates only, the final deadline for achieving a qualifying score on an official ACT test (including national, international, military or special test types) is December 31, 2020. A student may qualify for an initial award or a higher award based on such test. The award for a student who achieves a qualifying ACT score as provided in the Section shall not be reduced as set forth in §509.C.

b. The provisions of this Subsection shall apply to any student who:

i. was enrolled in a Louisiana public high school during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school);

ii. was enrolled in a nonpublic high school in Louisiana having the approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education required by Part I of this Chapter for program eligibility purposes during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school);

iii. resided in the state of Louisiana and was enrolled in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school); or

iv. resided out of state during the 2019-2020 academic year but who is able to meet the residency requirements to qualify for an award as provided for in §703.A.2.

c. A student who meets the requirements of this Subsection may request an exception to the December 31, 2020, deadline if the student provides documentation that:

i. he was registered for one or more ACT exams prior to the December 31, 2020 deadline; and

ii. one or more ACT exams for which the student was registered was cancelled due to Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Delta, Hurricane Zeta, or due to measures implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

iii. he was unable to register for an ACT exam that would occur prior to December 31, 2020, that was within a reasonable distance from his home or from the location to

which he/his family had been evacuated due to Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Delta.

d. The initial award or upgraded award for any student who requests and is granted an exception in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection shall be paid for the first time during the semester in which the qualifying ACT was achieved.

5.a. Applicable to 2021 graduates only, the final deadline for achieving a qualifying score on an official ACT test (including national, international, military or special test types) is December 31, 2021. A student may qualify for an initial award or a higher award based on such test. The award for a student who achieves a qualifying ACT score as provided in the Section shall not be reduced as set forth in §509.C.

b. The provisions of this Subsection shall apply to any student who:

i. was enrolled in a Louisiana public high school during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school);

ii. was enrolled in a nonpublic high school in Louisiana having the approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education required by Part I of this Chapter for program eligibility purposes during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school);

iii. resided in the state of Louisiana and was enrolled in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school); or

iv. resided out of state during the 2020-2021 academic year but who is able to meet the residency requirements to qualify for an award as provided for in §703.A.2.

c. A student who meets the requirements of this Subsection may request an exception to the final deadline if the student provides documentation that:

i. he was registered for one or more ACT exams prior to the December 31, 2021, deadline; and

ii. one or more ACT exams for which the student was registered was cancelled due to Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Delta, Hurricane Zeta, Hurricane Ida, or due to measures implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

iii. he was unable to register for an ACT exam that would occur prior to the deadline, that was within a reasonable distance from his home or from the location to which he/his family had been evacuated due to Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Delta, Hurricane Zeta, or Hurricane Ida.

B.1. The student may substitute an equivalent score, as determined by the comparison tables used by the board, on an equivalent SAT taken on or before the official April test date in the academic year (high school) in which the student graduates. In order to substitute a SAT score, the student must direct the college board to send the score to LOSFA so that the score is electronically reported to LOSFA by the college board within 45 days of the final test date allowed by §509. SAT scores received in any other manner shall not be considered.

2. An eligible non-graduate may substitute an equivalent score, as determined by the comparison tables used by the board, on an equivalent SAT taken before the first day of the semester the student first enrolls in an eligible college or university. In order to substitute an SAT score, the student must direct the college board to send the score to LOSFA so that the score is electronically reported to LOSFA by the college board within 45 days of the final test date allowed by §509. SAT scores received in any other manner shall not be considered.

C. Final ACT Testing Deadline for Reduced Awards

1.a. Beginning with awards made to applicants graduating in academic year (high school) 2000 through 2003, if an applicant does not achieve a qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT for the TOPS Opportunity Award by the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation, then the applicant's first qualifying score for any TOPS Award obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July 1 of the year of such graduation will be accepted. However, when granting an award to an applicant whose qualifying test score is obtained on an authorized testing date after the date of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July 1 of the year of such graduation, the applicant's period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by one semester, two quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters. Except for an applicant who has qualified for a TOPS-Tech Award on or prior to the April national ACT test date, an applicant will not be allowed to use a test score obtained after the April national ACT test date to upgrade a TOPS Award.

b.i. Beginning with awards made to applicants graduating in academic year (high school) 2004 through 2010, if an applicant does not achieve a qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT for the TOPS Opportunity Award by the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation, then the applicant's first qualifying score for any TOPS Award obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July 1 of the year of such graduation will be accepted. However, when granting an award to an applicant whose qualifying test score is obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July 1 of the year of such graduation, the applicant's period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by one semester, two quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters. Except for an applicant who has qualified for a TOPS-Tech Award on or prior to the April national ACT test date, an applicant will not be allowed to use a test score

obtained after the April national ACT test date to upgrade a TOPS Award.

ii. Beginning with awards made to applicants graduating in academic year (high school) 2011, if an applicant does not achieve a qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT for the TOPS Opportunity Award by the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation, then the applicant's first qualifying score for any TOPS Award obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July 1 of the year of such graduation will be accepted or, if the board determines that the applicant was prevented from taking the test prior to July 1 of the year of graduation due to circumstances beyond the immediate control of the student and attributable to the administration of the test, the applicant's first qualifying score for any TOPS Award obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to October 1 of the year of such graduation will be accepted. However, when granting an award to an applicant whose qualifying test score is obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation, the applicant's period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by one semester, two quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters. Except for an applicant who has qualified for a TOPS-Tech Award on or prior to the April national ACT test date, an applicant will not be allowed to use a test score obtained after the April national ACT test date to upgrade a TOPS Award.

c. Beginning with awards made to applicants graduating in academic year (high school) 2020, if an applicant does not achieve a qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT for the TOPS Opportunity Award by the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation, then the applicant's first qualifying score for any TOPS Award obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to August 1 of the year of such graduation will be accepted, or, if the board determines that the applicant was prevented from taking the test prior to August 1 of the year of graduation due to circumstances beyond the immediate control of the student and attributable to the administration of the test, the applicant's first qualifying score for any TOPS Award obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to October 1 of the year of such graduation will be accepted. However, when granting an award to an applicant whose qualifying test score is obtained on an authorized testing date after the April national ACT test date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation, the applicant's period of eligibility for the award shall be reduced by one semester, two quarters, or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters unless the student can demonstrate that he was unable to take the test on or prior to the April national ACT test date due to circumstances beyond his control which are attributable to the administration of the test. An applicant will be allowed to use a test score obtained after the April national ACT test date to upgrade a TOPS Award.

d. For the purpose of the Subsection, the April national ACT test date shall be defined as the month of April.

e. Tests taken by an eligible non-graduate after the first day of the semester the student first enrolls in an eligible college or university shall not be accepted.

2.a. Beginning with applicants graduating in academic year (high school) 1997 through 2010, applicants who fail to achieve an ACT or SAT qualifying score prior to July 1 of the year of high school graduation shall not be considered for an award.

b. Beginning with applicants graduating in academic year (high school) 2011 through 2019, applicants shall not be considered for an award if they fail to achieve a qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT prior to July 1 of the year of high school graduation, or prior to October 1 of the year of high school graduation, if the board determines that the applicant was prevented from taking the test prior to July 1 of the year of graduation due to circumstances beyond the immediate control of the student and attributable to the administration of the test.

D. For 1997 and 1998 high school graduates who have not previously taken an ACT test, the ACT score shall include those scores obtained from a national ACT test taken not later than the October 1998 national test date.

E. Students who graduated during the 1998-1999 school year who are otherwise qualified for a TOPS Award and who obtained a qualifying score on the ACT test or the scholastic aptitude test on an authorized testing date after the date of the student's graduation but prior to July 1, 1999 shall be considered to have met the requirements of §509.A and B.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 26:1995 (September 2000), amended LR 26:2000 (September 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:284 (March 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1847 (November 2001), amended LR 30:1161 (June 2004), LR 31:37 (January 2005), LR 38:3157 (December 2012), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:503 (March 2018), LR 44:1869 (October 2018), LR 47:38 (January 2021), LR 47:863 (July 2021), LR 48:481 (March 2022), LR 49:45 (January 2023).

Chapter 7. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards

§701. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. Awards under the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards, are established as set forth in R.S. 17:5001 et seq., as amended.

B. Description, History and Purpose. The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a comprehensive, merit-based student aid program consisting of a series of components, with each component having its own eligibility criteria and titled award. The purpose of TOPS is to provide an incentive for Louisiana residents to academically prepare for and pursue post-secondary education in this state, resulting in an educated work force enabling Louisiana to prosper in the global market of the future. The major components of TOPS are the Opportunity Award, the Performance Award and the Honors Award.

C. The Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards, which will be funded for the 1998-99 academic year, combine former programs [Louisiana Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) and the Louisiana Honors Scholarship Program] with a new component, the Honors Award, to produce a comprehensive program of state scholarships.

D. The purposes of this program are to:

1. financially assist those students who are academically prepared to continue their education at a Louisiana post-secondary institution; and

2. encourage academic excellence; and

3. provide incentives for Louisiana high school graduates to pursue post-secondary education in this state.

E. Award Amounts. The specific award amounts for each component of TOPS are as follows:

1.a. The TOPS Opportunity Award provides an award amount as defined in §301 for full-time attendance at an eligible college or university for a period not to exceed eight semesters, including qualified summer sessions, 12 quarters, including qualified summer sessions, or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters, except as provided by R.S. 17:5002, or LAC 28:IV.503.D, 509.C, or 701.E.1.b. Attending a qualified summer session for which a TOPS Award is paid will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS.

b. The semester or term count for a student shall not be increased for any semester or term a student is unable to complete because of orders to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, whether or not a full refund for the TOPS payment for that semester or term is received by LOSFA.

2.a. The TOPS Performance Award provides a $400 annual stipend, prorated by two semesters, three quarters, or equivalent units in each academic year (TOPS), in addition to an award amount as defined in §301 for full-time attendance at an eligible college or university, for a period not to exceed eight semesters, including qualified summer sessions, 12 quarters, including qualified summer sessions, or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters, except as provided by R.S. 17:5002, or LAC 28:IV.503.D, 509.C, or 701.E.2.b. If a student attends an eligible summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit and requests that their TOPS Award be paid for that session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit, the stipend will also be paid since payment of a TOPS Award for a summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS.

b. The semester or term count for a student shall not be increased for any semester or term a student is unable to complete because of orders to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, whether or not a full refund for the TOPS payment for that semester or term is received by LOSFA, provided that any amount of a stipend paid and not refunded shall be counted toward the total stipends allowed by law.

3.a. The TOPS Honors Award provides an $800 annual stipend, prorated by two semesters, three quarters, or equivalent units in each academic year (TOPS), in addition to an award amount as defined in §301 for full-time attendance at an eligible college or university, for a period not to exceed eight semesters, including qualified summer sessions, 12 quarters, including qualified summer sessions, or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters or quarters, except as provided by R.S. 17:5002, or LAC 28:IV.503.D, 509.C or 701.E.3.b. If a student attends an eligible summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit and requests that their TOPS Award be paid for that session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit, the stipend will also be paid since payment of a TOPS Award for a summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS.

b. The semester or term count for a student shall not be increased for any semester or term a student is unable to complete because of orders to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, whether or not a full refund for the TOPS payment for that semester or term is received by LOSFA, provided that any amount of a stipend paid and not refunded shall be counted toward the total stipends allowed by law.

4.a. Through the 2009-2010 academic year (college), in lieu of the amount equal to tuition as provided by LAC 28:IV.701.E.1-3, students participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein, plus any applicable TOPS stipend and a sum of not more than $150 per semester or $300 annually for the actual cost of books and other instructional materials.

b. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year (College), in lieu of the amount equal to tuition as provided by LAC 28:IV.701.E.1-3, students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Award participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein, plus a sum of $300 per semester or $600 per academic year to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials. In addition, those students with the Performance Award shall receive $400 per semester or $800 per academic year for other educational expenses and those students with the Honors Award shall receive $800 per semester or $1,600 per academic year for other educational expenses. If a student attends an eligible summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit and requests that their TOPS Award be paid for that session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit in accordance with this Paragraph, the amounts stipulated herein will also be paid since payment of a TOPS Award for a summer session, quarter, term, or equivalent unit will count toward the eight-semester limit for TOPS.

5. Students attending an institutionally accredited independent college or university which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU):

a. in an academic program receive an amount equal to the weighted average award amount, as defined in §301, plus any applicable stipend, prorated by two semesters, three quarters, or equivalent units in each academic year (college). The stipend will be paid for each qualified summer session, semester, quarter, or equivalent unit for which a TOPS Award is paid. Attending a qualified summer session for which a TOPS Award is paid will count toward the eight semester limit for TOPS;

b. in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree receive an amount equal to the average award amount (TOPS-Tech), as defined in §301, plus any applicable stipend, prorated by two semesters, three quarters, or equivalent units in each academic year (TOPS). The stipend will be paid for each qualified summer session, semester, quarter, term or equivalent unit for which a TOPS Award is paid. Attending a qualified summer session for which a TOPS Award is paid will count toward the eight-semester limit for TOPS.

6. Recipients of TOPS Awards who are also beneficiaries of Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) Saving Program accounts, may apply the START disbursements to pay tuition, and any remaining tuition due may be paid by the TOPS Award. Any balance of the TOPS Award which remains after payment of the institution's charges, shall be credited to the student's account and treated in accordance with institutional policies. In the event the student's total aid, including vocational rehabilitation awards, exceeds the cost of attendance, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the TOPS Award shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

7. Students funded under the Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) or the Louisiana Honors Scholarship during the 1997-98 award year, who have maintained eligibility for the 1998-99 award year, shall be continued as TOPS opportunity or performance recipients, respectively.

8. Students funded under the Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) or the Louisiana Honors Scholarship Program during the 1997-98 award year, who lost eligibility due to their failure to maintain the required grade point average, shall be continued as TOPS Opportunity or Performance recipients, respectively, however, their eligibility for an award shall be suspended pending their satisfaction of the continuation requirements of §705.A.7 and 8. If a student satisfies the applicable requirements of §705.A.7 and 8 no later than the end of the 2000 spring semester, he/she shall be eligible for reinstatement of the award in accordance with §705.B, for the semester following the satisfaction of the requirements of §705.A.7 and 8.

9. Prior recipients of the Louisiana Honors Scholarship who attend a campus of the Louisiana Technical College may continue to attend that institution as a recipient of the TOPS Performance Award.

10. Award amounts shall be credited to a student's account with the institution and shall be used consistent with the institution's policy, and as directed by the student, to pay for those educational expenses included in the cost of attendance.

11. Students enrolled and attending more than one college or university at the same time shall be awarded as follows:

a. students attending two or more Louisiana public two- or four-year colleges or universities shall receive a total amount not to exceed the amount that would be charged to the student by the school with the highest award amount, as defined in §301, among those at which the student is simultaneously enrolled;

b. students attending two or more institutionally-accredited independent colleges or universities which are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) shall receive a total amount not to exceed the weighted average highest award amount paid at those schools at which the student is simultaneously enrolled, as defined in §301;

c. students attending a combination of Louisiana public two- or four-year colleges or universities and institutionally accredited independent colleges or universities which are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) in an academic program shall receive a total amount not to exceed the amount that would be paid at the public school with the highest award amount paid at those schools at which the student is simultaneously enrolled or the weighted average award amount for the enrolled LAICU school, whichever amount is greater.

F. Beginning with the 2000-2001 academic year (TOPS) and continuing for the remainder of their program eligibility, students who meet each of the following requirements shall be awarded a stipend in the amount of $200 per qualified summer session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit for which tuition is paid which shall be in addition to the amount determined to equal the tuition charged by the public college or university attended or, if applicable, the amount provided for attendance at an eligible nonpublic college or university:

1. prior to June 18, 1999, the student was determined by the board to be eligible for a Performance Award, but who chose either by submission of a completed award confirmation form or by not sending in a completed award confirmation form to receive an Opportunity Award and was awarded an Opportunity Award; and

2. the student, once enrolled at an eligible institution, has continuously met all requirements to maintain continued state payment for a Performance Award.

G. Beginning with the 2000-2001 academic year (TOPS) and continuing for the remainder of their program eligibility, students who meet each of the following requirements shall be awarded a stipend in the amount of $400 per qualified summer session, semester, quarter, term, or equivalent unit for which tuition is paid which shall be in addition to the amount determined to equal the tuition charged by the public college or university attended or, if applicable, the amount provided for attendance at an eligible nonpublic college or university:

1. prior to June 18, 1999, the student was determined by the board to be eligible for an Honors Award, but who chose either by submission of a completed award confirmation form or by not sending in a completed award confirmation form to receive an Opportunity Award and was awarded an Opportunity Award; and

2. the student, once enrolled at an eligible institution, has continuously met all requirements to maintain continued state payment for an Honors Award.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1645-1648 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:635 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1901 (October 1998), LR 25: 256 (February 1999), LR 26:67 (January 2000), LR 26:1262 (June 2000), LR 26:1995 (September 2000), LR 26:2000 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1848 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:2331 (November 2002), LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 29:2372 (November 2003), LR 30:1161 (June 2004), LR 31:2213 (September 2005), LR 35:228 (February 2009), LR 36:2854 (December 2010), LR 40:1002 (May 2014), LR 41:663 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 42:1881 (November 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:504 (March 2018), LR 48:483 (March 2022).

§703. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1.a. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2001-2002 and prior, be a United States citizen, provided however, that a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is eligible to apply for such citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship requirement, if within 60 days after the date the student attains the age of majority, the student applies to become a citizen of the United States and obtains such citizenship within one year after the date of the application for citizenship. Those students who are eligible for U.S. citizenship and who otherwise qualify for a TOPS Award, will continue to satisfy the citizenship requirements for a TOPS Award for one year after the date of the student's application for citizenship, at which time, if the student has not provided proof of U.S. citizenship to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, the student's TOPS Award will be suspended until such time as proof of citizenship is provided and canceled if such proof is not provided by May 1 of the following academic year (college). Students cancelled solely due to their failure to become a United States citizen within one year after the date of application shall be reinstated to their award if they are a United States citizen or a permanent resident as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and were eligible to apply for United States citizenship when cancelled and have met the requirements for maintaining eligibility for the award;

b. for students graduating in academic years (high school) 2002-2003 through 2017-2018, be a United States citizen or be a permanent resident as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and be eligible to apply for United States citizenship;

c. for students graduating in academic years (high school) 2018-2019 and later, be a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined in §301.

2. be a resident of Louisiana, as defined in §301; and

3. submit the completed free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or on-line application in accordance with §501 by the applicable state aid deadline defined in §503 or §505; and

4. initially apply and enroll as a *first-time freshman* as defined in §301, unless granted an exception for cause by the board, in an *eligible college or university* defined in §301; and

a. if graduating from an eligible Louisiana public or BESE approved nonpublic high school or an eligible non-Louisiana high school or from an eligible out of country high school, enroll not later than the semester or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school; or

b. if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after graduating from an eligible Louisiana or an eligible non-Louisiana high school or from an eligible out of country high school, enroll not later than the semester, quarter or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation from active duty service, including all consecutive periods of reenlistment. Reenlistment at any time during the student's first enlistment shall be considered to be on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school; or

c. if the student is eligible under the provisions of §703.A.5.d or e, enroll not later than the semester or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date the student completes the home study program, which is deemed to be May 31; or

d. if the student is eligible under the provisions of §703.A.5.d or e, and joins the United States Armed Forces within one year of completion of the 12th grade of an approved home study program, enroll not later than the semester, quarter or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation from active duty service, including all consecutive periods of reenlistment. Reenlistment at any time during the student's first enlistment shall be considered to be on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school; or

e. if a 1996-97 graduate who is an otherwise eligible applicant, enroll as a full-time student during fall, 1998;

f. high school graduates of 1997 and 1998 who are otherwise eligible applicants attending ineligible schools for the 1998-99 academic year, may request a waiver from the board to enroll in an eligible school and accept the award no later than the 1999 fall semester by establishing to the satisfaction of the board that his/her failure to accept the award for the 1998-99 academic year was due to circumstances which could not be changed without the student or his family experiencing a significant, negative financial impact or which establish that it was not otherwise feasible to enroll in an eligible school due to the timing of the notification to the student of his/her eligibility for a TOPS Award. To apply for a waiver from the board, the student must submit a written request addressed to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, Attention: Scholarship and Grant Division, and submit documentation which clearly establishes the hardship which would have resulted had the student not attended the out-of-state college or university;

g. all students must apply for an award by July 1 of the academic year (high school) in which they graduate to establish their initial qualification for an award, except as provided by §503.D. For a student entitled to defer acceptance of an award under §703.A.4.b or d that student must apply by July 1 of the academic year (high school) in which the student graduates, except as provided by §503.D:

i. and, if enrolling in an academic program, must also apply by July 1 prior to the academic year (TOPS) in which the student intends to first accept the award, and by July 1 of every year of eligibility thereafter, except as provided in §501.B; or

ii. and, if enrolling in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree, must also apply by the July 1 immediately after the start of the academic year (TOPS) in which the student intends to first accept the award, and by July 1 of every year of eligibility thereafter, except as provided in §501.B;

5.a. graduate from an eligible public or nonpublic Louisiana high school or non-Louisiana high school defined in §1701.A.1, 2, or 3; and

i.(a). for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2001-2002 and prior, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 16.5 units of high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting a core curriculum as follows.

Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
1	Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute 2 units performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or 2 units of studio art or visual art; or 1 elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language

Units	Course
1/2	Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum); BESE has approved the following courses as computer related for purposes of satisfying the 1/2 unit computer science requirement for all schools (courses approved by BESE for individual schools are not included): Advanced Technical Drafting (1 credit) Computer/Technology Applications (1 credit) Computer Architecture (1 credit) Computer/Technology Literacy (1/2 credit) Computer Science I (1 credit) Computer Science II (1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking I (1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking II (1 credit) Desktop Publishing (1/2 credit) Digital Graphics and Animation (1/2 credit) Introduction to Business Computer Applications (1 credit) Multimedia Productions (1 credit) Technology Education Computer Applications (1 credit) Telecommunications (1/2 credit) Web Mastering (1/2 credit) Word Processing (1 credit) Independent Study in Technology Applications (1 credit)

(b). for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2002-2003 through 2003-2004, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 16.5 units of high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting a core curriculum as follows.

Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
1	Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute 2 units performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or 2 units of studio art or visual art; or 1 elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language

Units	Course
1/2	Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum); BESE has approved the following courses as computer related for purposes of satisfying the 1/2 unit computer science requirement for all schools (courses approved by BESE for individual schools are not included): Advanced Technical Drafting (1/2 or 1 credit) Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Applications or Computer/Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Architecture (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer/Technology Literacy (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking II (1/2 or 1 credit) Desktop Publishing (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Graphics & Animation (1/2 credit) Introduction to Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Multimedia Productions or Multimedia Presentations (1/2 or 1 credit) Technology Education Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Telecommunications (1/2 credit) Web Mastering or Web Design (1/2 credit) Word Processing (1/2 or 1 credit) Independent Study in Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit)

(c). for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2004-2005 through 2005-2006, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 16.5 units of high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting a core curriculum as follows.

Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
1	Geometry, Trigonometry*, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics *Trigonometry cannot be used to fulfill this requirement for students graduating in Academic Year (High School) 2005-2006 and thereafter
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute 2 units performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or 2 units of studio art or visual art; or one elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language

Units	Course
1/2	Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum); BESE has approved the following courses as computer related for purposes of satisfying the 1/2 unit computer science requirement for all schools (courses approved by BESE for individual schools are not included): Advanced Technical Drafting (1/2 or 1 credit) Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Applications or Computer/Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Architecture (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Electronics I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Electronics II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer/Technology Literacy (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking II (1/2 or 1 credit) Desktop Publishing (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Graphics & Animation (1/2 credit) Introduction to Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Multimedia Productions or Multimedia Presentations (1/2 or 1 credit) Technology Education Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Telecommunications (1/2 credit) Web Mastering or Web Design (1/2 credit) Word Processing (1/2 or 1 credit) Independent Study in Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit)

(d). for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2006-2007, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 16.5 units of high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting a core curriculum as follows.

Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
1	Geometry, Trigonometry*, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics *Trigonometry cannot be used to fulfill this requirement for students graduating in Academic Year (High School) 2005-2006 and thereafter
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute 2 units performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or 2 units of studio art or visual art; or one elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language

Units	Course
1/2	Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum); BESE has approved the following courses as computer related for purposes of satisfying the 1/2 unit computer science requirement for all schools (courses approved by BESE for individual schools are not included): Advanced Technical Drafting (1/2 or 1 credit) Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Applications or Computer/Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Architecture (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Electronics I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Electronics II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer/Technology Literacy (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking II (1/2 or 1 credit) Database Design and Programming (1/2 or 1 credit) Database Programming with PL/SQL (1/2 credit) Desktop Publishing (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Graphics & Animation (1/2 credit) Digital Media I (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Media II (1/2 or 1 credit) Introduction to Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Java Programming (1/2 or 1 credit) Multimedia Productions or Multimedia Presentations (1/2 or 1 credit) Technology Education Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Telecommunications (1/2 credit) Web Mastering or Web Design (1/2 credit) Word Processing (1/2 or 1 credit) Independent Study in Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit)

(e). beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2007-2008 through 2012-13, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 17.5 units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education as follows.

Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
1	Geometry, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit; provided however, that such Agriscience unit shall not be considered a science elective for the purpose of the math or science elective requirement below)

Units	Course
1	An elective from among the following math subjects: Geometry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Integrated Mathematics III or the following science subjects: Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics or Physics II
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute 2 units performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or 2 units of studio art or visual art; or 1 elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language
1/2	Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum). BESE has approved the following courses as computer related for purposes of satisfying the 1/2 unit computer science requirement for all schools (courses approved by BESE for individual schools are not included): Advanced Technical Drafting (1/2 or 1 credit) Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Applications or Computer/Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Architecture (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Electronics I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Electronics II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer/Technology Literacy (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Science II (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking I (1/2 or 1 credit) Computer Systems and Networking II (1/2 or 1 credit) Database Design and Programming (1/2 or 1 credit) Database Programming with PL/SQL (1/2 credit) Desktop Publishing (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Graphics & Animation (1/2 credit) Digital Media I (1/2 or 1 credit) Digital Media II (1/2 or 1 credit) Introduction to Business Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Java Programming (1/2 or 1 credit) Multimedia Productions or Multimedia Presentations (1/2 or 1 credit) Technology Education Computer Applications (1/2 or 1 credit) Telecommunications (1/2 credit) Web Mastering or Web Design (1/2 credit) Word Processing (1/2 or 1 credit) Independent Study in Technology Applications (1/2 or 1 credit)

(f). beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2013-14 through 2016-2017, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 19 units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education as follows.

Units	Course
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
2	Geometry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III, Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus, Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics, Integrated Mathematics III
1	Biology
1	Chemistry
2	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit)
1	American History
2	World History, Western Civilization, World Geography or History of Religion
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit)
1	Fine Arts Survey; (or substitute one unit of a performance course in music, dance, or theater; or substitute one unit of a visual art course; or substitute one unit of a studio art course; or substitute one unit of drafting)
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language

(g). beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2017-2018, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 19 units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education as follows.

Units	Course
	English - 4 Units
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature and Performance)
1	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature and Performance)
	Math - 4 Units
1	Algebra I
1	Geometry
1	Algebra II
1	One unit from: Algebra III; Advanced Math- Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL
	Science - 4 Units
1	Biology I
1	Chemistry I
2	Two units from: Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II or AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II or AP Biology or IB Biology II
	Social Studies - 4 Units
1	U.S. History or AP U.S. History or IB U.S. History

Units	Course
1	Civics, Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States
2	Two units from: Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics Economics, AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics
Foreign Language - 2 Units	
2	Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may include: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB
Art - 1 Unit	
1	One unit of Art from: Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Arts I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; Theatre I IB; or Drafting
NOTE: AP = Advanced Placement IB = International Baccalaureate	

(h). for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2021-2022 and after, the courses listed in the tables below have been approved by the Board of Regents and the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to be converted to a 5.00 scale when used to complete the core curriculum, and shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, or §803.A.6.a.

(i). beginning with the graduates of academic year (high school) 2026-2027, at the time of high school graduation, an applicant must have successfully completed 19 units of high school course work that constitutes a core curriculum and is documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Department of Education as follows.

Units	Course
English - 4 Units	
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature and Performance)
1	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature and Performance)
Math - 4 Units	
1	Algebra I
1	Geometry
1	Algebra II
1	One unit from: Algebra III; Advanced Math- Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL
Science - 4 Units	
1	Biology I
1	Chemistry I
2	Two units from: Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II or AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II or AP Biology or IB Biology II
Social Studies - 4 Units	
1	U.S. History or AP U.S. History or IB U.S. History
1	Civics, Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States
2	Two units from: Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics; African American History.
Foreign Language – 2 Units Or Computer Science- 2 Units	
2	Foreign Language, two units in the same language, which may include: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB. Or Computer Science, two units, which may include: Computer Science I; Computer Science II; Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Level 1); Advanced JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development (Level 2); AP Computer Science A; AP Computer Science Principles; Computer Science Year One IB; and Computer Science Year Two IB.:

Units	Course
	Art - 1 Unit
1	One unit of Art from: Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Arts I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; Theatre I IB; or Drafting
NOTE: AP = Advanced Placement IB = International Baccalaureate	

(ii). International Baccalaureate® Courses

TOPS Core Course	International Baccalaureate
Advanced Math–Pre Calculus	IB Math Studies (Math Methods)
Arabic	IB Language ab initio: Arabic IB Language B: Arabic
Art	IB Visual Arts
Biology II	IB Biology I IB Biology II
Calculus	IB Mathematics SL IB Mathematics HL
Chemistry II	IB Chemistry I IB Chemistry II
Chinese	IB Language ab initio: Chinese IB Language B: Chinese
Economics	IB Economics
English III	IB Literature IB Language and Literature IB Literature and Performance
English IV	IB Literature IB Language and Literature IB Literature and Performance
Environmental Science	IB Environmental Systems
French	IB Language ab initio: French IB Language B: French
German	IB Language ab initio: German IB Language B: German
Italian	IB Language ab initio: Italian IB Language B: Italian
Japanese	IB Language ab initio: Japanese IB Language B: Japanese
Latin	IB Classical Language
Music (Performance)	IB Music
Physics I	IB Physics I IB Physics II
Pre-Calculus	IB Math Studies (Math Methods)
Spanish	IB Language ab initio: Spanish IB Language B: Spanish
Theatre (Performance)	IB Film Study IB Theatre IB Dance
US History	IB History of the Americas I
World Geography	IB Geography
World History	IB History of the Americas II

(iii). Gifted and Talented Courses

TOPS Core Course	Gifted and Talented
Art	Art History Talented Visual Arts I Talented Visual Arts II Talented Visual Arts III Talented Visual Arts IV
Biology II	Biology II
Calculus	Calculus I Calculus II
Chemistry I	Chemistry I
Chemistry II	Chemistry II
Chinese	Chinese III Chinese IV
Economics	Economics
English III	English III
English IV	English IV
Environmental Science	Environmental Science
European History	European History
French	French III French IV
German	German III German IV
Italian	Italian III Italian IV
Japanese	Japanese III Japanese IV
Latin	Latin III Latin IV
Music (Performance)	Talented Music I, II, III, IV Small Voice Ensemble II Choir: Intermediate Choir: Advanced Orchestra: Intermediate Orchestra: Advanced
Physics I	Physics
Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus
Spanish	Spanish III Spanish IV
Theatre (Performance)	Introduction to Film Studies Talented Theater I, II, III, IV
US Government or Civics	Government
US History	U.S. History
World Geography	World/Human Geography

(iv). Dual Enrollment Courses

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
Advanced Math–Pre Calculus	Trigonometry	CMAT 1223
Advanced Math-Functions and Statistics	Introductory Statistics	CMAT 1303
African American History	African American History	CHIS 2103
Algebra III	College Algebra	CMAT 1213
Arabic	Elementary Arabic I Elementary Arabic II	CARB 1013/1014 CARB 1023/1024

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
Art	Art History I or II Art Structure/2-D Design Beginning Drawing	CART 2103/2113 CART 1113 CART 2203
Biology I	General Biology I General Biology I (Science Majors)	CBIO 1013 CBIO 1033
Biology II	General Biology I General Biology I (Science Majors) General Biology II General Biology II (Science Majors) Human Anatomy & Physiology I Human Anatomy & Physiology I (Lec/Lab) Human Anatomy & Physiology II Human Anatomy & Physiology II (Lec/Lab)	CBIO 1013 CBIO 1033 CBIO 1023 CBIO 1043 CBIO 2213 CBIO 2214 CBIO 2223 CBIO 2224
Calculus	Applied Calculus Calculus I Calculus II Differential Calculus I Integral Calculus I	CMAT 2103 CMAT 2113-5 CMAT 2123-5 CMAT 2113 CMAT 2116
Chemistry I	General Chemistry Survey I Chemistry I Chemistry I (Science Majors)	CCEM 1013 CCEM 1103 CCEM 1123
Chemistry II	General, Organic and Biochemistry General Chemistry Survey I Chemistry I Chemistry I (Science Majors) Chemistry II Chemistry II (Science Majors)	CCEM 1003 CCEM 1013 CCEM 1103 CCEM 1123 CCEM 1113 CCEM 1133
Earth Science	Physical Geology Historical Geology	CGEO 1103 CGEO 1113
Economics	Economic Principles Macroeconomics Microeconomics	CECN 2113 CECN 2213 CECN 2223
English III	English Composition I English Composition II American Literature I American Literature II Major American Writers	CENL 1013 CENL 1023 CENL 2153 CENL 2163 CENL 2173
English IV	English Composition I English Composition II British Literature I British Literature II Major British Writers World Literature I World Literature II Major World Writers Introduction to Fiction Introduction to Literature Introduction to Poetry and/or Drama	CENL 1013 CENL 1023 CENL 2103 CENL 2113 CENL 2123 CENL 2203 CENL 2213 CENL 2223 CENL 2303 CENL 2323 CENL 2313
Environmental Science	Environmental Science	CEVS 1103
Fine Arts Survey	Exploring the Arts Introduction to Visual Arts Dance Appreciation Music Appreciation	CART 1013 CART 1023 CDNC 1013 CMUS 1013
French	Elementary French I Elementary French II Intermediate French I Intermediate French II	CFRN 1013/1014 CFRN 1023/1024 CFRN 2013/2014 CFRN 2023
German	Elementary German I Elementary German II Intermediate German I Intermediate German II	CGRM 1013/1014 CGRM 1023/1024 CGRM 2013 CGRM 2023
History Of Religion	World Religions	CPHL 2213

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
Latin	Elementary Latin I Elementary Latin II Intermediate Latin I Intermediate Latin II	CLTN 1013/1014 CLTN 1023/1024 CLTN 2013 CLTN 2023
Physical Science	Physical Science I	CPHY 1023
Physics I	Physics I (Algebra/Trigonometry Based) Physics I (Lecture and Lab) Physics I (Calculus Based)	CPHY 2113 CPHY 2114 CPHY 2133
Pre-Calculus	Algebra and Trigonometry	CMAT 1233
Probability and Statistics	Introductory Statistics	CMAT 1303
Spanish	Elementary Spanish I Elementary Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I Intermediate Spanish II	CSPN 1013/1014 CSPN 1023/1024 CSPN 2013/2014 CSPN 2023
Theatre (Performance)	Acting I or II Introduction to Theatre	CTHE 2103/2113 CTHE 1013
US Government or Civics	Introduction to American Government Introduction to State and Local Government Introduction to Comparative Government	CPOL 2013 CPOL 2113 CPOL 2213
US History	American History I or II	CHIS 2013/2023
Western Civilization	Western Civilization I or II	CHIS 1013/1023
World Geography	World Regional Geography	CGRG 2113
World History	World Civilization I or II	CHIS 1113/1123

(v). Honors Courses

TOPS Core Course	Honors
Arabic	Arabic: Cambridge AICE-AS
Biology II	Biology II: Honors
IB Biology II	Biology II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Calculus I	Calculus: Honors Math 2 (Part 1): Cambridge AICE-A Level
Calculus II	Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE – A Level
Chemistry I	Chemistry I: Honors
Chemistry II	Chemistry II: Honors
IB Chemistry II	Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Chinese	Chinese: Cambridge AICE-AS
Economics	Economics: Cambridge AICE - AS
English III	English III: Honors English Language Part 1: Cambridge AICE – AS Literature in English Part 1: Cambridge AICE - AS
English IV	English IV: Honors English Language Part 2: Cambridge AICE – AS Literature in English Part 2: Cambridge AICE - AS
Environmental Science	Environmental Science: Honors
European History	History European: Cambridge AICE-AS
French	French: Cambridge AICE-AS
German	German: Cambridge AICE-AS
Government	Government: Honors

TOPS Core Course	Honors
Japanese	Japanese: Cambridge AICE-AS
Physics I	Physics: Honors
IB Physics II	Physics II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus Honors Math 1: (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE-AS
Probability and Statistics	Probability and Statistics: Honors Math 1 (Probability and Statistics)-Cambridge AICE
Spanish	Spanish: Cambridge AICE-AS
Spanish IV	Spanish Literature: Cambridge ACE
US History	U.S. History: Honors
World Geography	Geography: Cambridge AICE-AS
World History	World History: Honors History International: Cambridge AICE-AS

ii.(a). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2007-2008 and prior, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, or §803.A.6.a, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Physical Science	General Science, Integrated Science
Algebra I	Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2, Integrated Mathematics I
Applied Algebra IA and IB	Applied Mathematics I and II
Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics II
Geometry	Integrated Mathematics III
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III*, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II
Chemistry	Chemistry Com
Fine Arts Survey	Speech Debate (2 units)
Western Civilization	European History
Civics	AP American Government
*Applied Mathematics III was formerly referred to as Applied Geometry	

(b). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2006-2007 through the 2008-2009 academic year (high school), for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, or §803.A.6.a, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Physical Science	Integrated Science
Algebra I	Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2, Integrated Mathematics I
Applied Algebra IA and IB	Applied Mathematics I and II
Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics II
Geometry	Integrated Mathematics III
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III*, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math -Functions and Statistics]
Chemistry	Chemistry Com
Fine Arts Survey	Speech III and Speech IV (both units)
Western Civilization	European History
World Geography	AP Human Geography
Civics	AP American Government
*Applied Mathematics III was formerly referred to as Applied Geometry	

(c). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2009-2010, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, or §803.A.6.a, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Physical Science	Integrated Science
Algebra I	Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2, Integrated Mathematics I, Applied Algebra I
Applied Algebra IA and IB	Applied Mathematics I and II
Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics II
Geometry	Integrated Mathematics III, Applied Geometry
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III*, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus**, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics***
Chemistry	Chemistry Com
Fine Arts Survey	Speech III and Speech IV (both units)
Western Civilization	European History
World Geography	AP Human Geography
Civics	AP American Government
*Applied Mathematics III was formerly referred to as Applied Geometry **Advanced Math—Pre-Calculus was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II ***Advanced Math—Functions and Statistics was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II	

(d).(i). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2010-2011 through academic year (high school) 2016-17, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, or §803.A.6.a, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Physical Science	Integrated Science
Algebra I	Algebra I, Parts 1 and 2, Integrated Mathematics I, Applied Algebra I
Applied Algebra IA and IB	Applied Mathematics I and II
Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry	Integrated Mathematics I, II and III
Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics II

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Geometry	Integrated Mathematics III, Applied Geometry
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III*, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus**, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics***
Chemistry	Chemistry Com
Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit;	Anatomy and Physiology
Fine Arts Survey	Speech III and Speech IV (both units)
Western Civilization	European History
World Geography	AP Human Geography
Civics	AP American Government
*Applied Mathematics III was formerly referred to as Applied Geometry **Advanced Math—Pre-Calculus was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II ***Advanced Math—Functions and Statistics was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II	

(ii). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2013-2014 only, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, or §803.A.6.a, in addition to the equivalent courses identified in §703.A.5.a.ii.(d).(i) above, the following course shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
World History, Western Civilization, World Geography or History of Religion	Law Studies

(iii). For students graduating in academic years (high school) 2013-2014 through 2016-2017, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, or §803.A.6.a, in addition to the equivalent courses identified in §703.A.5.a.ii.(d).(i) above, the following course shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Algebra III; Advanced Math-Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL	AP Computer Science A

(e). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2017-2018 and after, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i. above, or §803.A.6.a., the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

TOPS Core Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II	Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III
Algebra III	Additional Math: Cambridge IGCSE
Algebra III; Advanced Math- Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL	AP Computer Science A
Arabic	Arabic: Cambridge AICE-AS
Art	Media Arts I-IV; Photography I, Photography II, and Digital Photography; Digital Image and Motion Graphics; Digital Storytelling; Engineering Design and Development; Sound Design
Biology II	Human Anatomy and Physiology Microbiology
IB Biology II	Biology II, Cambridge AICE-AS
Calculus I	Math 2 (Part I): Cambridge AICE – A Level
Calculus II	Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE- A Level
Chemistry II	Organic Chemistry I
IB Chemistry II	Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE – AS
Chinese	Chinese: Cambridge AICE-AS
Economics	Cambridge AICE-AS
English I	English Language Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE English Literature Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE
English II	English Language Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE English Literature Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE
English III	English Language Part 1: Cambridge AICE-AS Literature in English Part 1: Cambridge AICE-AS
English IV	English Language Part 2: Cambridge AICE-AS Literature in English Part 2: Cambridge AICE-AS
Environmental Science	Environmental Awareness
European History	History European: Cambridge AICE-AS

TOPS Core Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may include: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB	Mandarin Chinese I, II, III, IV Hindi I, II, III, IV Portuguese I, II, III, IV Vietnamese I, II, III, IV
French	French: Cambridge AICE-AS
German	German: Cambridge AICE-AS
Japanese	Japanese: Cambridge AICE-AS
Physical Science	Principles of Engineering PLTW Principles of Engineering
Physics I	Physics I: Cambridge IGCSE
IB Physics II	Physics II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Pre-Calculus	Math 1 (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE-AS
Probability and Statistics	Statistical Reasoning Math 1 (Probability and Statistics): Cambridge AICE
Spanish	Spanish: Cambridge AICE-AS
Spanish IV	Spanish Literature: Cambridge ACE
Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics Economics, AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	AP Psychology
World Geography	Physical Geography Geography: Cambridge AICE-AS
World History	History International: Cambridge AICE-AS
Any listed core course or its equivalent	Any core curriculum course taken by a student who has been deemed to be gifted and talented pursuant to R.S. 17:1941 et. seq. as implemented in State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy and in fulfillment of the student's Individualized Education Program shall be considered a gifted and talented course and shall fulfill the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

(f). For students graduating in academic year (high school) 2017-2018 and after, the courses listed in the tables below have been approved by the Board of Regents and the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to be converted to a 5.00 scale when used to complete the core curriculum, and shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, or §803.A.6.a.

(i). Advanced Placement Courses

TOPS Core Course	Advanced Placement
Art	AP Art History AP Studio Art: 2-D Design AP Studio Art: 3-D Design AP Studio Art: Drawing
Biology II	AP Biology
Calculus	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC
Chemistry II	AP Chemistry
Chinese	AP Chinese Language and Culture
Economics	AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics
English III	AP English Language and Composition
English IV	AP English Literature and Composition
Environmental Science	AP Environmental Science
European History	AP European History
Fine Arts Survey	AP Music Theory
French	AP French Language and Culture
German	AP German Language and Culture
Italian	AP Italian Language and Culture
Japanese	AP Japanese Language and Culture
Latin	AP Latin
Physics I	AP Physics I: Algebra Based AP Physics II: Algebra Based AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism AP Physics C: Mechanics
Probability and Statistics	AP Statistics
Spanish	AP Spanish Language and Culture
US Government or Civics	AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
US History	AP U.S. History
Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics Economics, AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	AP Psychology
World Geography	AP Human Geography
World History	AP World History

(ii). International Baccalaureate® Courses

TOPS Core Course	International Baccalaureate
Advanced Math–Pre Calculus	IB Math Studies (Math Methods)
Arabic	IB Language ab initio: Arabic IB Language B: Arabic
Art	IB Visual Arts
Biology II	IB Biology I IB Biology II
Calculus	IB Mathematics SL IB Mathematics HL
Chemistry II	IB Chemistry I IB Chemistry II
Chinese	IB Language ab initio: Chinese IB Language B: Chinese
Economics	IB Economics

TOPS Core Course	International Baccalaureate
English III	IB Literature IB Language and Literature IB Literature and Performance
English IV	IB Literature IB Language and Literature IB Literature and Performance
Environmental Science	IB Environmental Systems
French	IB Language ab initio: French IB Language B: French
German	IB Language ab initio: German IB Language B: German
Italian	IB Language ab initio: Italian IB Language B: Italian
Japanese	IB Language ab initio: Japanese IB Language B: Japanese
Latin	IB Classical Language
Music (Performance)	IB Music
Physics I	IB Physics I IB Physics II
Pre-Calculus	IB Math Studies (Math Methods)
Spanish	IB Language ab initio: Spanish IB Language B: Spanish
Theatre (Performance)	IB Film Study IB Theatre IB Dance
US History	IB History of the Americas I
World Geography	IB Geography
World History	IB History of the Americas II

(iii). Gifted and Talented Courses

TOPS Core Course	Gifted and Talented
Art	Art History Talented Visual Arts I Talented Visual Arts II Talented Visual Arts III Talented Visual Arts IV
Biology II	Biology II
Calculus	Calculus I Calculus II
Chemistry I	Chemistry I
Chemistry II	Chemistry II
Chinese	Chinese III Chinese IV
Economics	Economics
English III	English III
English IV	English IV
Environmental Science	Environmental Science
European History	European History
French	French III French IV
German	German III German IV
Italian	Italian III Italian IV
Japanese	Japanese III Japanese IV
Latin	Latin III Latin IV
Music (Performance)	Talented Music I, II, III, IV Small Voice Ensemble II Choir: Intermediate Choir: Advanced Orchestra: Intermediate Orchestra: Advanced
Physics I	Physics
Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus
Spanish	Spanish III Spanish IV
Theatre (Performance)	Introduction to Film Studies Talented Theater I, II, III, IV
US Government or Civics	Government
US History	U.S. History
World Geography	World/Human Geography

(iv). Dual Enrollment Courses

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
Advanced Math–Pre Calculus	Trigonometry	CMAT 1223
Advanced Math-Functions and Statistics	Introductory Statistics	CMAT 1303
Algebra III	College Algebra	CMAT 1213
Arabic	Elementary Arabic I Elementary Arabic II	CARB 1013/1014 CARB 1023/1024
Art	Art History I or II Art Structure/2-D Design Beginning Drawing	CART 2103/2113 CART 1113 CART 2203
Biology I	General Biology I General Biology I (Science Majors)	CBIO 1013 CBIO 1033
Biology II	General Biology I General Biology I (Science Majors) General Biology II General Biology II (Science Majors) Human Anatomy & Physiology I Human Anatomy & Physiology I (Lec/Lab) Human Anatomy & Physiology II Human Anatomy & Physiology II (Lec/Lab)	CBIO 1013 CBIO 1033 CBIO 1023 CBIO 1043 CBIO 2213 CBIO 2214 CBIO 2223 CBIO 2224
Calculus	Applied Calculus Calculus I Calculus II Differential Calculus I Integral Calculus I	CMAT 2103 CMAT 2113-5 CMAT 2123-5 CMAT 2113 CMAT 2116
Chemistry I	General Chemistry Survey I Chemistry I Chemistry I (Science Majors)	CCEM 1013 CCEM 1103 CCEM 1123
Chemistry II	General, Organic and Biochemistry General Chemistry Survey I Chemistry I Chemistry I (Science Majors) Chemistry II Chemistry II (Science Majors)	CCEM 1003 CCEM 1013 CCEM 1103 CCEM 1123 CCEM 1113 CCEM 1133
Earth Science	Physical Geology Historical Geology	CGEO 1103 CGEO 1113
Economics	Economic Principles Macroeconomics Microeconomics	CECN 2113 CECN 2213 CECN 2223
English III	English Composition I English Composition II American Literature I American Literature II Major American Writers	CENL 1013 CENL 1023 CENL 2153 CENL 2163 CENL 2173

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
English IV	English Composition I English Composition II British Literature I British Literature II Major British Writers World Literature I World Literature II Major World Writers Introduction to Fiction Introduction to Literature Introduction to Poetry and/or Drama	CENL 1013 CENL 1023 CENL 2103 CENL 2113 CENL 2123 CENL 2203 CENL 2213 CENL 2223 CENL 2303 CENL 2323 CENL 2313
Environmental Science	Environmental Science	CEVS 1103
Fine Arts Survey	Exploring the Arts Introduction to Visual Arts Dance Appreciation Music Appreciation	CART 1013 CART 1023 CDNC 1013 CMUS 1013
French	Elementary French I Elementary French II Intermediate French I Intermediate French II	CFRN 1013/1014 CFRN 1023/1024 CFRN 2013/2014 CFRN 2023
German	Elementary German I Elementary German II Intermediate German I Intermediate German II	CGRM 1013/1014 CGRM 1023/1024 CGRM 2013 CGRM 2023
History Of Religion	World Religions	CPHL 2213
Latin	Elementary Latin I Elementary Latin II Intermediate Latin I Intermediate Latin II	CLTN 1013/1014 CLTN 1023/1024 CLTN 2013 CLTN 2023

TOPS Core Course	Dual Enrollment	
	Common Course Name	Common Course Code
Physical Science	Physical Science I	CPHY 1023
Physics I	Physics I (Algebra/Trigonometry Based) Physics I (Lecture and Lab) Physics I (Calculus Based)	CPHY 2113 CPHY 2114 CPHY 2133
Pre-Calculus	Algebra and Trigonometry	CMAT 1233
Probability and Statistics	Introductory Statistics	CMAT 1303
Spanish	Elementary Spanish I Elementary Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I Intermediate Spanish II	CSPN 1013/1014 CSPN 1023/1024 CSPN 2013/2014 CSPN 2023
Theatre (Performance)	Acting I or II Introduction to Theatre	CTHE 2103/2113 CTHE 1013
US Government or Civics	Introduction to American Government Introduction to State and Local Government Introduction to Comparative Government	CPOL 2013 CPOL 2113 CPOL 2213
US History	American History I or II	CHIS 2013/2023
Western Civilization	Western Civilization I or II	CHIS 1013/1023
Western Civilization, European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics Economics, AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	Introduction to Psychology	CPSY2013
World Geography	World Regional Geography	CGRG 2113
World History	World Civilization I or II	CHIS 1113/1123

(v). Honors Courses

TOPS Core Course	Honors
Arabic	Arabic: Cambridge AICE-AS
Biology II	Biology II: Honors
IB Biology II	Biology II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Calculus I	Calculus: Honors Math 2 (Part 1): Cambridge AICE-A Level
Calculus II	Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE – A Level
Chemistry I	Chemistry I: Honors
Chemistry II	Chemistry II: Honors
IB Chemistry II	Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE-AS
Chinese	Chinese: Cambridge AICE-AS
Economics	Economics: Cambridge AICE - AS

iii.(a). Through academic year (high school) 2011-2012, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, in addition to the courses identified in §703.A.5.a.ii, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses for students of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
English III	EN 210 Composition/Major Themes in Literature (1 unit)
English IV	Any 2 of the following 1/2 unit courses: EN 311 Readings in Literature (at least one 311 course is a requirement) EN 311A American Literature EN 311B British Literature EN 302 Studies in the English Language EN 304 Topics in American and British Literature EN 312 Studies in Poetry EN 314 Readings in World Literature EN 322 Studies in Fiction EN 332 Introduction to Film Studies EN 342 Studies in Modern Drama EN 401 Creative Writing EN 402 Expository Writing EN 412 Studies in a Major Author—Shakespeare EN 422 Studies in a Major Author—Faulkner IS 314 Dramatic Text and Performance IS 315 Literature and Science IS 317 Evolution and Literature IS 318 Sacred Literature IS 411 English Renaissance
Algebra I (one unit)	Any combination of advanced math courses which equal 1 unit of course credit that are certified by the school to be equivalent of Algebra I
Algebra II (one unit)	Any combination of advanced math courses which equal 1 unit of course credit that are certified by the school to be equivalent of Algebra II: MA 120 College Algebra (1 unit), or MA 121 Accelerated College Algebra (1/2 unit) and 1/2 unit of MA 203 Trigonometry
Physics	PH 110L Conceptual Physics (1 unit), or PH 210L General Physics (1 unit), or PH 250L Advanced Placement Physics (1 unit), or PH 310L Physics with Calculus
Biology II	BI 210L Advanced Placement Biology (1 unit), or BI 231L Microbiology (1/2 unit), and BI 241 Molecular and Cellular Biology (1/2 unit)
Civics (1/2 unit) and Free Enterprise (1/2 unit)	AH 243 American Government and Politics (1/2 unit), and SS 113 Economics (1/2 unit)
Western Civilization	EH 121 Ancient and Medieval History (1/2 unit) and EH 122 Modern History (1/2 unit)
*Applied Mathematics III was formerly referred to as Applied Geometry **Advanced Math—Pre-Calculus was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II ***Advanced Math—Functions and Statistics was formerly referred to as Advanced Mathematics II	

(b). Beginning with the academic year (high school) 2011-2012, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, in addition to the courses identified in §703.A.5.a.ii, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses for students of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
English II	EN 110 Introduction to Writing and Literature (1 unit)
English III	EN 210 Composition/ Literature (1 unit)
English III	1/2 unit EN 311A and 1/2 unit from any of the following 1/2 unit courses: EN 302 Studies in the English Language EN 304 Topics in American and British Lit EN 314 Readings in World Literature EN 322 Studies in Fiction EN 332 Introduction to Film Studies EN 342 Studies in Modern Drama EN 401 Creative Writing EN 402 Expository Writing EN 412 Studies in a Major Author—Shakespeare EN 422 Studies in a Major Author—Faulkner IS 314 Dramatic Text and Performance IS 315 Literature and Science IS 317 Evolution and Literature IS 318 Sacred Literature IS 411 English Renaissance
English IV	1/2 unit EN 311B or EN 311W and 1/2 unit from any of the following 1/2 unit courses: EN 302 Studies in the English Language EN 304 Topics in American and British Lit EN 314 Readings in World Literature EN 322 Studies in Fiction EN 332 Introduction to Film Studies EN 342 Studies in Modern Drama EN 401 Creative Writing EN 402 Expository Writing EN 412 Studies in a Major Author—Shakespeare EN 422 Studies in a Major Author—Faulkner IS 314 Dramatic Text and Performance IS 315 Literature and Science IS 317 Evolution and Literature IS 318 Sacred Literature IS 411 English Renaissance
Advanced Math	Any combination of advanced math courses which equal 1 unit of course credit that are certified by the school to be equivalent of Advanced Math
Algebra I (one unit)	Any combination of advanced math courses which equal 1 unit of course credit that are certified by the school to be equivalent of Algebra I
Algebra II (one unit)	Any combination of advanced math courses which equal 1 unit of course credit that are certified by the school to be equivalent of Algebra II: MA 120 College Algebra (1 unit), or MA 121 Accelerated College Algebra (1/2 unit) and 1/2 unit of MA 203 Trigonometry

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Biology II	Any combination of 1/2 unit Biology Lab science courses which equal 1 unit of course credit that are certified by the school to be equivalent of Biology II: BI 210L Cells and Genetics and BI 202L Evolution and Biodiversity (1 unit combined), or I unit from the following 1/2 unit courses: BI 231L Microbiology BI 253L Botany BI 246L Ecology
Chemistry II	Any combination of 1/2 unit Chemistry lab science courses which equal 1 unit of course credit that are certified by the school to be the equivalent of Chemistry II: CH 2O1L and CH 2O2L (1 unit combined) or 1 unit from the following 1/2 unit courses: CH 313L Analytical Chemistry, CH 314L Polymer Chemistry
Physics I	PH 101L and PH 102L Accelerated Physics I (1 unit combined), or PH 201L and PH 202L Accelerated Physics II (1 unit combined)
Physics II	Any combination of 1/2 unit Physics lab science courses which equal 1 unit of course credit that are certified by the school to be the equivalent of Physics II, or PH 301L and PH 302L (1 unit combined) or 1 unit from the following 1/2 unit courses: PH 2O3L Intro to Astronomy; PH 303L Observational Astronomy and Astrophotography PH 305L Electronics PH 306L Astrophysics
Civics (1/2 unit) and Free Enterprise (1/2 unit)	AH 243 American Government and Politics (1/2 unit) and SS 113 Economics (1/2 unit)
Western Civilization	EH 121 Ancient and Medieval History (1/2 unit) and EH 122 Modern History (1/2 unit)
Advanced Social Studies	Any combination of history courses certified by the school to be the equivalent of one unit of World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, AP European History: 1 unit of credit from the following 1/2 unit courses: EH 231 History of Tudor-Stuart England EH 232 History of Modern Britain EH 244A European Intellectual History WH 244 Selected Topics in World History

iv. Beginning with academic year (high school) 2013-2014, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §703.A.5.a.i above, in addition to the courses identified in §703.A.5.a.ii, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses for students of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
English I	NOCCA Integrated English I
English II	NOCCA Integrated English II
English III	NOCCA Integrated English III
English IV	NOCCA Integrated English IV
Algebra I	NOCCA Integrated Mathematics I
Geometry	NOCCA Integrated Mathematics II
Algebra II	NOCCA Integrated Mathematics III
Advanced Math–Functions and Statistics	NOCCA Integrated Mathematics IV
Physical Science	NOCCA Integrated Science I
Biology	NOCCA Integrated Science II
Environmental Science	NOCCA Integrated Science III
Chemistry	NOCCA Integrated Science IV
World Geography	NOCCA Integrated History I
Civics	NOCCA Integrated History III
World History	NOCCA Integrated History II
U. S. History	NOCCA Integrated History IV

b. graduate from an eligible public or nonpublic Louisiana high school or non-Louisiana high school defined in §1701.A.3 and have completed the core curriculum defined in §703.A.5.a.i, unless the following exceptions apply:

i. for students in graduating classes prior to the year 2004, one or more core units are waived based upon a sworn affidavit by the principal or headmaster or authorized designee that the course was not available to the student at the school attended;

ii. for a *disabled student* or an *exceptional child*, as defined in §301, who have met the criteria set forth in §2115, one or more core units are waived; or

c. graduate from an out-of-state public or private high school approved by the chief state and territorial school officer (or the state agency which is the equivalent of Louisiana's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) of the state in which the school is located (see §1701.A.4); or

d.i. successfully complete at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE; or

ii. if ever was enrolled in a Louisiana public or nonpublic school approved by BESE, successfully completed at least the 11th and 12th grade levels of a home study program approved by BESE; and

iii. if having previously attended a Louisiana public high school, a Louisiana nonpublic high school, or an approved non-Louisiana high school, has provided the board with certification by the previously attended high school that said student was in good standing at the time the student last attended such school; or

e. graduate from a high school defined in §1701.A.5 or successfully complete at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE and conducted outside the United States and its territories; or

f.i. for students graduating in academic years (high school) 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, successfully complete a minimum of 10 units in honors courses graded on a 5.00 scale and graduate from an eligible public or nonpublic Louisiana high school or non-Louisiana high school defined in §1701.A.1, 2, or 3 and have completed the core curriculum defined in §703.A.5.a.i; or

ii. for students graduating academic year (high school) 2002-2003 through 2005-2006, successfully complete a minimum of 10 units in honors curriculum courses used to satisfy the core curriculum requirement and graded on a 4.00 or higher scale and graduate from an eligible public or nonpublic Louisiana high school or non-Louisiana high school defined in §1701.A.1, 2, or 3. and have completed the core curriculum defined in §703.A.5.a.i; or

g. beginning with the 2004-2005 award year, eligible non-graduates who meet the following criteria:

i.(a). through the 2017-2018 academic year high school, be a United States citizen or be a permanent resident as defined by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and be eligible to apply for United States citizenship;

(b). beginning the 2018-2019 academic year (high school) and later, be a United States citizen or an *eligible noncitizen* as defined in §301;

ii. meet the requirements of §703.A.3, above; and

iii. actually reside in Louisiana for at least two years prior to the student's first enrollment in an eligible college or university; and

iv. as certified by a psychologist or psychiatrist licensed to practice in Louisiana, the student has a score that is at least in the superior range on the *Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children* (Third Edition) or revised version of such instrument in accordance with R.S. 17:5029(D); and

v. as certified by a psychologist or psychiatrist licensed to practice in Louisiana, the student has a composite score that is at least at the ninetieth percentile at the 12th grade level in the reading, mathematics, and written language portions of the *Wechsler Individual Achievement Test* (Second Edition) or revised version of such test in accordance with R.S. 17:5029(D); and

vi. prior to enrolling for the first time in an eligible college or university, the student's score on the ACT must meet the requirements of §703.A.6.a., as specified for the respective award, or have an equivalent score on the scholastic aptitude test; and

vii. before the student's 19th birthday:

(a). enrolls in an eligible college or university and successfully earns 12 hours of course credits; and

(b). enrolls in an eligible college or university as a full-time student to pursue an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level; and

viii. after meeting all the requirements in §703.A.5.g.i through vi, the student will qualify for a TOPS Award;

6. have achieved an ACT score, as defined in §301 of at least:

a. if qualifying under the terms of §703.A.5.a, b, or g:

i. the state's reported prior year ACT composite average, truncated to a whole number, but never less than 20 for the Opportunity Award; or

ii. a 23 for the Performance Award; or

iii. a 27 for the Honors Award; or

b. if qualifying under §703.A.5.c:

i. is a *Louisiana resident*, except as defined in Subparagraph h of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §301:

(a). the state's reported prior year average truncated to a whole number plus 3 points, but never less than 23 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 26 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 30 for the Honors Award; and

ii. is a Louisiana resident as defined in Subparagraph h of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §301:

(a). the state's reported prior year average truncated to a whole number plus 2 points, but never less than 22 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 25 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 29 for the Honors Award; and

c.i. if completed the 12th grade level of an approved home study program during or before the academic year (high school) 2003-2004 and qualifying under §703.A.5.d;

(a). the state's reported prior year average truncated to a whole number plus 3 points, but never less than 23 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 26 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 30 for the Honors Award; and

ii. if completed the 12th grade level of an approved home study program during or after academic year (high school) 2004-2005 and through academic year (high school) 2006-2007 and qualifying under §703.A.5.d;

(a). the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number plus 2 points, but never less than 22 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 25 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 29 for the Honors Award; and

iii. if completed the 12th grade level of an approved home study program during or after the academic year (high school) 2007-2008 and after, and qualifying under §703.A.5.d;

(a). the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number, plus 2 points, but never less than 22 for the Opportunity Award; or

(b). a 24 for the Performance Award; or

(c). a 28 for the Honors Award; and

d.i. if qualifying under §703.A.5.e by graduating from a high school defined in §1701.A.5; which is limited to the Opportunity Award only; the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number, plus 3 points, but never less than 23;

ii. if qualifying under §703.A.5.e by successfully completing the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE and conducted outside the United States and its territories during or before the academic year (high school) 2003-2004 or during or after the academic year (high school) 2008-2009; which is limited to the Opportunity Award only; the state's reported prior year average, truncated to a whole number, plus 3 points, but never less than 23;

iii. if qualifying under §703.A.5.e by successfully completing the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE and conducted outside the United States and its territories during or after the academic year (high school) 2004-2005 and through the academic year (high school) 2007-2008; which is limited to the Opportunity Award only; the state's reported prior year average plus 2 points, rounded, but never less than 22;

e. if qualifying under §703.A.5.f; which is limited to the Performance Award only; a 24; and

7. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations, and if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions; and

8. agree that awards will be used exclusively for educational expenses.

B. Students qualifying:

1. under §703.A.5.a and b during or before academic year (high school) 2006-2007, must have attained a cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least:

a. a 2.50 for the Opportunity Award; or

b. a 3.50 for the Performance or Honors Awards;

2. under §703.A.5.a and b during or after academic year (high school) 2007-2008, must have attained a cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least:

a. a 2.50 for the Opportunity Award; or

b. a 3.00 for the Performance or Honors Awards;

3. under §703.A.5.a and b in academic year (high school) 2021-2022 must have attained a TOPS cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least:

a. a 2.50 for the Opportunity Award; or

b. a 3.25 for the Performance Award; or

c. a 3.50 for the Honors Award;

4. under §703.A.5.f and graduating in academic year (high school) 2000-2001 through 2005-2006, must have attained a TOPS cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least a 3.00 for the Performance Award.

C. Students qualifying under §703.A.5.a and b, for the Performance Award only, must be certified as graduating in the top 5 percent of the 1997-98 high school graduating class, as defined in §1703.B.4, in lieu of completing the core curriculum.

D. Students who have qualified academically for more than one of the TOPS Awards, excluding the TOPS Teacher Award, shall receive the award requiring the most rigorous eligibility criteria.

E. Students graduating in academic years 1996-97 and 1997-98 who qualified by reduction of the foreign language requirement must provide the board a copy of their college transcript showing completion of one or more foreign language courses. Eligibility for an award is not established until receipt of the transcript verifying that the foreign language credit was earned and the student shall first be awarded for the semester or term following that in which eligibility was established. Under this provision, eligibility must be established not later than the conclusion of the 1998-99 award year. High school graduates of 1996-97 and 1997-98 who meet the requirements of §703.A.4.b or d or §803.A.4.b or d of these rules and who have not been discharged with an undesirable, bad conduct or dishonorable discharge must meet the foreign language requirement no later than one year after the date of separation from active duty.

F. In the event that a student applicant was determined ineligible by the board for an award under this program or for a higher level award than that initially offered the student and such determination was based upon data that was subsequently found to be in error, then the student's eligibility shall be reevaluated based upon the corrected data and, if found eligible, the student shall be offered the award for which he qualifies. The award shall begin with the academic year during which the reevaluation occurred and eligibility first established. The requirement that a student be a first-time freshman shall be waived for those students who are determined eligible under these circumstances subsequent to the commencement of their post-secondary education.

G. Early Admission to College

1. A student who enters an eligible college or university under an early admissions program prior to high school graduation will be eligible for an appropriate award under the following conditions.

a. The college early admissions program is one that meets the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Education as set forth in the latest edition of Bulletin 741.

b. The student has satisfied all core curriculum requirements not completed in high school by making passing scores on equivalent college courses.

c. The college courses taken to satisfy core curriculum requirements and the grades reported on those courses are reflected in the student's official high school records. The student is awarded a high school diploma and the grade point average and core curriculum are certified to the board by the high school in the same manner as that of other high school graduates.

d. The student's core curriculum requirements are completed no later than the conclusion of the first two semesters or three quarters of college attendance following entrance into the college early admissions program.

2. A student who enters an eligible college or university early admissions program prior to graduation from high school shall be considered a *first-time freshman*, as defined in §301, not earlier than the first semester following the academic year (high school) in which the student graduated. A student who enters an early admissions program will remain eligible for a TOPS Award until the semester or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student actually graduated.

H. Returning Students

1. A *returning student*, as defined in §301, is eligible for a TOPS Award if:

a. he submits an application to return from an out-of-state college that includes:

i. the name of the Louisiana school in which he has enrolled or will enroll; and

ii. his official transcripts from all out-of-state colleges and universities attended; and

b. he met all the requirements to maintain his award that would have been applicable had the student enrolled in an eligible college or university during the time the student was enrolled in an out-of-state college or university; and

c. he enrolled in an eligible college or university no later than the next semester or term, excluding summer sessions and intersessions, immediately following the last semester he was enrolled in the out-of-state college or university.

2. A returning student who fails to enroll by the deadline established in §703.A.4 or to maintain full-time enrollment or to earn 24 hours during an academic year (TOPS) while enrolled in an out-of-state college or university, shall not be eligible for a TOPS Award unless granted an exception in accordance with §2103.

3. The period of eligibility of a returning student shall be reduced by each semester or term the student was enrolled in an out-of-state college or university.

I. Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students. Any student who graduates from high school or completes an approved home study program during and after academic year (high school) 2004-2005 and who is eligible for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award may use the award at an out-of-state college or university if all the following conditions are met:

1. the college or university is nonpublic; and

2. the college or university is accredited by an institutional accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education; and

3. all programs and services at the college or university are specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students; and

4. deaf and hard-of-hearing students comprise the majority of students enrolled at the college or university at the undergraduate level; and

5. the award recipient meets the admission requirements of the college or university that are applicable to deaf and hard-of-hearing students; and

6. the award recipient must enroll as first-time freshman as defined in §301, unless granted an exception for cause by the board, in the out-of-state college or university by the deadlines established in §703.A.4; and

7. the award recipient must meet the requirements of §705 to continue receiving the TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Awards; and

8. the college or university complies with the requirements for postsecondary institutions provided in §1903.

J. 2005 Natural Disaster Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award, a displaced student graduating from high school or completing a BESE approved home study program at the 12th grade level during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 academic years (high school) must meet all of the requirements of §703.A-I.8 above, except as follows.

a. A displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have graduated during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years from an out-of-state high school that meets the criteria of an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in §1701.A.4 and 5 shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum composite score on the ACT or on the scholastic aptitude test than required for a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school provided such student has, for an Opportunity Award, a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the high school transcript of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale or, for a Performance or Honors Award, a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the high school transcript of at least 3.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale.

b. The requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years must have successfully completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student based upon a sworn affidavit by the student's high school principal

or headmaster or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school attended.

c. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during the entire 2004-2005 academic year (high school) and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school and graduated from high school during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, or 2008-2009 academic year (high school); or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §703.J.2.a below for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2005, or in a parish listed in §703.J.2.b below for at least the 12 months prior to September 20, 2005.

d. A dependent student who graduated from an eligible out-of-state high school shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if his parent or court-ordered custodian was displaced as a resident from a parish listed:

i. in §703.J.2.a below due to Hurricane Katrina and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2005; or

ii. in §703.J.2.b below due to Hurricane Rita and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to September 20, 2005.

e. A displaced student who during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 academic years (high school) successfully completes at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE shall not be required to have also completed the 11th grade level of an approved home study course.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means:

a. a student who on August 26, 2005, was actually residing in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE; or

b. a student who on September 20, 2005, was actually residing in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

3. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award, a displaced student graduating from an eligible Louisiana high school or completing a BESE approved home study program at the 12th grade level during the 2006-2007 academic year (high school) must meet all of the requirements of §703.A-I.8 above, except as follows.

a. The requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the 2006-2007 academic year (high school) must have successfully completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student based upon a sworn affidavit by the student's high school principal or headmaster or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school attended.

b. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during his entire 10th grade year of high school and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school; or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §703.J.2.a above for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2005, or in a parish listed in §703.J.2.b above for at least the 12 months prior to September 20, 2005.

4. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award, a displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have graduated during the 2006-2007 school year from an out-of-state high school that meets the criteria of an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in §1701.A.4 and 5 and receives a Louisiana distance diploma from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education must meet all of the requirements of §703.A-I.8 above, except as follows.

a. A displaced student shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum composite score on the ACT or on the scholastic aptitude test than required for a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school provided such student has, for an Opportunity Award, a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the high school transcript of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale or, for a Performance or Honors Award, a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the high school transcript of at least 3.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale.

b. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during his entire 10th grade year of high school and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school; or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §703.J.2.a above for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2005, or in a parish listed in §703.J.2.b above for at least the 12 months prior to September 20, 2005.

K. Public Health Emergency Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. An affected student shall not be required to meet the home study requirements set forth in §703.A.5.d.i.-iii. if it is determined by the administering agency that the student's failure to meet the requirements was, more likely than not, due solely to consequences of measures taken to mitigate the public health emergency.

2. For purposes of this Subsection, an *affected student* is a student who:

a. was enrolled in a Louisiana public high school during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school);

b. was enrolled in a nonpublic high school in Louisiana having the approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education required by Part I of this Chapter for program eligibility purposes during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school);

c. resided in the state of Louisiana and was enrolled in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school); or

d. resided out of state during the 2019-2020 academic year but who is able to meet the residency requirements to qualify for an award as provided for in §703.A.2.

L. 2020 Natural Disaster Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award, a displaced student graduating from high school or completing a BESE approved home study program at the 12th grade level during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school) must meet all of the requirements of §703.A-I.8 above, except as follows.

a. A displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have graduated during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school) from an out-of-state high school that meets the criteria of an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in §1701.A.4 and 5 shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum composite score on the ACT or on the scholastic aptitude test than required for a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school.

b. The requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school) must have successfully completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student based upon a sworn affidavit by the student's high school principal or headmaster or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school attended.

c. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during the entire 2019-2020 academic year (high school) and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school and graduated from high school during 2020-2021 academic year (high school); or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §703.L.2.a below for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2020, or in a parish listed in §703.L.2.b below for at least the 12 months prior to October 8, 2020, or in a parish listed in §703.L.2.c below for at least the 12 months prior to October 26, 2020.

d. A dependent student who graduated from an eligible out-of-state high school shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if his parent or court-ordered custodian was displaced as a resident from a parish listed:

i. in §703.L.2.a. below due to Hurricane Laura and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2020; or

ii. in §703.L.2.b. below due to Hurricane Delta and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to October 8, 2020.

iii. in §703.L.2.c. below due to Hurricane Zeta and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to October 26, 2020.

e. A displaced student who during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school) successfully completes at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE shall not be required to have also completed the 11th grade level of an approved home study program.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means:

a. a student who on August 26, 2020, was actually residing in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lasalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, or Winn Parish, and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE; or

b. a student who on October 8, 2020, was actually residing in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, or Vermilion Parish, and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

c. a student who on October 26, 2020, was actually residing in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, or Terrebonne Parish, and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

M. 2021 Natural Disaster Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award, a displaced student graduating from high school or completing a BESE approved home study program at the 12th grade level during the 2021-2022 academic year (high school) must meet all of the requirements of §803.A, except as follows.

a. A displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have graduated during the 2021-2022 academic year (high school) from an out-of-state high school that meets the criteria of an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in §1701.A.4 and 5 shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum composite score on the ACT or on the scholastic aptitude test than required for a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school.

b. The requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the 2021-2022 academic year (high school) must have successfully completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student based upon a sworn affidavit by the student's high school principal or headmaster or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school attended.

c. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during the entire 2020-2021 academic year (high school) and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school and graduated from high school during 2021-2022 academic year (high school); or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §803.F.2. for at least the 12 months prior to August 27, 2021.

d. A dependent student who graduated from an eligible out-of-state high school shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if his parent or court-ordered custodian was displaced as a resident from a parish listed in §703.M.2.

e. A displaced student who during the 2021-2022 academic year (high school) successfully completes at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE shall not be required to have also completed the 11th grade level of an approved home study program.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means a student who on August 27, 2021, was actually residing in Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, or Terrebonne Parish, and:

a. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

b. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:3048.1.

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§705. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Awards, the recipient must meet all of the following criteria:

1. have received less than four years or eight semesters of TOPS Award funds, except as provided in §701.E.1.b, §701.E.2.b and §701.E.3.b; and

2. submit the renewal FAFSA in accordance with §505.F; and

3. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations and if the student has been in

the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions; and

4. agree that awards will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and

5. continue to enroll and accept the TOPS Award as a full-time undergraduate student, professional or graduate student in an eligible college or university defined in §301, and maintain an enrolled status throughout the academic term, unless granted an exception for cause by the board; and

6. minimum academic progress:

a.i. in an academic undergraduate program at an eligible college or university, by the end of each academic year (TOPS), earn a total of at least 24 college credit hours as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester or term in the academic year (TOPS), including any hours earned during an intersession ending during the academic year. These hours shall include remedial course work required by the institution, but shall not include hours earned during qualified summer sessions, summer sessions or intersessions that do not end during the academic year or by advanced placement course credits. Unless granted an exception for cause by the board, failure to earn the required number of hours will result in permanent cancellation of the recipient's eligibility; or

ii. beginning in the 2008-2009 and through the 2010-2011 academic year (TOPS), in an academic undergraduate program at an eligible college or university, by the end of each academic year (TOPS), earn a total of at least 24 college credit hours as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester or quarter in the academic year (TOPS), including any hours earned during an intersession ending during the academic year or immediately following the spring term. These hours shall include remedial course work required by the institution, but shall not include hours earned during qualified summer sessions, summer sessions or intersessions that do not end during the academic year or intersessions that do not immediately follow the spring term or by advanced placement course credits. Unless granted an exception for cause by the board, failure to earn the required number of hours will result in permanent cancellation of the recipient's eligibility; or

iii. beginning in the 2011-2012 academic year (TOPS), in an academic undergraduate program at an eligible college or university, by the end of each academic year (TOPS), earn a total of at least 24 college credit hours as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester or quarter, intersession and summer session in the academic year (TOPS) (includes any hours earned during any intersession and/or summer session ending before the following fall semester or quarter). These hours shall include remedial course work required by the institution and hours for repeated courses, but shall not include hours by advanced placement course credits, by credit by exam, or through the College-Level Examination Program. Unless granted an exception for cause by the board, failure to earn the required number of hours will result in permanent cancellation of the recipient's eligibility; or

b. in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree at an eligible college or university, by the end of each academic year (TOPS), earn a total of at least 24 college credit hours as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester or quarter, intersession and summer session in the academic year (TOPS) (includes any hours earned during any intersession and/or summer session ending before the following fall semester or quarter). These hours shall include remedial course work required by the institution and hours for repeated courses, but shall not include hours by advanced placement course credits, by credit by exam, or through the College-Level Examination Program. Unless granted an exception for cause by the board, failure to earn 24 hours during the academic year (TOPS) will result in permanent cancellation of the recipient's eligibility; or

c. in an academic graduate or professional program at an eligible college or university, by the end of each academic year (TOPS), earn at least the total college credit hours required by the college or university for full-time enrollment for each semester or quarter as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester or quarter, intersession and summer session in the academic year (TOPS) (includes any hours earned during any intersession and/or summer session ending before the following fall semester or quarter). These hours shall not include hours by advanced placement course credits, by credit by exam, or through the College-Level Examination Program. Unless granted an exception for cause by the board, failure to earn the required number of hours will result in permanent cancellation of the recipient's eligibility; or

d. in an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school, meet the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school; and

7. maintain *steady academic progress*, as defined in §301; and

8.a. through the 2013-14 academic year (TOPS), maintain at an eligible college or university, by the end of the spring semester, quarter, or term, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average on a 4.00 maximum scale of at least:

i. a 2.30 with the completion of 24 but less than 48 credit hours, a 2.50 after the completion of 48 credit hours, for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in an academic program; or

ii. a 2.50, for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree; and

b. beginning with the 2014-15 academic year (TOPS), maintain at an eligible college or university, by the end of the academic year, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average on a 4.00 maximum scale of at least:

i. a 2.30 with the completion of 24 but less than 48 credit hours, a 2.50 after the completion of 48 credit hours, for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in an academic program; or

ii. a 2.50, for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree; and

c. the provisions of §705.A.8.b shall not apply during the 2014-2015 academic year to students who met the requirements of §705.A.7 at the end of the spring semester of 2015, but who did not meet the requirements of §705.A.8.b at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year;

d. beginning with the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS), maintain at an eligible college or university, by the end of the academic year, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average (Opportunity, Performance, Honors) on a 4.00 maximum scale of at least:

i. a 2.30 with 24 but less than 48 earned credit hours for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in an academic program for the last semester attended during the academic year; or

ii. a 2.50 with 24 but less than 48 earned credit hours for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree for the last semester attended during the academic year; or

iii. a 2.50 with 48 or more earned credit hours for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in any program of study for the last semester attended during the academic year; and

e. a 3.00 for continuing receipt of either a Performance or Honors Award; or

f. the minimum grade necessary to maintain good standing, if enrolled in a graduate or professional program; or

g. meet the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school, if enrolled in an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school; and

B.1. Students failing to meet the requirements listed in §705.A.7 or §705.A.8.a, b, d, f, or g may have their TOPS Awards reinstated upon regaining "steady academic progress" (see §301) and/or attainment of the required TOPS cumulative grade point average, if the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than two years from the date of loss of eligibility.

2. If the two-year period is interrupted due to a student's active duty in the United States Armed Forces, the two-year period will be extended for a length of time equal to the student's active duty service.

3. Students who fail to meet the requirements of §705.A.8.e, shall no longer be eligible for the stipend authorized for the Performance and Honors Awards, but shall be eligible to receive the award amount for the Opportunity Award if they meet the continuation requirements of §705.A.8.a, b, d, f, or g.

4.a. A student shall have one semester or quarter after the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS) for which the TOPS Award will be paid to meet the requirements of §705.A.8.d if the student:

i. failed to meet the requirements listed in §705.A.8.d solely because the calculation of the TOPS cumulative grade point average (Opportunity, Performance, Honors) at the end of the 2015- 2016 academic year (TOPS) includes both hours and grades for courses taken before the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS) in both academic and technical courses of study; and

ii. was a high school graduate or home study completer who enrolled for the first time as a full-time student in an eligible postsecondary institution before the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS); and

iii. not suspended after the 2014-15 academic year (TOPS).

b. The TOPS Award of a student who meets the requirements of §705.B.4.a shall not be suspended unless the student fails to meet the requirements of §705.A.8.d by the end of the fall semester or quarter of 2016 in which case:

i. the student's TOPS Award shall be suspended effective at the end of the fall semester or quarter of 2016; and

ii. the provisions of §705.B.1 and 2 shall apply.

c. If a student does not enroll full time for the fall semester or quarter of 2016 and any subsequent consecutive semesters or quarters and is granted an exception for all of those semesters or quarters, the provisions of §705.B.4.b shall be extended to the end of the next semester or quarter during which the student enrolls full-time and for which the student's TOPS Award is paid.

C. In the event the board determines that an ineligible student has received an award as the result of an administrative error or erroneous information provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian or incorrect certification from the student's high school, the student's eligibility for the award shall be terminated and no further awards shall be made to the ineligible student. If an ineligible student has received an award due to an administrative error or incorrect certification, the board will not pursue recoupment from the student of funds that were awarded. If an erroneous award has been made and the board determines that the award was made based upon incorrect information submitted by the student or the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, the board may seek reimbursement from the student, the

student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, and if it is further determined that the award was made due to an intentional misrepresentation by the student, the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, then the board shall refer the case to the attorney general for investigation and prosecution. If a student or the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian is suspected of having intentionally misrepresented the facts which were provided to the board and used by it to determine the eligibility of the student for the program and the board has referred the case to the attorney general for investigation, then the student shall remain ineligible for future award consideration pending an outcome of said investigation which is favorable to the student.

D. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requirements necessary to maintain award eligibility are completed. The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall only consider the official report of grades and hours earned which are received from the school attended. Students should be aware that individual school policies may affect the reporting of grade point average and hours earned for the academic year and accordingly, should become familiar with these policies.

E. 2005 Natural Disaster Maintaining Eligibility Requirements

1. To continue receiving the TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Awards, a displaced student must meet all of the criteria in §705.A-D above, except as follows.

a. The TOPS Award of a displaced student who enrolls for the first time as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) and subsequently enrolls at a Louisiana-eligible college or university shall not be reduced due to enrollment in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS).

b. The TOPS Award of a displaced student who has been enrolled in a Louisiana-eligible college or university and who subsequently enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) shall not be cancelled due to such out-of-state enrollment.

c. The TOPS Award of a displaced student who has been enrolled in a Louisiana-eligible college or university and who subsequently enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) shall not be reduced for those semesters or terms such displaced student was enrolled in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS).

d. The period of suspension of a TOPS Award for a displaced student due to the student not meeting a requirement to maintain a minimum grade point average or to make steady academic progress shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or term in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS).

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means:

a. a student who on August 26, 2005:

i. was enrolled in one of the following institutions:

(a). Delgado Community College;

(b). Dillard University;

(c). Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans;

(d). Louisiana Technical College: Jefferson, Sidney N. Collier, Slidell, Sullivan, and West Jefferson campuses;

(e). Loyola University;

(f). New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary;

(g). Nunez Community College;

(h). Our Lady of Holy Cross College;

(i). St. Joseph Seminary College;

(j). Southern University at New Orleans;

(k). Tulane University;

(l). University of New Orleans;

(m). Xavier University; or

ii. had a home of record in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish; or

b. a student who on September 20, 2005:

i. was enrolled in one of the following institutions:

(a). McNeese State University;

(b). Sowela Technical Community College; or

ii. had a home of record in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish.

3. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record for a dependent student* shall mean the domiciliary address of the student's parent or court-ordered custodian and for an independent student shall mean the domiciliary address of such student.

F. Public Health Emergency Maintaining Eligibility Requirements

1. To continue receiving the TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Awards, an affected student must meet all of the criteria in §705.A-D above, except as follows.

a. An affected student shall not be required to meet the minimum academic progress requirements set forth in §705.A.6.

b. An affected student shall not be required to meet the steady academic progress requirements set forth in §705.A.7.

c. An affected student shall not be required to meet the continuation GPA requirements set forth in §705.A.8.

d. The period of suspension of a TOPS Award for an affected student due to the student not meeting the requirement to maintain minimum academic progress or to make steady academic progress shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or term the student is unable to complete or in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis due to measures taken to mitigate the public health emergency.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *affected student* shall mean:

a. a student who was enrolled full time as of the census date at an eligible college or university during the spring semester of 2020;

b. a student who was enrolled full time at an out-of-state college or university as of the census date during the spring semester of 2020; or

c. a student who was scheduled to be enrolled full time at a school operating on a basis other than semesters during the spring of 2020.

G. 2020 Natural Disaster Maintaining Eligibility Requirements

1. To continue receiving the TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Awards, a displaced student must meet all of the criteria in §705.A-D above, except as follows.

a. The TOPS Award of a displaced student who enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state college or university during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS) and subsequently enrolls at a Louisiana-eligible college or university shall not be reduced due to enrollment in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS).

b. The period of suspension of a TOPS Award for a displaced student due to the student not meeting a requirement to maintain a minimum grade point average or to make steady academic progress shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or term in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS).

c. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the minimum academic progress requirements set forth in §705.A.6.

d. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the steady academic progress requirements set forth in §705.A.7.

e. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the continuation GPA requirements set forth in §705.A.8.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means:

a. a student whose home of record on August 26, 2020, was located in, or who, on August 26, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lasalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, or Winn Parish: or

b. a student whose home of record on October 8, 2020, was located in, or who, on October 8, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, or Vermilion Parish.

c. a student whose home of record on October 26, 2020, was located in, or who, on October 26, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, or Terrebonne Parish.

3. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record for a dependent student* shall mean the domiciliary address of the student's parent or court-ordered custodian and for an independent student shall mean the domiciliary address of such student.

H. 2021 Natural Disaster Maintaining Eligibility Requirements

1. To continue receiving the TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Awards, a displaced student must meet all of the criteria in §705.A-D above, except as follows.

a. The TOPS Award of a displaced student who enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state college or university during the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS) and subsequently enrolls at a Louisiana-eligible college or university shall not be reduced due to enrollment in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS).

b. The period of suspension of a TOPS Award for a displaced student due to the student not meeting the requirement to maintain a minimum grade point average or to make steady academic progress shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or term in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university during the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS).

c. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the minimum academic progress requirements set forth in §705.A.6.

d. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the steady academic progress requirements set forth in §705.A.7.

e. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the continuation GPA requirements set forth in §705.A.8.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means a student whose home of record on August 27, 2021, was located in, or who, on August 27, 2021, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, or Terrebonne Parish.

3. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record for a dependent student* shall mean the domiciliary address of the student's parent or court-ordered custodian and for an independent student shall mean the domiciliary address of such student.

4. Notwithstanding the definition of *displaced student* set forth in Subsection H.2, the provisions of this Section shall apply to any student who, on August 27, 2021, was a member of the Louisiana National Guard called to active duty to assist in the preparation for and response to Hurricane Ida.

I.1. A student who successfully completes a baccalaureate degree without having exhausted his period of award eligibility shall receive an award for the remainder of his eligibility if he enrolls in a graduate or professional school at an eligible college or university no later than the fall semester immediately following the first anniversary of the student's completion of an undergraduate degree and has met the requirements for continued eligibility set forth in §705.A.6. The remaining eligibility may not be used to pursue a second undergraduate degree.

2. Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year (TOPS), a student who successfully completes any type of technical, vocational, or academic credential other than a baccalaureate degree without having exhausted his period of award eligibility shall receive an award for the remainder of his eligibility if he enrolls in a program of study leading to a baccalaureate degree, to a vocational or technical certificate or diploma, or to a non-academic degree at an eligible college or university no later than the fall semester immediately following the first anniversary of the student's completion of an associate's degree and has met the requirements for continued eligibility set forth in §705.A.6.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

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Chapter 8. TOPS-Tech Award

§801. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The TOPS-Tech Award was created by Act of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

B. Description, History and Purpose

1. For students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), the TOPS-Tech Award is a merit-based scholarship program for Louisiana residents pursuing skill, occupational or technical training at eligible colleges and universities that offer a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a non-academic undergraduate degree. The purpose of TOPS-Tech is to provide an incentive for qualified Louisiana residents to prepare for and pursue technical positions in Louisiana.

2. Beginning with students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school), the TOPS-Tech Award is a workforce scholarship program for Louisiana residents who enroll in an eligible college or university on a full-time basis in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council.

C. TOPS-Tech shall be first awarded beginning with the 1998-99 academic year to 1998 high school graduates and graduates in subsequent years.

D. TOPS-Tech provides an award as follows:

1. For any student enrolled in a TOPS Tech eligible program of study at an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher, the amount shall equal the actual cost of tuition or the maximum published award amount, whichever is less.

2. For any student enrolled in a TOPS Tech eligible program of study at an eligible college or university other than as provided for in Paragraph D.1 above, the amount shall be the *average award amount* (*TOPS-Tech*) as defined in §301.

3. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year (TOPS), in lieu of the amount equal to tuition as provided by LAC 28:IV.701.E.1-3, students with the TOPS-Tech Award participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein, plus a sum of $300 per semester or $600 per academic year (TOPS) to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 26:1997 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 41:666 (April 2015), LR 41:2596 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:523 (March 2018).

§803. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for the TOPS-Tech Award, the student applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. be a United States citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined in §301;

2. be a resident of Louisiana, as defined in §301; and

3. submit the completed initial free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or on-line application in accordance with §501 by the applicable state aid deadline in accordance with the applicable requirements of §501 or §505; and

4. initially apply and enroll as a first-time student as defined in §301, unless granted an exception for cause by the board, in an eligible post-secondary college or university defined in §301; and

a. if graduating from an eligible Louisiana or an eligible non-Louisiana high school or from an eligible out of country high school, enroll not later than the semester or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school; or

b. if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after graduating from an eligible Louisiana or an eligible non-Louisiana high school or from an eligible out of country high school, enroll not later than the semester, quarter or term excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation from active-duty service, including all consecutive periods of reenlistment. Reenlistment at any time during the student's first enlistment shall be considered to be on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school; or

c. if the student is eligible under the provisions of §803.A.5.d, enroll not later than the semester or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date the student completed the home study program, which is deemed to be May 31; or

d. if the student is eligible under the provisions of §803.A.5.d and has joined and is on active duty with the United States Armed Forces within one year of the date the student completed the home study program, which is deemed to be May 31, enroll not later than the semester, quarter or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation from active-duty service, including all consecutive periods of reenlistment. Reenlistment at any time during the student's first enlistment shall be considered to be on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school; and

5. graduate from:

a. an eligible public or nonpublic high school or non-Louisiana high school defined in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

b. an out-of-state high school defined in §1701.A.4; or

c. an out of country high school defined in §1701.A.5; or

d.i. successfully complete at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE; or

ii. if ever was enrolled in a Louisiana public or nonpublic school approved by BESE, successfully completed at least the 11th and 12th grade levels of a home study program approved by BESE; and

iii. if having previously attended an eligible high school defined in §1701.A.1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, has provided the board with certification by the previously attended high school that said student was in good standing at the time the student last attended such school;

6. if qualifying under the terms of §803.A.5.a, at the time of high school graduation:

a. have successfully completed one of the following core curriculums:

i. high school course work constituting the TOPS core curriculum for the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards as defined in §703.A.5 and documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education;

ii. for students graduating in the 2027 academic year (high school) and later, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award	
Units	**Course**
1	English I
1	English II
2	English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
1	Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or an applied or hybrid algebra course
1	Geometry or an applied Geometry course
2	Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math -Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits
1	Biology

Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award	
Units	**Course**
1	Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, Physics, or AP or IB science courses
1	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
9	In Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major.

iii. for students graduating in the 2018 academic year (high school) and later, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award	
Units	**Course**
1	English I
1	English II
2	English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
1	Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or an applied or hybrid algebra course
3	Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits
1	Biology
1	Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, Physics, or AP or IB science courses
1	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
9	In Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major.

iv. for students graduating in the 2015-2016 academic year (high school) and later, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award	
Units	**Course**
1	English I
1	English II
2	English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
1	Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or an applied or hybrid algebra course
3	Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits
1	Biology
1	Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science,or AP or IB science courses
1	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
9	In Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major.

v. for students graduating in the 2000-2001 school year through the 2012-2013 school year, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award	
Units	**Course**
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV or substitute 1 unit of Business English
1	Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II
2	Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Discrete Mathematics, or Probability and Statistics (2 units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and shall be considered the equivalent of the 3 required math units
1	Biology
1	Chemistry or Applied Chemistry
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit)
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, nonpublic)
Remaining Core Courses shall be Selected from One of the Following Options:	
Option 1—Total of 17 Units	
1	Fine Arts Survey or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute 2 units of visual art courses; or substitute 2 units of studio art courses; or a course from the Career and Technical Program of studies that is approved by the BESE (must be listed under the Vocational Education Course Offerings in Bulletin 741 or the updates to Bulletin 741); or substitute 1 unit as an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum
2	Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II
1	One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that is approved by the BESE
or	
Option 2—Total of 19 Units	
4	In a career major comprised of a sequence of related specialty courses. In order for a student to use this option, the courses for the career major must be approved by BESE.
1	Credit in a basic computer course.
1	In related or technical fields. A related course includes any course which is listed under the student's major. A technical course is one that is listed in the approved career option plan for the high school at which the course is taken.

vi. for students graduating through the 2001-2002 school year, the TOPS-Tech core curriculum as follows.

Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award	
Units	**Course**
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV or Business English
1	Algebra I (1 unit) or Applied Algebra IA and 1B (2 units)
1	Algebra II
1	Geometry or Applied Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics
1	Biology
1	Chemistry or Applied Physics
1	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit)
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, non-public)
1	Fine Arts Survey or any approved vocational course in the areas of Agriscience, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health Occupations, Marketing Education, Technology Education, or Trade and Industrial Education; (or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance or theater; or 2 units of studio art or 2 units of visual art courses; or 1 elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)
2	In a single Foreign Language. (1 unit for students graduating from high school during the 1996-97 and 1997-98 school years.) or Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II (2 units).
1/2	Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Business Computer Applications (or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective course related to computers that is approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; or substitute at least 1/2 unit of an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)

vii. for students graduating in the 2013-2014 school year through the 2016-2017 school year, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award	
Units	**Course**
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV or substitute 1 unit of Business English
1	Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II
2	Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Discrete Mathematics, or Probability and Statistics (2 units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and shall be considered the equivalent of the 3 required math units
1	Biology
2	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, or Chemistry or Applied Chemistry, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit)
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, non-public)

Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award	
Units	**Course**
Remaining Core Courses Shall Be Selected from One of the Following Options	
Option 1—Total of 17 Units	
1	Fine Arts Survey or drafting (one unit) or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute 2 units of visual art courses; or substitute 2 units of studio art courses; or a course from the Career and Technical Program of studies that is approved by the BESE (must be listed under the Vocational Education Course Offerings in Bulletin 741 or the updates to Bulletin 741); or substitute 1 unit as an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum
2	Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II
1	One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that is approved by the BESE
or	
Option 2—Total of 19 Units	
4	In a career major comprised of a sequence of related specialty courses. In order for a student to use this option, the courses for the career major must be approved by BESE.
1	Credit in a basic computer course
1	In related or technical fields. A related course includes any course which is listed under the student's major. A technical course is one that is listed in the approved career option plan for the high school at which the course is taken.

b.i. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2008-2009 and after, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §803.A.6.a above, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Business English	Senior Applications in English
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Math Essentials

ii. for students graduating in academic year (high school) 2018 and after, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of §803.A.6.a above, the following courses shall be considered equivalent to the identified core courses and may be substituted to satisfy corresponding core courses.

Core Curriculum Course	Equivalent (Substitute) Course
Business English	Senior Applications in English
Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Comparable Advanced Mathematics	Math Essentials
Geometry, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits	Probability and Statistics; Transition to College Mathematics; Statistical Reasoning

c. for students in graduating classes prior to 2004, core units may be waived upon sworn affidavit by the principal or headmaster or authorized designee that the course was not available to the student at the school attended;

7. have achieved an *ACT score*, as defined in §301, of at least:

a. if qualifying under §803.A.5.a, an ACT composite score of at least 17 or beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, or in the alternative, have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system; or

b.i. if qualifying under §803.A.5.b or c and is a Louisiana resident, except as defined in Subparagraph h of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §301, an ACT composite of at least 20; or

ii. if qualifying under §803.A.5.b is a *Louisiana resident* as defined in Subparagraph h of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §301, an ACT composite of at least 19; and

c. if qualifying under §803.A.5.d and successfully completing the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE during or before the academic year (high school) 2003-2004 or during or after the academic year (high school) 2008-2009, an ACT composite of at least 20; and

d. if qualifying under §803.A.5.d and successfully completing the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE during or after the academic year (high school) 2004-2005 or during the academic year (high school) 2007-2008, an ACT composite of at least 19; and

8. if qualifying under §803.A.5.a, have attained a cumulative high school grade point average, based on a 4.00 maximum scale, of at least 2.50; and

9. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations, and if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions; and

10. agree that awards will be used exclusively for educational expenses.

B. 2005 Natural Disaster Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Tech Award, a displaced student graduating from high school or completing a BESE approved home study program at the 12th grade level during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 academic years (high school) must meet all of the requirements of §803.A above, except as follows.

a. A displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have graduated during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years from an out-of-state high school that meets the criteria of an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in §1701.A.4 and 5 shall not be required to have a higher minimum composite score on the ACT or on the scholastic aptitude test than required for a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school provided such student has a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the high school transcript of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale.

b. The requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years must have successfully completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student based upon a sworn affidavit by the student's high school principal or headmaster or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school attended.

c. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during the entire 2004-2005 academic year (high school) and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school and graduated from high school during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, or 2008-2009 academic year (high school); or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §803.B.2.a below for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2005, or in a parish listed in §803.B.2.b below for at least the 12 months prior to September 20, 2005.

d. A dependent student who graduated from an eligible out-of-state high school shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if his parent or court-ordered custodian was displaced as a resident from a parish listed:

i. in §803.B.2.a below due to Hurricane Katrina and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2005; or

ii. in §803.B.2.b below due to Hurricane Rita and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to September 20, 2005.

e. A displaced student who during the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 academic years (high school) successfully completes at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE shall not be required to have also completed the 11th grade level of an approved home study course.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* shall mean:

a. a student who on August 26, 2005, was actually residing in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE; or

b. a student who on September 20, 2005, was actually residing in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

3. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Tech Award, a displaced student graduating from an eligible Louisiana high school or completing a BESE approved home study program at the 12th grade level during the 2006-2007 academic year (high school) must meet all of the requirements of §803.A above, except as follows.

a. The requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the 2006-2007 school year must have successfully completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student based upon a sworn affidavit by the student's high school principal or headmaster or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school attended.

b. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during his entire 10th grade year of high school and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school; or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §803.B.2.a above for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2005, or in a parish listed in §803.B.2.b above for at least the 12 months prior to September 20, 2005.

4. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Tech Award, a displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have graduated during the 2006-2007 school

year from an out-of-state high school that meets the criteria of an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in §1701.A.4 and 5 and receives a Louisiana distance diploma from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education must meet all of the requirements of §703.A.-I.8 above, except as follows.

a. A displaced student shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum composite score on the ACT or on the scholastic aptitude test than required for a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school provided such student has a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the high school transcript of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale.

b. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during his entire 10th grade year of high school and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school; or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §703.J.2.a above for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2005, or in a parish listed in §703.J.2.b above for at least the 12 months prior to September 20, 2005.

C. Public Health Emergency Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. An affected student shall not be required to meet the home study requirements set forth in §803.A.5.d.i.-iii. if it is determined by the administering agency that the student's failure to meet the requirements was, more likely than not, due solely to consequences of measures taken to mitigate the public health emergency.

2. An affected student who was pursuing the JumpStart core curriculum set forth in §803.A.6.a.ii. will not be required to complete any JumpStart course, experience, or credential that was waived by the student's high school for high school graduation purposes.

3. For purposes of this Subsection, an *affected student* is a student who:

a. was enrolled in a Louisiana public high school during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school);

b. was enrolled in a nonpublic high school in Louisiana having the approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education required by Part I of this Chapter for program eligibility purposes during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school);

c. resided in the state of Louisiana and was enrolled in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during the 2019-2020 academic year (high school); or

d. resided out of state during the 2019-2020 academic year but who is able to meet the residency requirements to qualify for an award as provided for in §803.A.2.

D. Military Veterans Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. Effective for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 academic years, a veteran may qualify for a TOPS Tech Award in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection.

2. To qualify for an award under the provisions of this subsection, a veteran must:

a. submit a copy of his DD-214 evidencing that:

i. he was honorably discharged from a military installation in Louisiana;

ii. he served in a branch of the United States Armed Forces for a period of at least 3 years;

b. be a citizen of the United States;

c. have established domicile in Louisiana within one year of discharge from active duty, provided that such domicile was established on or after January 1, 2020;

e. submit a copy of his standardized test score(s) evidencing the following was achieved prior to high school graduation:

i. 17 on the ACT; or

ii. the equivalent concordant value to an ACT score of 17 on the SAT; or

iii. the Silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system;

f. have filed a free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no more than one year subsequent to discharge from active duty;

g. have enrolled full time in an eligible program of study no later than one year after notification of eligibility for a TOPS Tech Award under the provisions of this Subsection;

h. have no criminal conviction other than misdemeanor traffic violations.

E. 2020 Natural Disaster Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Tech Award, a displaced student graduating from high school or completing a BESE approved home study program at the 12th grade level during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school) must meet all of the requirements of §803.A, except as follows.

a. A displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have graduated during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school) from an out-of-state high school that meets the criteria of an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in §1701.A.4 and 5 shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum composite score on the ACT or on the scholastic aptitude test than required for a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school.

b. The requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the 2020-2021

academic year (high school) must have successfully completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student based upon a sworn affidavit by the student's high school principal or headmaster or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school attended.

c. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during the entire 2019-2020 academic year (high school) and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school and graduated from high school during 2020-2021 academic year (high school); or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §803.E.2.a below for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2020, or in a parish listed in §803.E.2.b below for at least the 12 months prior to October 8, 2020, or in parish listed in §803.E.2.c for at least the 12 months prior to October 26, 2020.

d. A dependent student who graduated from an eligible out-of-state high school shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if his parent or court-ordered custodian was displaced as a resident from a parish listed:

i. in §803.E.2.a below due to Hurricane Laura and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to August 26, 2020; or

ii. in §803.E.2.b below due to Hurricane Delta and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to October 8, 2020.

iii. in §803.E.2.c below due to Hurricane Zeta and such parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the 12 months prior to October 26, 2020

e. A displaced student who during the 2020-2021 academic year (high school) successfully completes at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE shall not be required to have also completed the 11th grade level of an approved home study program.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means:

a. a student who on August 26, 2020, was actually residing in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lasalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, or Winn Parish, and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE; or

b. a student who on October 8, 2020, was actually residing in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, or Vermilion Parish, and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

c. a student who on October 26, 2020, was actually residing in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, or Terrebonne Parish, and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

F. 2021 Natural Disaster Initial Eligibility Requirements

1. To establish eligibility for a TOPS Tech Award, a displaced student graduating from high school or completing a BESE approved home study program at the 12th grade level during the 2021-2022 academic year (high school) must meet all of the requirements of §803.A, except as follows.

a. A displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have graduated during the 2021-2022 academic year (high school) from an out-of-state high school that meets the criteria of an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in §1701.A.4 and 5 shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum composite score on the ACT or on the scholastic aptitude test than required for a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school.

b. The requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the 2021-2022 academic year (high school) must have successfully completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student based upon a sworn affidavit by the student's high school principal or headmaster or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school attended.

c. A displaced student shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if:

i. such dependent or independent student actually resided in Louisiana during the entire 2020-2021 academic year (high school) and was enrolled for such time in an eligible Louisiana high school and graduated from high school during 2021-2022 academic year (high school); or

ii. such dependent student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in §803.F.2. for at least the 12 months prior to August 27, 2021.

d. A dependent student who graduated from an eligible out-of-state high school shall be deemed to meet the Louisiana residency requirement if his parent or court-

ordered custodian was displaced as a resident from a parish listed in §803.F.2.

e. A displaced student who during the 2021-2022 academic year (high school) successfully completes at the 12th grade level a home study program approved by BESE shall not be required to have also completed the 11th grade level of an approved home study program.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means a student who on August 27, 2021, was actually residing in Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, or Terrebonne Parish, and:

i. was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school as provided in §1701.A.1, 2 and 3; or

ii. was enrolled in a home study program approved by BESE.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:1795 (October 1999), LR 26:65 and 67 (January 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1997 (September 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 26:2754 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:773 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 (November 2002), LR 29:554 (April 2003), LR 30:1164 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:39 (January 2005), LR 31:3114 (December 2005), LR 33:437 (March 2007), LR 33:2614 (December 2007), LR 35:230 (February 2009), LR 36:491 (March 2010), LR 36:2270 (October 2010), LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 38:3159 (December 2012), LR 41:654 (April 2015), LR 41:2597 (December 2015), LR 42:48 (January 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:523 (March 2018), amended LR 44:1874 (October 2018), LR 45:1172 (September 2019), LR 47:40 (January 2021), LR 47:866 (July 2021), amended LR 47:870 (July 2021), LR 49:51 (January 2023).

§805. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the TOPS-Tech Award, the recipient must meet all of the following criteria:

1. have received the TOPS-Tech Award for not more than two years or the equivalent number of terms and summer sessions, provided that not attending a summer session shall not reduce the number of eligible terms; and, except as provided by §805.C, or unless reduced as required by §503.D;

2. submit the renewal FAFSA in accordance with §505.F; and

3. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations and if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions; and

4. agree that awards will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and

5.a. for students graduating through the 2015-2016 academic year (high school), continue to enroll and accept the TOPS-Tech Award as a full-time student in an eligible college or university defined in §301, and maintain an enrolled status throughout the academic year (TOPS) (enrollment in a summer session is optional and is not required to meet this requirement), unless granted an exception for cause by the board; and

b. for students graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year (high school) and later, continue to enroll in an eligible college or university in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, and maintain an enrolled status throughout the academic year (TOPS) (enrollment in a summer session is optional and is not required to meet this requirement), unless granted an exception for cause by the board;

6. has maintained *steady academic progress*, as defined in §301; and

7.a. through the 2013-14 academic year, maintain, by the end of the spring term, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average (TOPS Tech) of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 maximum scale, provided that this requirement does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a cosmetology or proprietary school that is an eligible college or university and the student has met the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school; and

b. beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, maintain, by the end of the academic year, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average (TOPS Tech) of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 maximum scale, provided that this requirement does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a cosmetology or proprietary school that is an eligible college or university and the student has met the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school; and

8. earn a total of at least 24 college credit hours as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester or term in the academic year (TOPS). Unless granted an exception for cause by the board, failure to earn the required number of hours will result in permanent cancellation of the recipient's eligibility, provided that this requirement does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a cosmetology or proprietary school that is an eligible college or university and the student has met the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school.

B. Students failing to meet the requirements listed in §805.A.7 and 8 may have their TOPS Awards reinstated upon achieving steady academic progress, as defined in §301, and the attainment of the required grade point average, if the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than one year from the date of loss of eligibility. If the one-year period is interrupted due to a student's active duty in the United States Armed Forces, the one-year period will be

extended for a length of time equal to the student's active duty service.

C. The semester or term count for a student shall not be increased for any semester or term a student is unable to complete because of orders to active duty in the United States Armed Forces or National Guard, whether or not a full refund for the TOPS-Tech payment for that semester or term is received by LOSFA.

D. 2005 Natural Disaster Maintaining Eligibility Requirements

1. To continue receiving the TOPS Tech Award, a displaced student must meet all of the criteria in §805.A-C above, except as follows.

a. The TOPS Tech Award of a displaced student who has been enrolled in a Louisiana-eligible college or university and who subsequently enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) shall not be cancelled due to such out-of-state enrollment.

b. The TOPS Tech Award of a displaced student who has been enrolled in a Louisiana-eligible college or university and who subsequently enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) shall not be reduced for those semesters or terms such displaced student was enrolled in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS).

c. The period of suspension of a TOPS Tech Award for a displaced student due to the student not meeting a requirement to maintain a minimum grade point average or to make steady academic progress shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or other term in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS).

d. A TOPS Tech Award may be used by a displaced student during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) to enroll on a full-time basis in an academic program at a Louisiana-eligible college or university to take courses that contribute to the pursuit of a skill or occupation. In such case, the award amount shall be at the same as the opportunity award for that institution.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means:

a. a student who on August 26, 2005:

i. was enrolled in one of the following institutions:

(a). Delgado Community College;

(b). Dillard University;

(c). Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans;

(d). Louisiana Technical College: Jefferson, Sidney N. Collier, Slidell, Sullivan, and West Jefferson campuses;

(e). Loyola University;

(f). New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary;

(g). Nunez Community College;

(h). Our Lady of Holy Cross College;

(i). St. Joseph Seminary College;

(j). Southern University at New Orleans;

(k). Tulane University;

(l). University of New Orleans;

(m). Xavier University; or

ii. had a home of record in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish; or

b. a student who on September 20, 2005:

i. was enrolled in one of the following institutions:

(a). McNeese State University;

(b). Sowela Technical Community College; or

ii. had a home of record in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish.

3. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record for a dependent student* shall mean the domiciliary address of the student's parent or court-ordered custodian and for an independent student shall mean the domiciliary address of such student.

E. Public Health Emergency Maintaining Eligibility Requirements

1. To continue receiving the TOPS Tech Award, an affected student must meet all of the criteria in §805.A-C. above, except as follows.

a. An affected student shall not be required to meet the steady academic progress requirements set forth in §805.A.6.

b. An affected student shall not be required to meet the continuation GPA requirements set forth in §805.A.7.

c. An affected student shall not be required to meet the minimum academic progress requirements set forth in §805.A.8.

d. The period of suspension of a TOPS Tech Award for an affected student due to the student not meeting the requirement to maintain minimum academic progress or to make steady academic progress shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or term the student is unable to complete or in which the student does not enroll on a full-

time basis due to measures taken to mitigate the public health emergency.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *affected student* shall mean:

a. a student who was enrolled full time as of the census date at an eligible college or university during the spring semester of 2020;

b. a student who was enrolled full time at an out-of-state college or university as of the census date during the spring semester of 2020; or

c. a student who was scheduled to be enrolled full time at a school operating on a basis other than semesters during the spring of 2020.

F. A student who successfully completes a vocational or technical certificate or diploma program or a non-academic degree program without having exhausted his period of award eligibility shall receive an award for the remainder of his eligibility if he enrolls in another program of study leading to a vocational or technical certificate or diploma or to a non-academic degree no later than the fall semester immediately following the first anniversary of the student's completion of a vocational or technical certificate or diploma program or of a non-academic degree program and has met the requirements for continued eligibility set forth in §805.A.

G. The provisions of §805.A, B, C and F shall be applicable to a veteran who qualifies for an initial program award under the provisions of §803.D.

H. 2020 Natural Disaster Maintaining Eligibility Requirements

1. To continue receiving the TOPS Tech Award, a displaced student must meet all of the criteria in §805.A-C above, except as follows.

a. The TOPS Award of a displaced student who enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state college or university during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS) and subsequently enrolls at a Louisiana-eligible college or university shall not be cancelled or reduced due to enrollment in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS).

b. The period of suspension of a TOPS Award for a displaced student due to the student not meeting a requirement to maintain a minimum grade point average or to make steady academic progress shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or term in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS).

c. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the minimum academic progress requirements set forth in §805.A.8.

d. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the steady academic progress requirements set forth in §805.A.6.

e. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the continuation GPA requirements set forth in §805.A.7.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means:

a. a student whose home of record on August 26, 2020, was located in, or who, on August 26, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lasalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, or Winn Parish: or

b. a student whose home of record on October 8, 2020, was located in, or who, on October 8, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, or Vermilion Parish.

c. a student whose home of record on October 26, 2020, was located in, or who, on October 26, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, or Terrebonne Parish.

3. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record for a dependent student* shall mean the domiciliary address of the student's parent or court-ordered custodian and for an independent student shall mean the domiciliary address of such student.

I. 2021 Natural Disaster Maintaining Eligibility Requirements

1. To continue receiving the TOPS Tech Award, a displaced student must meet all of the criteria in §805.A-C above, except as follows.

a. The TOPS Award of a displaced student who enrolls as a full-time student in an eligible out-of-state college or university during the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS) and subsequently enrolls at a Louisiana-eligible college or university shall not be cancelled or reduced due to enrollment in an eligible out-of-state institution during the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS).

b. The period of suspension of a TOPS Award for a displaced student due to the student not meeting a requirement to maintain a minimum grade point average or to make steady academic progress shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or term in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university during the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS).

c. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the minimum academic progress requirements set forth in §805.A.8.

d. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the steady academic progress requirements set forth in §805.A.6.

e. A displaced student shall not be required to meet the continuation GPA requirements set forth in §805.A.7.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced student* means a student whose home of record on August 27, 2021, was located in, or who, on August 27, 2021, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, or Terrebonne Parish.

3. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record for a dependent student* shall mean the domiciliary address of the student's parent or court-ordered custodian and for an independent student shall mean the domiciliary address of such student.

4. Notwithstanding the definition of *displaced student* set forth in Subsection I.2, the provisions of this Section shall apply to any student who, on August 27, 2021, was a member of the Louisiana National Guard called to active duty to assist in the preparation for and response to Hurricane Ida.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:1905 (October 1998) amended LR 25:1091 (June 1999), LR 26:68 (January 2000), LR 26:689 (April 2000), LR 26:1997, 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1856 (November 2001), amended LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 28:2332 (November 2002), LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:781 (April 2004), LR 30:1165 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:3115 (December 2005), LR 33:438 (March 2007), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 38:3160 (December 2012), LR 40:1002 (May 2014), LR 41:666 (April 2015), LR 41:2598 (December 2015), LR 42:49 (January 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:527 (March 2018), LR 47:41 (January 2021), LR 47:867 (July 2021), amended LR 47:871 (July 2021), LR 49:54 (January 2023).

Chapter 9. TOPS Teacher Award

§901. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The TOPS Teacher Award Program was created by Act 476, of the 1997 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and amended by Act 165 of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature. This bill amended and reenacted R.S. 17:3042.1(A)(3) and (4), (B), (C), and (D), and 3042.2(A) and (B); reenacted R.S. 17:3042.1(A)(5) and (6) and 3042.8; and renamed chapter 20-B of title 17 of the *Louisiana Revised Statutes* of 1950.

B. Description, History and Purpose. The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Teacher Award:

1. annually provides approximately 90 competitively-awarded educational loans to residents of Louisiana who commit to teach at the elementary or secondary school level in Louisiana. When the recipient teaches at an approved school in Louisiana, the loans are forgiven in the ratio of one year of loan forgiveness for each year of teaching, or two years of loan forgiveness for each year of teaching in an elementary or secondary school which is located in an economically disadvantaged region of the state as defined by the U.S. Department of Education;

2. was first funded for the 1997-98 award year;

3. was created to provide an incentive for Louisiana's best and brightest students to become tomorrow's classroom teachers and to provide an incentive that will attract highly qualified teachers in mathematics and chemistry at the elementary and secondary school levels.

C. Award Amounts

1. Loans are made in the amount of up to $6,000 per award year for mathematics and chemistry majors.

2. Loans are made in the amount of up to $4,000 per year for teacher education majors other than those listed in §901.C.1.

3. Recipient may receive a maximum of four years of funding.

4. Recipients receive one half of the annual award ($3,000 or $2,000, respectively) at the beginning of the fall and spring terms.

5. Recipients may, in conjunction with the Teachers Award, receive another TOPS Award.

6. In the event the student's total aid, including vocational rehabilitation awards, exceeds the cost of attendance, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the TOPS Teacher Award shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1649 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:637 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1906 (October 1998), LR 26:69 (January 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1856 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:529 (March 2018).

§903. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be a U.S. citizen, provided however, that a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is eligible to apply for such citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship requirement, if within 60 days after the date the student attains the age of majority, the student applies to become a citizen of the United States and obtains such citizenship within one year after the date of the application for citizenship. Those students who are eligible for U.S. citizenship and who otherwise qualify for a TOPS Award, will continue to satisfy the citizenship requirements for a TOPS Award for one year after the date of the student's application for citizenship, at which time, if the student has not provided proof of U.S. citizenship to the Office of

Student Financial Assistance, the student's TOPS Award will be suspended until such time as proof of citizenship is provided;

2. be a resident of Louisiana, as defined in §301 for at least two years prior to July 1 of the award year; and

3. annually submit the completed free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or renewal FAFSA, whichever is applicable to the student, by the state aid deadline defined in §501.C and §505.F; and

4. either:

a. graduate from a Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) -approved, provisionally-approved, or probationally-approved public or nonpublic high school; and

i. at the time of high school graduation, have successfully completed 16.5 units of high school course work constituting a core curriculum as defined in §703.A.5.a.i; and

ii. at the time of high school graduation, have attained a composite score on the ACT test or the scholastic aptitude test (SAT) which is, or is equivalent to, at least a 23 on the 1990 version of the ACT; and

iii. graduate with a cumulative high school grade point average of at least a 3.25, calculated on a 4.00 scale, for all courses attempted; or

b. if by the end of June in the year of application, the student will have completed 24 or more but less than 48 hours of graded college credit, have at least a 3.25 cumulative college grade point average on a 4.00 scale; or

c. if by the end of June in the year of application, the student will have completed 48 or more hours of graded college credit, have at least a 3.00 cumulative college grade point average on a 4.00 scale; or

d. have received a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale; or

e. have received at least a master's degree from an accredited college or university; and

5. complete and submit such documentary evidence as may be required by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) by the deadline specified in §503; and

6. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations; and

7. agree that the award will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and

8. enroll during the fall term at an eligible college or university, as defined in §1901, as a *full-time student*, as defined in §301, in a degree program or course of study leading to a degree in education or an alternative program leading to regular certification as a teacher at the elementary or secondary level in mathematics or chemistry.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1650 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:637 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1906 (October 1998), LR 26:68 (January 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 27:284 (March 2001), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1857 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 28:2332 (November 2002), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:529 (March 2018).

§905. Selection Criteria

A. Recipients are competitively selected for the award based upon the merit rank score computed and assigned to each eligible applicant. The formula for computing the merit rank score is defined in §301.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1650 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:638 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1907 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1857 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:530 (March 2018).

§907. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the TOPS Teacher Award, recipients must meet all of the following criteria:

1. have received less than four years or eight semesters of TOPS Teacher Awards; and

2. by the end of each academic year, earn a total of at least 24 hours college credit during the fall and spring semesters or fall, winter and spring quarters, as determined by totaling the earned hours reported by the institution for each semester in the academic year. These hours shall not include remedial course work nor hours earned during summer sessions or intersessions or by advanced placement course credits (see also §705.D); and

3. achieve a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale at the end of each academic year; and

4. maintain steady academic progress as defined in §301; and

5. continue to enroll each subsequent semester or quarter as a full-time student in a degree program or course of study leading to a degree in education or alternative program leading to regular certification as a teacher at the elementary or secondary level, and maintain an enrolled status throughout the academic term, unless granted an exception for cause by the board; or

6. enter a program approved by BESE which leads to a degree in education or to regular certification as a teacher as soon as sufficient credits have been earned to do so; and

7. submit the renewal FAFSA in accordance with §505.F;

8. have no criminal convictions, except for misdemeanor traffic violations.

B. Recipients who do not maintain eligibility under the provisions of §907.A.3 and 4, may be reinstated upon attainment of the required GPA and achieving the GPA required for steady academic progress, as defined in §301, provided the period of ineligibility did not exceed two years.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

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§909. Completion of Promissory Note and Acceptance of Award

A. Prior to receiving an award, the recipient must agree to the terms and conditions contained in the TOPS Teacher Award Program promissory note by completing the form and returning it to the board by the specified deadline. The promissory note obligates the recipient to teach one year for each year of funding received; or, if teaching in a school located in an economically disadvantaged region of the state, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, teach one year for every two years of funding received, or repay the funds received, plus accrued interest and any collection costs incurred.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1650 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:638 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1907 (October 1998), LR 26:69 (January 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1858 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:530 (March 2018).

§911. Discharge of Obligation

A. The loan may be discharged by teaching for the required period of obligation, by monetary repayment or by cancellation.

B. Discharging the loan by teaching fulfillment is accomplished by:

1. within two years of the date of certification as a teacher, perform service as a full-time classroom teacher in a Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) -approved, provisionally-approved, or probationally-approved elementary or secondary school;

2. each year of full-time service as a teacher will fulfill an equivalent period of funding. However, if teaching in an elementary or secondary school which is located in an economically disadvantaged region of the state, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, one year of teaching will fulfill two years of funding;

3. the first two full semesters of full-time teaching will be applied toward the earliest dated disbursement not previously paid under §911.C, the second two full semesters the next earliest dated disbursement, and continuing until all disbursements have been fulfilled;

4. teaching to discharge the loan must be completed within six years from the date of certification as a teacher.

C. Discharging the Loan by Monetary Repayment. Recipients who elect not to discharge the obligation by teaching and who are not eligible for discharge by cancellation must repay the loan principal plus accrued interest and any collection costs incurred according to the following terms and conditions:

1. interest will accrue on the outstanding principal at the rate of 8 percent per annum;

2. interest on each disbursement will accrue from the date of entering repayment status until repaid, canceled or fulfilled;

3. repayment status. The recipient enters repayment status the first of the month following:

a. determination by the board that the recipient cannot discharge the loan by teaching within the required time period;

b. the date the recipient notifies the board that monetary repayment is desired; or

c. six months after the board determines that the recipient is no longer pursuing a degree program or course of study leading to a degree in education or alternative program leading to regular certification as a teacher at the elementary or secondary school level;

4. unless the recipient qualifies for reduced payments as provided in §2105.H, the amount to be repaid annually will be the greater of:

a. the amount necessary to repay the capitalized loan principal within 10 years; or

b. $1,200 per year or the unpaid balance, whichever is less;

5. recipients in repayment status may have their payments deferred in accordance with §2105.B, deferment of repayment obligation;

6. during the period of time a recipient is in deferment status, a recipient is not required to make repayments and interest does not accrue;

7. the period of time for completion of repayment will be extended by a period of time equal to the length of time the recipient is in deferment status.

D. Cancellation

1. The obligation to repay any remaining unpaid balance of the TOPS Teacher Award shall be canceled in the event either of the following occurs:

a. upon submission to the board of a sworn affidavit from a qualified physician that the recipient is precluded from gainful employment because of a complete and permanent medical disability or condition; or

b. upon submission to the board of a death certificate or other evidence conclusive under state law, that the recipient is deceased.

2. The obligation to repay any remaining unpaid balance of the TOPS Teacher Award may be canceled in the event the remaining unpaid balance is $25 or less.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3042.1, and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:638 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1907 (October 1998), LR 26:69 (January 2000), LR 26:1603 (August 2000), LR 27:1858 (November 2001), LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 30:780 (April 2004), LR 30:1168 (June 2004), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:530 (March 2018).

Chapter 10. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award

§1001. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award was created by Act 348 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and amended by Act 737 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature.

B. Description, History and Purpose. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award is established as part of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) to provide grants for Louisiana residents taking a technical or applied course in pursuit of occupational or vocational training while being dually enrolled in a state public high school at the 11th and 12th grade levels and at a Louisiana public or nonpublic postsecondary institution or in an approved training program that offers an occupational or vocational education credential in a top demand occupation. The purpose of TOPS-Tech Early Start is to provide an incentive for qualified Louisiana public high school students to prepare for and pursue an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential in a top demand occupation while still in high school.

C. Effective Date. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award shall be first awarded beginning with the 2005-2006 award year to 11th and 12th grade students meeting the eligibility criteria set forth in this Chapter.

D. Eligible Terms. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award is limited to 6 credit hours per semester and 12 credit hours each academic year (college). TOPS-Tech Early Start is not payable for summer semesters or sessions.

E. Award Amount. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award provides a payment not to exceed $300 for up to six credit hours each semester or $600 each academic year (college) at a rate of $50 per credit hour.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3109 (December 2005), amended LR 35:231 (February 2009), LR 41:374 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:531 (March 2018).

§1003. Definitions

Approved Training Program—a program provided by an approved training provider of technical and/or applied courses toward a credential in a top demand occupation.

Approved Training Provider—a Louisiana provider recognized by the Louisiana Workforce Commission and approved by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide technical and/or applied courses toward a credential in a top demand occupation.

Credential—industry-based certification, a certificate of applied science or a certificate of technical sciences approved by the Workforce Investment Council.

Technical or *Applied Course*—a course required for a credential in a top demand occupation.

Top Demand Occupation—an occupation identified by the Occupation Forecasting Conference as being in top demand in Louisiana and recognized by the State Industry-Based Certification Leadership Council.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 41:375 (February 2015), amended LR 41:668 (April 2105), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:531 (March 2018).

§1005. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be in the 11th or 12th grade in a Louisiana public high school;

2. have prepared a five-year education and career plan, including a sequence of related courses with a career focus as provided by the high school career option subchapter in R.S. 17:183.2 et seq.;

3. have a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale;

4. score at least 15 on the English subsection and 15 on the mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment or a successor assessment administered as part of Louisiana's educational planning and assessment system or the ACT or an equivalent concordant value of the SAT or

have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system;

5. enroll in a course in an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential program in a top demand occupation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3110 (December 2005), amended LR 41:375 (February 2015), LR 41:2599 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:532 (March 2018).

§1007. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, the recipient must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be a student in good standing in a Louisiana public high school; and

2. maintain a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale; and

3. continue to pursue one or more courses leading to a credential in a top demand occupation; and

4. be a student in good standing while enrolled in a Louisiana public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution or an approved training program; and

5. maintain steady academic progress as defined in §301.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3110 (December 2005), amended LR 41:375 (February 2015), LR 41:2599 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:532 (March 2018).

§1009. Responsibilities of LOSFA

A. Upon receipt of bills from institutions submitted in accordance with §1903.B, LOSFA will reimburse the institution for each eligible student in accordance with §1903.

B. LOSFA shall conduct audits of participating Louisiana public and nonpublic postsecondary institutions, approved training providers, and high schools to ensure compliance with program requirements.

C. LOSFA shall provide the information necessary to fully inform Louisiana public high school students and their parents on the requirements of and procedures for applying for and maintaining the award.

D. In the event that the funds appropriated for the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award are insufficient to pay all awards for all eligible students, LOSFA shall develop and submit to the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) a plan to limit the awards to the amount appropriated.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3110 (December 2005), amended LR 36:2029 (September 2010), LR 41:375 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:532 (March 2018).

§1011. Responsibilities of High Schools

A. The high school shall comply with the reporting requirements of §1703 for all students enrolled in high school.

B. The high school shall determine whether the student is eligible to participate in the TOPS-Tech Early Start program and approve or disapprove the student's participation in the program.

C. The high school's approval of a student's participation in the program by signing the student's application certifies that the student meets the eligibility criteria provided in §1005.A.1-5, and, if applicable, §1007.A.1 and 2.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3110 (December 2005), amended LR 36:2029 (September 2010), LR 41:375 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:532 (March 2018).

§1013. Responsibilities of Louisiana Public and Nonpublic Postsecondary Institutions and Approved Training Providers

A. Each Louisiana public and nonpublic postsecondary institution and each approved training provider that offers an industry based occupational or vocational education credential in a top demand occupation shall:

1. determine whether an eligible student has applied for enrollment in a course at that institution or provider to pursue an industry based occupational or vocational education credential in a top demand occupation in accordance with §1903.C.5;

2. determine whether the student has met the requirements to maintain an award as required by §1007.A.3-5;

3. submit bills to LOSFA in accordance with §1903.B for each eligible student so enrolled; and

4. comply with the reporting and records retention requirements of §1903.A and E.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3111 (December 2005), amended LR 36:2030 (September 2010), LR 41:376 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:532 (March 2018).

§1015. Responsibilities of the Workforce Investment Council

A. The Workforce Investment Council shall define, maintain, and make available to LOSFA and to public and nonpublic postsecondary institutions and to Louisiana training providers a list of industry-based occupational or vocational education credentials.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 31:3111 (December 2005), amended LR 36:2030 (September 2010), LR 41:376 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:533 (March 2018).

§1017. Responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)

A. BESE shall determine which training providers are approved to provide courses each academic year for the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award in accordance with R.S. 17:5081.

B. BESE shall notify LOSFA of the names and addresses for the approved training providers no later than March 1 for the fall of that year.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5081.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 41:376 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:533 (March 2018).

Chapter 11. Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship

§1101. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The Louisiana State Wildlife Scholarship Program was created and amended by the following Acts of the Louisiana Legislature:

1. Act 807 of the 1980 Regular Legislative Session;

2. Act 849 of the 1987 Regular Legislative Session;

3. Act 707 of the 1989 Regular Legislative Session.

B. Description, History and Purpose

1. The Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program was established in 1980 and is funded with dedicated monies. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, the program provided competitively awarded funds of $1,000 per academic year to both undergraduate and graduate students majoring in forestry, wildlife, or marine science as it pertains to wildlife, with a requirement that the awardee repay the funds if the student did not earn a degree in one of these fields. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the program offers competitively awarded scholarships of $2,000 per academic year for undergraduate students and $3,000 per academic year for graduate students.

2.a. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, students accepting the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship agreed:

i. to attain a degree in one of the required fields at a Louisiana public college or university offering such degrees; and

ii. if the student failed or fails to successfully complete an eligible course of study, to repay the funds with interest as per the agreement made between the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) and the student.

b. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program is a pure scholarship for undergraduate students who have earned at least 60 credit hours and graduate students.

c. Students who received the award during the 2009-2010 academic year who have not yet earned 60 hours of academic credit may receive the award as a scholarship beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year if the requirements to maintain eligibility have been met.

C. Award Amounts

1. Through the 2009-2010 academic year:

a. the annual award is $1,000;

b. the cumulative maximum award is $7,000 for up to five years of undergraduate and two years of graduate study.

2. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter:

a. the annual award is $2,000 for undergraduate students;

b. the annual award is $3,000 for graduate students;

c. the cumulative maximum award is $12,000 for up to three years of undergraduate and two years of graduate study.

D. Award Disbursements

1. Through the 2009-2010 academic year, the award is disbursed:

a. at postsecondary institutions using semesters at the rate of $500 each fall and spring semester; or

b. at postsecondary institutions using terms at the rate of $333 for the fall and winter term and of $334 for the spring term.

2. Beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, the award is disbursed:

a. at postsecondary institutions using semesters at the rate of:

i. $1,000 each fall and spring semester for undergraduate students; and

ii. $1,500 each fall and spring semester for graduate students; or

b. at postsecondary institutions using terms at the rate of:

i. $667 for each fall and winter and of $666 for the spring term for undergraduates; and

ii. $1,000 for each fall, winter term and spring term for graduates.

3. In the event there are unawarded appropriated funds at the end of the spring semester or term, such funds may be disbursed pro-rata to students who received an award during the preceding academic year and are enrolled full-time during the summer.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 56:797(D)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:639 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1908 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 36:2267 (October 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:533 (March 2018).

§1103. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be a U.S. citizen or national or eligible noncitizen; and

2. be a resident of Louisiana, as defined in §301 for at least one year prior to July 1 of the award year; and

3.a. through the 2007-2008 academic year (college), submit the completed free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or the renewal FAFSA, whichever is applicable to the student, so that it is received by the federal processor by the final deadline set forth in §501.C or §505.F; or

b. beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (college):

i. to be eligible for the scholarship for both fall and spring semesters of the academic year (college), submit the completed free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or the renewal FAFSA, whichever is applicable to the student, so that it is received by the federal processor and by LOSFA by the final deadline set forth in §501.C or §505.F;

ii. to be eligible for the scholarship, if funds are available, for the spring semester of the academic year (college), submit the completed free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or the renewal FAFSA, whichever is applicable to the student, so that it is received by the federal processor by the final deadline set forth in §501.C or §505.F; and

4.a. through the 2007-2008 academic year (college), complete and submit such documentary evidence as may be required by LOSFA; or

b. beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, complete and submit such documentary evidence as may be required by LOSFA so that it is received by LOSFA no later than July 1 preceding the academic year (college) for which the scholarship is sought; and

5.a. beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year:

i. through the 2009-2010 academic year, to be eligible for the award for both fall and spring semesters of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship application and a master promissory note so that they are received by LOSFA no later than July 1 preceding the fall semester for which the award is sought; or

ii. to be eligible for the award, if funds are available for the spring semester of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship application and a master promissory note so that they are received by LOSFA no later than December 1 immediately preceding the spring semester for which the award is sought; and

b. beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year:

i. to be eligible for the scholarship for both fall and spring semesters of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship application so that it is received by LOSFA no later than July 1 preceding the fall semester for which the scholarship is sought; or

ii. to be eligible for the scholarship, if funds are available for the spring semester of the academic year (college), complete and submit the Rockefeller Wildlife Scholarship application so that it is received by LOSFA no later than December 1 immediately preceding the spring semester for which the scholarship is sought; and

6. agree that award proceeds will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and

7.a. through the 2009-2010 academic year, be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at a Louisiana public college or university majoring in forestry, wildlife or marine science as it pertains to wildlife, with the intent of obtaining a degree from a Louisiana public college or university offering a degree in one of the three specified fields; or

b. for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, be an undergraduate recipient of the award during the 2009-2010 academic year and enrolled full-time or an undergraduate with at least 60 earned hours of college credit and enrolled full-time or graduate student and enrolled full-time at a Louisiana public college or university majoring in forestry, wildlife or marine science as it pertains to wildlife, with the intent of obtaining a degree from a Louisiana public college or university offering a degree in one of the three specified fields; and

8.a. through the 2009-2010 academic year, must have graduated from high school, and if at the time of application the student applicant has earned less than 24 hours of graded college credit since graduating from high school, have earned a minimum cumulative high school grade point average of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale for all

courses completed in grades 9 through 12, have taken the ACT or SAT and received test score results and, beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year (college), have an ACT score of at least 20; or

b. beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year (college) and through the 2009-2010 academic year, must be a qualified home study completer and, if at the time of application the student applicant has earned less than 24 hours of graded college credit since graduating from high school, achieve an ACT score of at least 22; or

c.i. through the 2009-2010 academic year, if, at the time of application, the student applicant has earned 24 or more hours of college credit, then the applicant must have at least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average; or

ii. beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, the student applicant has earned 60 or more hours of college credit with at least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average; or

d. if, at the time of application, the student is in graduate school, then the applicant must have at least a 3.00 cumulative grade point average on all credits earned in graduate school;

9. through the 2009-2010 academic year, to be a qualified home study completer for the purposes of this Section, the applicant must:

a. successfully complete at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by BESE; or

b. if a Louisiana public high school, a Louisiana nonpublic high school, an approved non-Louisiana high school, or an out-of-state high school was previously attended, has provided the board with certification by the previously attended high school that said student was in good standing at the time the student last attended such school.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 56:797(D)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:639 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1908 (October 1998), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 29:125 (February 2003), LR 30:2020 (September 2004), LR 33:87 (January 2007), LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 36:2268 (October 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:534 (March 2018).

§1105. Selection Criteria

A. Recipients are competitively selected for an award based upon the merit rank score computed and assigned to each eligible applicant. The formula for computing the merit rank score is defined in §301.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 56:797(D)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:535 (March 2018).

§1107. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, recipients must meet all of the following criteria:

1.a. for recipients first accepting the award through the 2009-2010 academic year, have received the scholarship for not more than seven academic years (five undergraduate and two graduate); or

b. for recipients first accepting the award for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, have received the scholarship for not more than five academic years (three undergraduate and two graduate); and

2. at the close of each academic year (ending with the spring semester or quarter), have earned at least 24-hours total credit during the fall, winter and spring terms at an institution defining 12 semester or eight quarter hours as the minimum for full-time undergraduate status or earn at least 18 hours total graduate credit during the fall, winter and spring terms at an institution defining 9 semester hours as the minimum for full-time graduate status unless granted an exception for cause by the board; and

3. achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 as an undergraduate student at the end of each academic year or achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 as a graduate student at the end of each academic year; and

4. continue to enroll as a full time student each subsequent semester or quarter (excluding summer sessions and intersessions) at the same institution unless granted an exception for cause and/or approval for transfer of the award by the board; and

5. continue to pursue a course of study leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree in wildlife, forestry or marine science.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 56:797(D)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 31:2215 (September 2005), LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 36:2268 (October 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:535 (March 2018),

§1109. Acceptance of Award

A.1.For recipients first accepting the award through the 2009-2010 academic year, prior to receiving an award, the recipient must agree to the terms and conditions contained in the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program promissory note (BOR-Form RS02), by completing the form and returning it to the board by the specified deadline. The promissory note obligates the recipient to obtain a wildlife, forestry or marine science degree or repay the scholarship

funds received, plus accrued interest and any collection costs incurred.

2. For recipients accepting the award for the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter, prior to receiving an award, the recipient must agree to the terms and conditions contained in the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program application, by completing the form and returning it to the board by the specified deadline. The scholarship obligates the recipient to seek a wildlife, forestry or marine science degree or lose eligibility for future awards.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and 56:797(D)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1859 (November 2001), amended LR 31:2215 (September 2005), LR 34:235 (February 2008), LR 36:2268 (October 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:535 (March 2018).

§1111. Discharge of Obligation for Recipients First Accepting an Award through the 2009-2010 Academic Year

A. The loan obligation for awards received through the 2009-2010 academic year may be discharged by graduation in an eligible major, monetary repayment or cancellation.

B. Graduation in an Eligible Major. Awards to undergraduates are discharged by the recipient's attainment of a bachelor's degree; graduate awards are discharged by attainment of a master's or doctorate degree in wildlife, forestry or marine science.

C. Monetary Repayment. Recipients who do not discharge the obligation by graduating in an eligible major and who are not eligible for discharge by cancellation must repay the loan principal, plus accrued interest and any collection costs incurred in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1. interest accrues on the outstanding principal at the rate of eight percent per annum;

2. interest on each disbursement will accrue from the date of entering repayment status until repaid, canceled or fulfilled;

3. repayment status. The recipient enters repayment status the first day of the month following:

a. the date the recipient notifies the board that monetary repayment is desired; or

b. six months after the board determines that the recipient is no longer pursuing a degree program or course of study leading to a degree in wildlife, forestry or marine science;

4. unless the recipient qualifies for reduced payments as provided in §2105.H, the annual repayment amount will be the greater of:

a. the amount necessary to repay the capitalized loan principal within seven years; or

b. $1,200 per year or the unpaid balance, whichever is less;

5. recipients in repayment status may have their payments deferred in accordance with §2105.B, titled deferment of repayment obligation;

a. during the period of time a recipient is in deferment status, the recipient is not required to make payments and interest does not accrue;

b. the period of time for completion of repayment will be extended by a period of time equal to the length of time the recipient is in deferment status.

D. Cancellation

1. The obligation to repay all or part of Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program funds shall be canceled in the event either of the following occurs:

a. upon submission to the board of a sworn affidavit from a qualified physician that the recipient is precluded from completing the educational program and/or from gainful employment because of a complete and permanent medical disability or condition;

b. upon submission to the board of a death certificate, or other evidence conclusive under state law, that the recipient is deceased.

2. The obligation to repay all or part of Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program funds may be canceled in the event the remaining unpaid balance is $25 or less.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and 56:797(D)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:640 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1909 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1860 (November 2001), amended LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 30:780 (April 2004), LR 30:1168 (June 2004), LR 36:2269 (October 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:535 (March 2018).

Chapter 12. Louisiana GO Grant

§1201. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority

1.a. In accordance with the requirements of Act 695 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) developed the GO Grant Program. The program was reviewed and approved by both the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education on April 12, 2007.

b. Act 655 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature establishes the GO Grant Program in R.S. 17:3046 et seq. The Act provides that the board shall establish the criteria for initial and continuing eligibility, the method for determining the award amount, and other requirements not otherwise provided in the statute. The Act

further provides that the GO Grant Program shall be administered by the board through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

B. Description and Purpose. The Louisiana GO Grant assists those students who can demonstrate financial need to pay for the cost of postsecondary education. The GO Grant is used to pay a portion of the cost of attendance at an eligible Louisiana institution.

C. Award Amount

1. The minimum and maximum annual award amounts and the lifetime award amount, if any, shall be established by the board on an annual basis and such amounts shall be published by LOSFA to the eligible Louisiana institutions.

2. Each institution shall determine the award amounts for eligible students at that institution based on the requirements in these rules, the allocation to the institution, the institution's financial aid packaging policy, and the guidance established by the board and published by LOSFA.

D. The total amount awarded for GO Grants during any academic year is limited to the total amount appropriated for the award for the academic year. Eligibility for an award during any particular semester, quarter or term does not guarantee that a student will receive the GO Grant in a subsequent semester, quarter or term.

E. Allocation of Funds. The amount allocated to an eligible institution will be determined by dividing the amount of the institution's prior year's allocation that was expended by the total amount appropriated for that academic year multiplied by the total amount appropriated for the current year.

F. Reallocation of Funds. Uncommitted funds allocated to a particular institution shall be reallocated if not committed by the deadline set by LOSFA. Uncommitted funds shall be apportioned among those institutions that have committed all funds allocated to the institution before the deadline, and have students who are eligible for an award and did not receive it.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023, 17:3046 et seq. and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2614 (December 2007), amended LR 34:236 (February 2008), LR 35:2349 (November 2009), LR 39:2234 (August 2013), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:536 (March 2018).

§1203. Definitions

A. The following definitions shall be applicable to the Louisiana GO Grant Program. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa. The term "the board" refers to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Academic Year—the academic year begins with the fall semester or term of the award year, includes the winter term, if applicable, and concludes with the completion of the spring semester or term of the award year. Summer terms are not included in the academic year unless authorized by the board and only if the post-secondary institution provides students with Pell Grants or financial need grants during the summer session.

Administering Agency—the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

Cost of Attendance—the total cost for a student to attend a particular eligible Louisiana institution, usually expressed as an academic year figure. This cost shall be determined by the institution attended in compliance with title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and shall be annually updated and adopted by the institution.

Dependent Student—a student who does not qualify as an independent student for purposes of qualifying for title IV aid.

Eligible Louisiana Institution—

a. Louisiana public colleges or universities and institutionally accredited independent colleges or universities in the state that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; and

b. Louisiana public colleges that have been granted regional candidacy status, but are not yet eligible to participate in title IV programs. Candidacy status institutions must require students to complete a FAFSA and the institution must determine a student's eligibility in accordance with rules under this Chapter.

Enrollment—registration in programs of study at an eligible Louisiana institution.

Excess Award—an award in excess of what is authorized by these rules and the guidance established by the board and published by LOSFA.

Expected Family Contribution (*EFC*)—an amount, determined by a formula established by Congress, that indicates how much of a family's financial resources should be available to help pay for the student's cost of attendance. Factors such as taxable and nontaxable income, assets (such as savings and checking accounts), and benefits (for example, unemployment or Social Security) are all considered in this calculation.

Federal Pell Grant—the Pell Grant provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Financial Need—the student's costs of attendance at the institution attended minus the expected family contribution (EFC).

Financial Need Grant—an institutional grant provided by the state for students with financial need as evidenced by the data reported on the FAFSA at a Louisiana public college that has been granted regional candidacy status and is eligible to participate in the Go Grant Program.

Full-Time—a student enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution who is considered full-time by the school.

Go Grant Award Amount—the award amount actually paid during an academic year.

Half-Time—a student enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution who is not full-time but is enrolled in at least six semester credit hours, or four hours at a term school.

Independent Student—a student who meets at least one of the criteria listed in Subparagraphs a-f or has been determined independent by a financial aid officer exercising professional judgment in accordance with applicable provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended:

a. reached 24 years of age prior to January of the year preceding the academic year for which the student is applying for aid;

b. is currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training or is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, including a student who was activated to serve in Operation Desert Storm;

c. is an orphan or a ward of the court or was a ward of the court until age 18;

d. has legal dependents other than a spouse;

e. is a graduate or professional student;

f. is married.

Less Than Half-Time—a student enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution who is not full-time and is enrolled in less than six semester credit hours or four hours at a term school.

Louisiana Resident—

a. a dependent or independent student whose true, fixed, and permanent home of residence is Louisiana as reported on the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA);

b. a dependent student whose non-custodial parent completes a residency affidavit in Subparagraph e below that establishes Louisiana residency;

c. a dependent student whose parent is transferred out of Louisiana temporarily by his/her employer and that parent completes a residency affidavit in Subparagraph e below that establishes Louisiana residency;

d. a dependent student whose parent is on active duty in the armed forces and who is stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders, or an independent student who is on active duty military status in the armed forces and is stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders;

e. if the dependent or independent student does not report Louisiana as his true, fixed, and permanent home of residence as Louisiana on the FAFSA, the board may require an independent student applicant or the parent of a dependent student applicant to show proof of residency. Residency may be established by completion of a standard affidavit developed by the board. Such affidavits must be completed in their entirety by the independent student applicant or by at least one parent of the dependent student applicant and be sworn to and notarized by a licensed notary public. Further, the affiant shall be required to submit records in support of the affidavit to include the following records and such other records as may be required by the board:

i. if registered to vote, a Louisiana voter registration card; and

ii. if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, a Louisiana driver's license; and

iii. if owning a motor vehicle located in Louisiana, a Louisiana registration for that vehicle; and

iv. if earning a reportable income, a Louisiana tax return.

Satisfactory Academic Progress—a standard established in accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, by the institution at which a GO Grant recipient is enrolled for measuring a student's progress in his or her educational program.

Undergraduate Program—a program of study that is designed to lead to a certificate or undergraduate degree.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3046 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2615 (December 2007), amended LR 34:236 (February 2008), LR 35:647 (April 2009), LR 35:2349 (November 2009), LR 36:2853 (December 2010), LR 39:2234 (August 2013), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:536 (March 2018), LR 48:485 (March 2022).

§1205. Initial Eligibility

A. To be initially eligible for a Louisiana GO Grant, a student must:

1. complete the free application for federal student aid for the year during which he intends to enroll in college;

2. be a Louisiana resident;

3. receive a federal Pell Grant or a financial need grant;

4. have remaining financial need; and

5. be enrolled in an undergraduate program on at least a half-time basis at an eligible Louisiana institution through the fourteenth class day for semester schools, or the ninth class day for quarter and term schools, or for any qualifying summer sessions, at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the full summer session.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3046 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2616 (December 2007), amended LR 34:238 (February 2008), LR 35:2349 (November 2009), LR 36:2853 (December

2010, LR 37:1389 (May 2011), LR 38:1953 (August 2012), LR 39:2235 (August 2013), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:538 (March 2018).

§1207. Continuing Eligibility

A. A student's eligibility will be reevaluated on the same schedule as eligibility for a federal Pell Grant or a financial need grant is determined at the institution, but at least once annually.

B. To continue to be eligible for a Louisiana GO Grant, a student must:

1. complete the free application for federal student aid or the renewal application for each year he enrolls in college to be considered for a Pell Grant and the Go Grant;

2. continue to receive the federal Pell Grant or a financial need grant;

3. have remaining financial need; and

4. be enrolled in an undergraduate program on at least a half-time basis at an eligible Louisiana institution through the fourteenth class day for semester schools, or the ninth class day for quarter and term schools, or for any qualifying summer sessions, at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the full summer session.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3046 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2616 (December 2007), amended LR 34:238 (February 2008), LR 35:2349 (November 2009), LR 36:2853 (December 2010), LR 39:2236 (August 2013), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:538 (March 2018).

§1209. Responsibilities of Eligible Louisiana Institutions [Formerly §1211]

A. Initial Eligibility

1.a. Eligible Louisiana institutions must determine whether the student meets the criterion in Subparagraph a of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §1203.

b. If this criterion is not met, the student may request that LOSFA make a determination of residency under Subparagraph e of the definition of *Louisiana resident* in §1203.

2. Eligible Louisiana institutions must determine whether a student meets the initial eligibility criteria enumerated in §1205.

B. Continuing Eligibility. Eligible Louisiana institutions must determine whether a student meets the continuing eligibility criteria enumerated in §1207 on the same schedule as eligibility for a Pell Grant or a financial need grant is determined at the institution, but at least once annually.

C. Packaging Policy

1. Eligible Louisiana institutions must establish and use a policy on GO Grant packaging that provides:

a. procedures for compliance with these rules and the guidance established by the board and published by LOSFA for determining the award amount;

b. record retention to comply with Subsection I of this Section;

c. the basis used to establish any award amount that is less than the maximum award amount allowed;

d. procedures for distribution of GO Grant funds that ensure the grant is provided to students with the most financial need;

e. priority for students who are 25 or over;

f. awards amounts for less than full-time students; and

g. procedures for identification of transfer students and ensuring transfer students receive awards on the same basis as home students.

2. Eligible Louisiana institutions must revise the institution's GO Grant packaging policy as necessary to reflect changes to the GO Grant Program rules or guidance issued by the board.

D. Award Amount. Eligible Louisiana institutions must establish the award amounts for each individual student based on the institution's financial aid packaging policy. The amount awarded must comply with the requirements and limitations established in these rules and the guidance published by LOSFA.

E. Submission of Payment Requests. Each semester, quarter or term, eligible Louisiana institutions shall submit a payment request to LOSFA for students enrolled at the institution who have been determined eligible for a Louisiana GO Grant as follows:

1. for each student eligible for a Louisiana GO Grant who is enrolled at the end of the fourteenth class day for semester schools, or the ninth class day for quarter and term schools, or for any qualifying summer sessions, at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the full summer session;

2. the payment request shall include the:

a. Social Security number;

b. college code;

c. term;

d. date;

e. hours attempted;

f. award amount; and

g. amount requested for each student;

3. for students who are enrolled in more than one eligible Louisiana institution, the home school (school paying the Pell Grant or a financial need grant) is responsible for submitting a payment request for the Go Grant based on the total hours enrolled at all institutions.

F. Over Payments

1. No institution shall submit a payment request for GO Grant funds which would result in a student receiving an annual total of more than is authorized in §1201.C.

2. Eligible Louisiana institutions certify by submitting a payment request for a GO Grant that the institution will reimburse LOSFA:

a. for the total amount of any award that is disbursed to ineligible students; and

b. for any amount of an award that is in excess of the maximum annual award or in excess of the maximum lifetime award (if one is established).

G. Excess Award. In the event an excess award occurs during the fall semester or quarter or the winter quarter due to receipt of additional gift aid, the school shall reduce the award amount for the spring accordingly. In the event an excess award occurs during the spring semester or quarter due to receipt of additional gift aid, the school shall document the reason for the excess award.

H. Over Award. In the event the student's total aid exceeds his financial need or the cost of attendance, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the Louisiana GO Grant, then a TOPS Award, if applicable, shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

I. Records Retention. Records pertaining to Louisiana GO Grant Awards are subject to audit as required by the board and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Eligible Louisiana institutions shall maintain all records for a minimum of three years from creation. All such records shall be made available upon request by the board and/or the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

J. Each eligible Louisiana institution shall provide a copy of its GO Grant packaging policy as required by §1209.C to LOSFA, when requested.

K. Audits. Eligible Louisiana institutions that participate in the Louisiana GO Grant Program grant LOSFA and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's administration of the program for the purpose of determining the institution's compliance with state law and applicable rules and regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3046 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2617 (December 2007), amended LR 34:239 (February 2008), LR 35:2349 (November 2009), LR 36:2853 (December 2010), LR 39:2236 (August 2013), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:538 (March 2018).

§1213. Responsibilities of LOSFA

A. LOSFA shall pay each eligible Louisiana institution the amount requested by the eligible Louisiana institution in accordance with the provisions of §1209.

B. LOSFA shall publish to the eligible Louisiana institutions on an annual basis:

1. the minimum and maximum annual awards, and the maximum lifetime award, if any;

2. any limitations on awards;

3. any changes in requirements for calculation of awards; and

4. any other changes in the program made by the board.

C. LOSFA shall determine the residency of students who do not meet the criteria enumerated in Subparagraph a of the definition of Louisiana resident in §1203 and notify eligible Louisiana institutions of its determination(s).

D. LOSFA shall maintain a database of all students who have received the GO Grant, included social security number, college code, term, date, hours attempted, award amount, annual amount received, and aggregate amount received. In the event LOSFA receives a payment request in an amount that would exceed the maximum amount payable to a student, LOSFA will require the school to rebill.

E. Adequacy of Funding

1. After the receipt of fall semester or term payment requests, LOSFA shall determine whether sufficient funds are available to pay all anticipated awards for subsequent semesters, terms and sessions of the academic year.

2. In the event projections indicate sufficient funds are not available, LOSFA shall notify the board.

3. LOSFA will provide to the board information that is necessary to determine appropriate funding amounts upon the request of the board.

F. LOSFA shall audit eligible Louisiana institutions to ensure compliance with these rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3046 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2617 (December 2007), amended LR 34:239 (February 2008), LR 35:2350 (November 2009), LR 36:2853 (December 2010), LR 39:2237 (August 2013), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:539 (March 2018).

§1215. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Regents

A. The board shall promulgate administrative rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

B. At least on an annual basis, the board shall review the amount appropriated for this program, and:

1. determine the minimum and maximum amount to be received by students attending school;

2. determine whether there is a maximum lifetime award and, if so, set the maximum;

3. determine what, if any, limitations should be placed on awards;

4. establish any changes in requirements for calculation of awards; and

5. provide for any other changes in the program.

C. The board shall provide notice to LOSFA of any changes to the program in sufficient time to allow timely implementation.

D. In the event of receipt of notice of a shortfall and additional funds are not allocated for payment of all anticipated awards for subsequent semesters, terms and sessions during the academic year, the board shall develop, approve and deliver a plan to LOSFA to address the shortfall.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023, R.S.17:3046 et seq. and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2618 (December 2007), amended LR 39:2237 (August 2013), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:539 (March 2018).

Chapter 13. Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP)

§1301. General Provisions

A. Legislative authority:

1. federal:

a. title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965;

b. 34 CFR Part 692, as amended;

c. title IV of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 (*Public Law* 102-325);

2. state:

a. R.S. 17:3031;

b. Act 632 of the 1974 Regular Legislative Session;

c. Act 228 of the 1977 Regular Legislative Session.

B. Description, History and Purpose. The Louisiana Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program, first funded in 1975, provides need-based grants to academically qualified students using federal and state funds. These grants are to be used for educational expenses including tuition and fees, books and supplies, and living expenses, such as room, board and transportation.

C. Louisiana administers a decentralized LEAP Program. Certain functions of the program are delegated to participating schools. Schools approved for participation in the Louisiana LEAP Program must have federal eligibility and must annually submit a state application and be approved for state participation. Funding available for a specific award year is allocated to eligible in-state postsecondary institutions who select and certify recipients to the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board). The board forwards award funding to the institutions for disbursement to the student or student's account.

D. Award Amounts. Individual grants range from an annual minimum of $200 to a maximum of $2,000; however, the actual amount of each student's award is determined by the financial aid office at the institution and is governed by the number of recipients selected and the amount of funds available. Awards are based upon a full academic year, excluding summer sessions and intersession, beginning with the fall term and concluding with the spring term.

E.1. Allocation of Funds. Annually, funds are allocated to post-secondary institutions based on school type, the school's prior year first-time, full-time enrollment of matriculating students and the amount of the prior year's allocation that was expended. Initial funds, for first-time recipients, are computed as a percentage of all participating institutions first-time, full-time enrollment as of October 10 of the prior fiscal year. A student's enrollment in an undergraduate degree granting school which is a component of a state supported medical center, shall be a first-time, full-time freshman for the purpose of this program. Continuation funds for students who had previously received LEAP are computed as a percentage of the allocated funds used during the previous year. The continuation formula applies 60 percent for four-year schools and 40 percent for two-year schools. For the purpose of this Paragraph, *matriculating student* means a degree seeking student.

2. For the 2006-2007 academic year (college), the allocations described in E.1 above shall be made to postsecondary institutions based on 2004-2005 academic year (college) formula data.

F. Reallocation of Funds. Uncommitted institutional allotted funds are reallocated if not committed by the deadline of November 1 for colleges and universities and campuses of Louisiana Technical College and January 1 for proprietary schools. The method of reallocation is dependent upon the amount of funds available for reallocation. If the reallocation amount is less then $50,000, then only two- and four-year colleges and universities, which have fully committed their original allotment by the appropriate deadline, receive a reallotment. If $50,000 or more is available for reallocation, it is reallotted to eligible schools of all types, which have fully committed their original allotment by the appropriate deadline.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:641 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1910 (October 1998), LR 25:1458 (August 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1860 (November 2001), amended LR 28:2332 (November 2002), LR 32:2239 (December 2006), LR 33:440 (March 2007), LR 34:240 (February 2008), LR 34:1885

(September 2008), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:540 (March 2018).

§1303. Establishing Eligibility

A. LEAP applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be a U.S. citizen or national or eligible noncitizen, and registered with the selective service, if required; and

2. be a resident of Louisiana, as defined in §301 for at least one year prior to July 1 of the award year; and

3. annually, submit the completed free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or renewal FAFSA, whichever is available to the applicant, by any deadline imposed by the institution attended; and

4. have a high school diploma with at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, or a minimum average score of 450 on the general educational development (GED) test, or an ACT composite score of at least 20, or a post-secondary grade point average of at least 2.00 from the most recent term; and

5. be selected and certified by the school for receipt of a LEAP award, contingent upon final approval by the board; and

6. meet any additional selection criteria established by the individual institution participating in the LEAP Program; and

7. be certified as a full-time undergraduate student in an eligible program at an eligible post-secondary institution, as defined in §1901 and either:

a. be enrolled full-time at the time of disbursement if disbursement occurs at the end of the fourteenth class day (ninth class day for Louisiana Tech); or

b. be enrolled full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day (ninth class day at Louisiana Tech) and is enrolled at least half-time at the time of disbursement if disbursement occurs after the fourteenth class day (ninth class day at Louisiana Tech); and

8. have *substantial financial need*, as defined in §301; and

9. be in compliance with the terms of other federal and state aid programs which the applicant may be receiving and which are administered by the board; and

10. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations; and

11. agree that the award proceeds will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and

12. not be in default of an educational loan.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:641 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1910 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1861 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 35:1491 (August 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:540 (March 2018).

§1305. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving a LEAP Award, the recipient must meet all of the following criteria:

1. meet all of the initial eligibility criteria listed in §1303; and

2. maintain a cumulative post-secondary grade point average of at least 2.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale by the conclusion of the spring term.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:642 (April 1998), LR 24:1911 (October 1998), amended LR 25:1459 (August 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1861 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:541 (March 2018).

§1307. Annual Application for Participation in, and Certification of Recipients of the LEAP Program

A. Annually, the board forwards LEAP institutional participation agreements to those schools participating in the program during the prior award year, and upon written requests received, to schools not participating in the LEAP Program during the prior award year. To be eligible for allotment of LEAP funds the institution must meet all of the following requirements:

1. complete and return the annual LEAP application by the specified deadline; and

2. certify that students and parents will not be charged a fee for the collection of information used to determine the student's eligibility for LEAP; and

3. certify that students listed on the recipient roster meet federal, state and institutional specific LEAP eligibility criteria; and

4. certify that if the institution's LEAP allotment is based in part on the financial need of independent students, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, a reasonable portion of the institution's allotment is being made available to independent students; and

5. certify that each LEAP recipient's total package of aid does not exceed the student's financial need; and

6. certify that LEAP funds recovered from over awards, refunds, and/or repayments, as defined in §301, during the applicable award period shall be returned to the board to be reissued to other qualified students. Funds recovered from over awards, refunds and/or repayments after the applicable award period shall be returned to the board for return to the U.S. Department or Education and/or the state of Louisiana. The amount of over award, refund and/or repayment shall be determined according to the

school's policy established in accordance with federal regulations;

7. certify that it has notified each eligible student that the grant is a LEAP grant which is funded by the state of Louisiana and the federal government.

B. Annually, the board provides eligible institutions an official allotment schedule, recipient roster and institution certification forms. Institutions are required to:

1. complete and return recipient rosters and institutional certification forms to ensure expenditure of allotted LEAP Awards by the school specific deadlines of November 1 for public and LAICU member two- and four-year colleges and universities and January 1 for campuses of Louisiana Technical College and proprietary institutions; and

2. submit changes to the recipient roster by completing a replacement roster, provided by the board; and

3. certify that if any LEAP funds are released in error to ineligible students, the institution will either recover the award amount from the students and refund to the board or remit the refund due.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance), LR 44:541 (March 2018).

Chapter 14. Early Start Program

§1401. General Provisions

A. The Early Start Program is administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) under the direction of the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board).

B.1. Description. The Early Start Program is established to provide funding to eligible Louisiana postsecondary institutions that enroll eligible 11th and 12th grade Louisiana public high school students in college degree, developmental, or work skills courses.

2. History. The program was established by the board as the Dual Enrollment Program to provide funding to public postsecondary institutions that enroll eligible public high school students. Beginning the 2008-2009 academic year (college), the board expanded the program to include members of LAICU that enroll eligible public high school students. Act 460 of the 2008 Regular Session of the Legislature provided for participation in the program by students enrolled in nonpublic high schools and home school programs.

3. Purpose. The purpose of the Early Start Program is to provide an incentive for qualified Louisiana high school students to prepare for a postsecondary education or career.

C. Effective Date. Early Start Program payments shall be made beginning with the 2007-2008 award year to postsecondary institutions for 11th and 12th grade students meeting the eligibility criteria set forth in this Chapter.

D. Eligible Semesters/Terms. The Early Start Program will pay for enrollment in each college course during each semester or term of the academic year. Early Start Program will not pay for summer semesters or sessions.

E. Award Amount

1. The Early Start Program will pay postsecondary institutions, except for campuses of the Louisiana Technical College during the spring semester of 2011, $100 per college credit hour, not to exceed $300 per course, for each course in which a student enrolled in a Louisiana public high school is eligible to enroll.

2. For the spring semester of 2011, the Early Start Program will pay $50 per credit hour, not to exceed $150 per course, for students enrolled at campuses of the Louisiana Technical College.

3. The award amount shall not be paid on behalf of students enrolled in nonpublic high schools or in home school; however, beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (college), the program allows participating eligible Louisiana postsecondary institutions to enroll eligible eleventh and twelfth grade Louisiana nonpublic high school and home school students at the same rate as the award amount that funding is provided for public high school students at these institutions.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2609 (December 2007), amended LR 34:240 (February 2008), LR 35:231 (February 2009), LR 37:1386 (May 2011), LR 38:354 (February 2012), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:541 (March 2018).

§1403. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Academic Year—the academic year begins with the fall semester or term of the award year, includes the winter term, if applicable, and concludes with the completion of the spring semester or term.

Career Area of Concentration—a coherent sequence of courses or field of study approved by BESE that prepares a high school student for a first job and/or further education and training. It includes four sequential related credits in a specific area plus two credits in a related field; one must be a basic computer course.

Census Day—fourteenth class day (or equivalent) of current term enrollment.

College Degree Course—a course in an academic subject at a Louisiana postsecondary institution that generates postsecondary institutional credit and:

a. appears on the current Louisiana Board of Regents' statewide general education course articulation matrix for public postsecondary institutions; or

b. appears on a list of courses approved by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) for LAICU postsecondary institutions.

Eligible Postsecondary Institution—Louisiana public colleges or universities and institutionally-accredited independent colleges or universities which are members of the LAICU.

Enrichment/Developmental Course—an English or mathematics course at an eligible Louisiana postsecondary institution that generates postsecondary institutional credit, but not degree credit, and is designed to prepare the student for college-level instruction.

Home School Students—students enrolled in BESE approved home study programs and students enrolled in nonpublic (private) schools that have not sought approval from but are registered with BESE.

LAICU—Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

On Track to Graduate from High School—a student has earned at least 11 Carnegie units if a junior, or at least 16 Carnegie units if a senior.

Work Skills Course—a course at an eligible Louisiana postsecondary institution in a skill or occupational training area that is designed to lead to an industry-based certificate and, for students required to have a declared career area of concentration, will contribute to the student's career area of concentration.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2610 (December 2007), amended LR 34:240 (February 2008), LR 35:232 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:542 (March 2018), LR 48:485 (March 2022).

§1405. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility for the Early Start Program, all student applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. be in the 11th or 12th grade in a Louisiana public high school and beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (college) in a nonpublic high school or in home school;

2. be at least 15 years of age;

3. have taken either the PLAN® or ACT assessment (or SAT) and those scores are on file at the high school or in the student's home school records;

4. have completed and submitted an Early Start Program application to the high school in which the student is enrolled or to the parent of the student in home school;

5. be approved by the high school in which the student is enrolled, or the parent of the student in home school, to participate in the program and to enroll in the course or courses; and

6.a. be enrolled in a course for which both public high school and college credit is attempted and for which an Early Start Program payment is made: or

b. be enrolled in a course for which both nonpublic high school or home school and college credit is attempted and for which an amount equal to the award amount of an Early Start Program payment is made.

B. Enrollment in a College Degree Course. In addition to the eligibility criteria in Paragraphs A.1-6:

1.a. for students graduating from high school or completing the 12th grade level of home school in academic years (high school) 2008-2009 through 2010-2011, the student must be working towards completing the Louisiana Board of Regents/TOPS core curriculum by high school graduation; or

b. for students graduating from high school or completing the 12th grade level of home school in academic years (high school) 2011-2012 and thereafter, the student must be working towards completing the Louisiana core 4 curriculum as approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education;

2.a. through the fall semester or fall and winter term of the 2008-2009 academic year (college) have a PLAN® or ACT (or an equivalent SAT) composite score of at least 17 to enroll in a college degree course unless the postsecondary institution requires the student to meet the criteria in §1405.B.2.b below;

b. for the spring semester or term of the 2008-2009 academic year (college) and thereafter, have a PLAN® composite score of at least 17 or ACT (or an equivalent SAT) composite score of at least 18 to enroll in a college degree course;

3. have a PLAN® or ACT (or an equivalent SAT) English sub-score of at least 18 or meet the postsecondary institution's prerequisite requirement to enroll in an entry-level English college degree course;

4. have a PLAN® or ACT (or an equivalent SAT) mathematics sub-score of at least 18 or meet the postsecondary institution's pre-requisite requirement to enroll in an entry level mathematics college degree course.

C. Enrollment in an Enrichment/Developmental Course. In addition to the eligibility criteria in Paragraphs A.1-6:

1.a. for students graduating from high school or completing the 12th grade level of home school in academic years (high school) 2008-2009 through 2010-2011, the student must be working towards completing the Louisiana Board of Regents/TOPS core curriculum by high school graduation; or

b. for students graduating from high school or completing the 12th grade level of home school in academic years (high school) 2011-2012 and thereafter, the student must be working towards completing the Louisiana Core 4

curriculum as approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education;

2.a. through the fall semester or fall and winter term of the 2008-2009 academic year (college), have a PLAN® or ACT (or an equivalent SAT) composite score of at least 12 to enroll in an enrichment/developmental course unless the postsecondary institution requires the student to meet the criteria in §1405.C.2.b below;

b. for the spring semester or term of the 2008-2009 academic year (college) and thereafter, have a PLAN® composite score of at least 14 or ACT (or an equivalent SAT) composite score of at least 15 to enroll in an enrichment/developmental course or meet the postsecondary institution's pre-requisite requirement to enroll in the course.

D. Enrollment in a Work Skills Course. In addition to the eligibility criteria in Paragraphs A.1-6, a student must have:

1.a through the fall semester or fall and winter term of the 2008-2009 academic year (college), a PLAN® or ACT composite score (or an equivalent SAT score) of at least 12 unless the postsecondary institution requires the student to meet the criteria in §1405.D.1.b below or a WorkKeys bronze certificate;

b. for the spring semester or term of the 2008-2009 academic year (college) and thereafter, PLAN® composite score of 14 or ACT composite score (or an equivalent SAT score) of at least 15 or a WorkKeys bronze certificate;

2.a. for students graduating from high school or completing the 12th grade level of home school in academic years (high school) 2008-2009 through 2010-2011 and thereafter:

i. be working towards completing the Louisiana Board of Regents/TOPS core curriculum by high school graduation; or

ii. be working towards and on track to graduate from high school and have a declared career area of concentration;

b. for students graduating from high school or completing the 12th grade level of home school in academic year (high school) 2011-2012 and thereafter:

i. be working towards completing the Louisiana core 4 curriculum as approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; or

ii. be working towards and on track to graduate from high school and have declared a career area of concentration.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3129.7 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2610 (December 2007), amended LR 34:240 (February 2008), LR 35:232 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:542 (March 2018).

§1407. Continuing Enrollment

A. To continue enrollment in subsequent semesters/terms in the Early Start Program, the student must:

1. have successfully completed and earned credit in the last course(s) in which a student enrolled through the Early Start Program. If the student resigns, or withdraws from a course or the student's registration in the course is cancelled, the student must receive permission from both the high school and college to continue enrollment in subsequent semesters/terms;

2. be in good standing at the postsecondary institution;

3. continue to meet eligibility requirements in §1405.A.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2610 (December 2007), amended LR 34:241 (February 2008), LR 35:233 (February 2009), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:543 (March 2018).

§1409. Responsibilities of High Schools and School Boards and Parents of Home School Students

A. The student's high school or the parent of a home school student shall:

1. determine whether the student meets the initial eligibility criteria provided in §1405.A;

2. approve or disapprove the student's participation in the program;

3. approve the course or courses in which the student will enroll;

4. provide to the postsecondary institution at which the student will be dually enrolled:

a. the student's approved application; and

b. the student's PLAN and/or ACT test scores, including sub-scores on those tests required to enroll in specific courses as provided in §1405.B-D.

B. By forwarding the student's application to the postsecondary institution, the student's high school or the parent of a home school student certifies that it has determined that the student has met all criteria in §1405.A to participate in the Early Start Program and has approved the student's participation in the program and the course or courses in which the student will be enrolled.

C. Student must be enrolled in a college course for which high school or home school credit is attempted and recorded on the student's secondary permanent academic record, including the high school course, units attempted, units earned, and course grade, unless the student withdraws before the college's census date or the student's enrollment is cancelled.

D. At the end of each semester or term of participation in the program, the student's high school or the parent of a

home school student shall determine whether the student has met the criterion in §1407.A.1 for continued enrollment in the Early Start Program. If the student is determined eligible and the high school or the parent of a home school student approves the student's continued participation in the program, it shall so notify the postsecondary institution and provide the course or courses approved for enrollment.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2610 (December 2007), amended LR 34:241 (February 2008), LR 35:233 (February 2009), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:543 (March 2018).

§1413. Responsibilities of Eligible Louisiana Postsecondary Institutions

A. Each eligible Louisiana postsecondary institution that participates in the Early Start Program shall:

1. be responsible for determining that the student meets the PLAN or ACT eligibility criteria provided in §1405.B-D;

2. reserve Early Start Program funds when the student enrolled in a public high school is accepted and enrolled in an appropriate course;

3. submit a payment request to LOSFA for public high school students enrolled at the institution for whom a reservation was made as follows:

a. for each public high school student eligible for the Early Start Program who is enrolled at the end of the 14th class day or later for semester schools, or the 9th class day or later for quarter and term schools;

b. payment request amount. Each semester or term, the postsecondary institution in which a student is enrolled in an Early Start course shall submit a payment request to LOSFA during the period the billing portal is open for each semester/term for which the student is enrolled in the amount of $100 per credit hour in which the student is enrolled, not to exceed $300 for each college course. Payment requests received outside of these timeframes will not be paid unless approved by the board;

c. the postsecondary institution may not charge the student any mandatory institutional and tuition fees for enrollment in a course paid for by the Early Start Program;

d. the payment request shall include the Social Security number, college code, high school code, term, date, college course type, hours attempted, and amount requested for each student;

4. for each nonpublic high school student and each home school, submit to LOSFA within 30 days of the census date of the semester/term for which the student is accepted in the Early Start Program the student's name, Social Security number, college code, high school code, term, date, college course type, hours attempted;

5. for students who have been previously enrolled in the Early Start Program, determine whether the student is in good standing at that institution;

6. by submitting a payment request to LOSFA, the postsecondary institution certifies that:

a. the student meets the eligibility criteria provided in §1405.B-D for the college course in which the student is dually enrolled;

b. the student was enrolled at the end of the 14th class day or later for semester schools, or the 9th class day or later for quarter and term schools;

c. the student's high school or the parent of a home school student has provided notice that the student is eligible for and has been approved to continue participation in the program; and

d. the student's high school or the parent of a home school student has provided notice of the course or courses approved for enrollment;

e. the student is in good standing at the institution;

7. verify that the student is enrolled in a college course for which college credit is attempted and recorded on the student's postsecondary permanent academic record, including the college course, credit attempted, credit earned, and course grade, unless the student withdraws before the college's census date or the student's enrollment is cancelled;

8. report student level outcome data to the board according to the board’s specifications.

B. Records Retention

1. Records pertaining to the Early Start Program are subject to audit as required by LOSFA, the board, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Postsecondary institutions shall maintain all records for a minimum of three years. All such records shall be made available upon request by LOSFA, the board and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2611 (December 2007), amended LR 34:241 (February 2008), LR 35:234 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:544 (March 2018).

§1415. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Regents

A. The board shall provide a student application to participate in the Early Start Program.

B. The board shall maintain a statewide general education course articulation matrix for participating public postsecondary institutions.

C. The board shall approve on a semester-by-semester basis the courses offered by LAICU postsecondary institutions that are approved for use in the Early Start Program.

D. In the event that the funds appropriated for the Early Start Program are insufficient to pay for all eligible public high school students, the board shall develop, approve and deliver a plan to LOSFA to address the shortfall.

E. The board shall provide specifications for submitting student level outcome data as required by §1413.A.8.

F. The board shall promulgate administrative rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2611 (December 2007), amended LR 34:242 (February 2008), LR 35:234 (February 2009), LR 38:1229 (May 2012), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:544 (March 2018).

§1417. Responsibilities of LOSFA

A. Upon receipt of payment requests from institutions submitted in accordance with §1413.A, LOSFA shall pay the institution for each eligible student in accordance with §1413.

B. LOSFA shall conduct audits of the participating eligible Louisiana postsecondary institutions to ensure compliance with program requirements.

C. LOSFA shall provide the information necessary to fully inform Louisiana public high school students and their parents on the requirements of and procedures for applying for and maintaining eligibility for the Early Start Program.

D. LOSFA shall audit high schools and postsecondary institutions to ensure compliance with these rules.

E. LOSFA shall maintain a database of all students who have participated in the Early Start Program, including Social Security number, college code, high school code, term, date, college course type, hours attempted, payment amount, and aggregate amount paid.

F.1. After the receipt of fall semester or term payment requests, but no later than October 15 of each year, LOSFA shall determine whether sufficient funds are available for all anticipated program payments for subsequent semesters and terms of the academic year.

2. In the event projections indicate sufficient funds are not available, LOSFA shall notify the board.

3. In the event additional funds are not allocated for all program payments anticipated for subsequent semesters and terms during the academic year, the board shall develop, approve and deliver a plan to LOSFA to address the shortfall.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 33:2611 (December 2007), amended LR 34:242 (February 2008), LR 35:234 (February (2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:545 (March 2018).

Chapter 15. Grant Opportunity for Youth ChalleNGe Skills Training Program

§1501. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The Louisiana Grant Opportunity for Youth ChalleNGe Skills Training Program (the GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program) was created by Act 826 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

B. Purpose. It is the purpose of the program to encourage and assist those students who graduate from the Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program to continue their education and enhance their employment opportunities by providing tuition at an eligible Louisiana postsecondary institution.

C. Effective Dates. The program shall be available to any student who completes the Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program after June 30, 2003.

D. Eligible Courses of Study. The program grant may be used to pursue any postsecondary certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate undergraduate degree required to obtain employment in a high demand, high skill, high wage career.

E. Eligible Institutions. Eligible students may use the program grant at the following institutions:

1. any Louisiana public postsecondary institution; and

2. an institutionally accredited independent college or university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

F. Grant Amounts. The program grant shall be paid for a period not to exceed the equivalent of two academic years in an amount:

1. equal to the actual cost of tuition for a student enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution;

2. equal to the average tuition amount paid for students attending public postsecondary institutions for a student enrolled at an institutionally accredited independent college or university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. See §1903.B.8 for method of computation.

G. Definitions. For the purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions are applicable.

Certification—the time at which LOSFA has received both the certification from the State Military Department and the results of the FAFSA data from the federal processor.

FAFSA—the free application for federal student aid used to apply for federal grant aid and eligibility for other federal assistance.

Graduate—a student who has completed the Louisiana GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program and, no later than 18 months after entry into the program, received a Louisiana high school equivalency diploma or, beginning in the 2019-2020

academic year, a student who has completed the Louisiana Youth ChalleNGe Program and, no later than 24 months after entry into the program, received a high school diploma.

Program—the GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program.

Resident of Louisiana—a student who actually resides in Louisiana during the 24 months prior to the month the student enrolls for the first time as a full-time student in an eligible institution as a recipient of a grant under the program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:782 (April 2004), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:545 (March 2018), amended LR 45:1172 (September 2019), LR 46:19 (January 2020), LR 48:486 (March 2022).

§1503. Establishing Initial Eligibility

A. To establish initial eligibility for participation in the program, the student must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be a citizen of the United States or designated by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as a permanent resident; and

2. be a resident of Louisiana, as defined in §1501; and

3. graduate from the residential phase of the Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program; and

4. have earned a Louisiana high school equivalency diploma or a Louisiana high school diploma; and

5. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations; and

6. if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions; and

7. submit a FAFSA for every year of enrollment in a postsecondary institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:782 (April 2004), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:546 (March 2018), LR 46:19 (January 2020).

§1505. Deadline to Enroll as a Full-Time Student

A. In order to receive a grant under the program, a student must have met the criteria defined in §1503 and, unless granted an exception for cause by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board), enrolled as a full-time student:

1.a. not later than the semester or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from the Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGge Program; or

b. beginning in the 2020-2021 academic year, not later than the semester or term, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date the student graduated from the Louisiana National Guard’s Youth ChalleNGe Program; or

2. if the student Joins the United States Armed Forces upon graduation from the Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program, not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the 5th anniversary of the date that the student graduated Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program or within one year from the date of discharge or one year from separation from active duty, whichever is earlier.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:783 (April 2004), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:546 (March 2018), LR 46:19 (January 2020).

§1507. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the program grant, the student must meet all of the following criteria:

1. have received the program grant for not more than two years, unless granted an exception for cause; and

2. continue to enroll each subsequent semester or quarter (excluding summer sessions and intersessions unless required by the institution for a particular course of study) as a full-time student, unless granted an exception for cause; and

3. maintain steady academic progress as defined in §301; and

4. earn at least 24 hours each academic year as defined in §301, unless granted an exception for cause; and

5. maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 scale at the end of each academic year; and

6. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations; and

7. if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions; and

8. submit a FAFSA or renewal FAFSA for each academic year during which the student is enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

B. Students failing to meet the requirements listed in §1507.A.3 and 5 may have their tuition grants reinstated upon regaining steady academic progress (see §301) and/or attainment of the required GPA, if the student has maintained other continuation requirements and the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than one year from the date of loss of eligibility. If the one-year period is interrupted due to a student's active duty in the United States

Armed Forces, the one-year period will be extended for the length of time equal to the student's active-duty service, not to exceed four years.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:783 (April 2004), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:546 (March 2018), amended LR 45:1173 (September 2019), LR 46:19 (January 2020).

§1509. Responsibilities of the State Military Department (SMD)

A. The State Military Department is responsible for determining whether participants in the Louisiana Youth ChalleNGe Program meet the eligibility requirements to participate in the program set forth in §1503.A.1-6 above. The submission of a student's data for the GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program shall constitute a certification by theState Military Department that the student meets the requirements of §1503.A.1-6, specified above, except that:

1. the certification shall not include the certification of residency required by §1503.A.2, if a participant does not meet the residency requirement at the time the participant is awarded a Louisiana high school equivalency certificate; and

2. the certification shall not include the certification of high school graduation required by §1503.A.4.

B. For each student determined to be eligible to participate in the program, the State Military Department shall provide the following student data in an electronic file format acceptable to LOSFA:

1. name;

2. permanent mailing address;

3. telephone number;

4. date enrolled in the Louisiana Youth ChalleNGe Program;

5. date the student completed the residential phase of the Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program;

6. date received a Louisiana high school equivalency diploma;

7. students' order of merit ranking within their class; and

8. if the student does not have 24 months of Louisiana residency at the time the Louisiana high school equivalency certificate is awarded, the date of initial Louisiana residency.

C. To the extent funds are appropriated to the State Military Department to fund the program, the State Military Department shall take such actions as are necessary to promptly transfer such funds to LOSFA.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:783 (April 2004), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:546 (March 2018), amended LR 46:19 (January 2020).

§1511. Responsibilities of LOSFA

A. Upon certification by the SMD that students have met program criteria, LOSFA shall make the students eligible for the program grant as long as funds appropriated for that purpose are available.

B. LOSFA shall determine whether participants meet the residency requirement in §1503.A.2 above, if the residency requirement has not been met at the time the participant earns a Louisiana high school equivalency certificate.

C. LOSFA shall determine the date on which participants graduated from high school as required by §1503.A.4.

D. Upon receipt of bills from institutions submitted in accordance with §1903.B, LOSFA will reimburse the institution for each eligible student in accordance with §1903.

E. LOSFA shall conduct audits of the Louisiana Youth ChalleNGe Program campuses and postsecondary institutions to ensure compliance with program requirements.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025 and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:783 (April 2004), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:547 (March 2018), amended LR 46:20 (January 2020).

§1513. Funding Shortfall

A. LOSFA shall not make students eligible if funds appropriated for the program are not available or if funds have not been appropriated for the program.

B. In the event appropriated funds are insufficient to fully reimburse institutions for the grants for all students determined eligible for the program for a given academic year, then the number of eligible students shall be reduced in accordance with the following procedures until such funds are sufficient.

1. Awarded students who meet the requirements for continuation will be funded first; however, if there are insufficient funds for all such students, the students who have completed the most hours will be funded first and, if there are ties, the students with the highest cumulative grade point average will be funded first.

2. Any remaining students will be awarded according to their order of merit as determined by the SMD, based on the student's performance in the Louisiana Youth ChalleNGe Program.

C. Should additional funds become available after a budget shortfall, LOSFA shall restore students' grants in accordance with the priorities established in Subsection B, above, until such funds are exhausted.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 30:784 (April 2004), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:547 (March 2018).

Chapter 16. Health Care Educator Loan Forgiveness Program

§1601. General Provisions

A. The Health Care Educator Loan Forgiveness Program is administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) under the direction of the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board).

B. Description, History and Purpose. The Health Care Educator Loan Forgiveness Program (program) is established to provide funding to individuals to pursue an advanced degree, either masters or doctoral degree, in nursing or allied health. The purpose of the program is to provide an incentive for individuals who receive an advanced degree in nursing or allied health education to become postsecondary education faculty members in the field of registered nursing or top demand allied health education.

C. Effective Date. Health care educator loans shall be disbursed by the board beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year.

D. Eligible Semesters/Terms. Health care educator loans will be disbursed to recipients seeking a master's degree in August and January. Health care educator loans will be disbursed to recipients pursuing a doctoral degree in August, January, and June, if applicable.

E. Award Amount. A Health Care Educator Loan Forgiveness Program recipient may receive up to $20,000 per academic year. Recipients pursuing a master's degree may receive a lifetime maximum loan of $40,000 and may receive two disbursements of $10,000, one in August and one in January. Recipients pursuing a doctoral degree may receive a lifetime maximum loan of $60,000 and may receive up to three disbursements per academic year, depending upon whether he is enrolled full-time or at least 2/3 time. A recipient pursuing a doctoral degree may receive $10,000 if he is enrolled full-time and $5,000 if he is enrolled at least 2/3 time, one disbursement in August and one disbursement in January. A recipient who has not received $20,000 during the academic year and who enrolls during the summer term will receive $5,000 in June.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:224 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:547 (March 2018).

§1603. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Academic Year—the academic year begins with the fall semester or term of the award year, includes the winter term, if applicable, the spring semester or term, and concludes with the completion of the summer term, if applicable.

Enrolled Full-Time—the student is enrolled for at least nine semester hours in the fall or spring (or equivalent for term), six semester hours in the summer or equivalent as determined by the program in which he is enrolled.

Enrolled 2/3 Time—the student is enrolled for at least six semester hours in the fall or spring (or equivalent for term).

Participating Institution—a postsecondary institution that has been approved by the board to participate in the Health Care Educator Loan Forgiveness Program.

Recipient—a masters or doctoral degree student who has been nominated by a participating institution to participate in the Health Care Educator Loan Forgiveness Program and who has completed a master promissory note to receive program funds.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:224 (February 2009), amended LR 36:2550 (November 2010), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:547 (March 2018).

§1605. Participation in the Program

A. To participate in the Health Care Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, a student must be nominated to participate in the program by a participating institution.

B. Once nominated, a student must complete and return a master promissory note to the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance. By signing the master promissory note, the student agrees that:

1. for students seeking a masters degree:

a. he will enroll full-time in the degree program during the fall, winter, if applicable, and spring semesters/terms;

b. he will remain enrolled full-time unless granted an exception to this requirement by the board;

c. upon completion of his degree program, he will become a full-time nurse or allied health faculty member at the institution which nominated him for the health care educator loan;

d. he will remain a full-time nurse or allied health education faculty member until he teaches one year for each $10,000 he received;

2. for students seeking a doctoral degree:

a. he will enroll full-time, or at least 2/3 time, in the degree program during the fall, winter, if applicable, and spring semesters/terms;

b. he will remain enrolled full-time, or at least 2/3 time, unless granted an exception to this requirement by the board;

c. upon completion of his degree program, he will become a full-time nurse or allied health faculty member at the institution which nominated him for the health care educator loan;

d. he will remain a full-time nurse or allied health education faculty member until he teaches one full year for each $10,000 he received.

C. A recipient will be eligible to continue to receive Health Care Educator Loan Forgiveness Program loans until he obtains his masters or doctoral degree, provided that he continues to maintain full-time enrollment, or at least 2/3 time enrollment for doctoral degree students, unless an exception to this requirement is granted for cause in accordance with §1607.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:225 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:548 (March 2018).

§1607. Exceptions to Program Requirements

A. Exception to the full time enrollment requirement, or 2/3 time enrollment for those seeking a doctoral degree.

1. The board may grant an exception to the full-time enrollment requirement or 2/3 time for doctoral students, if all of the following conditions are met.

a. The recipient has a temporary mental or physical disability, or other circumstance for which the board may deem an exception is appropriate.

b. The recipient requests an exception and provides such documentation as the board requires in order to evaluate whether an exception should be granted.

c. The recipient requests and obtains approval for the exception prior to withdrawing from enrollment or decreasing the number of hours in which he is enrolled.

2. The board may grant an exception to the requirement to become a full-time nurse or allied health education faculty member if the following conditions are met.

a. The recipient has a temporary mental or physical disability or other circumstance for which the board may deem an exception is appropriate.

b. The recipient requests an exception and provides such documentation as the board requires to evaluate whether an exception should be granted.

c. The recipient requests and obtains approval for the exception prior to terminating his employment or otherwise fails to meet the requirement to teach full-time as a registered nursing or allied health education faculty member.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:225 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:548 (March 2018).

§1609. Discharge of Obligation

A. The obligations of the recipient may be discharged by cancellation, teaching for the required period of obligation, or by monetary repayment.

B. Cancellation. The board may discharge the requirement to maintain full-time enrollment, or 2/3 time for doctoral degree students, the requirement to complete the degree program in which the recipient is enrolled, or the requirement to teach full-time as a registered nurse or allied health education faculty member under the following circumstances:

1. the recipient has a permanent mental or physical disability, or other circumstance for which the board may deem discharge is appropriate; and

2. the recipient provides such documentation as the board requires in order to evaluate whether a discharge should be granted; or

3. the participating institution at which the recipient is employed requests that the board discharge the teaching requirement and provides such documentation that the board requires to make a determination that the obligation should be discharged.

C. Fulfillment of Teaching Requirement. The obligation may be discharged under the following conditions:

1. the recipient secures full-time employment as a nurse or allied health program faculty member at the institution which nominated him for the loan program or at another participating institution with the assistance and approval of the institution which nominated him for the loan program; and

2. the recipient begins teaching full-time as a nurse or allied health program faculty member no later than the semester following the semester the student obtains his masters or doctoral degree; or

3. if the student is unable to secure employment as a fulltime faculty member at the institution which nominated him for the loan program or at another participating institution with the assistance and approval of the institution which nominated him for the loan program, the recipient may fulfill the teaching obligation by working in a public health facility, state office, or other alternative service as the board may deem appropriate. The student must seek and obtain board approval prior to undertaking such an alternative service position;

4. each year of full time teaching or other alternative service as approved by the board will discharge $10,000 of the obligation.

D. Monetary Repayment. A recipient may be terminated from participation in the program either with or without default.

1. Termination without Default

a. Termination without default occurs when:

i. the recipient's enrollment in the degree program for which he received program funds is discontinued;

ii. the recipient fails to remain enrolled on a full-time basis, or 2/3 time for doctoral students; or

iii. the recipient fails to maintain good academic standing.

b. In the event of termination without default, the recipient must repay the total of program funds received plus interest to LOSFA within 90 days of the date an event listed in §1609.D.1.a.i-iii occurs.

c. Interest will accrue at the prime interest rate at the time the condition in §1609.D.1.a.i-iii occurs plus 3 percent. Interest will accrue from the date of each disbursement.

2. Termination with Default

a. Termination with default occurs:

i. if, upon completion of the degree, the recipient fails to obtain a full-time faculty position in a nurse or allied health education program or fails to obtain approval for an alternative service position without just cause; or

ii. the recipient is terminated from his employment for cause or voluntarily leaves his employment prior to fulfillment of the teaching obligation.

b. In the event of termination with default, the principal due at the time of default will be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

i. $[(a/b) \times (b-c)]3 = d$.

ii. for purposes of the formula above, "a" is equal to the total of the loans disbursed; "b" is equal to the months of service obligation required; "c" is equal to the number of months of the teaching obligation that were fulfilled; and "d" is equal to the total principal balance at the time repayment begins.

c. Interest will accrue on the principal due at the prime rate at the time of default plus 3 percent.

d. Interest will begin to accrue 60 days following the board's determination that the recipient is in default and shall accrue for the duration of the repayment period.

e. The recipient must make payment in full of the total amount due or begin making monthly payments no later than 60 days after the date of default and shall pay at least 25 percent of the total amount, including interest, due each calendar year.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:225 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:548 (March 2018).

§1611. Responsibilities of Program Fund Recipients

A. Each recipient of program funds shall:

1. provide LOSFA with a completed master promissory note and W-9 form;

2. provide the board with documentation that he was enrolled, in good academic standing, full- time, or 2/3 time for doctoral students, not later than August 15, January 15, or June 15, if applicable, of each academic year during which he is to receive program funds;

3. provide the board with documentation that he has undertaken to discharge his obligation:

a. by teaching full-time as a nurse or allied health program faculty member; or

b. by working in a public health facility, state office, or other alternative service as the board previously approved in accordance with §1615.F;

4. provide any other information to the board or LOSFA as deemed necessary to process a request for an exception to the program requirements or a request for discharge of the obligations of the recipient in connection with the receipt of program funds.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:226 (February 2009), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:549 (March 2018).

§1613. Responsibilities of Participating Institutions

A. Each participating institution shall:

1. nominate individuals to participate in the Health Educator Loan Forgiveness Program in accordance with specifications to be provided to it by the board;

2. provide the board with the following information on each nominee:

a. name;

b. current address;

c. Social Security number;

d. program of study; and

e. anticipated graduation date;

f. other information as requested by the board;

3. at the request of the board, provide documentation that recipients enrolled full-time, or at least 2/3 time for doctoral students, if the recipient is enrolled at that institution, and that the student is in good academic standing;

4. at the request of the board, provide documentation that a recipient is or was employed as a full-time registered nurse or allied health education faculty member.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:226 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:549 (March 2018).

§1615. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Regents

A. The board shall notify each institution that is eligible to participate in the program of its eligibility, the number of students it may nominate for the academic year, and the number of those students nominated which may be enrolled as a masters or doctoral degree students.

B. The board shall collect information from the participating institutions as set forth in §1613.A-D. The board shall notify all participating institutions if additional information is required.

C. The board shall provide the information collected from participating institutions regarding nominees to LOSFA within 30 days of receipt in a format to be agreed upon between the board and LOSFA.

D. In the event a recipient is terminated from participation in the program, the board will determine whether it is with or without default, determine the date the termination if without default or the date of default if with default and immediately notify LOSFA.

E. The board will receive requests for exception to program requirements and requests for discharge from participating institutions and recipients. It will evaluate the requests and notify the participating institution and/or recipient if additional information is needed to process the request and what that information is. It will notify the participating institution, the recipient, and LOSFA of any determination regarding a request for exception to program requirements or for discharge.

F. The board will evaluate a request by a recipient to undertake to discharge his obligation by a form of service other than as a full-time registered nurse or allied health education faculty member and approve or deny such request in writing.

G. The board shall promulgate administrative rules in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:226 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:550 (March 2018).

§1617. Responsibilities of LOSFA

A. LOSFA shall:

1. obtain program nominee information from the board and provide the nominee with a master promissory note, written instructions, and a W-9 form;

2. LOSFA will pay program funds directly to the student when all of the following have been satisfied:

a. it has received a completed, signed master promissory note;

b. it has received a completed W-9; and

c. it has received confirmation from the board that a recipient was enrolled full-time, or at least 2/3 time for doctoral degree students in accordance with §1611.B;

3. LOSFA will maintain a secure database of all information collected on recipients and former recipients, including name, address, Social Security number, program of study, name of the institution which nominated the student for the loan program, name of the institution at which a recipient was enrolled when receiving program funds, anticipated graduation date, amount disbursed, and maximum amount available;

4. upon notification by the board that a recipient has been terminated from the program without default, LOSFA will:

a. calculate the total amount due;

b. notify recipient of the date of the event listed in §1609.D.1.a.i-iii and that he has 90 days from that date to pay the full amount due;

c. if payment is not received within 90 days of the date of termination as determined by the board, LOSFA will institute collection activities and forward the file to the Collection Division of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office;

5. upon notification by the board that a recipient has been terminated from the program with default, LOSFA will:

a. calculate the total amount due;

b. notify recipient of the date of default and that he has 60 days from the date of default to pay the full amount due or begin making monthly payments in amount sufficient to pay at least 25 percent of the total amount due, including interest, each calendar year;

c. if payment of the total amount due or repayment does not begin within 60 days of the date of default, LOSFA will institute collection activities, including forwarding the file to the Collection Division of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 35:227 (February 2009), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:550 (March 2018).

Chapter 17. Responsibilities of High Schools, School Boards, Special School Governing Boards, the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Board of Regents on Behalf of Eligible Non-Louisiana High Schools

§1701. Eligibility of Graduates Based upon the High School Attended

A. Graduates of the following high schools are eligible to participate in the Louisiana Board of Regent's (the board) scholarship and grant programs, as authorized herein:

1. Louisiana public high schools—public high schools listed in the electronic STSQ14 report, high school sites extract file, provided annually by the Louisiana Department of Education to LOSFA;

2. approved nonpublic high schools:

a. nonpublic high schools approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) pursuant to R.S. 17:11 and which meet the standards required by BESE for students of the school to be eligible to receive from the state the benefit of appropriations for such items as transportation, textbooks, and administrative cost reimbursement; and

b. nonpublic schools approved by BESE pursuant to R.S. 17:11 prior to May 15, 2000, which have applied for and have had their application forwarded by the Louisiana Department of Education prior to May 15, 2000, seeking the approval necessary for the students in such school to be eligible to receive from the state the benefit of appropriations for such items as transportation, textbooks, and administrative cost reimbursement; and starting the 2003-2004 high school academic year, meet the requirements to be eligible to receive from the state the benefit of such appropriations;

c. the approvals by BESE may be provisional or probational approvals;

d. approved nonpublic high schools are listed in the electronic STSQ14 report, high school sites extract file, provided annually to LOSFA by the Louisiana Department of Education;

3. eligible non-Louisiana high schools-eligible non-Louisiana high schools are high schools which meet all of the following:

a. are in a state adjoining the state of Louisiana; and

b. have provided the board with acceptable evidence of an agreement dated prior to June 5, 1994, between a parish school system in the state of Louisiana and the high school's local governing authority, which authorizes the attendance of students who are residents of Louisiana; and

c. have students who graduate during the academic year preceding the award year, who were residents of Louisiana and who were funded through the Louisiana Minimum Foundation Program; and

d. have certified the academic performance of Louisiana graduates, in accordance with §1703;

4. out-of-state high schools—

a. all other public or nonpublic high schools located in one of the United States or territories of the United States, other than Louisiana:

i. which have been approved by the state or territory's chief school officer, or by the public body which is that state's or territory's equivalent of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE); or

ii. which high school has been approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Secondary and Middle Schools and can demonstrate that it meets the standards adopted by BESE for approval of nonpublic schools of Louisiana as set forth in §1701.A.2, above; or

iii. for students graduating during the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, which high school has been approved by an institutional accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and can demonstrate that it meets the standards adopted by BESE for approval of nonpublic schools of Louisiana as set forth in §1701.A.2, above; and

iv. for students graduating during the 2009-2010 school year and thereafter with an international baccalaureate diploma, which high school has been approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue such a diploma;

b. graduates of out-of-state high schools are eligible to participate in the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program;

c. graduates of out-of-state high schools who are Louisiana residents or the dependents of a Louisiana resident serving on active duty with the armed forces or who have a parent who is a Louisiana resident are eligible to participate in TOPS;

d. a school will be deemed to be approved by the appropriate state agency if that state agency certifies:

i. that the high school in question received funding from the state to cover all or a portion of the costs of instruction; and

ii. that the high school in question adopted and does adhere to state and federal non-discrimination policies and statutes;

5. out-of-country high schools—

a. all other public or non-public high schools located outside the United States or the territories of the United States that meet the standards adopted by BESE for

approval of nonpublic schools in Louisiana and which are accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education; and

b. those high schools located in foreign countries which have been authorized or approved by a department in the executive branch of the United States government to teach the dependents of members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed abroad; and

c. for students graduating during the 2009-2010 school year and thereafter with an international baccalaureate diploma, those high schools located outside the United States and its territories that have been approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue such a diploma.

B. Non-high school graduates who have earned a Louisiana high school equivalency diploma (GED) in lieu of a high school diploma are eligible to participate in the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Grant Program and the Louisiana GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3129.7, R.S. 17:5001 et seq., and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:642 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1911 (October 1998), LR 25:849 (May 1999), LR 26:67 (January 2000), LR 26:1997 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1862 (November 2001), amended LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 30:1165 (June 2004), LR 34:242 (February 2008), LR 40:56 (January 2014), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:551 (March 2018), LR 48:486 (March 2022).

§1703. High School's Certification of Student Achievement

A. Responsibility for Reporting and Certifying Student Performance

1. Through the 2002 academic year (high school), responsibility for the identification and certification of high school graduates who meet the academic qualifications for a TOPS Award is as follows:

a. the principal or the principal's designee for public high schools;

b. the principal or headmaster or designee of each nonpublic high school approved by BESE;

c. the principal or headmaster or designee of an eligible non-Louisiana high school;

d. the principal or headmaster or designee of an out-of-state high school is responsible only for providing the high school transcript or the date of graduation for those students who have applied for a student aid program administered by the board.

2. Commencing with the 2003 academic year (high school), responsibility for the submission and certification of courses attempted and the grades earned for high school graduates is as follows:

a. the principal or the principal's designee for public high schools;

b. the principal or headmaster or designee of each nonpublic high school approved by BESE;

c. the principal or headmaster or designee of an eligible non-Louisiana high school;

d. the principal or headmaster or designee of an out-of-state high school is responsible only for providing the high school transcript or the date of graduation for those students who have applied for a student aid program administered by the board.

3. The Louisiana Department of Education shall certify to the board the names of students who are enrolled in and have completed all mandatory requirements through the twelfth grade level of a state-approved home study program.

B. Procedures for Reporting and Certifying Student Performance

1.a. Through the 2002 academic year (high school), the responsible high school authority shall record student performance on the form provided by the board or in an electronic format pre-approved by the board. The certification form shall be completed, certified and returned to the board by the deadline specified on the form.

b. Commencing with the 2003 academic year (high school), the responsible high school authority shall submit the required student information in a standard electronic format approved by the board.

2.a. Through the 2002 academic year (high school), the certification form shall contain, but is not limited to, the following reportable data elements:

i. student's name, address, phone number and Social Security number;

ii. month and year of high school graduation;

iii. final cumulative high school grade point average for all courses attempted, converted to a maximum 4.00 scale, if applicable;

NOTE: Beginning with students graduating in 2002-2003, the cumulative high school grade point average will be calculated by using only grades obtained in completing the core curriculum; and

iv. through the graduating class of the academic year (high school) 2002-2003, number of core units earned and the number of core units unavailable to the student at the school attended. After the graduating class of the academic year (high school) 2002-2003, core unit requirements may not be waived.

b. Commencing with the 2003 academic year (high school), certification shall contain, but is not limited to, the following reportable data elements:

i. student's name and Social Security number;

ii. month and year of high school graduation;

iii. the course code for each course completed;

iv. the grade for each course completed;

v. designation of each advanced placement, international baccalaureate, gifted and dual enrollment course;

vi. the grading scale for each course reported;

vii. list the high school attended for each course reported; and

viii. through the graduating class of the academic year (high school) 2002-2003, number of core units earned and the number of core units unavailable to the student at the school attended. After the graduating class of the academic year (high school) 2002-2003, core unit requirements may not be waived.

c. Commencing with the 2014-2015 academic year (high school), for each student for whom the school has been granted consent to collect and disclose PII to LOSFA, Louisiana public high schools as defined in §1703.A.1 above shall collect the following reportable data elements for each year of attendance for those students in the ninth through twelfth grades:

i. verification that the school has been granted written consent to collect and disclose the student's PII to LOSFA from the student's parent or legal guardian, if the student is not at least 18 or judicially emancipated; or by the student, if the student is at least 18 or judicially emancipated;

ii. student's full name, date of birth, and Social Security number;

iii. transcript data, including, but not limited to:

(a). student's BESE identification number;

(b). month and year of high school graduation;

(c). the course code for each course completed;

(d). the grade for each course completed;

(e). the term and year each course is completed;

(f). designation of each advanced placement, International Baccalaureate®, honors, gifted and talented, articulated course for college credit, and dual enrollment course;

(g). the grading scale for each course reported; and

(h). the high school attended for each course reported.

d. Commencing with the 2014-15 academic year (high school), certification from all approved non-public Louisiana high schools as defined in §1703.A.2 and 3 above shall contain, but is not limited to, the following reportable data elements:

i. student's full name, date of birth, and Social Security number;

ii. transcript data, including, but not limited to:

(a). month and year of high school graduation;

(b). the course code for each course completed;

(c). the grade for each course completed;

(d). the term and year each course is completed;

(e). designation of each advanced placement, International Baccalaureate®, honors, gifted and talented, articulated course for college credit, and dual enrollment course;

(f). the grading scale for each course reported; and

(g). the high school attended for each course reported.

3. Through the 2002 academic year (high school), the responsible high school authority shall certify to the board the final cumulative high school grade point average of each applicant and that average shall be inclusive of grades for all courses attempted and shall be computed and reported on a maximum 4.00 grading scale.

a. The following grading conversion shall be used to report the applicant's cumulative high school grade point average:

i. letter grade A = 4 quality points;

ii. letter grade B = 3 quality points;

iii. letter grade C = 2 quality points;

iv. letter grade D = 1 quality point.

b. Schools which award more than 4 quality points for a course must convert the course grade to a maximum 4.00 scale using the formula described in the example that follows. (In this example, the school awards one extra quality point for an honors course.)

i. Example: an applicant earned a "C" in an honors English IV course and received 3 out of the 5 possible quality points that could have been awarded for the course.

ii. In converting this course grade to a standard 4.00 maximum scale, the following formula must be used:

$$\frac{\text{Quality Points Awarded for the Course}}{\text{Maximum Points Possible for the Course}} = \frac{X\ \text{(Converted Quality Points)}}{4.00\ \text{(Maximum Scale)}}$$

$$\frac{3.00}{5.00} = \frac{X}{4.00}$$

By cross multiplying,

$$5X = 12;\ X = 2.40$$

iii. In this example, the quality points for this honors English IV course should be recorded as 2.40 when

the school calculates and reports the student's cumulative high school grade point average.

4. Commencing with the 2003 academic year (high school), the board shall determine whether high school graduates have completed the core curriculum and compute the TOPS cumulative high school grade point average for each such graduate using a maximum 4.00 grading scale. Grades awarded on other than a maximum 4.00 scale shall be converted to a maximum 4.00 scale.

C. Certifying 1998 Graduates for the TOPS Performance Award. 1998 graduates who are ranked in the top five percent of their graduating class in accordance with §1703 shall be credited with having completed the core curriculum for purposes of the TOPS; however, only those meeting the following criteria shall be eligible for the Performance Award by the board:

1. those students who have attained a final cumulative high school grade point average of at least a 3.50 on a 4.00 maximum scale; and

2. an ACT score of at least 23.

D. Certification:

1. through the 2002 academic year (high school), the high school headmaster or principal or designee shall certify that:

a. all data supplied on the certification form are true and correct, to the best of his knowledge or belief, and that they reflect the official records of the school for the students listed; and

b. records pertaining to the listed students will be maintained and available upon request to the board and the Legislative Auditor for a minimum of three years or until audited, whichever occurs first; and

c. the school under the principal's jurisdiction shall reimburse the board for the amount of a program award which was disbursed on behalf of a graduate of the school, when it is subsequently determined by audit that the school incorrectly certified the graduate;

2. commencing with the 2003 academic year (high school), the submission of the required data by the high school headmaster or principal or designee shall constitute a certification that:

a. all data reported are true and correct, to the best of his knowledge or belief, and that they reflect the official records of the school for the students listed; and

b. records pertaining to the listed students will be maintained and available upon request to the board and the legislative auditor for a minimum of three years or until audited, whichever occurs first; and

3. commencing with the 2014-2015 academic year (high school), the submission of the required data by the high school headmaster or principal or designee of Louisiana public high schools as defined in §1703.A.1 above shall constitute a certification that:

a. the school has complied with the requirements of R.S. 17:3913(K) to:

i. beginning in the eighth grade, annually at the beginning of each school year, provide a form to be signed by the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the school, whereby the student's parent or legal guardian may provide consent or deny consent for the collection and disclosure of the student's personally identifiable information as follows:

(a). full name;

(b). date of birth;

(c). Social Security number; and

(d). transcript data, including, but not limited to:

(i). student’s BESE identification number;

(ii). month and year of high school graduation;

(iii). the course code for each course completed;

(iv). the grade for each course completed;

(v). the term and year each course is completed;

(vi). designation of each advanced placement, International Baccalaureate®, honors, gifted and talented, articulated course for college credit, and dual enrollment course;

(vii). the grading scale for each course reported; and

(viii). the high school attended for each course reported;

ii. use a form provided by LOSFA or a form substantially similar to LOSFA’s form that:

(a). provides notification of exactly what items of student information will be collected and that disclosure of the student information collected will be restricted to Louisiana postsecondary educational institutions and the Office of Student Financial Assistance to be used solely for the purpose of processing applications for admission and for state and federal financial aid;

(b). requires acknowledgment that the failure to provide written consent for the collection and disclosure of the student's information may result in delays or may prevent successful application for admission to a postsecondary educational institution and for state and federal student financial aid;

iii. collect the personally identifiable information for each student for whom consent was provided;

4. commencing with the 2003 academic year (high school), if a student is determined to be eligible for a TOPS Award based on data that is incorrect and the student was in fact ineligible for a TOPS Award or the level awarded, the

high school must reimburse the board for the amount paid in excess of what the student was eligible for.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3129.7, and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:643 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1912 (October 1998), LR 25:258 (February 1999), LR 26:1998 (September 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1863 (November 2001), amended LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 30:1165 (June 2004), LR 40:57 (January 2014), LR 41:656 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:552 (March 2018).

§1705. Notification of Certified Students

A. Through the 2002 academic year (high school), if the certifying authority elects to notify students of their certification, then the following disclaimer shall be included in any communication to the student: "Although you have been certified as academically eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Award, you must satisfy all of the following conditions to redeem a scholarship under this program:

1. you must be a Louisiana resident as defined by the Louisiana Board of Regents; and

2. you must be accepted for enrollment by an eligible Louisiana college and be registered as a full-time undergraduate student; and

3. you must annually apply for federal student aid, if eligible for such aid, by the deadline required for consideration for state aid; and

4. you must have met all academic and nonacademic requirements and be officially notified of your award by the Louisiana Board of Regents".

NOTE: Our Lady of the Lake College has been renamed to Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University.

B. Commencing with the 2003 academic year (high school), if the certifying authority elects to notify students of their potential eligibility for an award, then the following disclaimer shall be included in any communication to the student: "Although it appears that you have satisfied the academic requirements for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Award based on this school's review of the core curriculum courses you have completed and calculation of your TOPS cumulative high school grade point average, you must satisfy all of the following conditions to redeem a scholarship under this program:

1. the Louisiana Board of Regents must determine that you have in fact completed the TOPS core curriculum courses;

2. the Louisiana Board of Regents must determine that your TOPS cumulative high school grade point average based on the TOPS core curriculum meets the statutory requirements;

3. you must be a Louisiana resident as defined by the Louisiana Board of Regents;

4. you must be accepted for enrollment by an eligible Louisiana postsecondary institution and be registered as a full-time undergraduate student no later than the next semester following the first anniversary of your graduation from high school;

5. you must apply for federal student aid, if eligible for such aid, by the deadline required for consideration for state aid; and

6. you must have met all academic and nonacademic requirements and be officially notified of your award by the Louisiana Board of Regents."

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3129.7 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:644 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1913 (October 1998), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 29:126 (February 2003), LR 29:882 (June 2003), LR 30:1166 (June 2004), LR 35:235 (February 2009), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:554 (March 2018).

Chapter 18. Chafee Educational and Training Voucher Program

§1801. General Provisions

A. The Chafee Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) Program is administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) in accordance with a memorandum of understanding by and between the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

B. Description, History and Purpose. The Chafee ETV Program is administered in accordance with the federal Chafee Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 677 et seq., to provide grants to certain students who have been in the foster care system to pursue postsecondary education or training to enter the workforce.

C. Effective Date. The Chafee ETV Program will be administered by LOSFA beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year.

D. Eligible Semesters/Terms. The Chafee ETV is available to students throughout the academic year.

E. Award Amount

1. A Chafee ETV recipient may receive up to $5,000 during the academic year. The award amount is determined by the recipient's financial need as calculated in accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

2. For the 2021-2022 academic year only, a Chafee ETV recipient may receive up to $9,000 during the academic year. The award amount is determined by the recipient's financial need as calculated in accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 36:2547 (November 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:554 (March 2018), LR 47:1495 (October 2021).

§1803. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Academic Year—the academic year begins with the fall semester or term of the award year, includes the winter term, if applicable, the spring semester or term, and concludes with the completion of the summer session, if applicable.

Educational and Training Voucher—a federal grant that is available to certain students who have been in the foster care system based on the student's financial need.

Foster Care System—a protective service administered by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services or by a similar agency in another state, for children who must live apart from their parents due to neglect, abuse, or special family circumstances which requires that the child be cared for outside the family home.

Institution of Higher Education—a school that:

a. is eligible to receive funds under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; and

b. awards a bachelor's degree; or

c. provides a program of study that is at least two years long in which a student can earn credit toward a bachelor's degree; or

d. provides not less than one year of training towards gainful employment; or

e. provides vocational training for gainful employment and has been in existence for at least two years.

Legal Guardianship—the duty and authority to make important decisions in matters having a permanent effect on the life and development of the child and the responsibility for the child's general welfare until he reaches the age of majority, subject to any residual rights possessed by the child's parents. It shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the rights and responsibilities of legal custody as established in the *Louisiana Children's Code*.

Postsecondary Education—any educational program at an institution of higher education which admits as regular students those individuals with a high school diploma or equivalent, or admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance, including, but not limited to, academic programs leading to an associate or baccalaureate, graduate or professional degree, or training which leads to a skill, occupational, or technical certificate or degree.

Satisfactory Academic Progress—a standard established in accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, by the institution at which a Chafee ETV recipient will be enrolled when receiving the ETV for measuring a student's progress in his or her educational program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 36:2548 (November 2010), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:555 (March 2018).

§1805. Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility through the 2017-2018 academic year, a student must:

1. be ages 16 to 21, except that a student who was participating in the Chafee ETV Program at age 21 may continue to receive ETVs until he attains the age of 23; and

2. be in the foster care system, or aged out of the foster care system, or was under legal guardianship, or was in the foster care system or under legal guardianship and was adopted after age 16; and

3. be enrolled in postsecondary education; and

4. annually complete the free application for federal student aid.

B. To establish eligibility beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year, a student must:

1. be ages 14 to 26;

2. be in the foster care system, aged out of the foster care system, exited the foster care system through legal guardianship or adoption after attaining the age of 16, or was in the foster care system after the age of 14 and exited for reasons other than adoption, guardianship, or aging out; and

3. be enrolled in postsecondary education; and

4. annually complete the free application for federal student aid.

C. To continue to receive Chafee ETV through the 2017-2018 academic year, a student must:

1. not have attained the age of 21, or the age of 23 if the student was receiving a Chafee ETV at the age of 21 and received the Chafee ETV continuously; and

2. be making satisfactory academic progress in his program of study.

D. To continue to receive Chafee ETV beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year, a student must:

1. not have attained the age of 26; and

2. be enrolled in postsecondary education; and

3. not have participated in the program for more than five years, whether or not consecutively; and

4. be making satisfactory academic progress in his program of study.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 36:2548 (November 2010), amended LR 40:52 (January 2014), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:555 (March 2018), LR 45:530 (April 2019).

§1807. Eligibility of Institutions of Higher Education

A. Institutions of Higher Education Eligible to Participate

1. Louisiana public colleges and universities are authorized to participate in the Chafee ETV Program.

2. Institutionally-accredited private colleges and universities that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. (LAICU) are authorized to participate in the Chafee ETV Program. As of June 2010, LAICU membership included Centenary College, Dillard University, Louisiana College, Loyola University, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, The University of Holy Cross, St. Joseph Seminary College, Tulane Medical Center, Tulane University and Xavier University.

3. Louisiana proprietary schools licensed pursuant to chapter 24-A of title 17 of the *Revised Statutes* are authorized to participate in the Chafee ETV Program.

4. Any other institution of learning that is an institution of higher education.

B. Audits. Institutions of higher education that participate in the Chafee ETV Program grant LOSFA, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's administration of the program for the purpose of determining the institution's compliance with state law and applicable program rules and regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 36:2548 (November 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:555 (March 2018), LR 48:486 (March 2022).

§1809. Responsibilities of Participating Institutions of Higher Education

A. Preliminary Eligibility Determination

1. Institutions of higher education must verify the student's age.

2. Institutions of higher education must determine whether the student is or was prior to age 18 an orphan or ward of the court in accordance with procedures established by the postsecondary institution for verifying information reported by the student on the free application for federal student aid.

3. If the school determines that the student is an orphan or ward of the court in accordance with its procedures and this Section, it shall provide to LOSFA the student's name, Social Security number, and current address.

B. Continuing Eligibility

1. Institutions of higher education must verify the student is making satisfactory academic progress.

2. If a prior recipient is making satisfactory academic progress, it shall provide to LOSFA the student's name, Social Security number, and current address.

C. Award Amount Determination

1. Institutions of higher education will determine the student's Chafee ETV amount based upon his financial need in accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and will report that award amount to LOSFA.

2. Institutions of higher education shall provide students the opportunity to appeal the amount of the Chafee ETV amount if the award to the student is less than the maximum annual award amount. Such appeals shall be conducted in accordance with the institution of higher education's procedures for appealing title IV student aid eligibility. Immediately upon receipt of an appeal, the institution of higher education shall notify LOSFA of the appeal, the student's name, and the reason for awarding less than the full grant amount. In the event the student is not satisfied with the school's final decision on the appeal, the institution of higher education shall advise the student that he may appeal the institution of higher education's decision to the Department of Children and Family Services.

D. Certification of Student Data

1. Upon request by LOSFA, and for the purpose of meeting federal audit requirements for the Chafee Grant, institutions of higher education, except cosmetology and proprietary schools, shall report the following data:

a. admission and enrollment; and

b. semester hours attempted; and

c. semester hours earned; and

d. semester quality points earned; and

e. resignation from the institution or withdrawal from all courses.

2. Upon request by LOSFA, and for the purpose of meeting federal audit requirements for the Chafee Grant, a cosmetology or proprietary school shall report whether a student is making satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the school's federal grant aid policy.

E. Program Billing

1. If the institution of higher education operates on a semester or term basis, it shall divide the student's annual Chafee ETV amount by the number of semester/terms the

student will be attending and it shall bill LOSFA for the resulting amount at the beginning of each semester or term the student attends.

2. If the institution of higher education operates on a basis other than semester or term, it shall bill LOSFA for one quarter of the student's Chafee grant amount on September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1, if the student's program of study is at least one full year. If the student's program of study is less than one full year, the school will divide the Chafee ETV amount by the number of billing dates encompassed by that program and bill LOSFA the resulting amount.

3. Submission of a bill for a student is certification by the post-secondary institution that the student is enrolled at the institution and has maintained satisfactory academic progress.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 36:2549 (November 2010), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:556 (March 2018), amended LR 47:862 (July 2021), LR 47:1495 (October 2021).

§1813. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

A. Through the 2017-2018 academic year, DCFS shall verify that a student:

1. was in the foster care system, or aged out of the foster care system; or

2. was under legal guardianship; or

3. was in the foster care system or under legal guardianship and was adopted after age 16; or

4. is a Native American whose Indian tribe has an approved plan under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act for foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardianship within that Indian tribe.

B. Beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year, DCFS shall verify that a student:

1. be in the foster care system, aged out of the foster care system, exited the foster care system through legal guardianship or adoption after attaining the age of 16, or was in the foster care system after the age of 14 and exited for reasons other than adoption, guardianship, or aging out; or

2. is a Native American whose Indian tribe has an approved plan under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act for foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardianship within that Indian tribe.

C. DCFS will notify LOSFA of any students who are eligible to receive a Chafee ETV and for whom LOSFA did not previously request verification in accordance with §1817.A, including those students who may be attending school in a state other than Louisiana.

D. In the event of receipt of notice of a shortfall and additional funds are not allocated for payment of all anticipated awards for subsequent semesters, terms and sessions during the academic year, DCFS shall develop, approve and deliver a plan to LOSFA to address the shortfall.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 36:2549 (November 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:556 (March 2018), LR 45:531 (April 2019).

§1817. Responsibilities of LOSFA

A. LOSFA shall:

1. verify a student's eligibility to receive a Chafee ETV with DCFS;

2. pay program funds to the eligible post-secondary institution in which the student is enrolled;

3. maintain a secure database of all information collected on recipients and former recipients, including name, address, social security number, program of study, name of the institution(s) the recipient attended, and amounts disbursed;

4. notify DCFS immediately if projections indicate that sufficient funds will not be available to pay all eligible students the amount originally awarded to those students at the beginning of the academic year.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 36:2550 (November 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:557 (March 2018).

§1819. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Regents

A. The board shall promulgate administrative rules in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, in consultation with DCFS and in accordance with a memorandum of understanding entered into by and between the board/LOSFA and DCFS.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 36:2550 (November 2010), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:557 (March 2018).

Chapter 19. Eligibility and Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

§1901. Eligibility of Post-Secondary Institutions to Participate

A. Undergraduate degree granting schools which are components of Louisiana public university medical centers

and two- and four-year public colleges and universities are authorized to participate in the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), TOPS-Tech, TOPS-Tech Early Start, Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, Louisiana Go Grant, and other funded state and federal scholarship, grant and loan programs administered by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) as applicable.

B. Institutionally-accredited private colleges and universities which are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. (LAICU) are authorized to participate in TOPS, TOPS-Tech, TOPS Tech Early Start Award, Louisiana Go Grant, and other funded state and federal scholarship, grant and loan programs administered by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) as applicable. As of April 2000, LAICU membership included Centenary College, Dillard University, Louisiana College, Loyola University, New Orleans Theological Seminary, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, The University of Holy Cross, St. Joseph Seminary College, Tulane Medical Center, Tulane University and Xavier University.

C. Eligible Louisiana proprietary and cosmetology schools are authorized to participate in TOPS for all awards and TOPS Tech Early Start Awards.

D. Out-of-state colleges and universities may participate in TOPS if all the conditions of §703.I are met.

E. Approved training providers may participate in the TOPS Tech Early Start Award Program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, 17:3046 et seq., R.S. 17:3129.7, R.S. 17:5001 et seq., and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:645 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1914 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), LR 26:1998 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 31:3111, 3114 (December 2005), LR 35:235 (February 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 36:2857 (December 2010), LR 41:376 (February 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:557 (March 2018), LR 48:487 (March 2022).

§1903. Responsibilities of Post-Secondary Institutions

A. Certification of Student Data

1. Through the summer term of 2002, upon request by the board, and for the purpose of determining an applicant's eligibility for a program award, an institution will report the following student data:

a. admission and full-time undergraduate enrollment; and

b. eligibility for, or enrollment in, a course of study leading to initial teacher certification; and

c. enrollment in math or chemistry as a major while pursuing teacher certification; and

d. graduate or undergraduate enrollment in wildlife forestry or marine science; and

e. cumulative college grade point average; and

f. cumulative college credit hours earned; and

g. academic year hours earned.

2. Effective the fall semester of 2002, upon request by the board, and for the purpose of determining an applicant's eligibility for a program award, an institution shall report the following student data:

a. admission and full-time undergraduate enrollment; and

b. eligibility for, or enrollment in, a course of study leading to initial teacher certification; and

c. enrollment in math or chemistry as a major while pursuing teacher certification; and

d. graduate or undergraduate enrollment in wildlife forestry or marine science; and

e. semester hours attempted; and

f. semester hours earned; and

g. semester quality points earned; and

h. resignation from the institution or withdrawal from all courses.

3. Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year (TOPS), an institution shall also report:

a. a student’s completion of a program of study;

b. through the 2015-2016 academic year (TOPS) whether the program of study was academic or technical;

c. type of credential (degree, certificate, diploma, baccalaureate);

d. semester of completion; and

e. beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year (TOPS):

i. the CIP code for the program of study in which the student is enrolled;

ii. the degree level code for the program of study in which the student is enrolled;

iii. the increment key assigned by the board that provides each program a unique key for the program of study in which the student is enrolled.

B. Program Billing. Each term, institutions shall bill the board for students who are eligible for payments under state and federal scholarship, grant and loan programs administered by the board and LOSFA and who have enrolled at the institution in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1.a. through the 2016-2017 academic year (college), institutions may only bill for students who have been certified by the board as eligible for a TOPS Award and, in

the case of the TOPS Tech Award, enrolled in an eligible technical program of study; and

b. beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year (college), institutions may bill for students who have been certified by the board as eligible for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award and may only bill for a TOPS-Tech Award if the student is enrolled in an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education program that is aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council at that institution;

2. for scholarship, grant or loan programs that require full-time enrollment, institutions will bill the board based on their certification that the recipient is enrolled full-time, as defined in §301:

a. at eligible colleges and universities, except cosmetology and proprietary schools, at the end of the fourteenth class day or later for semester schools and the ninth class day or later for quarter and term schools, and for any qualifying summer sessions at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the full summer session. Institutions shall not bill for students who are enrolled less than full-time at the end of the fourteenth class day for semester schools or the ninth class day for quarter and term schools, and for any qualifying summer sessions at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the summer session, unless the student qualifies for payment for less than full-time enrollment as defined in §2103.C. Students failing to meet the full-time enrollment requirement are responsible for reimbursing the institution for any awards received. Refunds of awards to students who are not receiving federal title IV aid, for less than full-time enrollment after the fourteenth or ninth class day, as applicable, shall be returned to the state. Refunds to students who are receiving federal title IV aid shall be refunded to the state in accordance with the institution's federal title IV aid refund procedures;

b. at eligible cosmetology or proprietary schools, on a billing date for students who were enrolled full-time on that date. The billing dates are September 1, December 1, March 1 and June 1. Institutions shall not bill for students who are enrolled less than full-time on a billing date, unless the student qualifies for payment for less than full-time enrollment as provided in §2103.C. Students failing to meet the full-time enrollment requirement are responsible for reimbursing the institution for any awards received. Refunds of awards to students who are not receiving federal title IV aid, for less than full-time enrollment shall be returned to the state. Refunds to students who are receiving federal title IV aid shall be refunded to the state in accordance with the institution's federal title IV aid refund procedures;

3. in the event the student's total aid, including vocational rehabilitation awards, exceeds the cost of attendance, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the TOPS Award shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award;

4. annually, all institutions are required to provide the board a current fee schedule. The schedule must include an itemized description of the composition of the mandatory fees listed on the fee schedule, including the tuition amount, as those fees will appear on a student's fee bill;

5. certify that the institution will reimburse the board for any award funds incorrectly disbursed to ineligible students;

6. through the 2016-2017 academic year (college), upon the school's certification that a recipient of a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors Award is enrolled full-time, institutions shall bill for and the board will reimburse the institution for each such recipient as follows:

a. public colleges and universities may bill for an amount up to the maximum tuition for that institution, as defined in §301;

b. Louisiana Technical College campuses may bill for an amount up to the tuition for that institution, as defined in §301;

c. LAICU member colleges and universities or an out-of-state college or university if all of the conditions of §703.I are met may bill for students enrolled in academic programs an amount up to the weighted average award amount, as defined in §301;

d. LAICU member colleges and universities may bill for students enrolled in nonacademic programs an amount up to the average award amount (TOPS-Tech), as defined in §301;

e. for recipients of the Performance and Honors Awards, institutions may bill the board for the stipend that accompanies these awards, in the amounts of $200 or $400 per semester, respectively;

f. for students enrolled in a public professional school, institutions may bill the board an amount equal to the tuition charged or the tuition charged a student pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the highest cost public school, whichever is less;

g. for students enrolled in a LAICU professional school, institutions may charge the weighted average award amount;

h. for students enrolled in graduate school, institutions may bill the board an amount equal to the tuition or the tuition charged for a student while pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the highest cost public school in the state, whichever is less;

i. for students enrolled in eligible cosmetology and proprietary schools, institutions may bill for an amount of up to one quarter of the annual *average award amount* (*TOPS-Tech*), as defined in §301;

7. through the 2016-2017 academic year (college), upon the school's certification that a recipient of a TOPS-

Tech Award is enrolled full-time, institutions shall bill for and the board will reimburse the institution for each such recipient as follows:

a. eligible public colleges and universities that do not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level may bill for an amount up to the *tuition* for that institution, as defined in §301;

b. all other eligible colleges and universities, except eligible cosmetology or proprietary schools, may bill for an amount up to the *average award amount* (*TOPS-Tech*), as defined in §301;

c. eligible cosmetology and proprietary schools may bill for an amount of up to one quarter of the annual *average award amount* (*TOPS-Tech*), as defined in §301;

8. beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year (college), upon the school's certification that a recipient of a TOPS Award is enrolled full-time, institutions shall bill for an amount equal to the TOPS Award amount as defined in §301 and as determined and published by the board for the school and the student's program of study, if applicable, and the board shall reimburse the institution for each such recipient;

9. upon the school's certification that a recipient of a GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program Grant is enrolled full-time, institutions shall bill for and the board will reimburse the institution for each such recipient as follows:

a. eligible public community colleges and Louisiana Technical College may bill for an amount up to the tuition for that institution, as defined in §301; and

b. institutionally-accredited independent colleges or universities in the state that are members of LAICU may bill up to an amount equal to the award amount authorized for TOPS-Tech students attending LAICU institutions during the academic year;

10. unless otherwise directed by the student, before applying a TOPS Award to pay a student's tuition, institutions shall first apply the student's "out-of-pocket" payments, including student loans, toward tuition charges. In those cases when a student's tuition as defined in 26 U.S.C. 25A is paid from a source other than the TOPS Award, the institution shall apply the TOPS Award toward payment of expenses other than tuition which are described in the term cost of attendance as that term is defined in 20 U.S.C. 1087ll, as amended, for the purpose of qualifying the student or his parent or custodian for the federal income tax credits provided for under 26 U.S.C. 25A;

11.a. upon the school's certification that a student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award is enrolled in an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential program in a top demand occupation, institutions shall bill for and the board will pay the institution for each such recipient according to the following schedule;

Credit Hours	Payment
1	$50
2	$100
3	$150
4	$200
5	$250
6	$300

b. the maximum that may be billed is $300 per semester and $600 per academic year (TOPS);

c. institutions may not bill for summer semesters or sessions;

12.a. beginning with the spring semester of 2014 through the Spring semester of 2016, for a public college or university to be permitted to bill for a TOPS Award amount under the provisions of §1903.B.6 of these rules, the college or university must include on the student fee bill line items entitled:

i. "tuition only" that equals the TOPS Award amount listed on the fee bill;

ii. "TOPS Award amount" as defined in §301; and

iii. "TOPS stipends" for TOPS Honors and Performance Award stipends. These amounts shall not be included in the "tuition only" or "TOPS Award amount" line items;

b. there shall be no reference to a tuition amount on a student's fee bill other than as provided herein.

C. Disbursement of Funds. Upon receipt of award funds and prior to their disbursement to students, the institution shall:

1. for TOPS Teacher Award recipients:

a. verify that the recipient is enrolled full-time in an approved degree program or course of study leading to a degree in education or alternative program leading to regular certification as a teacher at the elementary or secondary level; or

b. if designated as a math or chemistry major, verify enrollment in a course of study leading to certification as a math or chemistry teacher;

2. for Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship recipients, verify undergraduate or graduate enrollment, whichever is applicable to the student, in:

a. wildlife, forestry or marine science; or

b. another major specified by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as meeting their criteria for receipt of scholarship funds;

3. for Tuition Payment Program for Medical School Students:

a. verify enrollment at one of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center medical schools or at the Tulane University School of Medicine; and

b. verify the recipient is in good standing; and

c. verify the student has continued to make satisfactory progress towards a medical degree in a primary care field;

4. release award funds by crediting the student's account within 14 days of the institution's receipt of funds or disbursing individual award checks to recipients as instructed by the board. Individual award checks for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, TOPS Teacher Award and Tuition Payment Program for Medical School Students must be released to eligible recipients within 30 days of receipt by the school or be returned to the board;

5. for TOPS-Tech Early Start Awards:

a. verify the student is eligible and enrolled in a course in an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential program in a top-demand occupation; and

b. verify the student is in good standing;

6. for TOPS Awards at cosmetology or proprietary schools:

a. verify the student has continued to make steady academic progress; and

b. verify the student is enrolled full-time on the billing date.

D. Reporting of Academic Data. At the conclusion of each term, quarter or semester, the institution will complete and return to the board a college academic grade report including, but not limited to, the following data elements:

1. academic year hours earned; and

2. cumulative hours earned; and

3. cumulative grade point average; and

4. upon graduation, degree date and type and name of degree.

E. Records Retention. Records pertaining to the students listed on the billing certification form will be subject to audit as required by state statute. Such records will be maintained for a minimum of three years and be available upon request to the board and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

F. Qualified Summer Session

1. Except for students eligible for TOPS payments while enrolled in an eligible TOPS Tech program of study, students may request payment for a summer session if eligible under these rules and subject to the availability of program funding. Each student requesting payment must sign a form provided by LOSFA:

a. requesting payment for the summer session from the student's remaining TOPS eligibility;

b. stating the student understands that the use of the TOPS Award for the summer session reduces the student's TOPS eligibility by one semester or term;

c. stating the student understands that the hours earned cannot be used to meet the TOPS requirement to earn at least 24 hours each academic year; and

d. stating the student understands that the grades earned during the summer session will be included in the student's cumulative grade point average.

2. The institution's submission of a payment request for a student's enrollment in a summer session will constitute certification of: the student's eligibility for a TOPS Award payment for the summer session; receipt from the student of a signed written acknowledgment and consent that each payment will consume one semester of eligibility; and the student's enrollment in the summer session.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031, R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.15, 17:3041.21-3041.26, R.S. 17:5001 et seq., and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:645 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1914 (October 1998), LR 25:1459 (August 1999), LR 26:1998 and 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1864 (November 2001), amended LR 28:448 (March 2002), LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 28:1760 (August 2002), LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 30:784 (April 2004), LR 30:1166 (June 2004), LR 31:40 (January 2005), LR 31:3111, 3114 (December 2005), LR 33:1340 (July 2007), LR 35:1233 (July 2009), LR 35:1490 (August 2009), LR 35:1491 (August 2009), LR 36:2857 (December 2010), LR 40:282 (February 2014), LR 40:1003 (May 2014), LR 41:667 (April 2015), LR 41:2599 (December 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:519 (March 2017), LR 44:557 (March 2018), LR 45:1173 (September 2019), LR 48:487 (March 2022).

Chapter 20. John R. Justice Student Grant Program

§2001. General Provisions

A. The John R. Justice Student Grant Program (JRJ Grant) is administered by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) in accordance with a federal grant from the United States Department of Justice.

B. Description, History and Purpose. The JRJ Grant is administered in accordance with the federal John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 3797cc-21, to encourage qualified lawyers to choose careers as public defenders and prosecutors and to continue in that service.

C. Effective Date. The JRJ Grant will be administered by the board beginning with the 2010-2011 federal fiscal year.

D. Award Amount

1. For the 2011 calendar year, twelve prosecutors will receive awards of $5,000 each and six public defenders will receive awards of $10,000 each. One public defender and two prosecutors will be selected for participation from each of the First, Second, Third, and Fifth Louisiana Circuit Court of Appeal Districts. Two public defenders and four prosecutors will be selected for participation from the Fourth Louisiana Circuit Court of Appeal.

2. Beginning in the 2012 calendar year, the number of awards and the amount of each grant shall be recalculated based on the amount of the federal grant allocated to Louisiana by the United States Department of Justice. Each calendar year's awards shall be allocated so that the total amount awarded to prosecutors is equal to the total amount awarded to public defenders.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 37:1387 (May 2011), amended LR 38:1585 (July 2012), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:560 (March 2018).

§2003. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Adjusted Gross Income (*AGI*)—gross income minus any deductions allowed under the federal income tax code (title 26, *United States Code*).

Eligible Loan—an educational loan which is not paid in full and which was made under either the Federal Stafford Loan, Federal Graduate PLUS Loan, Federal Consolidation Loan, or Federal Perkins Loan program.

Federal Fiscal Year—October 1 to the following September 30.

Full-Time—works at least 30 hours per week as a prosecutor or defense attorney.

Least Ability to Pay—have the lowest differential between AGI and one hundred fifty percent of the poverty level for a family of the lawyer's size among eligible applicants.

Licensed—holding a current license to practice law in the state of Louisiana.

Poverty Level—poverty guidelines as issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Prosecutor—a lawyer who is a full-time employee of the state or of a unit of local government (including tribal government) who prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or unit of local government level (including supervision, education, or training of other persons prosecuting such cases).

Public Defender—a lawyer who:

a. is a full-time employee of the state or with a unit of local government (including tribal government) who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation; or

b. who is a full-time employee of a nonprofit organization operating under a contract with the state or with a unit of local government who devotes substantially all of the employee's full-time employment to providing legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation; or

c. who is employed as a full-time federal defense lawyer in a defender organization pursuant to 18 U.S.C.A. 2006A(g) that provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 37:1387 (May 2011), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:560 (March 2018).

§2005. Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility, a lawyer must:

1. be employed full time as a public defender or prosecutor for at least one year as of December 31 of the year preceding the award; and

2. not be in default on any educational loan;

3. complete and submit an application by the deadline;

4. have the least ability to pay his student loans;

5. authorize LOSFA to access records held by any third party that will verify information provided on the application;

6. submit a completed John R. Justice Student Loan Program service agreement to LOSFA. If an applicant is not selected to receive an award, the agreement will be null and void.

B. Upon notice from LOSFA that he must do so, the applicant must provide:

1. information necessary to substantiate information included on the application, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. paycheck stubs for the two months immediately preceding the application date; and

b. federal tax returns for the most recent tax year; and

c. statements from all student loan holders evidencing the required monthly payments on his student loans;

2. a letter from his current employer verifying that the employer is an eligible employing entity under the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act and recommending the applicant for participation in the program.

C. Qualified lawyers are required to apply for participation each year. Prior year recipients will be given priority for participation in the program in the second and third year of the service obligation, provided the recipient continues to meet the requirements of §2005.A.1-4 and B.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 37:1387 (May 2011), amended LR 42:46 (January 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:561 (March 2018).

§2007. Applicable Deadlines

A. Application Deadline

1. Applicants must complete and submit the on-line application each calendar year no later than April 30.

2. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered unless there are insufficient qualifying applications received by the deadline to make awards for all grants.

3. In the event there are insufficient applications to award all grants, a second deadline will be announced.

4. In the event all grants cannot be awarded after a second application deadline has passed, LOSFA shall inform the board and distribute the available remaining funds as directed by the board.

B. Documentation Deadline. An applicant from whom documentation is requested must provide the required documentation within 20 days from the request.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 37:1388 (May 2011), amended LR 38:1585 (July 2012), LR 42:47 (January 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:561 (March 2018).

§2011. Responsibilities of LOSFA

A. LOSFA shall:

1. evaluate documentation provided by applicants to substantiate the information provided on the application;

2. select program participants based on the documentation provided and the applicants' ability to pay student loans;

3. maintain program service agreements;

4. pay program funds to the program participant's eligible student loan holder with instructions that the funds are to be used to reduce the outstanding principal amount due on the loan(s);

5. maintain a secure database of all information collected on recipients and former recipients, including name, address, Social Security number, name of the institution(s) to which funds were disbursed, and amounts disbursed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 37:1388 (May 2011), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:561 (March 2018).

§2013. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Regents

A. The board shall:

1. promulgate administrative rules in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act and in accordance with a federal grant from the United States Department of Justice to administer the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 3797cc-21 in Louisiana;

2. upon being informed by LOSFA that 18 grants cannot be awarded after a second application deadline has passed, establish a formula for apportionment of available remaining funds;

3. approve the number of awards and the amount of each grant each year based upon the funding allocated to Louisiana by the United States Department of Justice. The board shall ensure that 50 percent of the funds awarded are allocated for awards to prosecutors and 50 percent of the funds awarded are allocated for awards to public defenders.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 37:1388 (May 2011), amended LR 38:1586 (July 2012), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:562 (March 2018).

Chapter 21. Miscellaneous Provisions and Exceptions

§2101. Academic Suspension of Awards and Reinstatement

A. Students denied an award for their failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average or for their failure to maintain steady academic progress, as defined in §301, may be reinstated upon attainment of the required cumulative grade point average, provided that the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than two years from the date of loss of eligibility.

B. Students whose TOPS Performance and Honors Awards are reinstated as the Opportunity Award are ineligible for annual stipends.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:646 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1915 (October 1998), LR 26:68 (January 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1866 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:562 (March 2018).

§2103. Circumstances Warranting Exception to the Initial and Continuous Enrollment Requirements

A. Initial Enrollment Requirement. Initially apply and enroll as a first-time freshman as defined in §301, unless granted an exception for cause by the Louisiana Board of

Regents (the board), in an eligible college or university defined in §301. Initial enrollment requirements specific to TOPS are defined at §703.A.4, for TOPS-Tech at §803.A and for Louisiana GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program at §1505.

B. Continuous Enrollment Requirement. To maintain eligibility, all scholarship programs require recipients to continue to enroll as full-time students, as defined in §301, each consecutive semester or quarter, excluding summer sessions and intersession, at two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Recipients who cannot meet this requirement may be granted an exception for cause, as determined by the board.

C. Less Than Full-Time Attendance. The board will authorize awards under the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors and Teachers Awards, the TOPS-Tech Award, the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship and the Louisiana GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program, for less than full-time enrollment provided that the student meets all other eligibility criteria and at least one of the following:

1. requires less than full-time enrollment to complete the undergraduate degree; or

2. is enrolled in a degree program that defines full-time as less than 12 hours per semester or eight hours per quarter; or

3. requires less than full-time enrollment to complete requirements for a specified course of study or clinical program.

a. *Course of Study*—for the purposes of this Paragraph is a program:

i. established by the postsecondary institution leading to an associate's degree; or

ii. with course work specified by school of study at a postsecondary institution (e.g., business, architecture, mass communications, art and design) required for admission to that school for further studies to earn a baccalaureate degree.

b. *Clinical Program*—for the purposes of this Paragraph means student teaching, practicum courses, or clinic based experiences required to earn a baccalaureate degree.

D. Procedure for Requesting Exceptions to the Initial and Continuous Enrollment Requirement

1. The student should complete and submit an application for an exception, with documentary evidence, to the office as soon as possible after the occurrence of the event or circumstance that supports the request. The deadline for filing the exception shall be prominently displayed on the notice of cancellation. If the applicant for an exception is a dependent student, a parent or court-ordered custodian of the dependent student may submit the application for exception on behalf of the applicant.

a. Through the 2000-2001 academic year (TOPS), the student must submit application for an exception no later than May 30 of the academic year the student requests reinstatement.

b. Commencing with the 2001-2002 academic year (TOPS), the student must submit the application for exception no later than six months after the date of the notice of cancellation, except as follows:

i. A returning student must submit the application for exception no later than six months after the date of the notice of ineligibility due to failure to meet the continuing eligibility requirements of §705.

ii. Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, the deadline for a student who submits a request for exception based on military service shall be six months after his discharge from continuous active duty status.

2. If determined eligible for an exception, the recipient will be reinstated if he or she enrolls in the first fall, winter or spring term immediately following the exception ending date.

3. If determined ineligible by LOSFA for an exception provided in §2103.E.11.a.ii, recipient may appeal in accordance with §2109 of these rules.

4.a. Temporary Disability—Student

i. Definition. The student/recipient is recovering from an accident, injury, illness or required surgery.

ii. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form, the reason for the disability, the necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) involved, and any other information or documents that may be relevant to student's request; and

(b). a written statement from a qualified professional if a medical disability certifying the existence of a temporary disability, the dates of treatment, and opinions as to the impact of the disability on the student's ability to attend school.

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to two full academic years.

b. Temporary Disability—Student/Recipient's Care of Immediate Family Member

i.(a). Definition. The student/recipient is providing continuous care to his/her immediate family member due to an accident, illness, injury or required surgery.

(b). An immediate family member is his/her spouse, dependent, parent, stepparent, custodian, or grandparent.

ii. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form, the reason for the disability, the necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) involved, and any other

information or documents that may be relevant to student's request; and

(b). a written statement from a qualified professional of the existence of a temporary disability of the immediate family member, and the beginning and ending dates of the doctor's care; and

(c). a statement from a family member or a qualified professional confirming the care given by the student.

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to a maximum of two consecutive semesters (three consecutive quarters).

c. Temporary Disability—Mental Health

i. Definition. The student/recipient is receiving mental health care services.

ii. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form, the reason for the disability, the necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) involved, and any other information or documents that may be relevant to student's request; and

(b). a written statement from a qualified professional or from a clergyman certifying the existence of an issue which requires mental health care, the dates of treatment, an opinion as to the impact of the disability on the student's ability to attend school, and a statement of when the disability is/was affecting student's ability to attend school.

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to two full academic years.

E. Qualifying Exceptions to the Initial and Continuous Enrollment Requirement. A student who has been declared ineligible for TOPS, TOPS-Tech, TOPS Teacher, the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship or the Louisiana GO Youth Challenge Program because of failure to meet the initial or continuous enrollment requirements may request reinstatement in that program based on one or more of the following exceptions.

1. Parental Leave

a. Definition. The student/recipient is pregnant or caring for a newborn or newly adopted child less than one year of age.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. a completed exception request form; and

ii. a written statement from a doctor of medicine who is legally authorized to practice certifying the date of diagnosis of pregnancy and the anticipated delivery date or the actual birth date or a copy of the hospital's certificate of live birth or a copy of the official birth certificate or equivalent official document or written documentation from the person or agency completing the adoption that confirms the adoption and date of adoption; and

iii. if the student requesting the exception is not the custodial parent of the child, the student must provide documentation of adoption/custodianship as well as documentation evidencing that the student was assisting in the care of the child, which may include, but not be limited to, a letter from the custodial parent confirming that care was provided by the student, evidence of child support payments made, and/or evidence of bills paid by the requesting student for the benefit of the child.

c. Maximum length of exception—up to the equivalent of one academic year (college) per pregnancy.

2. Physical Rehabilitation Program

a. Definition. The student/recipient is receiving rehabilitation in a program prescribed by a qualified medical professional and administered by a qualified medical professional.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. a completed exception request form including the reason for the rehabilitation, the necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) involved, and any other information or documents that may be relevant to student's request; and

ii. a written statement from a qualified medical professional confirming the student/recipient's rehabilitation, and the beginning and ending dates of the rehabilitation.

c. Maximum length of exception—up to four consecutive semesters (six consecutive quarters) per occurrence.

3. Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program

a. Definition. The student/recipient is receiving rehabilitation in a substance abuse program.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. a completed exception request form, the reason for the rehabilitation, the necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) involved, and any other information or documents that may be relevant to student's request; and

ii. a written statement from a qualified professional or from the director of a substance abuse rehabilitation facility confirming the student's rehabilitation and the beginning and ending dates of the rehabilitation.

c. Maximum length of exception—up to two consecutive semesters (three consecutive quarters). This exception shall be available to a student only one time.

4.a. Temporary Disability—Student

i. Definition. The student/recipient is recovering from an accident, injury, illness or required surgery.

ii. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form, the reason for the disability, the necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) involved, and any other information or documents that may be relevant to student's request; and

(b). a written statement from a qualified professional if a medical disability or from a qualified professional or a clergyman if a mental disability certifying the existence of a temporary disability, the dates of treatment, and opinions as to the impact of the disability on the student's ability to attend school.

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to two full academic years.

b. Temporary Disability—Student/Recipient's Care of Immediate Family Member

i.(a). Definition. The student/recipient is providing continuous care to his/her immediate family member due to an accident, illness, injury or required surgery.

(b). An immediate family member is his/her spouse, dependent, parent, stepparent, custodian, or grandparent.

ii. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form, the reason for the disability, the necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) involved, and any other information or documents that may be relevant to student's request; and

(b). a written statement from a qualified professional of the existence of a temporary disability of the immediate family member, and the beginning and ending dates of the doctor's care; and

(c). a statement from a family member or a qualified professional confirming the care given by the student.

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to a maximum of two consecutive semesters (three consecutive quarters).

5. Permanent Disability

a. Definition. The student/recipient is permanently disabled in a manner that prevents the student from attending classes on a full-time basis.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. a completed exception request form, a description of the disability, the reason for the disability, the reason(s) the disability restricts class attendance to less than full-time; and

ii. a written statement from a qualified professional stating the diagnosis of and prognosis for the disability, stating that the disability is permanent, and opining why the disability restricts the student/recipient from attending classes full-time.

c. Maximum length of exception—up to the equivalent of eight full-time semesters of post-secondary education in part-time semesters.

6. Exceptional Educational Opportunity

a. Definition. The student/recipient is enrolled in an internship, residency, cooperative work, or work/study program or a similar program that is related to the student's major or otherwise has an opportunity not specifically sponsored by the school attended by the student that, in the opinion of the student's academic dean or director of the student's program of study, will enhance the student's education. Participation in one of the programs does not qualify as an exception to the initial enrollment requirement.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. a completed exception request form; and

ii. a written statement from the college/school official that the applicant is a student at the school/college and that the program is offered or sponsored by the college/school, or a statement from the dean of the college or the dean's designee or from the Director of the student's program of study that the program is related to the student's major and will enhance the student's education. The statements must include the dates of leave of absence, the semester(s) involved, the beginning and ending dates of the program.

c. Maximum length of exception—up to four semesters (six consecutive quarters) or required program of study.

7. Religious Commitment

a. Definition. The student/recipient is a member of a religious group that requires the student to perform certain activities or obligations which necessitate taking a leave of absence from school.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. a completed exception request form, the necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) or number of days involved, and the length of the religious obligation; and

ii. a written statement from the religious group's governing official evidencing the requirement necessitating the leave of absence including dates of the required leave of absence.

c. Maximum length of exception—up to five consecutive semesters (eight consecutive quarters).

8. Death of Immediate Family Member

a. Definition. The student's spouse, parent, stepparent, custodian, dependent, sister or brother, step sibling, grandparent or step grandparent dies.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. a completed exception request form; and

ii. a copy of the death certificate or a doctor's or funeral director's verifying statement or a copy of the obituary published in the local newspaper; and

iii. if the name of the deceased has a different last name than the student, a letter from a member of the student's family verifying the relationship between the student and the deceased, provided that if the student provides an obituary which names the student and specifies the relationship between the deceased and the student, a letter from a member of the student's family is not required.

c. Maximum length of exception—up to one semester or two quarters per death.

9.a. Military Service—Student

i. Definition. The student/recipient is in the United States Armed Forces Reserves or National Guard and is called on active duty status or is performing emergency state service with the National Guard or enlists or reenlists and enters on active duty as a member of the regular United States Armed Forces.

ii. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form, the dates of the required leave of absence, necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) or number of days involved, and the length of duty (beginning and ending dates); and

(b). a written certification from the military including the dates and location of active duty; or

(c). a copy of the military orders or other military documents confirming military service.

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to the length of the required active-duty service period.

9.b. Military Service—Spouse

i. Definition. The student/recipient's spouse is in the United States Armed Forces Reserves or National Guard and is called on active duty status or is performing emergency state service with the National Guard or enlists or reenlists and enters on active duty as a member of the regular United States Armed Forces.

ii. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form, the dates of the required leave of absence, necessity of withdrawing, dropping hours, etc., the semester(s) or number of days involved, and the length of duty (beginning and ending dates); and

(b). a copy of the student's marriage license;

(c). a written certification from the military including the dates and location of active duty of the student/recipient's spouse; or

(d). a copy of the military orders or other military documents confirming the military service of the student/recipient's spouse.

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to two consecutive semesters.

10. Transfer—Selective Enrollment Program

a. Definition. A student/recipient who completed his or her program requirements for transfer to a selective enrollment program.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. a completed exception request form; and

ii. a written statement from the dean of the college or the dean's designee certifying that the student/recipient has or will complete his or her course requirements for transfer to a selective enrollment program and the timing of completion of those course requirements.

c. Maximum length of exception—two consecutive semesters or three consecutive quarters.

11. Unavailability of Courses

a. Definition. The student/recipient is unable to enroll full-time due to the advanced coursework required, the necessity of earning credits in pre-requisites before moving on to the next block of courses, and/or the unavailability of courses due to limited course offerings.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient has earned credit for at least 75% of the courses required to complete his degree, and he must submit:

i. a completed exception request form, including college transcripts, a description of his major, the total hours required to graduate, the structure of courses, and an explanation as to why he is unable to enroll full time; and

ii. a letter from his academic counselor or from his academic dean or director of his program of study explaining the course structure and certifying that the student has earned credit for at least 75 percent of the courses required to complete his degree and that he was unable to enroll full time due to this structure.

12. Natural Disaster

a. Definition. The student/recipient is unable to enroll in school, to maintain continuous enrollment in school, or to earn the required annual hours due to the fact that he or his family lives in a region of the state of Louisiana that is declared a natural disaster by the Governor of the state.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

i. A completed exception request form;

ii. A written statement detailing the natural disaster's impact on the student and/or the student's immediate family (mother, father, custodian, siblings and/or spouse and children), which prevented the student from meeting the continuation requirements, including the length of the impact; and

iii. Documentation corroborating the student's statement (examples: photographs of damage; insurance, FEMA, fire and/or police reports; statements from public officials; statements from family members or other persons with actual knowledge; receipts and invoices for work done and materials purchased; a copy of a lease and statement from lessor regarding the impact of the flood; etc.).

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to two consecutive semesters (three consecutive quarters).

13. Exceptional Circumstances

a. Definition. The student/recipient has exceptional circumstances, other than those listed in §2103.E.1-10, which are beyond his immediate control and which necessitate full or partial withdrawal from, or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution.

i. The following situations are not exceptional circumstances:

(a). financial conditions related to a student's ability to meet his or her educational expenses are not a justified reason for failure to meet the hours or continuous enrollment requirement, because TOPS is a merit, rather than need-based award, except that the student's family's financial condition may be considered, provided that the student provides documentation that he has been required to obtain employment in order to supplement the family's income due to unexpected circumstances which has adversely affected the family's finances;

(b). dropping a course, failing a course, or withdrawing from school to protect the student's grade point average or because of difficulty with a course or difficulty arranging tutoring;

(c). not being aware of or understanding the requirements;

(d). assumption that advanced standing, or correspondence course work credited outside the academic year would be applied to the hours requirement;

(e). differing scholarship or award requirements for other programs, such as NCAA full-time enrollment requirements;

(f). voluntary withdrawal from school to move out-of-state or pursue other interests or activities;

(g). claims of receipt of advice that is contrary to these rules, public information promulgated by LOSFA, award letters, and the rights and responsibilities document that detail the requirements for full-time continuous enrollment. This provision shall not preclude an exception being granted when an academic counselor or academic dean confirms, in writing, that the student acted as a direct result of misinformation provided by the counselor, dean, or other college official;

(h). failure to provide or respond to a request for documentation within 30 days of the date of the request, unless additional time is requested in writing, LOSFA grants the request, and the requested documentation is provided within the additional time granted;

(i). an involuntary drop, suspension, or withdrawal from enrollment because of academics, scholastics, or failure to attend classes or to comply with institutional regulations;

(j). a suspension or expulsion for misconduct;

(k). an inability to register because of failure to satisfy financial obligations.

ii. All other situations will be assessed at the discretion of LOSFA and subject to appeal to the board.

b. Certification Requirement. Submit a completed exception request form including a sworn affidavit from the student detailing the circumstances and including the official college transcripts and documentation necessary to support the request for reinstatement.

c. Maximum length of exception—up to the number of semesters or quarters determined to be supported by the request for exception and accompanying documentation.

14. COVID-19

a. Definition. The student/recipient is unable to enroll in school, to maintain continuous enrollment in school, or to earn the required annual hours due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic as follows:

i. you struggle with on-line instruction; or

ii full time enrollment in on-line instruction is not conducive to your major/course of study; or

iii. you do not have the appropriate infrastructure, such as internet access, sufficient bandwidth for the number of people attending school/working from home, etc., to attend classes on-line; or

iv. your parent(s) were unable to work, lost their employment, or worked reduced hours due to mitigation measures implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

b. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit the following documentation:

i. if requesting an exception based on Section 14.a.i. above, a letter from a parent and/or a letter from an academic advisor or dean at your school stating that you struggle with on-line enrollment; or

ii. if requesting an exception based on Section 14.a.ii. above, a letter from an academic advisor or dean at

your school that full time enrollment in on-line instruction is not conducive to your major/course of study; or

iii. if requesting an exception based on Section 14.a.iii. above, a letter from a parent or other documentation that you do not have the appropriate infrastructure at home to attend courses on-line; or

iv. if requesting an exception based on Section 14.a.iv. above, a letter from your parent/parents as well as a letter from their employer stating that the parent/parents were unable to work, lost their employment, or worked reduced hours due to mitigation measures implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

c. Length of Exception. Available for the fall semester/quarter of 2020 through the summer semester/quarter of 2022.

F. Students who are granted an exception based on military service in accordance with Paragraph E.9 above and who desire to enroll as a part-time student in an eligible postsecondary institution while on active duty shall be eligible on request for TOPS payment for such enrollment. Any payment for part-time attendance under this Subsection shall count towards the student's maximum eligibility for up to the equivalent of eight full-time semesters of postsecondary education in part-time and full-time semesters.

G. Natural Disaster Exceptions

1. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced students* are TOPS recipients and students eligible for TOPS and:

a. on August 26, 2005:

i. were enrolled at one of the following eligible college or university campuses:

(a). University of New Orleans;

(b). Dillard University;

(c). Delgado Community College;

(d). Nunez Community College;

(e). Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans;

(f). Southern University at New Orleans;

(g). Loyola University;

(h). New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary;

(i). University of Holy Cross (formerly Our Lady of Holy Cross College);

(j). Tulane University;

(k). Xavier University;

(l). St. Josephs Seminary College; or

(m). Louisiana Technical College:

(i). Jefferson Campus;

(ii). Sidney N. Collier Campus;

(iii). Slidell Campus;

(iv). Sullivan Campus;

(v). West Jefferson Campus; or

ii. whose home of record was one of the following Louisiana parishes:

(a). Jefferson;

(b). Lafourche;

(c). Orleans;

(d). Plaquemine;

(e). St. Bernard;

(f). St. Tammany;

(g). Tangipahoa; or

(h). Washington; or

b. on September 23, 2005:

i. were enrolled at one of the following eligible college or university campuses:

(a). SOWELA Technical Community College;

(b). Louisiana Technical College:

(i). Gulf Area Campus;

(ii). Morgan Smith Campus;

(iii). Lamar Salter Campus;

(iv). Oakdale Campus; or

(v). Sabine Valley Campus; or

ii. whose home of record was one of the following Louisiana parishes:

(a). Acadia;

(b). Allen;

(c). Beauregard;

(d). Calcasieu;

(e). Cameron;

(f). Iberia;

(g). Jefferson Davis;

(h). Lafayette;

(i). St. Mary;

(j). Terrebonne; or

(k). Vermilion.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record* is:

a. the domiciliary address of a dependent student's parent or court-ordered custodian; or

b. the domiciliary address of an independent student.

3. For the purposes of this Subsection, natural disaster is limited to Hurricane Katrina and/or Hurricane Rita.

4.a. For the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS), displaced students are not required to enroll as full-time students, to maintain continuous enrollment or to earn at least 24 hours during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS).

b. Displaced students may enroll on a part-time basis in an eligible college or university without losing TOPS eligibility. Upon request by the student, the eligible college or university may bill for these part-time students.

c. The terms of eligibility for a displaced student whose part-time enrollment is paid by TOPS will be reduced by one full semester (term) for each semester (term) (part- or full-time) paid.

d. Institutions must document the displaced student's request for part-time payment of the award.

e. If a displaced student enrolls in an eligible college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS) and receives grades, those grades will be included in calculating the student's cumulative grade point average.

5.a. For the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS), students who are not displaced students, but due to the effects of a natural disaster were unable to enroll for the first time as full-time students by the deadline or to enroll as full-time students or to maintain continuous enrollment or to earn at least 24 hours during the academic year (TOPS), may submit a request for an exception in accordance with §2103.D, based on one of the circumstances listed in §2103.E, or in accordance with the following procedures for the circumstances described in this Subsection.

i. The student should file the application for exception as soon as it is known that the student will not meet one or more of the continuing eligibility requirements to ensure the earliest reinstatement of the award. The student must submit the application for exception no later than six months after the date of the notice of cancellation. The deadline for filing the exception shall be prominently displayed on the notice of cancellation. If the applicant for an exception is a dependent student, a parent or court-ordered custodian of the dependent student may submit the application for exception on behalf of the applicant.

ii. If determined eligible for an exception, the recipient will be reinstated if he or she enrolls in the first fall, winter or spring semester or term immediately following the exception ending date.

b. Natural Disaster Exception (for other than displaced students)

i. Definition. The effects of a natural disaster prevented the student/recipient from enrolling as a full-time student or continuing enrollment or earning 24 hours during the 2005-2006 academic year (TOPS).

ii. Certification Requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form; and

(b). a written statement detailing the natural disaster's impact on the student and/or the student's immediate family (mother, father, custodian, siblings and/or spouse and children), which prevented the student from meeting the continuation requirements, including the length of the impact; and

(c). documentation corroborating the student's statement (examples: photographs of damage; insurance, FEMA, fire and/or police reports; statements from public officials; statements from family members or other persons with actual knowledge; receipts and invoices for work done and materials purchased).

iii. Maximum length of exception—up to two consecutive semesters (three consecutive quarters).

H. 2020 Natural Disaster Exceptions

1. For the purposes of this subsection, *displaced students* are TOPS, Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, and GO Youth Challenge recipients and students eligible for TOPS whose home of record on August 26, 2020, was located in, or who, on August 26, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, or Winn Parish: or

b. a student whose home of record on October 8, 2020, was located in, or who, on October 8, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, or Vermilion Parish.

c. a student whose home of record on October 26, 2020, was located in, or who, on October 26, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, or Terrebonne Parish.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record* is:

a. the domiciliary address of a dependent student's parent or court-ordered custodian; or

b. the domiciliary address of an independent student.

3. For the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS), displaced students are not required to enroll as full-time students, to maintain continuous enrollment, or to earn at least 24 hours during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS).

4. Displaced students may enroll on a part-time basis in an eligible college or university without losing TOPS eligibility.

a. Upon request of the student, the eligible college or university may bill for the TOPS award for these part-time students.

b. The terms of eligibility for a displaced student whose part-time enrollment is paid by TOPS will be reduced by one full semester (term) for each semester (term) paid.

c. Institutions must document the displaced student's request for part-time payment of TOPS under these circumstances.

d. Any grades earned by a displaced student who enrolls part-time during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS) will be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative grade point average.

5. Displaced students who are Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship recipients may enroll full-time or part-time in a college or university that does not offer a course of study leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree in wildlife, forestry or marine science.

a. Upon request of the student, the eligible college or university may bill for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship for these students.

b. The amount paid for any such semester of enrollment in accordance with this Subsection shall reduce the student's total eligibility for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program.

c. Institutions must document the displaced student's request for payment in accordance with this Subsection.

d. Any grades earned by a displaced student who enrolls in school during the 2020-2021 in accordance with this Subsection will be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative grade point average.

6. For the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS), students who are not *displaced students*, but who, due to the effects of Hurricane Laura were unable to enroll for the first time as full time students by the applicable deadline, to enroll as full-time students, to maintain continuous enrollment in school, or to earn 24 hours during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS) may submit a request for exception in accordance with §2103.D. based on the circumstances provided in §2103.E.12.

I. 2021 Natural Disaster Exceptions

1. For the purposes of this subsection, *displaced students* are TOPS, Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, and GO Youth Challenge recipients and students eligible for TOPS whose home of record on August 27, 2021, was located in, or who, on August 27, 2021, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, or Terrebonne Parish.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record* is:

a. the domiciliary address of a dependent student's parent or court-ordered custodian; or

b. the domiciliary address of an independent student.

3. For the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS), displaced students are not required to enroll as full-time students, to maintain continuous enrollment, or to earn at least 24 hours during the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS).

4. Displaced students who are Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship recipients may enroll full-time or part-time in a college or university that does not offer a course of study leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree in wildlife, forestry or marine science.

a. Upon request of the student, the eligible college or university may bill for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship for these students.

b. The amount paid for any such semester of enrollment in accordance with this Subsection shall reduce the student's total eligibility for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program.

c. Institutions must document the displaced student's request for payment in accordance with this Subsection.

d. Any grades earned by a displaced student who enrolls in school during the 2021-2022 in accordance with this Subsection will be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative grade point average.

6. For the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS), students who are not *displaced students*, but who, due to the effects of Hurricane Ida, were unable to enroll for the first time as full time students by the applicable deadline, to enroll as full-time students, to maintain continuous enrollment in school, or to earn 24 hours during the 2021-2022 academic year (TOPS) may submit a request for exception in accordance with §2103.D based on the circumstances provided in §2103.E.12.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:5001 et seq., and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1648 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:647 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1916 (October 1998), LR 26:1015 (May 2000), LR 26:2002 (September 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1866 (November 2001), amended LR 27:1875 (November 2001), LR 28:46 (January 2002), LR 28:449 (March 2002), LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 and 2333 (November 2002), LR 29:126 (February 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:785 (April 2004), LR 30:1167 (June 2004), LR 31:1060 (May 2005), LR 33:440 (March 2007), LR 35:1233 (July 2009), LR 38:3160 (December 2012), LR 41:657, 667 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:562 (March 2018), LR 45:1173 (September 2019), amended LR 47:862 (July 2021), LR 47:867 (July 2021), amended LR 47:871 (July 2021), LR 48:2731 (November 2022), LR 49:54 (January 2023), LR 49:1211 (July 2023).

§2105. Repayment Obligation, Deferment, Cancellation and Reduced Payments

A. Monetary Repayment. Recipients of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship who do not meet their obligation to obtain a degree in wildlife, forestry or marine science and recipients of the TOPS Teacher Award who do not fulfill their obligation to teach the required number of years and who are not eligible for discharge by cancellation, must repay the loan principal plus accrued interest as delineated in §§1111 and 911, respectively.

B. Deferment of Repayment Obligation. Recipients of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship or TOPS Teacher Award who are in repayment status may have their payments deferred for the following reasons:

1. parental leave:

a. definition—the recipient is pregnant or caring for a newborn or newly adopted child less than one year of age;

b. certification requirements. The recipient must submit:

i. a completed deferment request form; and

ii. a written statement from a doctor of medicine who is legally authorized to practice certifying the date of diagnosis of pregnancy and the anticipated delivery date or the actual birth date or a copy of the hospital's certificate of live birth or a copy of the official birth certificate or equivalent official document or written documentation from the person or agency completing the adoption that confirms the adoption and date of adoption;

c. maximum length of deferment—up to one year per child;

2. physical rehabilitation program:

a. definition—the recipient is receiving rehabilitation in a program prescribed by a qualified medical professional and administered by a qualified medical professional;

b. certification requirements. The recipient must submit:

i. a completed deferment request form including the reason for the rehabilitation, dates of absence from work, the number of days involved, and any other information or documents; and

ii. a written statement from a qualified medical professional describing the rehabilitation, including the diagnosis, the beginning date of the rehabilitation, the required treatment, and the length of the recovery period;

c. maximum length of deferment—up to two years per occurrence;

3. Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program:

a. definition. The recipient is receiving rehabilitation in a substance abuse program prescribed by a qualified professional and administered by a qualified professional;

b. certification requirements. The recipient must submit:

i. a completed deferment request form, the reason for the rehabilitation, dates of absence from work, the number of days involved, and any other information or documents; and

ii. a written statement from a qualified professional describing the rehabilitation, including the diagnosis, the beginning date of the rehabilitation, the required treatment, and the length of the recovery period;

c. maximum length of deferment—up to one year. This deferment shall be available to a recipient only one time;

4. temporary disability:

a. definition—the recipient is recovering from an accident, injury, illness or required surgery, or the recipient is providing continuous care to his/her spouse, dependent, parent, stepparent, or custodian due to an accident, illness, injury or required surgery;

b. certification requirements. The recipient must submit:

i. a completed deferment request form, the reason for the disability, dates of absence from work, the number of days involved, and any other information or documents; and

ii. a written statement from a qualified professional of the existence and of the accident, injury, illness or required surgery, including the dates of treatment, the treatment required, the prognosis, the length of the recovery period, the beginning and ending dates of the doctor's care, and opinions as to the impact of the disability on the recipient's ability to work; and

iii if a temporary disability of another, a statement from the family member or a qualified professional confirming the care given by the recipient;

c. maximum length of deferment—up to two years for recipient; up to a maximum of one year for care of a disabled dependent, spouse, parent, or custodian;

5. religious commitment:

a. definition—the recipient is a member of a religious group that requires the recipient to perform certain activities or obligations which necessitate taking a leave of absence from work;

b. certification requirements. The recipient must submit:

i. a completed deferment request form, the number of days involved, and the length of the religious obligation; and

ii. a written statement from the religious group's governing official evidencing the requirement necessitating

the leave of absence including dates of the required leave of absence;

c. maximum length of deferment—up to four consecutive semesters (six consecutive quarters);

6. military service:

a. definition. the recipient is in the United States Armed Forces Reserves and is called on active duty status or is performing emergency state service with the National Guard;

b. certification requirements. The recipient must submit:

i. a completed deferment request form and the length of duty (beginning and ending dates); and

ii. a written certification from the commanding officer or regional supervisor including the dates and location of active duty; or

iii. a certified copy of the military orders;

c. maximum length of deferment—up to the length of the required active-duty service period;

7. recipient is engaging in a full-time course of study at an institution of higher education at the baccalaureate level or higher; or

8. recipient is:

a. seeking and unable to find full-time employment for a single period not to exceed 12 months; or

b. seeking and unable to find full-time teaching employment at a qualifying Louisiana school for a period of time not to exceed 27 months;

9. natural disaster deferments:

a. for the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced students* are recipients of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship or TOPS Teacher Award who are in repayment status and:

i. on August 26, 2005, whose home of record was one of the following Louisiana parishes:

(a). Jefferson;

(b). Lafourche;

(c). Orleans;

(d). Plaquemine;

(e). St. Bernard;

(f). St. Tammany;

(g). Tangipahoa; or

(h). Washington; or

ii. on September 23, 2005, whose home of record was one of the following Louisiana parishes:

(a). Acadia;

(b). Allen;

(c). Beauregard;

(d). Calcasieu;

(e). Cameron;

(f). Iberia;

(g). Jefferson Davis;

(h). Lafayette;

(i). St. Mary;

(j). Terrebonne; or

(k). Vermilion;

b. for the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record* is:

i. the domiciliary address of a dependent student's parent or court-ordered custodian; or

ii. the domiciliary address of an independent student;

c. for the purposes of this Subsection, natural disaster is limited to Hurricane Katrina and/or Hurricane Rita;

d. the loan payments for displaced students are deferred and accrual of interest is suspended from August 26, 2005 through August 31, 2006;

e. for the period of August 26, 2005 through August 31, 2006, recipients of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship or TOPS Teacher Award who are in repayment status and who are not displaced students, but who are unable to repay their loan during the academic year (college) due to the effects of a natural disaster, may submit a request for deferment of payments and suspension of accrual of interest in accordance with §2105.D, based on one of the circumstances listed in §2103.B.1 through 8 or the following circumstance:

i. the effects of a natural disaster prevented the student/recipient from making payments during the period of August 26, 2005, through August 31, 2006;

ii. certification requirements. The student/recipient must submit:

(a). a completed exception request form; and

(b). a written statement detailing the natural disaster's impact on the student and/or the student's immediate family (mother, father, custodian, siblings and/or spouse and children), which prevented the student from meeting the repayment requirements, including the length of the impact; and

(c). documentation corroborating the student's statement (examples: photographs of damage; insurance, FEMA, fire and/or police reports; statements from public officials; statements from family members or other persons

with actual knowledge; receipts and invoices for work done and materials purchased);

iii. maximum length of exception—through August 31, 2006.

10. 2020 Natural Disaster Deferments. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced students* are recipients of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship or TOPS Teacher Award who are in repayment status and whose Home of Record:

a. on August 26, 2020, was located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, or Winn Parish: or

b. on October 8, 2020, was located in, or who, on October 8, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Acadia, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, or Vermilion Parish.

c. on October 26, 2020, was located in, or who, on October 26, 2020, was attending a postsecondary institution located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, or Terrebonne Parish.

d. For the purposes of this Subsection, home of record is the domiciliary address of the recipient who is in repayment status.

e.i. For students qualifying for deferment under the provisions of §2105.B.10.a. above, loan repayments are deferred and interest accrual is suspended for the period August 26, 2020, through August 31, 2021;

ii. For students qualifying for deferment under the provisions of §2105.B.10.b. above, loan repayments are deferred and interest accrual is suspended for the period October 8, 2020, through October 31, 2021.

iii. For students qualifying for deferment under the provisions of §2105.B.10.c. above, loan repayments are deferred and interest accrual is suspended for the period October 26, 2020, through October 31, 2021.

f. For the period August 26, 2020, through October 31, 2021, recipients of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship or the TOPS Teacher Award who are not displaced students, but who, due to the effects of a natural disaster as provided in this Subsection, are unable to repay their loan may submit a request for exception in accordance with §2103.D. based on the circumstances provided in §2103.E.12.

C. A recipient who receives a deferment under §2105.B.7 and who is not able to enroll full-time due to a circumstance listed in §2103.E may request an exception to the full-time enrollment requirement of the deferment based on that circumstance. The maximum length of the continuation of the exception shall be the maximum length of exception provided by §2103.E.

D. Procedure for Requesting a Deferment

1. The recipient should complete and submit an application for a deferment, with documentary evidence, to the office as soon as possible after the occurrence of the event or circumstance that supports the request. The recipient must submit the application for deferment no later than three months after the date of the notice of repayment. The deadline for filing the request shall be prominently displayed on the notice of repayment. If the applicant for a deferment is a dependent student, a parent or court-ordered custodian of the dependent student may submit the application for exception on behalf of the applicant.

2. If determined eligible for a deferment, the recipient will be notified of the length of the deferment and of any conditions of the deferment.

E. Conditions of Deferment

1. Deferments may be subject to the following conditions:

a. related to the particular circumstances for which the deferment is granted, including, but not limited to, providing proof of enrollment;

b. agreement to give notice that the condition or circumstance that warranted the deferment has ceased;

c. agreement to a repayment schedule commencing on expiration of the deferment;

d. agreement to acknowledge debt;

e. agreement that during the deferment period, prescription will be interrupted (meaning the period of time within which the office has to enforce the promissory note will not continue to accrue); and/or

f. agreement to start repayment at the end of the deferment.

2. Conditions for deferments must be included in the notice of deferment.

F. The recipient must sign a written acknowledgment of receipt of the notice of deferment and acceptance of all conditions. The recipient must return the signed acknowledgment and acceptance within 30 days of the date of the notice, otherwise the deferment is void and repayment shall commence.

G. Cancellation of Repayment Obligation. Upon submission of applicable proof, loans may be canceled for the following reasons:

1. death of the recipient; or

2. complete and permanent disability of the recipient which precludes the recipient from gainful employment; or

3. upon a determination by the board that the remaining unpaid balance is $25 or less.

H. Reduced Payments

1. Recipients who do not discharge the obligation by graduating in an eligible major and who are not eligible for discharge by cancellation must repay the loan principal, plus

accrued interest and any collection costs incurred. Recipients in repayment status may request a temporary hardship repayment schedule that may be approved by LOSFA, upon receipt of documentation evidencing one or more of the following conditions:

a. the recipient is receiving federal or state public assistance;

b. the recipient's total gross yearly income does not exceed the current federal poverty level for his/her state;

c. the recipient is experiencing a severe temporary medical condition and is unable to meet his/her financial obligations; or

d. the recipient has experienced a severe personal catastrophe or calamity and is temporary unable to meet his/her financial obligations.

2. If allowed by LOSFA, such reduced payments will continue as long as the condition(s) exist.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3042.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:649 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1918 (October 1998), LR 26:1603 (August 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1868 (November 2001), amended LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 30:781 (April 2004), LR 30:1167, 1168 (June 2004), LR 33:442 (March 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:566 (March 2018), LR 47:868 (July 2021), amended LR 47:872 (July 2021).

§2107. Funding and Fees

A. Limitation of Terms Funded. Routine funding for all scholarship and grant programs is limited to the fall, winter and spring school terms.

B. Less than Full-Time Attendance. The board will authorize awards under the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors and Teachers Awards for less than full-time enrollment provided that the student meets all other eligibility criteria and the requirements of §2103.C.

C. Insufficient Funds Appropriated

1. All board administered state scholarship and grant program awards are contingent upon the annual appropriation of funds by the Louisiana Legislature.

2. In the event appropriated funds are insufficient to fully reimburse institutions for awards and stipends for all students determined eligible for the TOPS opportunity, performance, honors and TECH Awards for a given academic year, each student’s award, including stipends for TOPS Performance and Honors Awards, shall be reduced by an equal percentage on a pro rata basis.

3. A student whose award is reduced pursuant to this Section shall not be required to accept payment of his award or enroll or maintain continuous enrollment in an eligible college or university during the time period during which there is a funding shortfall. A student who exercises this option:

a. shall be eligible to receive his remaining TOPS Award upon enrollment in an eligible college or university, provided the student meets the continuation requirements for his award except as specifically set forth in this section; and

b. shall exhaust all award eligibility within five years of the reduction of his award, provided that if the student requests and is granted an exception to the requirement to enroll full time or to maintain continuous enrollment in school in accordance with §1901 of these rules, the time period within which the student must exhaust his award eligibility shall be extended by the number of semesters/terms for which he receives an exception.

4. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the stipend for books and other instructional materials provided to persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard as set forth in §701.E.4.a and b of these rules or to the TOPS Tech Early Start Program.

D. Stop Payment of Uncleared Checks. The board may stop payment on checks which are issued as scholarship or grant awards but not negotiated by September 1 following the close of the academic year for which they were issued.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1648 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:649 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1919 (October 1998), LR 26:1998 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1869 (November 2001), amended LR 28:449 (March 2002), LR 28:777 (April 2002), LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 31:40 (January 2005), LR 38:3162 (December 2012), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 42:1883 (November 2016), LR 44:568 (March 2018).

§2109. Agency Decisions Subject to Appeal

A. Right of Appeal

1. A person aggrieved by an adverse decision of LOSFA under §2103.E.11.a.ii may appeal the decision in accordance with the procedures provided in this Section.

2. Appeals are made to the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board).

3. Decisions of the board are not subject to appeal and are final actions.

B. Notice of Adverse Decision

1. Notice of an adverse decision by LOSFA under §2103.E.11.a.ii must be transmitted in writing to the applicant or participant. The notice must state with reasonable specificity the decision and the reason for the decision, state that the decision may be appealed, and set forth the procedure for submission of an appeal.

C. Petition of Appeal

1. A petition of appeal must be in writing and filed within 30 days of the date of the notice of the decision.

2. The petition of appeal must include:

a. a sworn affidavit from the petitioner setting forth the basis of the appeal, including the specific reasons that LOSFA's decision is incorrect, and all facts supporting the appeal;

b. copies of all documents, including written statements by others, if any, that support the appeal;

c. official transcripts from the school/colleges attended during the periods in question; and

d. if the petitioner desires to make an oral presentation and/or argument, the petitioner must include in the petition for appeal:

i. a request to make oral presentation and/or argument;

ii. the name of each person who will speak and a brief summary of what each person will say; and

iii. the reasons why presentation of the appeal in writing is not sufficient and that an oral presentation and/or argument is justified.

3. The petitioner is not required to include documents in the petition of appeal which were forwarded with previous correspondence regarding the appeal.

4. The petition of appeal must be addressed to the Louisiana Board of Regents, in care of the Executive Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance and sent to Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202, or hand delivered to 602 North Fifth Street, Galvez State Office Building, Sixth Floor, Baton Rouge, LA.

5. Oral Presentations and/or Arguments

a. The board may allow presentations and/or arguments when the board determines that such extraordinary procedures are justified based on information submitted by the petitioner.

b. LOSFA shall have the right to question the appellant and each person making an oral presentation on behalf of the appellant.

c. The Louisiana Board of Regents' chairman may limit the time available to the appellant to make an oral presentation.

D. Appellate Procedure

1. After receipt of the petition of appeal, LOSFA will review the petition of appeal and determine whether the matters included in it are sufficient to change LOSFA's adverse decision. If, based upon new information submitted, LOSFA reverses its decision and approves the appeal, the petitioner will be notified in writing and no further action will be taken on the petition.

2. If LOSFA's decision remains adverse, LOSFA will prepare and forward the appellate's file (including the petition of appeal, the original request for reinstatement, LOSFA records relating to the appeal, and a written statement of LOSFA's position regarding the appeal) to the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) Advisory Board.

3. If the petition of appeal contains the appellant's request to make an oral presentation or argument, LOSFA shall notify the appellant in sufficient time to permit the appellant to be present when the appeal is scheduled to be heard by the LOSFA Advisory Board.

4. Pending a decision by the LOSFA Advisory Board, no further action will be taken in the matter by LOSFA.

5. The LOSFA Advisory Board will review the appellate file and make one of the following recommendations to the board:

a. recommend that LOSFA's decision be upheld; or

b. recommend that LOSFA's decision be reversed; or

c. remand the appellate file to LOSFA for further specified action(s); or

d. remand the appellate file to the board without recommendation.

6. The LOSFA Advisory Board will forward the appellate file and its recommendation to the board. The board will review the recommendations of the LOSFA Advisory Board and the appellate file.

7. The board may adopt the recommendations of the LOSFA Advisory Board or make a contrary decision approving or reversing LOSFA's decision, or remanding the matter to LOSFA for further specified actions.

8. Remanded matters will be expeditiously processed by LOSFA and returned to the board for a final decision.

9. A decision of the board to approve or reverse LOSFA's decision is final and is not subject to further review.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:650 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1920 (October 1998), LR 26:1261 (June 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1870 (November 2001), amended LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 33:442 (March 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:569 (March 2018).

§2113. Revision of the Core Curricula

A. The board is authorized by law, in consultation with BESE, to determine a high school level course to be equivalent to a course described in the core curricula or to authorize the name change of a core curricula course, including necessary changes to equivalencies and course names for advanced placement and International Baccalaureate® courses as prescribed by the College Board or the International Baccalaureate Foundation.

B. The determination of a course as equivalent to a course included in the definition of core curriculum shall be

limited to those courses identified in the secondary programs of study contained in the *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators* (LDE Bulletin 741).

C. Only those recommendations for a name change or for the designation of an equivalent course which have been submitted by a local school board or other equivalent education agency for private schools will be considered by the board and such recommendations shall be submitted directly to the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, Attention: Legal Division.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:5001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:1921 (October 1998), amended LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1871 (November 2001), amended LR 41:657 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:570 (March 2018), LR 44:1877 (October 2018).

§2115. Procedures for Disabled Students and Exceptional Children

A. As provided for in §703.A.5.b.ii, a core curriculum course shall be waived for a student who is a disabled student or an exceptional child, as defined in §301, whose school certifies that it has the following documentation.

1. For a student claiming the status of a disabled student:

a. a written diagnosis from a person licensed or certified to diagnose the disability of the student, which diagnosis specifies the need for special accommodation by the student's high school; and

b. a written statement from the principal of the high school that a plan of accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("504 Plan") has been established, and the high school was unable to provide the special accommodation, or, if the special accommodation was provided by the high school, the failure to complete the specified core curriculum course was due solely to the student's diagnosed disability.

2. For a student claiming the status of an exceptional child:

a. a written Individual Education Program (IEP) in accordance with R.S. 17:1941 et seq. and Louisiana Department of Education Bulletin 1706; and

b. a written statement from the principal of the high school that the failure to complete the specified core curriculum course was due solely to the student's exceptionality.

B. For disabled students graduating prior to the 1999-2000 high school academic year and who are requesting a waiver of a core curriculum course based upon their status as a disabled student, those students must provide the documentation provided in §2115.A.1 above, however, those students need not establish the existence of a 504 plan.

C. A school official must obtain the consent from the student's parent or legal guardian, as required by law, prior to the release of information concerning a student who is requesting a waiver of a core course by reason of that student being a disabled student or an exception child.

D. If a core curriculum course is waived based upon the determination that a student's disability or exceptionality, then the grade achieved for that course will not be included in the determination of the student's grade point average for purposes of qualifying for a TOPS Award.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3026.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 25:1795 (October 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1871 (November 2001), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:570 (March 2018).

Chapter 22. M.J. Foster Promise Program

§2201. General Provisions

A. Act 457 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature establishes the M.J. Foster Promise Program in R.S 17:3047 et seq. The Act provides that the board shall establish the criteria for initial and continuing eligibility and other requirements not otherwise provided in the statutes. The Act further provides that the M.J. Foster Promise Program shall be administered by the board through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance.

B. Description and Purpose. The M.J. Foster Promise Program provides financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in two year public post-secondary institutions and accredited proprietary schools to pursue an associate degree or a shorter term credential aligned with Louisiana’s workforce priorities.

C. Effective Date. Awards shall be made, and these rules shall apply, beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year.

D. Authority to Audit. By participating in the scholarship and grant programs administered by the board and described in LAC 28:IV, all participants grant the board, LOSFA, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's administration of the programs for the purpose of determining the institution's compliance with state law and the board's rules and regulations.

E. Discrimination Prohibition. The exclusion of a person from equal opportunity for an M.J. Foster Promise Program grant by the board because of race, religion, sex, handicap, national origin or ancestry is prohibited. No policy or procedure of this agency shall be interpreted as superseding or contradicting this prohibition.

F. Criminal Penalties. If an erroneous award has been made and the board determines that the award was made based upon incorrect information submitted by the student or the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, the board may seek reimbursement from the student, the student’s

parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, and if it is further determined that the award was made due to an intentional misrepresentation by the student, the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, then the board shall refer the case to the attorney general for investigation and prosecution. If a student or the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian is suspected of having intentionally misrepresented the facts which were provided to the board and used by it to determine the eligibility of the student for the program and the board has referred the case to the attorney general for investigation, then the student shall remain ineligible for future award consideration pending an outcome of said investigation which is favorable to the student.

G. Award amount. The award amount shall be applied only to tuition and fees required for enrollment. A student who is eligible for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as well as the M.J. Foster Promise Program shall receive the highest award available only.

1. For programs which exceed one year, the award amount shall not exceed $3,200 per academic year for a student enrolled full time, or an amount proportional to the hours in which the student is enrolled if enrolled less than full time.

2. For programs which can be completed in less than one year, the award amount may exceed the amount provided for in Paragraph 1 of this Subsection.

3. In no case shall a student be awarded more than $6,400 over a three year period.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 48:1093 (April 2022).

§2203. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa. The term *the board* refers to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Academic Year—for purposes of this program, the academic year begins on July 1 and ends on the following June 30.

Administering Agency—the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

Continuous Enrollment—

a. earn at least one shorter-term postsecondary education credential per year if enrolled in a qualified program below the associate degree level; or

b. enroll in the fall and spring semester at each academic year if enrolled in a qualified program at the associate degree level.

Eligible Colleges—two-year public postsecondary institutions and accredited proprietary schools licensed by the board in the state of Louisiana.

Louisiana Resident—

a. a dependent or independent student whose true, fixed, and permanent home of residence is Louisiana as reported on the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA);

b. a dependent student whose non-custodial parent completes a residency affidavit in Subparagraph f below that establishes Louisiana residency;

c. a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions within the twenty-four months preceding the date of application and who has become a resident of Louisiana since separation from the United States Armed Forces;

d. the spouse or dependent child of a resident of Louisiana on active duty with the United States Armed Forces who is stationed outside Louisiana but who claims Louisiana as the state of legal residence and who has filed a Louisiana state income tax return for the most recent two years;

e. the spouse or dependent child of a nonresident of Louisiana on active duty with the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders and who, not later than one hundred eighty days after reporting, changes his military personnel records to establish Louisiana as the official state of legal residence and complies with Louisiana income tax laws and regulations for the time period while stationed in Louisiana;

f. if the dependent or independent student does not report Louisiana as his true, fixed, and permanent home of residence as Louisiana on the FAFSA, the board may require an independent student applicant or the parent of a dependent student applicant to show proof of residency. Residency may be established by completion of a standard affidavit developed by the board. Such affidavits must be completed in their entirety by the independent student applicant or by at least one parent of the dependent student applicant and be sworn to and notarized by a licensed notary public. Further, the affiant shall be required to submit records in support of the affidavit to include the following records and such other records as may be required by the board:

i. if registered to vote, a Louisiana voter registration card; and

ii. if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, a Louisiana driver's license; and

iii. if owning a motor vehicle located in Louisiana, a Louisiana registration for that vehicle; and

iv. if earning a reportable income, Louisiana tax returns for the most recent two years.

Qualified Program of Study—one of five industry sectors that are predominated by high-demand, high-wage jobs that are aligned to the state's workforce priorities as determined by the Advisory Council.

Steady Academic Progress—for students enrolled full time, make sufficient progress toward completion of the program of study in which the student is enrolled such that he is expected to graduate before or within 100 percent of the time allotted for completion of such program. For a student enrolled less than full time, before or within the maximum time period for which he may receive an M.J. Foster Promise Program award.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 48:1094 (April 2022).

§2205. Initial Eligibility

A. To be eligible for an M.J. Foster Promise Award, a student must:

1. be 21 years of age as of the date the school bills LOSFA for your award;

2. have earned a high school diploma or equivalent or co-enroll in a qualified program of study and in a program to earn a high school credential that is recognized by the state of Louisiana;

3. be a U.S. Citizen;

4. be a Louisiana Resident as defined in §2203;

5. have not previously earned an undergraduate degree at the associate level or above;

6. complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

7. if served in the U.S. Armed Forces and been separated from service, have received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;

8. meet the admission requirements of the institution he plans to attend; and

9. enroll and remain enrolled in an eligible program of study through the 14th class day at semester schools, or, for any qualifying summer sessions, students attending proprietary schools, and students enrolled in a program that is not provided on a traditional semester/term basis, through the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the course of study in which enrolled.

10. agree to reside and work full time in Louisiana for a minimum of one year after the completion of the last program of study for which funding is received.

11. agree to perform each year funding is received at least 20 hours of community service or participate in at least 20 hours in an internship, apprenticeship, or mentorship that is related to the qualified program of study.

B. In addition to the above, the applicant must certify that:

1. he is not currently imprisoned; and

2. he has not been convicted of a violent crime as defined in R.S. 14:2(B); and

3.a. he has a family income that does not exceed three hundred percent of the federal poverty guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; or

b. certify that he is currently unemployed or has been underemployed for a period of at least six months prior to the date he would receive a grant.

C. All applicants will be required to agree that the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance may verify the applicant's criminal history, employment records, and income information. Submission of an application for a grant under this Chapter constitutes express permission for the Louisiana Department of Corrections and Public Safety, the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Revenue, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to release personally identifiable information to LOSFA for the purposes of verification and program reporting. An individual's personally identifiable information will be maintained in a secure environment and will not be released except as necessary to administer this program and for audit purposes.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 48:1095 (April 2022).

§2207. Continuing Eligibility

A. To maintain eligibility to receive an M.J. Foster Promise Award, a recipient must:

1. annually complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;

2. annually complete the on-line application for an M.J. Foster Promise Program award;

3. make steady academic progress as defined in §2203;

4. remain in good academic standing at the college in which enrolled;

5. maintain continuous enrollment, unless granted an exception for cause in accordance with §2103 of these rules;

7. maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale in a qualified program for which letter grades are issued;

8. maintain steady academic progress in a qualified program for which letter grades are not issued;

9. not be incarcerated and not have a conviction for any crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B);

10. if served in the U.S. Armed Forces and been separated from service, have received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;

11. have received the award for not more than three consecutive academic years unless an exception for cause is granted in accordance with §2103 of these rules;

12. have not used the award to earn more than 60 hours of college credit; and

13. certify the completion of at least 20 hours of community service or 20 hours of participation in an apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship for the prior calendar year.

B. A recipient may continue to receive an award under this section after he has completed one or more qualified programs of study other than an associate's degree if:

1. he continues to meet all of the continuing eligibility requirements set forth in §2207.A.; and

2. he has not exhausted the maximum award eligibility of $6,400; and

3. he has not received the award for three years.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 48:1095 (April 2022).

§2209. Responsibilities of Eligible Colleges

A. Initial Eligibility. Eligible colleges must determine:

1. that an applicant meets the enrollment requirements at the college;

2. that an applicant is enrolled in an eligible program of study;

3. that an applicant has attained a high school diploma or is co-enrolled in a program to attain a high school equivalency diploma; and

4. the appropriate award amount for the student as determined in accordance with §2201.G. and its M.J. Foster Promise Program packaging policy.

B. Continuing Eligibility. Eligible Louisiana institutions must determine whether a recipient is in good academic standing.

C. Packaging Policy

1. Eligible colleges must establish and use a policy on M.J. Foster Promise Program packaging that provides:

a. procedures for compliance with these rules and the guidance established by the board and published by LOSFA for determining the award amount;

b. record retention to comply with Subsection I of this Section;

c. the basis used to establish award amounts;

d. awards amounts for less than full-time students;

e. procedures for identification of transfer students and ensuring transfer students receive awards on the same basis as home students;

f. procedures that identify students who meet the criteria provided in §2211.F. when sufficient funding is not available to fund all eligible students; and

g. method for determining that a student has made steady academic progress.

2. Eligible colleges must revise the institution's M.J. Foster Promise Program packaging policy as necessary to reflect changes to the applicable legislation and administrative rules promulgated by the board to implement this program.

D. Award Amount. Eligible Louisiana institutions must establish the award amounts for each individual student based on the institution's financial aid packaging policy. The amount awarded must comply with the requirements and limitations established in these rules and the guidance published by LOSFA.

E. Submission of Payment Requests. Each semester, quarter or term, eligible Louisiana institutions shall submit a payment request to LOSFA for students enrolled at the institution who have been determined eligible for an M.J. Foster Promise Program as follows:

1. for each student eligible for an award who is enrolled at the end of the fourteenth class day for semester schools (the ninth class day for quarter and term schools), or for any qualifying summer sessions, students attending proprietary schools, or students enrolled in a program that is not provided on a traditional semester/term basis, at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the course of study in which enrolled;

2. the payment request shall include the:

a. Social Security number;

b. college code;

c. term;

d. date;

e. program type

i. associate's degree;

ii. certificate program (one year);

iii. certificate program (two year);

iv. CareerTech (1 – 8 credits);

v. CareerTech (9 or more credits);

vi. diploma program;

vii. credential of value;

viii. on ramp credential.

ix. concurrent enrollment in a program that results in a high school equivalency diploma;

f. CIP code for the course of study in which enrolled;

g. degree level code for the course of study in which enrolled;

h. increment key for the course of study in which enrolled;

i. amount requested for each student;

j. anticipated time to complete program of study

i. less than one year;

ii. more than one year.

F. At the end of every semester or term, or upon completion of a program of study, the following shall be reported:

1. hours attempted, if enrolled in an associate's degree program;

2. hours earned, if enrolled in an associate's degree program; and

3. whether the student completed his program of study.

G. Over Payments

1. No institution shall submit a payment request for M.J. Foster Promise Program funds which would result in a student receiving an annual total of more than is authorized in §2201.G.

2. Eligible Louisiana institutions certify by submitting a payment request for an M.J. Foster Promise Program grant that the institution will:

a. reimburse LOSFA for the total amount of any award that is disbursed to ineligible students; and

b. for any amount of an award that is in excess of the maximum lifetime award ($6,400).

H. Excess Award. In the event an excess award occurs during the fall semester or quarter or the winter quarter due to receipt of additional gift aid, the school shall reduce the award amount for the spring accordingly. In the event an excess award occurs during the spring semester or quarter due to receipt of additional gift aid, the school shall document the reason for the excess award.

I. Over Award. In the event the student's total aid exceeds his financial need for tuition and fees, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then M.J. Foster Promise Program grant, institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the Louisiana GO Grant, shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

J. Records Retention. Records pertaining to an M.J. Foster Promise Program grant are subject to audit as required by the board and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Eligible Louisiana institutions shall maintain all records for a minimum of three years from creation. All such records shall be made available upon request by the board and/or the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

K. Each eligible Louisiana institution shall provide a copy of its M.J. Foster Program packaging policy as required by §2209.C to LOSFA, when requested.

L. Audits. Eligible Louisiana institutions that participate in the M.J. Foster Promise Program grant LOSFA and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's administration of the program for the purpose of determining the institution's compliance with state law and applicable rules and regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 48:1096 (April 2022).

§2211. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

A. LOSFA shall provide an on-line application that must be completed by any student who wishes to apply for an M.J. Foster Promise Program award.

B. LOSFA shall determine whether an applicant meets the initial eligibility criteria set forth in §2205.A.1-7, 10-11, and B.

C. LOSFA shall provide a roster of eligible applicants to eligible colleges.

D. LOSFA shall pay each eligible college the amount requested by the eligible college in accordance with the provisions of §2209.E.

E. LOSFA shall maintain a database of all students who have received an M.J. Foster Promise Program award, including, but not limited to, all information reported by eligible colleges in accordance with §2209. In the event LOSFA receives a payment request in an amount that would exceed the maximum amount payable to a student, LOSFA will require the school to rebill.

F. Adequacy of Funding. In the event available funding is not sufficient to fund all eligible award applicants, awards shall be provided in the order in which complete applications are received. Priority shall be given to previous award recipients who have met all requirements for maintaining the award and who are continuing in a qualified program for which they previously received an award.

G. LOSFA shall audit eligible Louisiana institutions to ensure compliance with these rules.

H. LOSFA shall enter into Memoranda of Understanding with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Revenue, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission for the purpose of obtaining data to verify applicant statements and reporting.

I. Establishment of Working Group

1. LOSFA shall establish a working group to identify all federal, state, and local programs that provide assistance to individuals and families to support award recipients' pursuit of higher education.

2. Such working group shall consist of representatives from all of the following:

a. the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services;

b. the Louisiana Department of Health;

c. the Louisiana Department of Education;

d. the Louisiana Workforce Commission;

e. the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs;

f. the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators;

g. the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance;

h. the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections; and

i. any other entity identified as providing financial or other support to individuals seeking to pursue a higher education.

3. LOSFA shall compile, post, and update a list of all such programs on its website.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 48:1097 (April 2022).

§2213. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Regents

A. Advisory Council

1. The Board of Regents shall convene an Advisory Council to perform the following functions for the purpose of identifying qualified programs of study for the M.J. Foster Promise Program:

a. identify not more than five industry sectors and that lead to high demand, high wage jobs that are aligned to state workforce priorities;

b. review postsecondary education requirements of each job identified;

c. identify programs of study at the associate level and below that lead to the identified jobs in each industry sector; and

d. at least once every three years, review the state's return on investment in awards made.

2. Identification of industry sectors, high demand high wage jobs, and required degrees and credentials of the identified jobs shall, at a minimum, be based upon the following:

a. a review of the most current statewide and regional industry and occupational forecasts approved by the Occupational Forecasting Conference and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council;

b. a review of nationally recognized databases for industry and occupational projections; and

c. input from the regional development organizations in each region.

3. The advisory council shall identify and assist in the establishment of mechanisms to support award recipients to complete a qualified program and to gain employment in the job for which training was received. Such mechanisms shall include the provision of college academic and career counseling and employer partnerships for developing mentorship programs and work-based learning experiences.

4. The advisory council shall consist of the following members:

a. the chancellor of Louisiana State University at Eunice.

b. the chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport.

c. the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

d. the commissioner of higher education.

e. the state superintendent of education.

f. the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.

g. the executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

h. the chairman of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council.

i. the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

5. The advisory council shall meet by January 1, 2022, and at least once every three years thereafter to review the workforce priorities of the state and each of its workforce regions and designate qualified programs of study.

B. The Board of Regents shall enter into Memoranda of Understanding with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana Department of Revenue, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission for the purpose of obtaining data to verify applicant statements and reporting.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 48:1097 (April 2022).

Chapter 23. Tuition Payment Program for Medical School Students

§2301. General Provisions

A. Legislative Authority. The Tuition Payment Program for Medical School Students was created by Act 281 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and amended by Act 894 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

B. Description, History and Purpose. The Tuition Payment Program for Medical School Students:

1. annually awards not more than 10 monetary loans to eligible students attending a medical school of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and not more than five monetary loans to eligible students attending the Tulane University School of Medicine who commit to practice the profession of medicine as a primary care physician, as defined herein, for at least five consecutive years in a rural or medically disadvantaged area in Louisiana designated by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, acting jointly with the Tulane University School of Medicine, (hereinafter referred to as a "designated area"). When the individual receiving the award practices medicine in a designated area for five consecutive years as provided in these rules, the loans are forgiven in full;

2. was first funded for the 1998-99 award year;

3. the legislature's purpose for this program is to bring about an adequate supply of doctors of medicine who will engage in the general practice of medicine in the rural or medically disadvantaged areas of the state by inducing a sufficient number of the graduates from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and the Tulane University School of Medicine to remain in or relocate to designated areas of Louisiana to practice their profession, thus affording adequate medical care to the people of Louisiana.

C. Award Amounts

1. Loans for students enrolled at one of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center medical schools shall be made in an amount not to exceed the full tuition and room and board amount for that school. Loans for students enrolled at the Tulane University School of Medicine shall be made in an amount not to exceed the tuition and room and board amount for a student enrolled at the most expensive medical school of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

2. Recipients may receive funding for each year of enrollment at an eligible medical school, until awarded a doctorate degree in medicine.

3. Recipients may receive other financial awards in conjunction with the Tuition Payment Program for Medical School Students.

4. In the event the student's total aid exceeds the *cost of attendance* as defined in §301 of these rules, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the Tuition Payment for Medical School Students shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.26.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 25:1460 (August 1999) amended LR 25:2177 (November 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1872 (November 2001), amended LR 31:40 (January 2005), repromulgated by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:570 (March 2018).

§2303. Establishing Eligibility

A. To establish eligibility, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be a U.S. Citizen; and

2. be a resident of Louisiana, as defined in §301 for at least two years prior to April 15 of the calendar year in which the award will be made; and

3. submit the completed free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or renewal FAFSA, whichever is applicable to the student, by April 15 of the calendar years in which an award is being sought (for those students applying for the 1998/1999 academic year, the deadline for filing the FAFSA is extended to March 1, 1999); and

4. be enrolled at one of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center medical schools or in the Tulane University School of Medicine as a full-time student in a course of study leading to a doctorate degree in medicine with the intent to enter a residency program leading to a specialization in a primary care field or has earned such a degree prior to commencement of residency. A "primary care field" shall include the following fields of medicine: family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology or a medical/pediatrics practice;

5. agree to the full-time practice of the profession of medicine as a primary care physician in a designated area for at least five consecutive years after graduating from medical school and completing a residency program in a primary care field as defined in §2303.A.4, above; and

6. complete and submit such other documentary evidence as may be required by the Louisiana Board of Regents (the board) within the deadline specified; and

7. not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations; and

8. agree that the award will be used exclusively for educational expenses.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.26.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 25:1461 (August 1999) amended LR 25:2177 (November 1999), LR 26:2754 (December 2000), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1872 (November 2001), amended LR 28:777 (April 2002), LR 28:2333 (November 2002), LR 31:40 (January 2005), LR 33:443 (March 2007), amended by the Board of

Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:571 (March 2018).

§2305. Application Process and Selection Criteria

A. The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and the Tulane University School of Medicine shall seek applications from medical students desiring to apply for a loan under this program and shall determine and report to the board, no later than the date specified by the board:

1. the academic standing of those applicants who meet the prerequisites of §2303.A.4 and 5. In determining the academic standing of applicants, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and the Tulane University School of Medicine shall employ an evaluation system which is equitable to all applicants regardless of the medical school they attend; and

2. those applicants who have demonstrated an interest in primary care medicine through involvement in student activities which are supportive of the future practice of medicine as a primary care physician and which have been identified by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center or the Tulane University School of Medicine and approved by the administrator as meriting the award of extra points in the ranking of applicants.

B. From the lists of applicants submitted by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and the Tulane University School of Medicine, the board shall rank the applicants in order of merit and select no more than 10 individuals to receive the award in any one year to attend one of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center medical schools and no more than 5 individuals to receive the award in any one year to attend the Tulane University School of Medicine [hereinafter "recipient(s)"]. The applicant's order of merit shall be determined by the academic standing of the applicant as reported by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center or the Tulane University School of Medicine and the extra points earned through student activities related to the practice of primary care medicine. The award shall be in the form of a loan to the recipient as described in these rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.26.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 25:1461 (August 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1872 (November 2001), amended LR 31:41 (January 2005), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:571 (March 2018).

§2307. Award Amount

A. The loan shall not exceed the full cost of tuition plus room and board, as those terms are defined herein.

B. The loan disbursement will be in two increments during each academic year based upon requests for disbursements submitted by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center or by the Tulane University School of Medicine, which are consistent in timing with the normal payment of tuition by medical school students.

C. The loans for each of the two academic years are dependent upon sufficient appropriation by the state legislature. Should the state legislature fail to appropriate sufficient funds in each year to provide for the amount of the award agreed to by the board and student, the obligation to repay the loan will be remitted.

D. The cost of room and board included in an award under this Section shall not exceed the cost allocated to room and board in the calculation of “cost of attendance” determined in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1087 11 for the highest cost Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center medical school.

E. Tuition shall not exceed the fees, charges and other costs normally required to be paid by all medical students at the school attended.

F. The specific award amount for each loan shall be that amount stated in the agreement between the student and the board and shall not exceed the tuition and room and board charged at the school attended.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.26.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 25:1461 (August 1999), amended LR 26:2754 (December 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1873 (November 2001), amended LR 31:41 (January 2005), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:572 (March 2018).

§2309. Maintaining Eligibility

A. To continue receiving the tuition payment for medical school students, recipients must meet all of the following criteria:

1. have not graduated from medical school; and

2. be considered in good standing by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center or the Tulane University School of Medicine and continue to make satisfactory progress towards a medical degree in a primary care field or have completed studies in good standing; and

3. continue to enroll each subsequent term as a full-time student, unless granted an exception for cause by the board, in a course of study leading to a degree in medicine; and

4. annually apply for federal and state student aid by completing the FAFSA or renewal FAFSA, whichever is applicable to the student, by the state deadline; and

5. have no criminal convictions, except for misdemeanor traffic violations.

B. Upon receiving a doctorate degree in medicine, an award recipient will be continued in a deferred payment status under the terms of the Tuition Payment Program for Medical Students promissory note (promissory note) as long as the recipient is enrolled in a residency program leading to a medical specialty in a primary care field. The recipient shall notify the board of the place and duration of the recipient's residency program no later than the date the recipient receives a doctorate in medicine. The notice shall

include an endorsement from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center or its designee or from the Tulane University School of Medicine or its designee that the residency program is a program that will lead to the ability to practice as a primary care physician as defined herein. The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center or the Tulane University School of Medicine shall make available to the recipient a list of designated areas. The recipient shall identify the designated area in which the recipient intends to practice medicine and include this selection in the notice sent to the board. By July 30 of each year following receipt of a doctorate degree in medicine, the recipient shall notify the board of the recipient's current address and include in such notice an endorsement from an appropriate official of the residency program in which the recipient is engaged that the recipient is making satisfactory progress in the program. The recipient shall notify the board in writing of the completion of the residency program and the date the recipient will initiate practice in a designated area. Each year thereafter, on the anniversary of the date the recipient enters a primary care practice in a designated area, the recipient shall send a written confirmation to the board that the recipient has practiced medicine during that year as required under the terms of the promissory note. The written confirmation shall be in the form of an affidavit executed before a notary public and shall be endorsed by the Louisiana Department of Health, affirming that the recipient has practiced in a designated area. Failure of the recipient to send any of the notices required under the terms of the promissory note in a timely manner shall cause the recipient to be placed in a repayment status.

C. Students who fail to maintain eligibility for a subsequent year of the loan will be placed in a repayment status six months from the date of their loss of eligibility, unless granted an exception for cause by the board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.26.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 25:1462 (August 1999), LR 26:2754 (December 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1873 (November 2001), amended LR 28:777 (April 2002), LR 31:41 (January 2005), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:572 (March 2018).

§2311. Completion of Promissory Note and Acceptance of Award

A. Prior to receiving an award, the recipient must agree to the terms and conditions contained in and execute the Tuition Payment Program for Medical Students promissory note (promissory note). The promissory note obligates the recipient to initiate a primary care practice in a designated area upon the completion of a primary care residency program. The recipient shall complete the primary care residency program within four years of the date of graduation from medical school and shall initiate the full-time practice of medicine as a primary care physician in a designated area within six months from the date of completion of the residency program. The designated area in which the recipient initiates practice shall be that area designated in the notice required by §2309.B, above, or such other designated area chosen by the recipient, upon completion of the residency program. The promissory note shall provide that if the area chosen in the notice provided for in §2309.B, above, is no longer a designated area at the time the recipient finishes the residency program, it shall continue to be considered a designated area for purposes of discharge of the loan amount under these rules. The recipient shall be deemed to be in a full-time primary care practice if the recipient performs direct patient care for an average of at least 36 hours per week in a normal annual work schedule. Should a recipient fail to enter into the practice of medicine on a full-time basis as a primary care physician within the time specified herein, the loan shall be placed in a repayment status and double the amount of the loans shall be repaid together with all accrued interest and any collection costs incurred by the board, as specified in the promissory note and as required by §2313, below.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.26.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 25:1462 (August 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1874 (November 2001), amended LR 31:42 (January 2005), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:572 (March 2018).

§2313. Discharge of Obligation

A. The loan may be discharged by engaging in a full-time primary care medical practice in a designated area for a period of five years, by monetary repayment or by cancellation.

B. Discharging the loan by entering into the full-time practice as a primary care physician in a designated area is accomplished by:

1. completing a residency in a primary care field of medicine within four years of the graduation from medical school; and

2. practice as a primary care physician on a full-time basis for a period of at least five consecutive years in a designated area.

C. Recipients who fail to complete the medical practice requirements as specified in the promissory note shall be required to repay the entire loan obligation in accordance with Subsection D, below.

D. Discharging the Promissory Note by Monetary Repayment. Recipients who elect not to discharge the obligation by practicing medicine as required in these rules and the promissory note and who are not eligible for discharge by cancellation must immediately repay double the loan principal plus accrued interest and any collection costs incurred according to the following terms and conditions:

1. interest shall accrue on the outstanding principal from the date of disbursement to the recipient, at the rate determined by the board and reflected in the promissory note, not to exceed the maximum rate of interest which can

be legally charged under Louisiana law for such loans. Annually, accrued interest shall be capitalized, meaning added to principal;

2. interest on each disbursement shall accrue from the date of disbursement until repaid, or fulfilled and shall be capitalized annually and at the time the recipient enters repayment status.

E. Repayment status:

1. the recipient will enter into a repayment status the first of the month following:

a. determination by the board that the recipient cannot discharge the loan by practicing medicine as required by these rules and the promissory note within the required time period; or

b. the date the recipient notifies the board that monetary repayment is desired; or

c. six months after the board determines that the recipient is no longer participating in a residency program in a primary care medical field or has otherwise failed to comply with the terms of the promissory note;

2. determination that a recipient has entered repayment status, the board will send written notice of the recipient's repayment status including the total amount of tuition that must be repaid, the amount of interest accrued and instructions for repayment;

3. the recipient must repay double the amount of the total tuition disbursed no later than 30 days from the date of the written notice of the recipient's repayment status. Accrued interest may be amortized in accordance with §2313.E.4;

4. the amount to be repaid annually will be the greater of:

a. the amount necessary to amortize the accrued loan interest, together with accruing interest, within five years; or

b. $5,000 per year or the unpaid balance, whichever is less;

5. recipients in repayment status may have their payments deferred in accordance with §2105.B, deferment of repayment obligation;

6. during the period of time a recipient is in a deferment status, a recipient is not required to make payments and interest does not accrue;

7. the period of time for completion of repayment will be extended by a period of time equal to the length of time the recipient is in deferment status.

F. Cancellation. The obligation to repay any remaining unpaid balance of the promissory note shall be canceled in the event either of the following occurs:

1. upon submission to the board of a sworn affidavit from a qualified physician that the recipient is precluded from gainful employment because of a complete and permanent medical disability or condition; or

2. upon submission to the board of a death certificate or other evidence conclusive under state law, that the recipient is deceased.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3041.10-3041.26.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 25:1463 (August 1999), amended LR 25:2177 (November 1999), repromulgated LR 27:1874 (November 2001), amended LR 31:42 (January 2005), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:573 (March 2018).

Chapter 24. Geaux Teach Program

§2401. General Provisions

A. Act 463 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature establishes the Geaux Teach Program in R.S 17:7.6 et seq.

B. Description and Purpose. The Geaux Teach Program provides scholarships to students who are enrolled in teacher preparation programs at the state's postsecondary institutions that are approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). In addition, up to 20 percent of the available funding may be awarded to students attending certified alternative teacher preparation programs approved by BESE.

C. Effective Date. Awards shall be made, and these rules shall apply, beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year.

D. Authority to Audit. By participating in the scholarship and grant programs administered by the board and described in LAC 28:IV, all participants grant the board, LOSFA, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's administration of the programs for the purpose of determining the institution's compliance with state law and the board's rules and regulations.

E. Discrimination Prohibition. The exclusion of a person from equal opportunity for a Geaux Teach Program scholarship by the board because of race, religion, sex, handicap, national origin, or ancestry is prohibited. No policy or procedure of this agency shall be interpreted as superseding or contradicting this prohibition.

F. Criminal Penalties. If an erroneous award has been made and the board determines that the award was made based upon incorrect information submitted by the student or the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, the board may seek reimbursement from the student, the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, and if it is further determined that the award was made due to an intentional misrepresentation by the student, the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian, then the board shall refer the case to the attorney general for investigation and prosecution. If a student or the student's parent(s) or court-ordered custodian is suspected of having intentionally misrepresented the facts which were provided to the board and used by it to

determine the eligibility of the student for the program and the board has referred the case to the attorney general for investigation, then the student shall remain ineligible for future award consideration pending an outcome of said investigation which is favorable to the student.

G. Award Amount

1. The award amount shall be applied only to tuition, fees, textbooks, and instructional materials required for enrollment. Geaux Teach Program scholarships shall be awarded after all state and institutional financial aid are applied.

2. The maximum annual award amount shall be $5,000.

3. Each postsecondary institution/provider shall determine the award amounts for eligible students attending teacher certification programs at that institution/provider based on the requirements in these rules, the allocation to the institution/provider, the institution's/provider's financial aid packaging policy for this program, and the guidance established by the board and published by LOSFA.

H. The total amount awarded for Geaux Teach Program scholarships during any academic year is limited to the total amount appropriated for the award for the academic year. Eligibility for an award during any particular semester, quarter or term does not guarantee that a student will receive the Geaux Teach Program scholarship in a subsequent semester, quarter or term.

I. Allocation of Funds to Postsecondary Institutions

1. The amount allocated to an eligible institution during the 2022-2023 academic year will be divided equally among all institutions having one or more qualified programs of study.

2. Beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year, allocations to institutions will be determined by dividing the amount of the institution's prior year's allocation that was expended by the total amount appropriated for that academic year multiplied by the total amount appropriated for the current year.

J. Allocation of Funds to Providers

1. The amount allocated to an eligible provider during the 2022-2023 academic year will be divided equally among all providers having one or more qualified programs of study.

2. Beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year, allocations to providers will be determined by dividing the amount of the provider's prior year's allocation that was expended by the total amount appropriated for that academic year multiplied by the total amount appropriated for the current year.

K. Reallocation of Funds

1. Uncommitted funds allocated to a particular institution shall be reallocated if not committed by the deadline set by LOSFA. Uncommitted funds shall be apportioned among those institutions that have committed all funds allocated to the institution before the deadline and have students who are eligible for an award and did not receive it or who did receive an award but did not receive the maximum award amount for which they were eligible.

2. Uncommitted funds allocated to a particular provider shall be reallocated if not committed by the deadline set by LOSFA. Uncommitted funds shall be apportioned among those providers that have committed all funds allocated to the provider before the deadline and that have students who are eligible for an award and did not receive it or who did receive an award but did not receive the maximum award amount for which they were eligible.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 49:55 (January 2023).

§2403. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa. The term "the board" refers to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Academic Year—for purposes of this program, the academic year begins on July 1 and ends on the following June 30.

Administering Agency—the Louisiana Board of Regents (the Board) through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

Alternative Teacher Certification Program Provider (Provider)—a provider of a certified teacher alternative teacher preparation program approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Continuous Enrollment—full-time enrollment in an approved program during the fall and spring semesters, or full time enrollment in the fall, winter, and spring quarters.

Eligible Postsecondary Institution—postsecondary institutions at which the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has approved a teacher preparation program.

Louisiana Resident—

a. a dependent or independent student whose true, fixed, and permanent home of residence is Louisiana as reported on the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA);

b. a dependent student whose non-custodial parent completes a residency affidavit in Subparagraph f below that establishes Louisiana residency;

c. a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions within the 24 months preceding the date of application and who has become a resident of

Louisiana since separation from the United States Armed Forces;

d. the spouse or dependent child of a resident of Louisiana on active duty with the United States Armed Forces who is stationed outside Louisiana but who claims Louisiana as the state of legal residence and who has filed a Louisiana state income tax return for the most recent two years; or

e. the spouse or dependent child of a nonresident of Louisiana on active duty with the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders and who, not later than one hundred eighty days after reporting, changes his military personnel records to establish Louisiana as the official state of legal residence and complies with Louisiana income tax laws and regulations for the time period while stationed in Louisiana.

f. Residency may be established by completion of a standard affidavit developed by the board. Such affidavits must be completed in their entirety by the independent student applicant or by at least one parent of the dependent student applicant and be sworn to and notarized by a licensed notary public. Further, the affiant shall be required to submit records in support of the affidavit to include the following records and such other records as may be required by the board:

i. if registered to vote, a Louisiana voter registration card; and

ii. if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, a Louisiana driver's license; and

iii. if owning a motor vehicle located in Louisiana, a Louisiana registration for that vehicle; and

iv. if earning a reportable income, a Louisiana tax return.

Eligible Postsecondary Institution—postsecondary institutions at which the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has approved a teacher preparation program.

Qualified Program of Study—an approved teacher preparation program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 49:56 (January 2023).

§2405. Initial Eligibility

A. To be eligible for Geaux Teach Program scholarship, a student must:

1. be a United States citizen who is registered with the Selective Service, if required;

2. be a Louisiana Resident for at least two full years prior to July 1 immediately preceding the academic year in which the student will be enrolled in a qualified program of study;

3. be enrolled full-time in an approved teacher preparation program at a Louisiana postsecondary institution or enrolled in an approved, alternative certified teacher education program through the fourteenth class day at an institution/provider operating on a semester basis, or through the ninth class at an institution/provider operating on a quarter basis;

4. have at least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average;

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 49:56 (January 2023).

§2407. Continuing Eligibility

A. To maintain eligibility to receive a Geaux Teach Program scholarship, a student must:

1. have received the award for not more than four academic years;

2. maintain a minimum cumulative college grade point average of at least a 2.50;

3. enroll full time in an approved teacher preparation program at a Louisiana postsecondary institution or enrolled in an approved, alternative certified teacher education program through the fourteenth class day at an institution/provider operating on a semester basis, or through the ninth class at an institution/provider operating on a quarter basis.

4. maintain continuous enrollment, unless granted an exception for cause in accordance with §2103 of these rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 49:57 (January 2023).

§2409. Responsibilities of Eligible Postsecondary Institutions and Alternative Teacher Certification Program Providers

A. Initial Eligibility. Eligible institutions and providers must determine the requirements set forth in §2405.A.1-4.

B. Continuing Eligibility. Eligible Louisiana institutions must determine the requirements set forth in §2407.A.2-4.

C. Packaging Policy

1. Eligible institutions/providers must establish and use a policy on Geaux Teach Program packaging that provides:

a. procedures for compliance with these rules and the guidance established by the board and published by LOSFA for determining the award amount;

b. record retention to comply with Subsection H of this Section;

c. the basis used to establish any award amount that is less than the maximum award amount allowed;

2. Eligible Louisiana institutions must revise the institution's Geaux Teach Program packaging policy as necessary to reflect changes to the Geaux Teach Program rules or guidance issued by the board.

D. Award Amount. Eligible Louisiana institutions must establish the award amounts for each individual student based on the institution's/provider's packaging policy. The amount awarded must comply with the requirements and limitations established in these rules and the guidance published by LOSFA.

E. Submission of Payment Requests. Each semester, quarter or term, eligible Louisiana institutions/providers shall submit a payment request to LOSFA for students enrolled at the institution/provider who have been determined eligible for a Geaux Teach Program scholarship as follows:

1. for each student eligible for a Geaux Teach Program scholarship who is enrolled at the end of the fourteenth class day for semester schools, or the ninth class day for quarter and term schools, or for any qualifying summer sessions, at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the full summer session;

2. the payment request shall include the:

a. Social Security number;

b. college code/provider name;

c. term;

d. date;

e. hours attempted;

f. award amount;

g. the CIP code for the program of study in which the student is enrolled;

h. the degree level code for the program of study in which the student is enrolled;

i. the increment key assigned by the board that provides each program a unique key for the program of study in which the student is enrolled; and

j. amount requested for each student;

3. for students who are enrolled in more than one eligible Louisiana institution, the home school (school paying the Pell Grant or a financial need grant) is responsible for submitting a payment request for the Geaux Teach Program based on the total hours enrolled at all institutions.

F. Certification of Student Data

1. At the end of each semester, term, or quarter, institutions/providers shall report the following student data:

a. semester hours attempted; and

b. semester hours earned; and

c. semester quality points earned; and

d. resignation from the institution or withdrawal from all courses; and

e. a student's completion of a program of study.

G. Over Payments

1. No institution shall submit a payment request for Geaux Teach funds which would result in a student receiving an annual total of more than is authorized in §2401.G.

2. Eligible Louisiana institution/provider certifies by submitting a payment request for a Geaux Teach Program scholarship that the institution will reimburse LOSFA:

a. for the total amount of any award that is disbursed to ineligible students; and

b. for any amount of an award that is in excess of the maximum annual award.

H. Excess Award. In the event an excess award occurs during the fall semester or quarter or the winter quarter due to receipt of additional state or institutional financial aid, the institution/provider shall reduce the award amount for the spring accordingly. In the event an excess award occurs during the spring semester or quarter due to receipt of additional state or institutional financial aid, the institution/provider shall document the reason for the excess award.

I. Records Retention. Records pertaining to the Geaux Teach Program are subject to audit as required by the board and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Institutions and providers shall maintain all records for a minimum of three years from creation. All such records shall be made available upon request by the board and/or the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

J. Each eligible institution/provider shall provide a copy of its Geaux Teach Program packaging policy as required by this section to LOSFA, when requested.

K. Audits. Institutions/providers that participate in the Geaux Teach Program grant LOSFA and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's/provider's administration of the program for the purpose of determining the institution's/provider's compliance with state law and applicable rules and regulations.

AUTHORITYNOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 49:57 (January 2023).

§2411. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

A. LOSFA shall provide a residency affidavit that must be completed by an applicant who is determined not to have

met the Louisiana residency requirement set forth in these rules.

B. LOSFA shall determine whether an applicant meets the continuing eligibility criteria set forth in §2407.A.1.

C. LOSFA shall pay each eligible institution/provider the amount requested by the eligible college in accordance with the provisions of §2409.E.

D. LOSFA shall maintain a database of all students who have received Geaux Teach Program scholarship, including, but not limited to, all information reported by eligible colleges in accordance with §2209. In the event LOSFA receives a payment request in an amount that would exceed the maximum amount payable to a student, LOSFA will require the school to rebill.

E. LOSFA shall audit eligible Louisiana institutions to ensure compliance with these rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 49:58 (January 2023).

§2413. Responsibilities of the Louisiana Board of Regents

A. The Louisiana Board of Regents shall promulgate rulemaking to implement the Geaux Teach Program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3047 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 49:58 (January 2023).

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part V. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education Loan Program

Chapter 2. Bylaws of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) Advisory Board

Subchapter A. Purpose and Authority

§201. Purpose of the Advisory Board

A. The purpose of the advisory board shall be to consider those matters relating to the student financial assistance programs and Section 529 College Savings Plan of the state and to provide technical advice and recommendations to the Board of Regents through LOSFA staff on such matters.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1728 (September 2017).

§203. Authority of the Advisory Board

A. The advice and recommendations of the advisory board are only advisory in nature and are not binding upon the Board of Regents, its members, or its officers.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended LR 34:610 (April 2008), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1728 (September 2017).

Subchapter B. Meetings

§211. Regular Meetings

A. The advisory board shall hold regular meetings, but no more than 12 per year. All regular meetings shall be held at the meeting place designated by the executive director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA). Proxy voting shall be permitted provided that the proxy holder is an officer or employee of the organization represented by the appointed member and that a proxy does not represent the appointed member at more than two of the meetings scheduled annually.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1728 (September 2017).

§213. Special Meetings

A. Special meetings of the advisory board may be called by the executive director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance at any time, provided the purposes of the meeting are specified, the members notified at least three calendar days before the time of the meeting, and sufficient members to form a quorum confirm their planned attendance.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1728 (September 2017).

§215. Compensation

A. Members of the advisory board shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred in attending meetings in accordance with applicable state travel regulations if the organization represented by the appointed member does not reimburse them for their expenses and if otherwise allowed by law. No other compensation is authorized. Members may decline reimbursement for expenses.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended LR 34:610 (April 2008), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1728 (September 2017).

§217. Quorum

A. Six voting members of the advisory board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and a simple majority of the members present at any meeting voting for or against a particular item shall be the recommendation of the advisory board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1728 (September 2017).

Subchapter C. Membership and Officers of the Advisory Board

§221. Membership

A. The advisory board shall be composed of 11 voting members as follows:

1. one member from each postsecondary education board to be appointed by the respective board;

2. one member appointed the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU);

3. one member appointed by the Louisiana Association of Private Colleges and Schools who will represent proprietary and cosmetology schools;

4. one member to be appointed by the Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators;

5. one private/parochial high school counselor to be appointed by the Louisiana Student Counselor Association;

6. one public/charter high school counselor to be appointed by the Louisiana Student Counselor Association;

7. one member appointed by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to be rotated with one member appointed by the Department of Education;

8. one student member to be appointed by the Council of Student Body Presidents, whose rotation shall be as follows:

a. Louisiana State University System;

b. Southern University System;

c. University of Louisiana System;

d. Louisiana Technical and Community College System.

B. Term

1.a. The term of voting members shall be for two years except when the organization represented by the appointed member provides for a shorter term, in which case, the member's term shall meet the requirements of the organization represented.

b. Members may serve consecutive terms.

2. Terms shall begin on October 1 of each year.

C. Notification of Membership

1. LOSFA will send a notice to the organizations represented on the advisory board no later than July 1 of the year during which terms begin requesting appointments for the upcoming term. The organization shall respond in sufficient time to allow LOSFA to confirm the appointee's willingness to serve prior to the beginning of the term on October 1.

2. The appointee must submit the confirmation of membership by September 1 of that same year.

D. Replacements

1. If an appointee declines to participate or does not submit a timely confirmation, LOSFA shall so notify the appropriate organization and request another person be appointed.

2. If a member is unable to complete his/her term for any reason, the organization represented by that member shall appoint a replacement who shall complete the rest of the term and shall be eligible for membership for the next two-year term.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended LR 33:1339 (July 2007), LR 34:610 (April 2008), LR 37:2598 (September 2011), LR 42:49 (January 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1728 (September 2017).

§223. Chairman and Vice-Chairman

A. The chairman and vice chairman shall be selected annually by vote of the members of the advisory board from among the members of the advisory board. The chairman of the advisory board shall preside over all meetings, serve as ex officio member of all subcommittees, if any, designate the duties of the vice-chairman, and appoint the membership of all subcommittees, if any. The vice-chairman shall perform the duties of the chairman in the chairman's absence.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended LR 34:611 (April 2008), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1729 (September 2017).

§225. Executive Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

A. The executive director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance shall:

1. prepare the business agenda;

2. provide administrative support to the advisory board within the resources of his/her office allocated for that purpose;

3. approve the travel of advisory board members; and

4. in conjunction with the chairman, schedule meetings of the advisory board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:435 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1729 (September 2017).

Subchapter D. Business Rules

§231. Rules of Order

A. When not in conflict with any of the provisions of these bylaws, *Roberts' Rules of Order* shall constitute the rules of parliamentary procedure applicable to all meetings of the advisory board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1729 (September 2017).

§233. Order of Business

A. The order of business of regular meetings of the advisory board shall be as follows, unless the rules are suspended by a simple majority vote of the quorum present:

1. call to order;

2. roll call;

3. introductions and announcements;

4. corrections and approval of minutes of the preceding regular meeting and of all special meetings held subsequent thereto;

5. public comment;

6. reports and recommendations of subcommittees;

7. unfinished business; and

8. new business.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended LR 42:50 (January 2016), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1729 (September 2017).

§235. Meetings

A. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the state law governing public bodies. It shall be the policy of the advisory board that all meetings are open to the public and that parties with interest in the proceedings are encouraged to attend.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1729 (September 2017).

§237. Agenda

A. Prior to each regular or special meeting of the advisory board, the executive director of OSFA shall prepare a tentative agenda and forward it to each member of the advisory board at least five working days prior to such meeting. With the concurrence of its members, all matters supportive of the purpose of the advisory board may be discussed even though not scheduled on the agenda.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1730 (September 2017).

§239. Minutes

A. At a minimum, the minutes of the advisory board shall record official motions or recommendations that are voted on by the advisory board. The minutes may contain a summary of reports and pertinent discussion of issues. Each recommendation shall be reduced to writing and presented to the advisory board before it is acted on. The minutes of meetings of the advisory board become official when approved by the advisory board at its next scheduled meeting but, prior to such occurrence, the minutes may be presented to the Board of Regents as the unofficial action of the advisory board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1730 (September 2017).

§241. Meeting Attendance

A. Members unable to continue their service on the advisory board shall so notify the chairman and request that a replacement be named in accordance with §221 of these bylaws. Members who fail to regularly attend meetings without just cause, may be removed from membership in accordance with §221 of these bylaws.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended LR 34:612 (April 2008), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1730 (September 2017).

§243. Subcommittees

A. Executive Committee

1. The executive committee shall consist of four members. The chairman and vice chairman of the advisory board shall serve in those capacities on the executive committee. The remaining persons, for a total of four members, shall be appointed by the chairman of the advisory board from the other members of the advisory board.

2. The executive committee shall:

a. meet for and conduct the business of the advisory board in all instances that the public has been given notice of a meeting of the advisory board and the advisory board does not have a quorum at that meeting. In such cases, the actions of the executive committee shall have the same force and effect as if a quorum of the advisory board had taken the action;

b. consider such matters as shall be referred to it by the advisory board and shall execute such orders and resolutions as shall be assigned to it at any meeting of the advisory board;

c. in the event that an emergency requiring immediate advisory board action shall arise between advisory board meetings, meet in emergency session to take such action as may be necessary and appropriate. The executive committee shall report the actions it takes in emergency session to the advisory board for ratification at the advisory board's next meeting.

3. All official actions of the executive committee shall require a majority vote of the quorum present at the meeting.

4. The executive committee may enter into an executive session only upon two-thirds majority vote of the quorum present and only for one of the reasons specified in the Louisiana open meetings law.

B. Other subcommittees may be appointed by the chairman to perform specific functions defined by the advisory board. The membership, chairmanship, and function of subcommittees shall be determined by the chairman. Generally, the business rules defined herein shall be applicable to subcommittees.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1730 (September 2017).

Subchapter E. Approval and Amendment of Bylaws

§245. Approval of Bylaws

A. To receive the Board of Regents' consideration, advisory board bylaws must be favorably recommended by the advisory board and the executive director of LOSFA. Bylaws become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and publication as a final Rule in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended LR 34:612 (April 2008), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1730 (September 2017).

§247. Amendments to Bylaws

A. The advisory board, at any of its scheduled regular meetings, may recommend the amendment or repeal of the provisions herein upon a simple majority vote of the entire membership of the advisory board. Amendment or repeal of the bylaws becomes effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and publication as an Emergency Rule and/or a final Rule in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:436 (March 1998), amended LR 34:612 (April 2008), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:1730 (September 2017).

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part VI. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education Savings

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§101. General Provisions

A. The Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START Saving) Program was enacted in 1995 to provide a program of savings for future college costs to:

1. help make education affordable and accessible to all citizens of Louisiana;

2. assist in the maintenance of state institutions of postsecondary education by helping to provide a more stable financial base to these institutions;

3. provide the citizens of Louisiana with financing assistance for education and protection against rising postsecondary education costs, to encourage savings to enhance the ability of citizens to obtain access to institutions of postsecondary education;

4. encourage academic excellence, to promote a well-educated and financially secure population to the ultimate benefit of all citizens of the state; and

5. encourage recognition that financing an education is an investment in the future.

B. The START Saving Program establishes education savings accounts (ESAs) by individuals, groups, or organizations with provisions for routine deposits of funds to cover the future educational costs of a designated beneficiary.

1. In addition to earning regular interest at competitive rates, certain accounts are also eligible for earnings enhancements (EEs) provided by the state to help offset the beneficiary's cost of qualified higher education expenses.

2. The EE amount is determined by the account owner's classification, annual federal adjusted gross income, and total annual deposits of principal.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:711 (June 1997), amended LR 24:1267 (July 1998), repromulgated LR 26:2260 (October 2000), amended LR 27:1876 (November 2001), LR 28:2334 (November 2002), LR 42:1071 (July 2016).

§103. Legislative Authority

A. Act Number 547 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, effective June 18, 1995, enacted the Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) Saving Program as chapter 22-A, title 17 of the *Louisiana Revised Statutes* (R.S. 17:3091-3099.2).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:711 (June 1997), repromulgated LR 24:1267 (July 1998), LR 26:2260 (October 2000), amended LR 27:1876 (November 2001), LR 42:1071 (July 2016).

§105. Program Administration

A. The Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA) is a statutory authority whose membership consists of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC), plus one member from the Louisiana Bankers Association, the state treasurer, and one member each from the House of Representatives and Senate.

B. The LATTA administers the START Saving Program through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

C. LOSFA is the organization created to perform the functions of the state relating to programs of financial assistance and certain scholarship programs for higher education in accordance with directives of its governing bodies and applicable law, and as such is responsible for administering the START Saving Program under the direction of the LATTA.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:711 (June 1997), repromulgated LR 24:1267 (July 1998), amended LR 26:2260 (October 2000), LR 27:1876 (November 2001), LR 42:1071 (July 2016).

§107. Applicable Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in these rules shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Account Owner—the *person*(s), independent student, organization or group that completes the START Saving Program owner's agreement on behalf of a beneficiary and is the account owner of record of all funds credited to the account.

Beneficiary—the person named by the account owner in the Education Savings Account (ESA) owner's agreement or the person named by the LATTA when authorized to make such a designation by the owner of an account that is classified under §303.A.6 as the individual entitled to apply the account balance, or portions thereof, toward payment of their qualified higher education expenses.

Beneficiary's Family—for the purpose of §303.A.6 one of the following persons:

a. the beneficiary's parent(s) or court ordered custodian; or

b. a person who claims the beneficiary as a dependent on his or her federal income tax return for the previous year; or

c. a person who certified that the beneficiary lives with him, that he provides more than 50 percent of the beneficiary's support for the previous year and that he was not required to file an income tax return for the previous year.

Current Value—the value of an education savings account at a given point in time.

a. The current value of fixed earnings investment options includes the accumulated value of the principal deposited, earnings on deposits, earnings enhancements (EEs) allocated to the account and the earnings on the EEs.

b. The current value of variable earnings investment options includes the number of units in the investment option purchased multiplied by the current value of each unit plus the earnings enhancements (EEs) allocated to the account and the earnings on the EEs. This value may be more or less than the amount originally deposited.

Deposits—the actual amount of money received from an account owner for investment in an education savings account. Deposits do not include earnings on deposits nor earnings enhancements or interest earned thereon.

Disabled or *Disability*—an individual who is considered to be disabled because he/she is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or to be of long-continued and indefinite duration. An individual shall not be considered disabled unless he furnishes proof of the existence thereof in such form and manner as the LATTA may require.

Earnings Enhancement (*EE*)—a payment allocated to an ESA on behalf of the beneficiary of the account by the state. The amount of the annual EE is calculated based upon the classification of an account, the annual federal adjusted gross income of the account owner, and total annual deposits of principal into an ESA, including deposits in fixed earning and variable earnings options. EEs and the interest earned thereon may only be used to pay the beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses, or portion thereof, at an eligible educational institution and cannot be refunded.

Earnings Enhancement Cap—the maximum of deposits in an account for which earnings enhancements will be paid. The earnings enhancement cap is reached when an account has a current value that is equal to or exceeds five times the annual qualified higher education expenses at the highest cost Louisiana public college or university, projected to the scheduled date of first enrollment. The projected qualified higher education expenses at each eligible educational institution shall be updated by the administering agency. On the date of the beneficiary's first enrollment in an eligible educational institution, the earnings enhancement cap will be fixed at five times the annual qualified higher education expenses at the highest cost Louisiana public college or university, for the academic year of enrollment or the projected amount, whichever is greater.

Education Savings Account (*ESA*)—a savings account established by a natural person or a legal entity to pay qualified higher education expenses of the designated beneficiary.

Educational Term—a semester, quarter, term, summer session, inter-session, or an equivalent unit.

Eligible Educational Institution—either:

a. a state college or university or a technical college or institute or an independent college or university located in this state that is approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education to participate in a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088), as amended; or

b. a public or independent college or a university located outside this state that is approved by the U.S. secretary of education to participate in a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088), as amended; or

c. a Louisiana licensed proprietary school, licensed pursuant to R.S. chapter 24-A of title 17, and any subsequent amendments thereto and is eligible to participate in a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088), as amended.

d. beginning in the 2018 academic year, a proprietary school located outside the state of Louisiana that is licensed by an out of state public postsecondary education board, is accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting body, and is eligible to participate in a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088), as amended.

False or Misleading Information—a statement or response made by a person, which is knowingly false or misleading, and made for the purpose of establishing a program account and/or receiving benefits to which the person would not otherwise be entitled.

Fixed Earnings—the placement of all deposits in an ESA, including the interest earned thereon, in investments that normally provide a fixed rate of return for a specific period of time.

Independent Student—is a person who is defined as an independent student by the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088) (HEA), as amended, and if required, files an individual federal income tax return in his/her name and designates him/herself as the beneficiary of an ESA.

a. The HEA defines *independent student* as a student who:

i. reached 24 years of age prior to January of the year preceding the academic year for which the student is applying for aid;

ii. is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, including a student who was activated to serve in Operation Desert Storm or is currently serving on active duty in the Armed Forces for other than training purposes;

iii. is an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court or was in foster care or was a ward of the court until the individual reached the age of 18;

iv. has legal dependents other than a spouse;

v. is a graduate or professional student;

vi. is married; or

vii. has been determined independent by a financial aid officer exercising professional judgment in accordance with applicable provisions of the HEA.

b. An independent student may only open an account as an account owner if he/she is 18 years or older.

Legal Entity—juridical person including, but not limited to, groups, trusts, estates, associations, organizations, partnerships, and corporations that are incorporated, organized, established, or authorized to conduct business in accordance with the laws of one or more states or territories of the United States. A natural person is not a legal entity.

Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund (*the Fund*)—is a special permanent fund maintained by the Louisiana state treasurer for the purpose of the START Saving Program and is the account into which all initial deposits made to ESAs are deposited. The fund includes the Savings Enhancement Fund, which is a special sub-account designated to receive earnings enhancements appropriated by the state, and interest earned thereon.

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (*LOSFA)*—the agency of state government responsible for administering the START Saving Program under the direction of the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority.

Louisiana Resident—

a. any person who resided in the state of Louisiana on the date of the application and who has manifested intent to remain in the state by establishing Louisiana as legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following:

i. if registered to vote, is registered to vote in Louisiana;

ii. if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, is in possession of a Louisiana driver's license;

iii. if owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, is in possession of a Louisiana registration for that vehicle;

iv. if earning an income, has complied with state income tax laws and regulations;

b. a member of the Armed Forces stationed outside of Louisiana who claims Louisiana on his/her official DD Form 2058 as his/her legal residence for tax purposes, and is in compliance with state income tax laws and regulations, shall be considered eligible for program participation;

c. a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders shall be considered eligible for program participation;

d. persons less than 21 years of age are considered Louisiana residents if they reside with and are dependent upon one or more persons who meet the above requirements;

e. a legal entity is considered to be a Louisiana resident if it is incorporated, organized, established or authorized to conduct business in accordance with the laws of Louisiana or registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State to conduct business in Louisiana and has a physical place of business in Louisiana.

Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA)—the statutory body responsible for the administration of the START Saving Program.

Maximum Allowable Account Balance—$500,000.

Member of the Family (with respect to the designated beneficiary)—

a. the spouse of such beneficiary; or

b. an individual who bears one of the following relationships to such beneficiary:

i. a son or daughter of the beneficiary, or a descendant of either;

ii. a stepson or stepdaughter of the beneficiary;

iii. a brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister of the beneficiary;

iv. the father or mother of the beneficiary, or an ancestor of either;

v. a stepfather or stepmother of the beneficiary;

vi. a son or daughter of a brother or sister of the beneficiary;

vii. a brother or sister of the father or mother of the beneficiary; or

viii. a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of the beneficiary; or

ix. a first cousin of the beneficiary; or

c. the spouse of an individual listed in Clauses b.i-viii.

Natural Person—a human being.

Other Person (with respect to any designated beneficiary)—any person, other than the beneficiary, whether natural or juridical, who is not a member of the family, including but not limited to individuals, groups, trusts, estates, associations, organizations, partnerships, corporations, and custodians under the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA).

Owner's Agreement—the agreement for program participation that the account owner completes and signs. It incorporates, by reference, R.S. 17:3091 et seq., and the rules promulgated by the LATTA to implement this statutory provision and any other state or federal laws applicable to the agreement and the terms and conditions as set forth therein.

Person—a human being or a juridical entity.

Qualified Education Loan—any indebtedness incurred by the taxpayer solely to pay qualified higher education expenses:

a. which are incurred on behalf of the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or any dependent of the taxpayer as of the time the indebtedness was incurred;

b. which are paid or incurred within a reasonable period of time before or after the indebtedness is incurred; and

c. which are attributable to education furnished during a period during which the recipient was an eligible student.

Qualified Higher Education Expenses—

a. tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for the enrollment or attendance of a designated beneficiary at an eligible educational institution; and

b. room and board; and

c. expenses for special needs services in the case of a special needs beneficiary, which are incurred in connection with such enrollment or attendance; and

d. for the calendar years 2009 and 2010 only, expenses paid or incurred for the purchase of any computer technology or equipment or Internet access and related services, if such technology, equipment, or services are to be used by the beneficiary and the beneficiary's family during any of the years the beneficiary is enrolled at an eligible educational institution, but shall not include expenses for computer software designed for sports, games, or hobbies unless the software is predominately educational in nature;

e. for calendar year 2015 and thereafter, expenses for the purchase of computer or peripheral equipment, computer software, or Internet access and related services, if such equipment, software, or services are to be used primarily by the beneficiary during any of the years the beneficiary is enrolled at an eligible educational institution, but shall not include expenses for computer software designed for sports, games, or hobbies unless the software is predominately educational in nature.

f. for calendar year 2019 and thereafter, expenses for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for the participation of the designated beneficiary in an apprenticeship program which is registered and certified with the United State Secretary of Labor under section 1 of the National Apprenticeship Act.

g. for calendar year 2019 and thereafter, a maximum of $10,000 per individual for the payment of principal and/or interest on a qualified education loan of the designated beneficiary or a sibling of the designated beneficiary.

Rate of Expenditure—the rate (see §309.B) per educational term at which the EEs may be disbursed from an ESA to pay for the beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses at an eligible educational institution. For each disbursement requested by an account owner, EEs and the earnings thereon will be disbursed from the account in the same ratio that they bear to the current value of the account.

Redemption Value—the cash value of the money in an ESA invested in a fixed earnings option that are attributable to the sum of the principal deposited and the earnings on principal authorized to be credited to the account by the LATTA, less any disbursements and refunds. The redemption value does not include any EEs allocated to the account or the earnings on EEs. Redemption value is not applicable to an ESA invested in variable earnings.

Refund Recipient—the person designated by the account owner in the START Saving Program owner's agreement or by operation of law to receive refunds from the account. The refund recipient can only be the account owner or the beneficiary.

Room and Board—the reasonable cost for the educational term incurred by the designated beneficiary for room and board while attending an eligible educational institution on at least a half time basis, not to exceed the maximum amount included for *room and board* for such period in the cost of attendance (as currently defined in §472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. 1087ll) as determined by the eligible educational institution for such period, or if greater, the actual invoice amount the student residing in housing owned or operated by the eligible education institution is charged by such institution for room and board.

Saving Enhancement Fund—the sub-account established within the Tuition and Savings Fund by the State Treasurer to receive funds appropriated by the legislature or donated from any other source for the purpose of funding EEs.

Scheduled Date of First-Enrollment (for a dependent beneficiary)—the month and year in which the beneficiary turns 18 years of age. For an independent student over the age of 18, the scheduled date of first-enrollment is the date the account is opened. This date is used to determine eligibility for EEs. See the term *earnings enhancement cap*.

Special Needs Services and Beneficiary—services provided to a beneficiary because the student has one or more disabilities.

Trade Date—the date that a deposit to an investment option that includes variable earnings is assigned a value in units, the date a disbursement or refund from an investment option that includes variable earnings is assigned a value, or the date of a change in investment options that includes

variable earnings is assigned a value, whichever is applicable.

Tuition—the mandatory educational charge required as a condition of enrollment and is limited to undergraduate enrollment. It does not include non-residence fees, laboratory fees, room and board or other similar fees and charges.

Variable Earnings—refers to that portion of funds in an ESA, invested in equities, bonds, short-term fixed income investments or a combination of any of the three.

Variable Earnings Transaction Fund—the subaccount established within the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund to receive funds as directed by rule.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:712 (June 1997), amended LR 24:1268 (July 1998), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:2260 (October 2000), LR 27:37 (January 2001), LR 27:1222 (August 2001), LR 27:1876 (November 2001), LR 28:450 (March 2002), LR 28:777 (April 2002), LR 28:2334 (November 2002), LR 29:556 (April 2003), LR 30:786 (April 2004), LR 30:1169 (June 2004), LR 30:2302 (October 2004), LR 31:639 (March 2005), LR 32:1433 (August 2006), LR 32:2240 (December 2006), LR 33:443 (March 2007), LR 34:1885 (September 2008), LR 35:1491 (August 2009), LR 38:3162 (December 2012), LR 42:1071 (July 2016), LR 44:1877 (October 2018), LR 46:1222 (September 2020).

Chapter 3. Education Savings Account

§301. Education Savings Accounts

A. An education savings account (ESA) is established on behalf of a designated beneficiary to provide the funding necessary for the beneficiary to acquire an undergraduate certificate, associate degree, undergraduate degree, graduate degree or professional degree. ESAs may offer investment options that provide either fixed earnings or variable earnings.

1. The account owner classified under §303.A.1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 shall designate the beneficiary in the owner's agreement.

2. The account owner classified under §303.A.6 may designate the beneficiary in the owner's agreement, provided the beneficiary is not a member of the account owner's family, or authorize the LATTA to select a beneficiary for the account.

3. A beneficiary selected by the LATTA must meet the following criteria:

a. the beneficiary is a Louisiana resident;

b. the federal adjusted income of the beneficiary's family is less than $30,000 or the beneficiary is eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.);

c. the beneficiary is not a member of the account owner's family nor a member of the family of any member or employee of the authority or the Office of Student Financial Assistance;

d. demonstrate superior early academic preparation in the third grade by achieving a score on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, Stanford 9 Test or TerraNova Test that is in the top two quartiles; and

e. the guidelines provided by the account owner, if any; provided such guidelines are lawful.

4. Procedure for Selection (Reserved)

B. Program Enrollment Period. An account may be opened and an eligible beneficiary may be enrolled at any time during the calendar year.

C. Completing the Owner's Agreement

1. This agreement must be completed, in full, by the account owner.

2. The account owner shall designate a beneficiary, except as provided in Paragraph A.2 above.

3. The account owner may designate a limited power of attorney to another person who would be authorized to act on the account owner's behalf, in the event the account owner becomes incapacitated.

4. Transfer of account ownership is only permitted as set forth in §313.

D. Agreement to Terms. Upon executing an owner's agreement, the account owner agrees to the following statements.

1. Admission to a Postsecondary Educational Institution—that participation in the START Program does not guarantee that a beneficiary will be admitted to any institution of postsecondary education.

2. Payment of Qualified Higher Education Expenses—that participation in the START Program does not guarantee that the full cost of the beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses will be paid at an institution of postsecondary education nor does it guarantee enrollment as a resident student.

3. Maintenance of Continuous Enrollment—that once admitted to an institution of postsecondary education, participation in the START Program does not guarantee that the beneficiary will be permitted to continuously enroll or receive a degree, diploma, or any other affirmation of program completion.

4. Guarantee of Redemption Value—that the LATTA guarantees payment of the redemption value of an ESA that is invested in fixed earnings, subject to the limitations imposed by R.S. 17:3098; however, the LATTA does not guarantee the value of an ESA that is invested in variable earnings.

5. Conditions for Payment of Education Expenses—that payments for qualified higher education expenses under the START Saving Program are conditional

upon the beneficiary's acceptance and enrollment at an eligible educational institution.

6. Fees

a. That except for penalties which may be imposed on refunds, the LATTA shall not charge fees for the opening or the maintenance of a fixed earnings account at standard fees established by the LATTA.

b. That fees imposed by investment institutions for opening or maintenance of variable earnings accounts may be charged to the account owner.

c. That financial and investment institutions may be authorized by the LATTA to offer prospective owners information and assistance in opening a START Program account.

7. That an account whose owner is a legal entity or is classified under §303.A.6. cannot be terminated and the funds deposited in the account will not be refunded to the account owner.

8. That an account owner who is a legal entity or is classified under §303.A.6, can change the beneficiary of an account to one or more persons who are not members of the family of the beneficiary in accordance with §313.A.4.c, however, in such case:

a. these transfers may be treated as refunds under federal and state tax laws in which case the account owner will be subject to any associated tax consequences; and

b. the EEs and interest thereon will not be transferred to the new beneficiary (Note that the deposit(s) will be eligible for EEs for the year of the deposit.);

c. the provisions of §301.A.2 shall apply to account owners classified in accordance with §303.A.6.

9. Only the account owner or the beneficiary may be designated to receive refunds from the account owned by an account owner who is a natural person other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §303.A.6. In the event of the death of the account owner when the account owner is designated to receive the refund and there is no substitute account owner named, the refund shall be made to the account owner's estate.

10. That in the event an account owner who is a legal entity classified as an account owner under §303.A.4 or 5 is dissolved, the beneficiary will become the owner of the account.

11. That in the event an other person classified as an account owner under §303.A.6 dies or is dissolved, the beneficiary will become the account owner, provided that, all the restriction provided in law and these rules regarding account owners classified under §303.A.6, including, but not limited to, use of the funds, refunds, terminations, designation of beneficiary, etc., shall be applicable to the beneficiary that becomes the owner of an account established under §303.A.6. If an account owner classified under §303.A.6 dies or is dissolved and the beneficiary has died or failed to enroll in an eligible college or university by age 25, and no substitute beneficiary has been designated by the account owner, the authority is authorized to designate a new beneficiary who must meet the requirements of §301.A.3 and §303.A.6.

E. Acceptance of the Owner's Agreement

1. A properly completed and submitted owner's agreement will be accepted upon receipt.

2. Upon acceptance of the owner's agreement, the LATTA will establish the account of the named beneficiary.

F. Citizenship Requirements. Both an account owner who is not a legal entity and the beneficiary must meet the following citizenship requirements:

1. be a United States citizen; or

2. be a permanent resident of the United States as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor and provide copies of USCIS documentation with the submission of the owner's agreement; or

3. be lawfully residing in the United States and have a valid Social Security number.

G. Residency Requirements

1. On the date an account is opened, either the account owner or his designated beneficiary must be a *Louisiana resident*, as defined in §107 of these rules.

2. The LATTA may request documentation to clarify circumstances and formulate a decision that considers all facts relevant to residency.

H. Providing Personal Information

1. The account owner is required to disclose personal information in the owner's agreement, including:

a. his Social Security number;

b. the designated beneficiary's Social Security number;

c. the beneficiary's date of birth;

d. the familial relationship between the account owner and the designated beneficiary, if any;

e. the account owner's prior year's federal adjusted gross income as reported to the Internal Revenue Service; and

f. in the case of an account owner classified under §303.A.6:

i. the Social Security number of the beneficiary's family and authorization from that person for the LATTA to access his annual tax records through the Louisiana Department of Revenue, for the purpose of verifying federal adjusted gross income; and

ii. if applicable, proof that the beneficiary is a ward of the court; or

iii. if applicable, proof the beneficiary is eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.).

2. By signing the owner's agreement, the account owner who is classified under §303.A.1, 2, or 3 (does not include legal entities or other persons classified as account owners under §303.A.6) provides written authorization for the LATTA to access his annual tax records through the Louisiana Department of Revenue, for the purposes of verifying federal adjusted gross income.

3. By signing the owner's agreement:

a. the account owner who is a natural person, other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §303.A.6, certifies that:

i. both account owner and beneficiary are United States citizens or permanent residents of the United States as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor or be lawfully residing in the United States and have a valid Social Security number; and

(a). if permanent residents have provided copies of USCIS documentation with the submission of the application and owner's agreement; or

(b). if in the United States lawfully with a valid Social Security number have provided the visa or other document(s) from the USCIS evidencing lawful residency and a copy of the Social Security card from the Social Security Administration; and

ii. the information provided in the application is true and correct;

b. the person signing on behalf of an account owner who is a legal entity certifies that:

i. the account owner is a *legal entity* as defined in rule and the application;

ii. he or she is the designated agent of the legal entity;

iii. he or she is authorized to take any action permitted the account owner;

iv. the account owner acknowledges and agrees that once funds are deposited in a START account, neither the deposits nor the interest earned thereon can be refunded to the account owner;

v. the information provided in the application is true and correct; and

vi. if the beneficiary is not a Louisiana resident, the legal entity fulfills the definition of *Louisiana resident* as found in rule and the application;

c. the natural person classified as an account owner under §303.A.6 certifies that:

i. the beneficiary is a Louisiana resident;

ii. the federal adjusted income of the beneficiary's family is less than $30,000 or the beneficiary is eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.);

iii. the beneficiary is not a member of the account owner's family nor a member of the family of any member or employee of the authority or the Office of Student Financial Assistance;

iv. the account owner acknowledges and agrees that once funds are deposited in a START account, neither the deposits nor the interest earned thereon can be refunded to the account owner; and

v. the information provided in the application is true and correct.

4. Social Security numbers and federal and state employer identification numbers will be used for purposes of federal and state income tax reporting and to access individual account information for administrative purposes (see §315).

I. Number of Accounts for a Beneficiary. There is no limit on the number of ESAs that may be opened for one beneficiary by different account owners; however, the cumulative credits in all accounts for the same beneficiary may not exceed the maximum allowable account balance for that beneficiary and the cumulative credits in all ESAs for the same beneficiary will be used to determine when these accounts are fully funded and are no longer eligible for EEs.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:713 (June 1997), amended LR 24:436 (March 1998), LR 24:1269 (July 1998), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:2262 (October 2000), LR 27:1878 (November 2001), LR 28:450 (March 2002), LR 28:778 (April 2002), LR 28:2334 (November 2002), LR 30:786 (April 2004), LR 33:443 (March 2007), LR 36:313 (February 2010), LR 41:669 (April 2015), LR 42:1074 (July 2016).

§303. Account Owner Classifications

A. An account owner shall be classified by the authority under one of the following classifications:

1. a person or persons determined by the authority to be the parent, grandparent, or court ordered custodian of the person being designated as beneficiary of the account or who claim the person being designated as beneficiary as a dependent on their federal income tax return, and, at the time of the initiation of the agreement, the person or beneficiary is a resident of the state; or

2. a person determined by the authority to be a member of the family of the beneficiary and, at the time of the initiation of the agreement, the person or the beneficiary is a resident of the state; or

3. an independent student who is a resident of the state;

4. any other person and, at the time of the initiation of the agreement, the beneficiary is a resident of the state; or

5. any other person who, at the time of the initiation of the agreement, is a resident of the state and the beneficiary is not a resident of the state;

6. any other person or any government entity, and at the time of the initiation of the agreement:

a. the beneficiary is a resident of the state;

b. the federal adjusted income of the beneficiary's family is less than $30,000 or the beneficiary must be eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.);

c. the beneficiary is not a member of the account owner's family nor a member of the family of any member or employee of the authority or the Office of Student Financial Assistance;

d. the deposits to the account are an irrevocable donation by the owner.

B. In order to qualify as an account owner in any classification, a natural person, to include an independent student, must be of the age of majority under Louisiana law.

C. Account owner classification is made at the time of the initiation of the agreement. Changes in the residency of the account owner or beneficiary after the initiation of the agreement do not change the account owner's classification.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 27:1879 (November 2001), amended LR 28:779 (April 2002), LR 28:2334 (November 2002), LR 30:787 (April 2004), LR 42:1076 (July 2016).

§305. Deposits to Education Savings Accounts

A. Application Fee and Initial Deposit Amount

1. No application fee will be charged to participants applying for a START Program account directly to the LATTA.

2. Financial and investment institutions may be authorized by the LATTA to offer assistance in establishing a START Program account. (See *fees* in §301.D.6.)

3. An initial deposit is not required to open an ESA; however, a deposit of at least $10 must be made within 180 days from the date on the letter of notification of approval of the account.

4. A lump sum deposit may not exceed the maximum allowable account balance (see §107).

B. Deposit Options

1. The account owner shall select one of the following deposit options during the completion of the owner's agreement; however, the account owner may change the monthly deposit amount at any time and the payment method by notifying the LATTA:

a. occasional lump sum payment(s) made directly to the LATTA or to a LATTA-approved investment institution;

b. monthly payments made directly to the LATTA or to a LATTA-approved financial or investment institution;

c. automatic account debit, direct monthly transfer from the account owner's checking or savings account to the LATTA or a LATTA-approved investment institution;

d. payroll deduction, if available through the account owner's employer.

2. Account owners are encouraged to maintain a schedule of regular monthly deposits.

3. Through completion of schedule D of the Louisiana state income tax return, account owners may designate all or any portion of a state income tax refund due them as a deposit to their ESA. If the account owner has established more than one ESA, the amount of the refund identified on schedule D of the Louisiana state income tax return shall be divided by the number of accounts owned and an equal share shall be deposited into each such account.

C. Limitations on Deposits

1. All deposits must be rendered in amounts of at least $10 and must be made in cash, check, money order, automatic account debit or payroll deduction, defined as any of the deposit options listed in §305.B.1.

2. Once the balance in an account reaches the earnings enhancement cap (see §107), it will no longer be considered for EEs, regardless of the total amount of annual deposits that may be subsequently made to the account.

3. Once the cumulative contributions, earnings on contributions, EEs and interest accrued thereon has reached or exceeded the maximum allowable account balance (see §107), principal deposits will no longer be accepted to the account until a qualified distribution is made which reduces the account balance below the maximum allowable account balance.

D. Investment Options

1. The state treasurer shall select fixed earnings and variable earnings investment options.

2. The authority shall furnish each account owner with information that discloses each of the investment options offered by the program.

3. The account owner:

a. shall select one investment option in completing the owner's agreement, and

b. beginning December 1, 2009, may select the same or a different investment option at the time of each deposit.

4. Changing the Investment Option

a. Through 2008, the investment option can be changed only once in any 12-month period.

b. For the 2009 calendar year, the investment option may be changed at any time, but no more than two times.

c. Beginning December 1, 2009, if an ESA has funds in two or more investment options:

i. each option in the account may be changed to one different option or allowed to remain the same.

ii. all funds in each option changed must be transferred.

iii. funds in one option may not be moved to more than one option.

iv. all changes in investment options must take place in one transaction.

v. whether the funds are moved from one option or all options, the change is considered the one per calendar year investment option change.

d. Beginning the 2010 calendar year and thereafter, the investment option may be changed one time each calendar year.

e. Beginning the 2015 calendar year and thereafter, the investment option may be changed two times each calendar year.

5. Once a selection is made, all deposits shall be directed to the last investment option selected.

E. Effective Date of Deposits

1. Deposits for investment options that are limited to fixed earnings will be considered to have been deposited on the date of receipt.

2. Deposits for investment options that include variable earnings will be assigned a trade date based on the method of deposit and the date of receipt.

a. Deposits by check will be assigned a trade date three business days after the business day during which they were received.

b. Deposits made by electronic funds transfer through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network, or its successor, will be assigned a trade date of three business days after the business day during which they were received.

c. Deposits made by all other means of electronic funds transfer, including deposits made by transferring funds from a variable earnings option in which they are currently deposited to another option, will be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day during which they were received.

3. Deposits for investment options that include variable earnings which are received via check or electronic funds transfer through the Automated Clearing House Network will be deposited into the fixed earnings option until the trade date. Earnings accrued on these deposits prior to the trade date shall be deposited in the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund.

4. Deposits received on weekends and holidays will be considered received on the next business day.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:715 (June 1997), amended LR 24:1270 (July 1998), LR 26:2263 (October 2000), LR 27:1880 (November 2001), LR 30:788 (April 2004), LR 30:1169 (June 2004), LR 30:2302 (October 2004), LR 32:1433 (August 2006), LR 32:2240 (December 2006), LR 35:236 (February 2009), LR 35:1234 (July 2009), LR 36:492 (March 2010), LR 36:2550 (November 2010), LR 42:1076 (July 2016), LR 42:1658 (October 2016).

§307. Allocation of Earnings Enhancements (EEs)

A. EEs are state-appropriated funds allocated to an ESA on behalf of the beneficiary named in the account.

1.a. The EEs for account owners who are classified under §303.A.1, 2 and 3 are calculated based upon the account owner's annual federal adjusted gross income for the year immediately preceding the year for which the beneficiary of the account is being considered for EEs and the account owner's total annual deposits of principal.

b. The EEs for account owners who are classified under §303.A.6 are calculated based:

i. upon the beneficiary's family's annual federal adjusted gross income for the year immediately preceding the year for which the beneficiary of the account is being considered for EEs and the account owner's total annual deposits of principal; or

ii. if the beneficiary is a ward of the court, using the highest EE available and the account owner's total annual deposits of principal.

2. Although allocated to individual accounts, EEs are state funds and shall be held in an escrow account maintained by the state treasurer until disbursed to pay qualified higher education expenses at an eligible education institution as set forth in §307.G.

B. Providing Proof of Annual Federal Adjusted Gross Income.

1.a. For account owners who are classified under §303.A.1, 2, or 3 (does not include legal entities nor other persons classified as account owners under §303.A.6), the account owner's annual federal adjusted gross income for the year immediately preceding the year for which the beneficiary of the account is being considered for EEs is used in computing the annual EE allocation.

b. For account owners who are classified under §303.A.6, the beneficiary's family's annual federal adjusted gross income for the year immediately preceding the year for which the beneficiary of the account is being considered for EEs is used in computing the annual EEs or proof that the beneficiary is a ward of the court.

2.a. To be eligible in any given year for EEs in accordance with §307.D, the account owner of an ESA classified under §303.A.1, 2, 3, or 4 must:

i. authorize the LATTA to access the account owner's state tax return filed with the Louisiana Department

of Revenue for the purpose of obtaining the account owner's federal adjusted gross income; or

ii provide the LATTA a copy of the account owner's federal or state income tax return filed for the year immediately preceding the year in which the beneficiary of the account is being considered for EEs.

b. To be eligible in any given year for EEs in accordance with §307.D, the account owner of an ESA classified under §303.A.6 must:

i. provide authorization from the beneficiary's family for the LATTA to access the beneficiary's family's state tax return filed with the Louisiana Department of Revenue for the purpose of obtaining the federal adjusted gross income of the beneficiary's family; or

ii. provide the LATTA a copy of the beneficiary's family's federal or state income tax return filed for the year immediately preceding the year in which the beneficiary of the account is being considered for EEs; or

iii. provide documentation establishing that the beneficiary is a ward of the court.

3.a. In completing the owner's agreement, account owners who are classified under §303.A.1, 2, or 3 (does not include legal entities or other persons classified as account owners under §303.A.6) authorize the LATTA to access their records with the Louisiana Department of Revenue for the purpose of verifying the account owners' federal adjusted gross income. In the event the account owner does not file tax information with the Louisiana Department of Revenue, they must provide the LATTA with:

i. a copy of the form filed with the Internal Revenue Service; or

ii. a statement as to why no income tax filing was required of the account owner.

b. In completing the owner's agreement, account owners who are classified under §303.A.6 provide authorization from the beneficiary's family for the LATTA to access their records with the Louisiana Department of Revenue for the purpose of verifying the beneficiary's family's federal adjusted gross income. In the event the beneficiary's family does not file tax information with the Louisiana Department of Revenue, the beneficiary's family must provide:

i. a copy of the form filed with the Internal Revenue Service; or

ii. a statement that the beneficiary lives with them, that they provide more than 50 percent of the beneficiary's support and an explanation as to why the beneficiary's family was not required to file an income tax return; or

iii. provide documentation establishing that the beneficiary is a ward of the court.

4. EEs at the rate prescribed in §307.D cannot be allocated to an ESA unless the LATTA has received verification of an account owner's federal adjusted gross income by the deadline contained in §307.B.5. Interest on EEs will not accrue to the benefit of an ESA until the LATTA has allocated the EEs to the account.

5. If an account owner is classified in §305.A.1 or 2 and the tax documents required by §307.B.2 are not received by February 15 immediately following the year for which the beneficiary of the account is being considered for EEs, as an exception to §307.D, the account shall be allocated EEs for the year being considered at the EE rate shown in §307.D for account owners who are members of the family of the beneficiary who report an adjusted gross income of $100,000 and above.

6. Example. An account owner has made deposits in a START account for a beneficiary during calendar year 2010 and desires to receive the highest EE rate authorized for those deposits. If the account owner did not file a Louisiana income tax return for the tax year 2009 or is notified by the LATTA that the Louisiana Department of Revenue could not validate his federal adjusted gross income, he must submit the tax documents for tax year 2009 required by §307.B.2.b so that they are received by the LATTA no later than February 15, 2011, or his EE rate will be defaulted to the rate for account owners who are members of the family of the beneficiary who report an adjusted gross income of $100,000 and above.

C. Earnings Enhancement Rates

1. The EE rates applicable to an ESA under §303.A.1, 2, 3 and 6 are determined by the federal adjusted gross income of the account owner or the beneficiary's family, as applicable, according to the following schedule.

Reported Federal Adjusted Gross Income	Earnings Enhancement Rate
0 to $29,999	14 percent
$30,000 to $44,999	12 percent
$45,000 to $59,999	9 percent
$60,000 to $74,999	6 percent
$75,000 to $99,999	4 percent
$100,000 and above	2 percent

2. The availability of EEs to be allocated to ESAs is subject to an appropriation by the Louisiana Legislature.

3. In the event that sufficient EEs are not appropriated during any given year, the LATTA shall reduce EE rates, pro rata, as required to limit EEs to the amount appropriated.

D. The EE rates applicable to an ESA established by a person or persons identified in §303.A.4 shall be fixed at the EE rate for account owners who are members of the family of the beneficiary who report an adjusted gross income of $100,000 and above.

E. An ESA established by an authorized account owner identified in §303.A.5 shall not be eligible for EEs.

F. Restrictions on allocation of EEs to ESAs. The allocation of EEs is limited to ESAs which:

1. have not reached the earnings enhancement cap (see §107); and

2. have an account owner who falls under one of the classifications described in §303.A.1, 2, 3, 4, or 6.

G. Frequency of Allocation of EEs to ESAs. EEs will be allocated annually, posted to the accounts as of December 31 of the year earned and reported to account owners before March 31 following the allocation.

H. Rate of Interest Earned on EEs. The rate of interest earned on EEs shall be the rate of return earned on the Savings Enhancement Fund as reported by the state treasurer.

I. Restriction on Use of Earnings Enhancements

1. EEs, and any interest which may accrue thereon, may only be expended in payment of the beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses, or a portion thereof, at an eligible educational institution.

2. EEs, although allocated to a beneficiary's account and reported on the account owner's annual statement, are assets of the state of Louisiana and are not the property of the account owner until disbursed to pay a beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses at an eligible education institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:715 (June 1997), amended LR 24:1271 (July 1998), LR 25:1794 (October 1999), LR 26:1263 (June 2000), LR 26:2263 (October 2000), LR 27:37 (January 2001), LR 27:1222 (August 2001), LR 27:1880 (November 2001), LR 28:779 (April 2002), LR 30:788 (April 2004), LR 30:2302 (October 2004), LR 34:1886 (September 2008), LR 36:2550 (November 2010), LR 42:1077 (July 2016).

§309. Disbursement of Account Funds for Payment of Qualified Higher Education Expenses of a Beneficiary

A. Request for Disbursement

1. For each term the account owner intends to fund the beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses, the account owner shall submit a request for disbursement.

2. The request for disbursement must include:

a. the START account number;

b. the account owner's name, address, and signature (may be electronic);

c. the beneficiary's name and address;

d. the amount to be disbursed and to whom;

e. the name and address of the eligible educational institution.

3. In the event funds are invested in more than one investment option, the disbursement shall be made proportionally from each investment option in the account.

4. If there is more than one account with the same beneficiary, each account owner requesting a disbursement must complete a request for disbursement and the disbursements shall be made from each account, in turn, in the order the disbursement requests were received.

5. Disbursements from all accounts with the same beneficiary shall not exceed the qualified higher education expenses of the beneficiary for the school attended.

6. Disbursements may be made to the eligible educational institution, account owner, and/or beneficiary. If all of the disbursement is made to the account owner and/or the beneficiary and LOSFA determines that the beneficiary is not enrolled in an eligible educational institution during the semester or term for which the disbursement was intended, LOSFA shall notify the account owner that the disbursement will constitute a refund for state and federal income tax purposes unless returned to the START account. If the disbursement is not returned to the account within 60 days of the original notice, LOSFA shall recover the amount of the EEs and interest thereon included in the disbursement from any principal and interest remaining in the account, and, in the authority’s sole discretion, may refund any balance remaining thereafter and close the account.

7. Disbursements from investment options with variable earnings shall be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day of receipt of the transfer request.

B. Rate of Expenditure

1. As authorized by the account owner, the amount to be disbursed from an account shall be drawn from deposits (including earnings on deposits) and EEs (including earnings on EEs) in the same ratio as these funds bear to the total value of the account as of the date of the disbursement.

2. The account owner may not withdraw an amount in excess of the beneficiary's qualified higher education expenses for a specific term of enrollment or the value of the account, whichever is less.

C. Payments to Eligible Educational Institutions

1. Upon the beneficiary's enrollment and the institution's receipt of a START disbursement, the institution may credit the student's account. Should the amount received exceed the amount owed to the institution, the institution shall disburse the balance to the beneficiary, unless the beneficiary directs otherwise.

2. If the designated beneficiary of an ESA account enrolls, but fails to attend or withdraws from the institution prior to the end of the educational term and disbursements from the ESA were made to the eligible educational institution to pay all or part of his qualified higher education expenses for that educational term, an institutional refund to the ESA may be required.

3. If any refund is due the beneficiary from the eligible educational institution, a pro rata share of any refund of qualified higher education expenses equal to that portion of the qualified higher education expenses paid by disbursements from the ESA shall be made by the eligible educational institution to the LATTA.

4. The LATTA will credit any refunded amount to the appropriate ESA.

D. Advance Enrollment. A beneficiary may enroll in an eligible educational institution prior to his scheduled date of first-enrollment (see §107) and utilize ESA funds; however, a beneficiary may not utilize funds from an ESA prior to one year from the date the beneficiary made the first deposit opening the account.

E. Part-Time Attendance and Nonconsecutive Enrollment. A beneficiary may utilize funds in an ESA for enrollments which are nonconsecutive and for part-time attendance at an eligible educational institution, including enrollment in college classes while still in high school. Room and board is only a qualified higher education expense for students who are enrolled at least half time; however, room and board is not a qualified higher education expense for students who are enrolled in college classes while still in high school.

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§311. Termination, Refund, and Rollovers of an Education Savings Account

A. Account Termination

1. The account owner who is a natural person, other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §303.A.6, may terminate an account at any time.

2. The LATTA may terminate an account in accordance with this Subsection, §309.A.6 and §311.E.

3. The LATTA may terminate an account if no deposit of at least $10 has been made within 180 days from the date on the letter of notification of approval of the account.

4. The LATTA may terminate an account if the beneficiary dies and a new beneficiary is not named within 60 days of the death.

5. The LATTA may terminate an account if the beneficiary becomes disabled and a new beneficiary is not named by the time the beneficiary who has become disabled reaches age 25.

6. The account owner who is a legal entity or is classified under §303.A.6, may not terminate an account; however, the account owner who is a legal entity or is classified under §303.A.6 may designate a substitute beneficiary in accordance with §313.A.5.b.

B. Refunds

1. A partial refund of an account may only be made as described in §311.E.3 and 4.

2. All other requests for refund may result in the termination of the account and in the refund of:

a. the deposits invested in fixed earnings, if the account has been open for less than 12 months;

b. the redemption value, if the account has been open for 12 or more months;

c. the deposits to or the current value of an account invested in a variable earnings option, whichever is less, less earning enhancements allocated to the account and earnings thereon if the account has been open for less than 12 months. Any increase in the value of an account invested in a variable earnings option over the amount deposited shall be forfeited by the account owner and deposited in the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund, if the account was invested in a variable earnings option and terminated within 12 months of the date the account was opened;

d. the current value (less earning enhancements allocated to the account and earnings thereon) of an account invested in variable earnings, if the account has been open for 12 or more months.

3. No refunds shall be made to an account owner who is a legal entity classified under §303.A.4 or 5. If an account owned by a legal entity classified as an account owner under §303.A.4 or 5 is terminated by the LATTA or by the account owner in accordance with §311.E or F, the refund will be made to the beneficiary or to the beneficiary's estate if no substitute beneficiary has been designated by the account owner.

4. No refunds shall be paid to account owner classified under §303.A.6. If such an account is terminated by the LATTA in accordance with §311.E, the beneficiary shall become the owner of the account, provided that, all the rights and restrictions provided in law and these rules regarding account owners classified under §303.A.6, including, but not limited to, use of the funds, refunds, terminations, designation of beneficiary, etc., shall be applicable to the beneficiary that becomes the owner of such an account. If an account owner classified under §303.A.6 dies or is dissolved and the beneficiary has died or failed to enroll in an eligible college or university by age 25, and no substitute beneficiary has been designated by the account owner, the authority shall designate a new beneficiary who must meet the requirements of §301.A.4 and §303.A.6.

5. Refunds from investment options with variable earnings shall be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day of receipt.

C. Designation of a Refund Recipient

1. In the owner's agreement, the account owner who is a natural person, except one who is classified under §303.A.6, may designate himself or the beneficiary to receive refunds from the account.

2. Refunds of interest earnings will be reported as income to the individual receiving the refund for both federal and state tax purposes.

3. In the event the beneficiary receives any refund of principal and earnings from the account, the tax consequences must be determined by the recipient.

4. The beneficiary of an account owned by a legal entity classified as an account owner under §303.A.4 or 5 is automatically designated as the refund recipient.

5. Funds in an account classified under §303.A.6 shall not be refunded.

D. Involuntary Termination of an Account with Penalty

1. The LATTA may terminate an owner's agreement if it finds that the account owner or beneficiary provided false or misleading information (see §107).

2. If the LATTA terminates an owner's agreement under this Section, all interest earnings on principal deposits may be withheld and forfeited, with only principal being refunded.

3. An individual who obtains program benefits by providing false or misleading information will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

E. Voluntary Termination of an Account

1. Refunds shall be equal to the redemption value of the ESA at the time of the refund, and shall be made to the person designated in the owner's agreement or by rule.

2. The person receiving the refund shall be responsible for any state or federal income tax that may be payable due to the refund.

3. Except for accounts classified in accordance with §711.A.6, accounts may be terminated and fully refunded for the following reasons:

a. the death of the beneficiary in which case the refund shall be equal to the redemption value of the account and shall be made to:

i. the account owner, if the account owner is a natural person; or

ii. the beneficiary's estate, if the account owner is a legal entity;

b. the disability of the beneficiary, in which case the refund shall be equal to the redemption value of the account and shall be made to:

i. the account owner or the beneficiary, as designated in the owner's agreement, if the account owner is a natural person; or

ii. the beneficiary, if the account owner is a legal entity;

c. the beneficiary receives a scholarship, waiver of tuition, or similar subvention that the LATTA determines cannot be converted into money by the beneficiary, to the extent the amount of the refund does not exceed the amount of the scholarship, waiver of tuition, or similar subvention awarded to the beneficiary. In such case, the refund shall be equal to the scholarship, waiver of tuition, or similar subvention that the LATTA determines cannot be converted into money by the beneficiary of the account, or the redemption value, whichever is less, and shall be made to:

i. the account owner or the beneficiary, as designated in the owner's agreement, if the account owner is a natural person; or

ii. the beneficiary, if the account owner is a legal entity.

4. For the 2018 calendar year only, an account owner may request a refund in order to pay the tuition expenses related to the beneficiary's enrollment in kindergarten through twelfth grade in the following circumstances:

a. the account was opened prior to December 31, 2017;

b. the amount requested to be refunded is less than or equal to the balance of the account as of December 31, 2017;

c. the amount requested to be refunded does not exceed $10,000.

5. For the 2020 calendar year only, and beginning on August 1, 2020, an account owner may request a refund in order to pay the tuition expenses related to the beneficiary's enrollment in kindergarten through twelfth grade as follows:

a. the amount requested to be refunded is less than or equal to the balance of the account;

b. the amount requested to be refunded does not exceed $10,000;

c. no earnings enhancements or interest thereon shall be included in such a refund.

6. Refunds made under §311.E.3 and 4 are currently exempt from additional federal taxes.

F. Effective Date of Account Termination. Account termination shall be effective at midnight on the business day on which the request for account termination and all supporting documents are received. Accounts will be credited with interest earned on principal deposits through the effective date of the closure of the account.

G. Refund Payments. Payment of refunds for voluntary termination under §311.E or partial refunds of accounts pursuant to §311.E.3 shall be made within 30 days of the date on which the account was terminated. The termination refund shall consist of the principal remaining in the account and interest remaining in the account accrued on the principal through the end of the calendar year preceding the year in which the request to terminate an account is made. Interest earned in excess of $10 during the calendar year of termination will be refunded within 45 days of the date the state treasurer announces the interest rate for the preceding calendar year. Interest earned of $10 or less during the calendar year of termination will be forfeited to the Louisiana Education and Tuition Savings Fund.

H. Rollovers

1. Rollovers among ESAs of the Same Account Owner

a. Beginning October 1, 2009, an account owner may rollover any part or all of the value of an ESA to another ESA if the beneficiary of the account receiving the funds is a member of the family of the beneficiary of the original account.

b. If the current value of an ESA is transferred, all EEs and earnings thereon shall be included in the transfer.

2. Rollover to another Qualified Tuition Program

a. An account owner may request a rollover of the current value of the account less EEs and earnings thereon to another qualified tuition program.

b. EEs and the earnings thereon allocated to an ESA that is rolled over to another qualified tuition program are forfeited.

3. Rollover to a Qualified ABLE Program Account

a. Beginning May 1, 2018, an account owner may rollover any part or all of the value of an ESA to a qualified ABLE program account if the beneficiary of the account receiving the funds is a member of the family of the beneficiary of the ESA.

b. EEs and the earnings thereon allocated to an ESA that is transferred to a qualified ABLE program are forfeited.

c. A rollover by a Louisiana resident to any Qualified Able Program Account will be subject to Louisiana Tax Table Income in accordance with state law.

4. An account owner may not rollover any part or all of the value of an ESA to a START K12 account.

5. Beginning August 1, 2022, an account owner may rollover any or all of the value of an ESA to a START K12 account. Earnings enhancements may not be transferred to a START K12 account and will remain in the ESA for use by the beneficiary for qualified higher education expenses.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:717 (June 1997), amended LR 24:1273 (July 1998), repromulgated LR 26:2265 (October 2000), amended LR 27:38 (January 2001), LR 27:1882 (November 2001), LR 28:779 (April 2002), LR 30:790 (April 2004), LR 31:639 (March 2005), LR 32:1434 (August 2006), LR 32:2240 (December 2006), LR 33:444 (March 2007), LR 35:236 (February 2009), LR 36:492 (March 2010), LR 36:2551 (November 2010), LR 39:2238 (August 2013), LR 42:1080 (July 2016), LR 44:1877, 1887 (October 2018), LR 47:42 (January 2021), LR 49:58 (January 2023).

§313. Substitution, Assignment, and Transfer

A. Substitute Beneficiary. The beneficiary of an ESA may be changed to a substitute beneficiary provided the account owner completes a beneficiary substitution form and the following requirements are met:

1. the substitute beneficiary is a member of the family as defined under §107;

2. the substitute beneficiary meets the citizen/resident alien requirements of §301.F, and, if the account owner is a nonresident of the state of Louisiana, the substitute beneficiary meets the applicable residency requirements (see §301.G);

3. if the substitute beneficiary is not a member of the family of the previous beneficiary:

a. and the account owner is a natural person classified under §303.A.1-5, the account must be refunded to the account owner and a new account must be opened;

b. and the account owner is a legal entity classified under §303.A.4 or 5, a new account shall be opened in the name of the new beneficiary; and

i. these transfers may be treated as refunds under federal and state tax laws in which case the account owner will be subject to any associated tax consequences; and

ii. the EEs and interest thereon for an account whose owner is classified under §303.A.4 will not be transferred to the new beneficiary; however, the new account will be eligible for EEs for the year the new account is opened;

c. and the account owner is classified under §303.A.6, a new account shall be opened in the name of the new beneficiary only if the beneficiary meets all the requirements of §303.A.6; and

i. these transfers may be treated as refunds under federal and state tax laws in which case the account owner will be subject to any associated tax consequences; and

ii. the EEs and interest thereon will not be transferred to the new beneficiary; however, the new account will be eligible for EEs for the year the new account is opened;

iii. the provisions of §301.A.2 shall apply to account owners classified in accordance with §305.A.5.

B. Substitution/Transfer of Account Ownership. The ownership of an ESA is transferable only with the written approval of the LATTA and only as follows.

1. The account owner who is a natural person, other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §303.A.6, may designate a person who will become the substitute account owner in the event of the original account owner's death. Eligibility for EEs will be based on the substitute account owner's classification at the time of the original account owner's death.

2. In the event of the death of an account owner who is a natural person, other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §303.A.6, who has not named a substitute account owner, the account shall be terminated and the account shall be refunded to the beneficiary, if designated to receive the refund by the account owner, or the account owner's estate.

3. An account owner who is a legal entity classified under §303.A.4 or 5 may indicate in the owner’s agreement

that the account shall be transferred to the beneficiary of the account upon his 18th birthday, or upon his enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution full time, whichever is later. If the account owner transfers the account in accordance with this section, disbursements may only be made for payment of the qualified higher education expenses of the beneficiary.

4. In the event of the dissolution of an account owner who is a legal entity classified as an account owner under §303.A.4 or 5, the beneficiary shall become the substitute account owner. If the account owner who is a legal entity classified as an account owner under §303.A.4 or 5 is dissolved, the beneficiary designated to receive the refund has died, and there is no substitute beneficiary named, the refund shall be made to the beneficiary's estate.

5. In the event of the death or dissolution of another person classified as an account owner under §303.A.6, the beneficiary shall become the substitute account owner, provided that all the rights and restrictions provided in law and these rules regarding account owners classified under §303.A.6, including, but not limited to, use of the funds, refunds, terminations, designation of beneficiary, etc., shall be applicable to the beneficiary that becomes the owner of an account established under §303.A.6. If an account owner classified under §303.A.6 dies or is dissolved and the beneficiary has died or failed to enroll in an eligible educational institution by age 25, and no substitute beneficiary has been designated by the account owner, the LATTA shall designate a new beneficiary who must meet the requirements of §301.A.4 and §303.A.6.

C. Assignment of Account Ownership. Ownership of an ESA cannot be assigned.

D. Changes to the Owner's Agreement

1. The account owner may request changes to the owner's agreement.

2. Changes must be requested in writing and be signed by the account owner.

3. Changes, if accepted, will take effect as of the date the notice is received by the LATTA.

4. The LATTA shall not be liable for acting upon inaccurate or invalid data which was submitted by the account owner.

5. The account owner will be notified by the LATTA in writing of any changes affecting the owner's agreement which result from changes in applicable federal and state statutes and rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:718 (June 1997), amended LR 24:1274 (July 1998), repromulgated LR 26:2266 (October 2000), amended LR 27:1883 (November 2001), LR 28:780 (April 2002), LR 30:791 (April 2004), LR 42:1081 (July 2016).

§315. Miscellaneous Provisions

A. Account Statements and Reports

1. The LATTA will forward to each account owner an annual statement of account which itemizes the:

a. date and amount of deposits and interest earned during the prior year;

b. total principal and interest accrued to the statement date; and

c. total EEs and interest thereon allocated to the account as of the statement date.

2. EEs shall be allocated annually and reported after March 1, following the account owners' required disclosure of their reported federal adjusted gross income for the year immediately preceding the year in which the beneficiary of the account is being considered for an EEs.

3. The account owner must report errors on the annual statement of account to the LATTA within 60 days from the date on the account statement or the statement will be deemed correct.

B. Earned Interest

1. Interest earned on principal deposits during a calendar year will be credited to accounts and reported to account owners after the conclusion of the calendar year in which the interest was earned.

2. The rate of interest earned shall be the rate of return earned on the fund as reported by the state treasurer and approved by the LATTA.

3. For the year ending December 31, 2000, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 6.51 percent.

4. For the year ending December 31, 2000, the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAGs) Fund earned an interest rate of 6.83 percent.

5. For the year ending December 31, 2001, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 6.33 percent.

6. For the year ending December 31, 2001, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 6.38 percent.

7. For the year ending December 31, 2002, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 5.82 percent.

8. For the year ending December 31, 2002, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 5.91 percent.

9. For the year ending December 31, 2003, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 5.33 percent.

10. For the year ending December 31, 2003, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 5.17 percent.

11. For the year ending December 31, 2004, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 4.72 percent.

12. For the year ending December 31, 2004, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 5.12 percent.

13. For the year ending December 31, 2005, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 3.64 percent.

14. For the year ending December 31, 2005, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 4.92 percent.

15. For the year ending December 31, 2006, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 5.11 percent.

16. For the year ending December 31, 2006, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 4.67 percent.

17. For the year ending December 31, 2007, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 5.28 percent.

18. For the year ending December 31, 2007, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 5.25 percent.

19. For the year ending December 31, 2008, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 4.65 percent.

20. For the year ending December 31, 2008, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 4.39 percent.

21. For the year ending December 31, 2009, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 3.22 percent.

22. For the year ending December 31, 2009, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 3.08 percent.

23. For the year ending December 31, 2010, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 2.69 percent.

24. For the year ending December 31, 2010, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 2.56 percent.

25. For the year ending December 31, 2011, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 2.53 percent.

26. For the year ending December 31, 2011, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 2.47 percent.

27. For the year ending December 31, 2012, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 2.52 percent.

28. For the year ending December 31, 2012, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 2.57 percent.

29. For the year ending December 31, 2013, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 2.168 percent.

30. For the year ending December 31, 2013, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 1.715 percent.

31. For the year ending December 31, 2014, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 2.08 percent.

32. For the year ending December 31, 2014, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 1.31 percent.

33. For the year ending December 31, 2015, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 1.67 percent.

34. For the year ending December 31, 2015, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 1.15 percent.

35. For the year ending December 31, 2016, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 1.6 percent.

36. For the year ending December 31, 2016, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 1.2 percent.

37. For the year ending December 31, 2017, the Louisiana education tuition and savings fund earned an interest rate of 1.68 percent.

38. For the year ending December 31, 2017, the savings enhancement fund earned an interest rate of 1.52 percent.

39. For the year ending December 31, 2018, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 1.75 percent.

40. For the year ending December 31, 2018, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 1.75 percent.

41. For the year ending December 31, 2019, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 2.19 percent.

42. For the year ending December 31, 2019, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 2.27 percent.

43. For the year ending December 31, 2020, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 1.40 percent.

44. For the year ending December 31, 2020, the Louisiana Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 1.97 percent.

45. For the year ending December 31, 2021, the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund earned an interest rate of 0.97 percent.

46. For the year ending December 31, 2021, the Savings Enhancement Fund earned an interest rate of 1.84 percent.

C. Refunded Amounts

1. Interest earned on an ESA which is refunded to the account owner or beneficiary will be taxable for state and federal income tax purposes.

2. No later than January 31 of the year following the year of the refund, the LATTA will furnish the State Department of Revenue, the Internal Revenue Service and the recipient of the refund an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099, or whatever form is appropriate according to applicable tax codes.

D. Annual Report

1. The account owner of an ESA will be notified annually, in writing, of the following:

a. the maximum allowable account balance; and

b. the minimum recommended account balance which is an amount equal to five times the qualified higher education expenses for the eligible educational institution designated on the owner's agreement, projected to the date of the beneficiary's eighteenth birthday; or

2. If the account owner changes the institution designated on the owner's agreement, a revised minimum recommended account balance will be calculated and the account owner will be notified of any change.

E. Rule Changes. The LATTA reserves the right to amend the rules regulating the START Program's policies and procedures; however, any amendments to rules affecting participants will be published in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and distributed to account owners for public comment prior to the adoption of final rules.

F. Determination of Facts. The LATTA shall have sole discretion in making a determination of fact regarding the application of these rules.

G. Individual Accounts. The LATTA will maintain an individual account for each beneficiary, showing the redemption value of the account.

H. Confidentiality of Records. All records of the LATTA identifying account owners and designated beneficiaries of ESAs, amounts deposited, expended or refunded, are confidential and are not public records.

I. No Investment Direction. No account owner or beneficiary of an ESA may direct the investment of funds credited to an account, except to make an annual election among investment options that offer fixed earnings, variable earnings or both. Deposits will be invested on behalf of the START Savings Program by the state treasurer.

J. No Pledging of Interest as Security. No interest in an ESA may be pledged as security for a loan.

K. Excess Funds

1. Principal deposits to an ESA are no longer accepted once the account total reaches the maximum allowable account balance (see §305.C); however, the principal and interest earned thereon may continue to earn interest and any EEs allocated to the account may continue to accrue interest.

2. Funds in excess of the maximum allowable account balance may remain in the account and continue to accrue interest and may be disbursed in accordance with §309, or will be refunded in accordance with §311 upon termination of the account.

L. Withdrawal of Funds. Funds may not be withdrawn from an ESA except as set forth in §309 and §311.

M. NSF Procedure

1. A check received for deposit to an ESA which is returned due to insufficient funds in the owner's account on which the check is drawn, will be redeposited and processed a second time by the START Program's financial institution.

2. If the check is returned due to insufficient funds a second time, the check will be returned to the depositor.

3. Earnings reported by the state treasurer on deposits made by check or an ACH transfer which is not honored by the financial institution on which it was drawn subsequent to the trade date shall be forfeited by the account owner and deposited into the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund.

N. Effect of a Change in Residency. On the date an account is opened, either the account owner or beneficiary must be a resident of the state of Louisiana (see §301.G); however, if the account owner or beneficiary, or both, temporarily or permanently move to another state after the account is opened, they may continue participation in the program in accordance with the terms of the owner's agreement.

O. Effect on Other Financial Aid. Participation in the START Program does not disqualify a student from participating in other federal, state or private student financial aid programs; however, depending upon the regulations which govern these other programs at the time of enrollment, the beneficiary may experience reduced eligibility for aid from these programs.

P. Change in Projected School of Enrollment

1. The account owner may redesignate the beneficiary's projected school of enrollment, but not more than once annually.

2. If the change in school results in a change in the account's EE cap, the account owner will be notified.

Q. Abandoned Accounts. Abandoned accounts will be defined and treated in accordance with R.S. 9:151 et seq., as amended, the Louisiana Uniform Unclaimed Property Act.

R. Investment in Variable Earnings. When an account owner selects a variable earnings account, up to 100 percent of the deposits may be invested in equity securities.

S. Variable Earnings Transaction Fund

1. Monies in the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund shall be used to pay any charges assessed to the START Saving Program by a financial institution and to pay any loss of value between the purchase and redemption of units in a variable earnings option that are incurred when a check or ACH transfer is dishonored after the trade date by the financial institution on which it was drawn.

2. After the payment of expenses as provided in Paragraph 1, above, the LATTA may declare monies remaining in the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund as surplus. Such surplus shall be appropriated to the Saving Enhancement Fund to be used as EEs.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 17:3091-3099.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:718 (June 1997), amended LR 24:1274 (July 1998), LR 26:1263 (June 2000), repromulgated LR 26:2267 (October 2000), amended LR 27:1221 (August 2001), LR 27:1884 (November 2001), LR 28:1761 (August 2002), LR 28:2335 (November 2002), LR 29:2038 (October 2003), repromulgated LR 29:2374 (November 2003), amended LR 30:791 (April 2004), LR 30:1472 (July 2004), LR 31:2216 (September 2005), LR 32:1434 (August 2006), LR 32:2240 (December 2006), LR 33:2359 (November 2007), LR 34:1886 (September 2008), LR 35:1492 (August 2009), LR 36:492 (March 2010), LR 36:2030 (September 2010), LR 38:1954 (August 2012), LR 39:2238 (August 2013), LR 40:1926 (October 2014), LR 41:1487 (August 2015), LR 42:1082 (July 2016), LR 42:1658 (October 2016), LR 43:1731 (September 2017), LR 44:1888 (October 2018), LR 45:1177 (September 2019), LR 46:1223 (September 2020), LR 47:1495 (October 2021), LR 48:2561 (October 2022).

Chapter 5. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE)

§501. General Provisions

A. The Louisiana Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account Program was enacted in 2014 to provide a program of savings to encourage and assist individuals and families in saving private funds for the purpose of supporting persons with disabilities in endeavors to maintain health, independence, and quality of life. The purposes of the program include all of the following:

1. to pay qualified disability expenses so that persons with disabilities may maintain health, independence, and quality of life;

2. to provide secure funding for disability-related expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries that will supplement, but not supplant, benefits provided through private insurance, the medical assistance program administered by this state in accordance with title XIX of the Social Security Act, the Supplemental Security Income Program under title XVI of such Act, the beneficiary's employment, and other sources;

3. to comply fully with all provisions of the Stephen Beck, Jr., ABLE Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-295, Division B), and all regulations issued pursuant thereto.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:638 (April 2017).

§503. Legislative Authority

A. The Louisiana ABLE Act is established by Act 604 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, 22-A, title 17 of the *Louisiana Revised Statutes* (R.S. 17:3081-3089).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:638 (April 2017).

§505. Program Administration

A. The Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA) is a statutory authority whose membership consists of the Board of Regents, plus one member from the Louisiana Bankers Association, the state treasurer, and one member each from the House of Representatives and Senate.

B. The LATTA administers the ABLE Account Program through the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

C. LOSFA, a program under the Board of Regents, performs the functions of the state relating to programs of financial assistance and certain scholarship programs for higher education in accordance with directives of its governing bodies and applicable law, and as such is responsible for administering the ABLE account program under the direction of the LATTA.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:638 (April 2017).

§507. Applicable Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in these rules shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Account Owner—the eligible individual who opened the account, or the eligible individual on whose behalf the account was opened, and who is also the beneficiary.

Administrator—the person who has the authority to direct the activities of the account. The administrator of the account may be the account owner or a person authorized by

law or by authentic act to administer the account on behalf of the beneficiary. For purposes of these rules, the term administrator shall mean the account owner or a person who is legally authorized to act on his behalf.

Beneficiary—the eligible individual who established the ABLE account, or for whom an ABLE account was established, and who is the owner of such account.

Current Value—the value of an ABLE account at a given point in time.

a. The current value of fixed earnings investment options includes the accumulated value of the principal deposited and earnings on deposits.

b. The current value of variable earnings investment options includes the number of units in the investment option purchased multiplied by the current value of each unit. This value may be more or less than the amount originally deposited.

Deposits—the actual amount of money received for deposit for investment in an ABLE account. Deposits do not include earnings on deposits.

Eligible Individual—an individual is an eligible individual for a given tax year if one of the following is met:

a. the individual is entitled to benefits based on blindness or disability under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, and such blindness or disability occurred before the date on which the individual attained age 26; or

b. a disability certification with respect to such individual is filed with the secretary for such taxable year.

False or *Misleading Information*—a statement or response made by a person which is knowingly false or misleading, and made for the purpose of establishing a program account and/or receiving benefits to which the person would not otherwise be entitled.

Fixed Earnings—the placement of all deposits in an ABLE account, including the interest earned thereon, in investments that normally provide a fixed rate of return for a specific period of time.

Louisiana Board of Regents—the agency of state government responsible for administering the ABLE account program under the direction of the Tuition Trust Authority.

Louisiana Resident—

a. any person who resided in the state of Louisiana on the date of the application and who has manifested intent to remain in the state by establishing Louisiana as legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following:

i. if registered to vote, is registered to vote in Louisiana;

ii. if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, is in possession of a Louisiana driver's license;

iii. if owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, is in possession of a Louisiana registration for that vehicle;

iv. if earning an income, has complied with state income tax laws and regulations;

b. a member of the Armed Forces stationed outside of Louisiana who claims Louisiana on his/her official DD Form 2058 as his/her legal residence for tax purposes, and is in compliance with state income tax laws and regulations, shall be considered eligible for program participation;

c. a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders shall be considered eligible for program participation;

d. persons less than 21 years of age are considered Louisiana residents if they reside with and are dependent upon one or more persons who meet the above requirements.

Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (*LATTA*)—the statutory body responsible for the administration of the ABLE Account Program.

Maximum Allowable Account Balance—500,000.

Member of Family—an individual who is the brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister to the beneficiary, including an adopted brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister.

Natural Person—a human being.

Office of Student Financial Assistance (*LOSFA*)—a program under the Board of Regents, performs the functions of the state relating to programs of financial assistance and certain scholarship programs for higher education in accordance with directives of its governing bodies and applicable law, and as such is responsible for administering the ABLE account program as directed by LATTA and the Board of Regents.

Other Person (with respect to any designated beneficiary)—any person, other than the beneficiary, whether natural or juridical, who is not a member of the family, including but not limited to individuals, groups, trusts, estates, associations, organizations, partnerships, corporations, and custodians under the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA).

Owner's Agreement—the agreement for program participation that the account owner or administrator completes and signs. It incorporates, by reference, R.S. 17:3081 et seq., and the rules promulgated by the LATTA to implement this statutory provision and any other state or federal laws applicable to the agreement and the terms and conditions as set forth therein.

Person—a human being or a juridical entity.

Qualified Disability Expenses (*QDEs*)—expenses that relate to the blindness or disability of the designated beneficiary in maintaining or improving his or her health, independence, or quality of life. QDEs may, but need not,

benefit only the disabled individual. QDEs include, but are not limited to, expenses related to the beneficiary's:

a. education;

b. housing;

c. transportation;

d. employment training and support;

e. assistive technology and related services;

f. personal support services;

g. health, prevention, and wellness;

h. financial management and administrative services;

i. legal fees;

j. expenses for oversight and monitoring;

k. funeral and burial expenses; and

l. other expenses which may be identified by the Internal Revenue Service.

Redemption Value—the cash value of the money in an ABLE Account invested in a fixed earnings option that are attributable to the sum of the principal deposited and the earnings on principal authorized to be credited to the account by the LATTA, less any disbursements and refunds. Redemption value is not applicable to an ABLE account invested in variable earnings.

Refund Recipient—the person designated in the ABLE account program owner's agreement or by operation of law to receive refunds from the account. The refund recipient can only be the account owner, his heirs, or his estate.

Trade Date—the date that a deposit to an investment option that includes variable earnings is assigned a value in units, the date a disbursement or refund from an investment option that includes variable earnings is assigned a value, or the date of a change in investment options that includes variable earnings is assigned a value, whichever is applicable.

Variable Earnings—refers to that portion of funds in an ABLE account invested in equities, bonds, short-term fixed income investments or a combination of any of the three.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:639 (April 2017), amended LR 44:1888 (October 2018), LR 47:575 (May 2021).

§509. Establishment of an ABLE Account

A. An ABLE account is established by or on behalf of an eligible individual to provide the funding necessary for qualified disability expenses (QDEs).

B. Only one ABLE account may be established for an eligible individual, whether the account is established in Louisiana or with another ABLE program.

C. The eligible individual must be a *Louisiana resident* as defined in §507 and must meet the following citizenship requirements:

1. be a United States citizen; or

2. be a permanent resident of the United States as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor and provide copies of USCIS documentation with the submission of the owner's agreement; or

3. be lawfully residing in the United States and have a valid Social Security number.

D. Through April 30, 2021, an ABLE account may be established by the account owner or an administrator who is authorized by law or by authentic act to administer the account on behalf of the account owner.

1. An administrator who is not the account owner may establish an account on behalf of an eligible individual upon provision of documentation to LOSFA evidencing that person has the legal right to act on behalf of the eligible individual.

2. Documentation required to establish an account on behalf of an eligible individual includes:

a. if a parent, a copy of the eligible individual's birth certificate;

b. if an adoptive parent, documentation evidencing the adoption of the eligible individual;

c. if a custodian, court documents evidencing the appointment of the custodian by a court of law;

d. if designated by the eligible individual to administer his affairs, documentation evidencing such designation;

e. if a juridical entity, documentation evidencing that the eligible individual, or a person authorized to act on his behalf, as indicated in §509.D.2.a-d above, has designated the juridical entity to act on his behalf for purposes of an LA ABLE account program account.

E. Beginning on May 1, 2021, an ABLE account may be established by or on behalf of an eligible individual by the highest ranked person listed below, who shall certify, under penalty of perjury, that he or she is authorized to establish an ABLE account on behalf of an eligible individual and that there is no other person with a higher priority who is willing or able to do so:

1. a person selected by the eligible individual or by an agent appointed by the eligible individual;

2. a custodian appointed by a court of law or a legal guardian;

3. the spouse of the eligible individual;

4. a parent of the eligible individual;

5. a sibling of the eligible individual;

6. a grandparent of the eligible individual;

7. a representative payee appointed by the Social Security Administration.

F. Program Enrollment Period. An account may be established at any time during the calendar year.

G. Completing the Owner's Agreement

1. This agreement must be completed and signed by the administrator.

2. The administrator who is also the account owner may designate a limited power of attorney to an administrator who would be authorized to act on his behalf in the event the account owner becomes incapacitated.

3. The administrator must certify:

a. that the person for whom the account is being established is an *eligible individual* as defined in §507;

b. that the eligible individual is a Louisiana resident;

c. that the eligible individual meets the citizenship requirements set forth in §509.B;

d. that if he is not the eligible individual, that he is authorized by law or by authentic act to open and administer the ABLE account on behalf of the eligible individual and that there is no other person higher in priority as provided in Subsection E.1-7 who is willing and able to do so;

e. that he will provide the documentation necessary to establish the certifications made for Subsections D.2.a-d upon request by LOSFA or the Internal Revenue Service;

f. that he will notify LOSFA immediately upon a determination that the person for whom the ABLE account was opened has ceased to be an eligible individual as that term is defined in §507;

g. that he will annually certify that the person for whose benefit the account was opened continues to be an *eligible individual* as defined in §507;

h. that he has read and understands the owner's agreement and participation materials.

4. The administrator agrees to the following terms when completing the account owner's agreement.

a. All transactions involving the ABLE account will be reported to the Social Security Administration on a monthly basis.

b. Fees

i. Except for penalties which may be imposed on refunds, the LATTA shall not charge fees for the opening or the maintenance of a fixed earnings account.

ii. Fees imposed by investment institutions for opening or maintenance of variable earnings accounts may be charged to the account owner.

c. Financial and investment institutions may be authorized by the LATTA to offer prospective owners information and assistance in opening an ABLE account.

d. Only the account owner, his heirs, or his estate may be designated to receive refunds from the ABLE account. In the event of the death of the account owner when the account owner is designated to receive the refund or when no successor beneficiary is named, the refund shall be made to the account owner's estate.

H. Acceptance of the Owner's Agreement

1. A properly completed and submitted owner's agreement will be reviewed within 48 hours of receipt for completeness. If additional information is required to accept the owner's agreement, the Administrator will be contacted to provide that information.

2. Upon acceptance of the owner's agreement, the LATTA will establish the ABLE account.

I. Providing Personal Information

1. The administrator is required to disclose personal information regarding the eligible individual, including:

a. his Social Security number;

b. his date of birth; and

c. his relationship to the administrator.

2. If not the eligible individual, the administrator will be required to disclose the following information:

a. his relationship to the eligible individual;

b. if a parent of the eligible individual, his Social Security number.

3. The eligible individual's Social Security number and federal and state employer identification numbers will be used for purposes of federal and state income tax reporting to access individual account information for administrative purposes, and to provide necessary reports to the Social Security Administration.

4. The following protected health information is collected only for IRS reporting purposes:

a. basis for the eligible individual's eligibility:

i. code A—Social Security disability Income—title II SSA;

ii. code B—Social Security income—title XVI SSA;

iii. code C—eligible individual is the subject of a disability certification filed with the IRS for 2016;

b. type of disability:

i. code 1—developmental disorders, including autistic spectrum disorder, Asperger's disorder, development delays, learning disabilities;

ii. code 2—intellectual disability. May be reported as mild, moderate or severe intellectual disability;

iii. code 3—psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, post-traumatic

stress disorder (PTSD), anorexia nervosa; attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD), bipolar disorder;

iv. code 4—nervous disorders, including blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, juvenile-onset Huntington's disease, multiple sclerosis, severe sensorineural hearing loss, congenital cataracts;

v. code 5—congenital anomalies: chromosomal abnormalities, including down syndrome, osteogenesis imperfecta, xeroderma pigmentosum, spinal muscular atrophy, fragile X syndrome, Edwards syndrome;

vi. code 6—respiratory disorders: cystic fibrosis;

vii. code 7—other: includes tetrology of fallot, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, end-stage liver disease, juvenile-onset rheumatoid arthritis, sickle cell disease, hemophilia; and any other disability not listed under codes 1-6.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:640 (April 2017), amended LR 44:1888 (October 2018), amended LR 47:575 (May 2021).

§511. Deposits to ABLE Accounts

A. Application Fee and Initial Deposit Amount

1. No application fee will be charged to those applying for an ABLE account on behalf of an eligible individual.

2. Financial and investment institutions may be authorized by the LATTA to offer assistance in establishing an ABLE account. (See fees in §509.G.4.).

3. An initial deposit is not required to open an ABLE account; however, a deposit of at least $10 must be made within 180 days from the date on the letter of notification of approval of the account.

4. A lump sum deposit may not exceed the annual contribution limit unless such deposit is the result of a rollover from another ABLE Program.

B. Deposit Options

1. The administrator shall select one of the following deposit options during the completion of the owner's agreement; however, the administrator may change the monthly deposit amount at any time and the payment method by notifying the LATTA:

a. occasional lump sum payment(s) made directly to the LATTA or to a LATTA-approved investment institution;

b. monthly payments made directly to the LATTA or to a LATTA-approved financial or investment institution;

c. automatic account debit, direct monthly transfer from the Administrator's checking or savings account to the LATTA or a LATTA-approved investment institution;

d. payroll deduction, if available through the administrator's employer.

C. Limitations on Deposits

1. All deposits must be rendered in amounts of at least $10 and must be made in cash, check, money order, automatic account debit or payroll deduction, defined as any of the deposit options listed in §511.B.1.

2. Once the cumulative contributions and earnings on contributions have reached or exceeded the maximum allowable account balance, principal deposits will no longer be accepted to the account until a distribution is made which reduces the account balance below the maximum allowable account balance.

3. ABLE account balances of up to $100,000 will not affect Social Security income (SSI) benefits. However, once an account exceeds $100,000, SSI benefits will be suspended until such time as the balance is reduced below $100,000.

4. If the person for whose benefit an ABLE account was opened ceases to be an eligible individual as defined in §507, no further deposits will be accepted unless and until such time as the person becomes an eligible individual again.

D. Investment Options

1. The state treasurer shall select fixed earnings and variable earnings investment options.

2. The authority shall furnish each account owner with information that discloses each of the investment options offered by the program.

3. The administrator shall select the investment option for the ABLE account at the time the account is opened. The administrator may select the same or a different investment option at the time of each deposit.

4. Changing the Investment Option

a. The administrator may change the investment options no more than two times in a calendar.

b. If an ABLE account has funds in two or more investment options.

i. Each option in the account may be changed to one different option or allowed to remain the same.

ii. All funds in each option changed must be transferred.

iii. Funds in one option may not be moved to more than one option.

iv. All changes in investment options must take place in one transaction.

v. Whether the funds are moved from one option or all options, the change is considered one of the two allowed investment option changes per calendar year.

c. Once a selection is made, all deposits shall be directed to the last investment option selected.

E. Effective Date of Deposits

1. Deposits for investment options that are limited to fixed earnings will be considered to have been deposited on the date of receipt.

2. Deposits for investment options that include variable earnings will be assigned a trade date based on the method of deposit and the date of receipt.

a. Deposits by check will be assigned a trade date three business days after the business day during which they were received.

b. Deposits made by electronic funds transfer through the automated clearing house (ACH) network, or its successor, will be assigned a trade date of three business days after the business day during which they were received.

c. Deposits made by all other means of electronic funds transfer, including deposits made by transferring funds from a variable earnings option in which they are currently deposited to another option, will be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day during which they were received.

3. Deposits for investment options that include variable earnings which are received via check or electronic funds transfer through the automated clearing house network will be deposited into the fixed earnings option until the trade date. Earnings accrued on these deposits prior to the trade date shall be deposited in the variable earnings transaction fund.

4. Deposits received on weekends and holidays will be considered received on the next business day.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:641 (April 2017), amended LR 47:576 (May 2021).

§513. Disbursement of Account Funds for Payment of QDEs

A. Request for Disbursement

1. An ABLE account administrator may request a disbursement at any time, but no more than twice per month.

2. The request for disbursement must include:

a. the ABLE account number;

b. the eligible Individual's name, address, and Social Security number;

c. the administrator's signature (may be electronic); and

d. the amount to be disbursed.

3. Requests for disbursements must be in whole dollar increments, must be no less than $200 and may be no more than the account balance.

4. In the event funds are invested in more than one investment option, the disbursement shall be made proportionally from each investment option in the account.

5. Disbursements will be made only to the administrator of the account.

6. Disbursements from investment options with variable earnings shall be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day of receipt of the transfer request.

7. Disbursements made during a period in which the person for whose benefit the account was opened is not an eligible individual as defined in §507 will not be considered qualified disbursements.

B. Rate of Expenditure

1. The amount to be disbursed from an account shall be drawn from deposits and interest in the same ratio as these funds bear to the total value of the account as of the date of the disbursement.

2. The administrator may not withdraw an amount in excess of the QDEs of the eligible individual or the value of the account, whichever is less.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:642 (April 2017), amended LR 47:577 (May 2021).

§515. Effect on Federal and State Assistance Programs

A. For the purpose of determining eligibility to receive, or the amount of, any assistance or benefit which may be received by the ABLE account owner by a means-tested federal assistance program, the following amounts shall be disregarded with respect to any period during which the beneficiary maintains his status as an eligible individual:

1. any amount, including earnings thereon, up to $100,000;

2. any contributions to the ABLE account of the eligible Individual;

3. any distributions from the account of the eligible individual, provided that such distributions are made for the purchase or payment of QDEs, subject to determination by the Social Security Administration that such distributions do not exceed allowable assets/income for a given period.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:642 (April 2017).

§517. Termination, Refund, and Rollovers of an Education Savings Account

A. Account Termination

1. The administrator may terminate an ABLE account at any time.

2. Through April 30, 2021, in the event the person for whose benefit the account was opened is no longer an *eligible individual* as defined in §507, the administrator shall

a. terminate the account; or

b. transfer the account to another eligible individual who is also a member of the family of the original *eligible individual* within 60 days of the determination that the original eligible individual is no longer qualified.

3. Beginning on May 1, 2021, in the event the person for whose benefit the account was opened ceases to be an *eligible individual* as defined in §507, the account may remain open through the end of the fifth full calendar year during which the person ceases to be an *eligible individual* as defined in §507. The administrator shall exercise one of the following options by the end of the applicable calendar year:

a. terminate the account; or

b. transfer the account to another eligible individual who is also a member of the family of the eligible individual.

4. The LATTA may terminate an account as follows.

a. If LATTA determines that funds have been disbursed for expenses other than QDEs, LATTA may require the return of the funds to the ABLE account. If funds are not returned to the account within 60 days of a request to do so, LATTA, in its sole discretion, may refund any balance remaining and close the account.

b. The LATTA may terminate an account if no deposit of at least $10 has been made within 180 days from the date of notification of approval of the account.

c. The LATTA may terminate an account if the eligible individual for whom the account was opened no longer meets the criteria to be an eligible individual and a new eligible individual is not named by the end of the fifth full calendar year during which the person for whose benefit the account was opened ceases to be an eligible individual.

d. The LATTA may terminate an owner's agreement if it finds that the account owner or beneficiary provided false or misleading information (see §507).

i. If the LATTA terminates an owner's agreement under this Subsection, all interest earnings on principal deposits may be withheld and forfeited, with only principal being refunded.

ii. An individual who obtains program benefits by providing false or misleading information will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

B. Refunds

1. Requests for refund may result in the termination of the account and in the refund of:

a. the deposits invested in fixed earnings, if the account has been open for less than 12 months;

b. the redemption value, if the account has been open for 12 or more months;

c. the deposits to or the current value of an account invested in a variable earnings option, whichever is less, if the account has been open for less than 12 months;

d. the current value of an account invested in variable earnings, if the account has been open for 12 or more months.

2. Refunds from investment options with variable earnings shall be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day of receipt of the request.

C. Designation of a Refund Recipient. The refund recipient can only be the account owner, his heirs, or his estate, and the administrator shall designate the refund recipient when completing the owner's agreement.

D. Voluntary Termination of an Account

1. Refunds shall be equal to the redemption value of the ABLE account at the time of the refund, and shall be made to the person designated in the owner's agreement or by rule.

2. The person receiving the refund shall be responsible for any state or federal income tax that may be payable due to the refund.

E. Effective Date of Account Termination. Account termination shall be effective at midnight on the business day on which the request for account termination and all supporting documents are received. Accounts will be credited with interest earned on principal deposits through the effective date of the closure of the account.

F. Refund Payments. Payment of refunds for voluntary termination under §515.D shall be made within 30 days of the date on which the account was terminated. The termination refund shall consist of the principal remaining in the account and interest remaining in the account accrued on the principal through the end of the calendar year preceding the year in which the request to terminate an account is made. Interest earned in excess of $10 during the calendar year of termination will be refunded within 45 days of the date the state treasurer announces the interest rate for the preceding calendar year. Interest earned of $10 or less during the calendar year of termination will be forfeited.

G. Rollovers

1. Rollovers to another ABLE Account Administered by LOSFA

a. An administrator may rollover any part of an ABLE account to ABLE account if the beneficiary of the account receiving the funds is a member of the family of the beneficiary of the original account.

b. The current value of the account from which the rollover is made will be transferred to the new account.

2. Rollover to another ABLE Program

a. An administrator may request a rollover of the current value of the account to another qualified ABLE program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:642 (April 2017), amended LR 44:1888 (October 2018), amended LR 47:577 (May 2021).

§519. Substitution, Assignment, and Transfer

A. Substitute Beneficiary. The beneficiary of an ABLE account may be changed to a substitute beneficiary provided the account owner completes a beneficiary substitution form and the following requirements are met:

1. the substitute beneficiary is a member of the family as defined under §107;

2. the substitute beneficiary meets the citizen/resident alien requirements of §301.F, and, if the account owner is a nonresident of the state of Louisiana, the substitute beneficiary meets the applicable residency requirements (see §301.G).

B. Substitution/Transfer of Account Ownership. The administrator may transfer ownership of an ABLE account only with the written approval of the LATTA and only to a member of the family of the eligible individual for whom the account was opened.

C. Assignment of Account Ownership. Ownership of an ABLE account cannot be assigned.

D. Changes to the Owner's Agreement

1. The administrator may request changes to the owner's agreement.

2. Changes must be requested in writing and be signed by the administrator.

3. Changes, if accepted, will take effect as of the date the notice is received by the LATTA.

4. The LATTA shall not be liable for acting upon inaccurate or invalid data which was submitted by the administrator.

5. The administrator will be notified by the LATTA of any changes affecting the owner's agreement which result from changes in applicable federal and state statutes and rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:643 (April 2017), amended LR 47:578 (May 2021).

§521. Miscellaneous Provisions

A. Account Statements and Reports

1. The LATTA will forward to each administrator an annual statement of account which itemizes the:

a. date and amount of deposits and interest earned during the prior year; and

b. total principal and interest accrued to the statement date.

2. The administrator must report errors on the annual statement of account to the LATTA within 60 days from the date on the account statement or the statement will be deemed correct.

B. Earned Interest

1. Interest earned on principal deposits during a calendar year will be credited to accounts and reported to administrators after the conclusion of the calendar year in which the interest was earned.

2. The rate of interest earned shall be the rate of return earned on the fund as reported by the state treasurer and approved by the LATTA.

C. Refunded Amounts

1. Interest earned on an ABLE account which is refunded to the account owner or beneficiary will be taxable for state and federal income tax purposes.

2. No later than January 31 of the year following the year of the refund, the LATTA will furnish the state Department of Revenue, the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and the recipient of the refund an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099, or whatever form and/or manner of reporting is appropriate according to the applicable entity.

D. Rule Changes. The LATTA reserves the right to amend the rules regulating the Louisiana ABLE Account Program policies and procedures; however, any amendments to rules affecting participants will be published in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

E. Determination of Facts. The LATTA shall have sole discretion in making a determination of fact regarding the application of these rules.

F. Individual Accounts. The LATTA will maintain an individual account for each beneficiary showing the redemption value of the account.

G. Confidentiality of Records. All records of the LATTA identifying Administrators and/or account owners of ABLE accounts, amounts deposited, expended or refunded, are confidential and are not public records.

H. No Investment Direction. No administrator may direct the investment of funds credited to an account, except to select investment options no more than twice per year. Deposits will be invested on behalf of the Louisiana ABLE Account Program by the state treasurer.

I. No Pledging of Interest as Security. No interest in an ABLE account may be pledged as security for a loan.

J. Excess Funds

1. Principal deposits will no longer be accepted once the account total reaches the maximum allowable account

balance (see §507); however, the account will continue to earn interest.

2. Through April 30, 2021, funds in excess of the maximum allowable account balance may remain in the account and continue to accrue interest and may be disbursed in accordance with §309, or will be refunded in accordance with §311 upon termination of the account.

3. Beginning May 1, 2021, Funds in excess of the maximum allowable account balance, along with any interest earned on those amounts, will be returned to the contributor on a last-in-first-out basis as an unqualified disbursement.

K. Withdrawal of Funds. Funds may not be withdrawn from an ABLE account except as set forth in §513 and §515.

L. NSF Procedure

1. A check received for deposit to an ABLE account which is returned due to insufficient funds in the owner's account on which the check is drawn, will be redeposited and processed a second time by the Louisiana ABLE Account Program's financial institution.

2. If the check is returned due to insufficient funds a second time, the check will be returned to the depositor.

3. Earnings reported by the state treasurer on deposits made by check or an ACH transfer which is not honored by the financial institution on which it was drawn subsequent to the trade date shall be forfeited by the account owner.

M. Effect of a Change in Residency. On the date an account is opened, either the account owner must be a resident of the state of Louisiana; however, if the account owner temporarily or permanently moves to another state after the account is opened, he may continue participation in the program in accordance with the terms of the owner's agreement.

N. Abandoned Accounts. Abandoned accounts will be defined and treated in accordance with R.S. 9:151 et seq., as amended, the Louisiana Uniform Unclaimed Property Act.

O. Investment in Variable Earnings. When an account owner selects a variable earnings account, up to 100 percent of the deposits may be invested in equity securities.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3081-3089.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 43:643 (April 2017), amended LR 47:578 (May 2021).

Chapter 7. START K12

§701. General Provisions

A. The Student Tuition and Revenue Trust Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade Program (START K12) was enacted in 2018 to implement provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act which allows Internal Revenue Code Section 529 college savings account funds to be used for tuition expenses related to enrollment in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

B. The purposes of the START K12 are the following:

1. To allow account owners to save for the tuition expenses related to enrollment in kindergarten through twelfth grade; and

2. To comply fully with Internal Revenue Code Section 529.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1878 (October 2018).

§703. Legislative Authority

A. Act Number 687 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session, effective May 30, 2018, enacted the Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust START Saving Kindergarten Through Twelfth Grade Program (START K12) as chapter 22-B, title 17 of the *Louisiana Revised Statutes* (R.S. 17:3100.1-3100.10).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1879 (October 2018).

§705. Program Administration

A. The Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA) is a statutory authority whose membership consists of the Louisiana Board of Regents, plus one member from the Louisiana Bankers Association, the state treasurer, and one member each from the House of Representatives and Senate.

B. The LATTA administers the START K12 Program through the Louisiana Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA).

C. LOSFA, a program of the Board of Regents, performs the functions of the state relating to programs of financial assistance and certain scholarship programs for higher education in accordance with directives of its governing bodies and applicable law, and as such is responsible for administering the START K12 Program under the direction of the LATTA.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1879 (October 2018).

§707. Applicable Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in these rules shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Account Owner—the person(s), organization or group that completes the START K12 Program owner's agreement on behalf of a beneficiary and is the account owner of record of all funds credited to the account.

Beneficiary—the person named by the account owner in the START K12 owner's agreement or the person named by the LATTA when authorized to make such a designation by the owner of an account that is classified under §711.A.5 as the individual entitled to apply the account balance, or portions thereof, toward payment of their qualified education expenses.

Beneficiary's Family—for the purpose of §711.A.5 one of the following persons:

a. the beneficiary's parent(s) or court ordered custodian; or

b. a person who claims the beneficiary as a dependent on his or her federal income tax return for the previous year; or

c. a person who certified that the beneficiary lives with him, that he provides more than 50 percent of the beneficiary's support for the previous year and that he was not required to file an income tax return for the previous year.

Current Value—the value of an education savings account at a given point in time.

a. The current value of fixed earnings investment options includes the accumulated value of the principal deposited and earnings on deposits.

b. The current value of variable earnings investment options includes the number of units in the investment option purchased multiplied by the current value of each unit. This value may be more or less than the amount originally deposited.

Deposits—the actual amount of money received from an account owner for investment in a START K12 account. Deposits do not include earnings on deposits.

Disabled or *Disability*—an individual who is considered to be disabled because he/she is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or to be of long-continued and indefinite duration. An individual shall not be considered disabled unless he furnishes proof of the existence thereof in such form and manner as the LATTA may require.

Educational Term—a semester, quarter, term, summer session, inter-session, or an equivalent unit.

Eligible Educational Institution—a public or approved nonpublic elementary or secondary school in Louisiana that contains any of the grades kindergarten through twelve.

False or Misleading Information—a statement or response made by a person, which is knowingly false or misleading, and made for the purpose of establishing a program account and/or receiving benefits to which the person would not otherwise be entitled.

Fixed Earnings—the placement of all deposits in a START K12 Account, including the interest earned thereon, in investments that normally provide a fixed rate of return for a specific period of time.

Legal Entity—juridical person including, but not limited to, groups, trusts, estates, associations, organizations, partnerships, and corporations that are incorporated, organized, established, or authorized to conduct business in accordance with the laws of one or more states or territories of the United States. A natural person is not a legal entity.

Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund (*the Fund*)—is a special permanent fund maintained by the Louisiana state treasurer for the purpose of the START Saving Program and the START K12 Program and is the account into which all initial deposits made to START K12 Program accounts are deposited.

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (*LOSFA)*—the agency of state government responsible for administering the START K12 Program under the direction of the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority.

Louisiana Resident—

a. any person who resided in the state of Louisiana on the date of the application and who has manifested intent to remain in the state by establishing Louisiana as legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following:

i. if registered to vote, is registered to vote in Louisiana;

ii. if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, is in possession of a Louisiana driver's license;

iii. if owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, is in possession of a Louisiana registration for that vehicle;

iv. if earning an income, has complied with state income tax laws and regulations;

b. a member of the Armed Forces stationed outside of Louisiana who claims Louisiana on his/her official DD Form 2058 as his/her legal residence for tax purposes, and is in compliance with state income tax laws and regulations, shall be considered eligible for program participation;

c. a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders shall be considered eligible for program participation;

d. persons less than 21 years of age are considered Louisiana residents if they reside with and are dependent upon one or more persons who meet the above requirements;

e. a legal entity is considered to be a Louisiana resident if it is incorporated, organized, established or authorized to conduct business in accordance with the laws of Louisiana or registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State to conduct business in Louisiana and has a physical place of business in Louisiana.

Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA)—the statutory body responsible for the administration of the START Saving Program.

Maximum Allowable Account Balance—$180,000.

Member of the Family (with respect to the designated beneficiary)—

a. an individual who bears one of the following relationships to such beneficiary:

i. a son or daughter of the beneficiary, or a descendant of either;

ii. a stepson or stepdaughter of the beneficiary;

iii. a brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister of the beneficiary;

iv. the father or mother of the beneficiary, or an ancestor of either;

v. a stepfather or stepmother of the beneficiary;

vi. a son or daughter of a brother or sister of the beneficiary;

vii. a brother or sister of the father or mother of the beneficiary; or

viii. a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of the beneficiary; or

ix. a first cousin of the beneficiary; or

b. the spouse of an individual listed in Clauses a.i-viii.

Natural Person—a human being.

Other Person (with respect to any designated beneficiary)—any person, other than the beneficiary, whether natural or juridical, who is not a member of the family, including but not limited to individuals, groups, trusts, estates, associations, organizations, partnerships, corporations, and custodians under the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA).

Owner's Agreement—the agreement for program participation that the account owner completes and signs. It incorporates, by reference, R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq., and the rules promulgated by the LATTA to implement this statutory provision and any other state or federal laws applicable to the agreement and the terms and conditions as set forth therein.

Person—a human being or a juridical entity.

Qualified Education Expenses—expenses for tuition in connection with enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary school in grades kindergarten through twelve.

Redemption Value—the cash value of the money in a START K12 Program account invested in a fixed earnings option that are attributable to the sum of the principal deposited and the earnings on principal authorized to be credited to the account by the LATTA, less any disbursements and refunds. The redemption value is not applicable to a START K12 Program account invested in variable earnings.

Refund Recipient—the person designated by the account owner in the START K12 Program owner's agreement or by operation of law to receive refunds from the account. The refund recipient can only be the account owner or the beneficiary.

START K12 Account—a savings account established by a natural person or a legal entity to pay qualified education expenses of the designated beneficiary.

Trade Date—the date that a deposit to an investment option that includes variable earnings is assigned a value in units, the date a disbursement or refund from an investment option that includes variable earnings is assigned a value, or the date of a change in investment options that includes variable earnings is assigned a value, whichever is applicable.

Tuition—the mandatory educational charge required as a condition of enrollment.

Variable Earnings—refers to that portion of funds in a START K12 Program account invested in equities, bonds, short-term fixed income investments or a combination of any of the three.

Variable Earnings Transaction Fund—the subaccount established within the Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Fund to receive funds as directed by rule.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1879 (October 2018).

§709. START K12 Program Accounts

A. A START K12 Program account is established on behalf of a designated beneficiary to provide the funding for tuition necessary for the beneficiary to attend public or private school for any of kindergarten through twelfth grade.

1. The account owner classified under §711.A.1, 2, 3, and 4 shall designate the beneficiary in the owner's agreement.

2. The account owner classified under §711.A.5 may designate the beneficiary in the owner's agreement, provided the beneficiary is not a member of the account owner's family, or authorize the LATTA to select a beneficiary for the account.

3. A beneficiary selected by the LATTA must meet the following criteria:

a. the beneficiary is a Louisiana resident;

b. the federal adjusted income of the beneficiary's family is less than $30,000 or the beneficiary is eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.);

c. the beneficiary is not a member of the account owner's family nor a member of the family of any member or employee of the authority or LOSFA;

4. Procedure for Selection (Reserved)

B. Program Enrollment Period. An account may be opened and an eligible beneficiary may be enrolled at any time during the calendar year.

C. Completing the Owner's Agreement

1. This agreement must be completed in full by the account owner.

2. The account owner shall designate a beneficiary, except as provided in Paragraph A.2 above.

3. The account owner may designate a limited power of attorney to another person who would be authorized to act on the account owner's behalf, in the event the account owner becomes incapacitated.

4. Transfer of account ownership is only permitted as set forth in §719.

D. Agreement to Terms. Upon executing an owner's agreement, the account owner agrees to the following statements.

1. Admission to a particular eligible educational institution—that participation in the START K12 Program does not guarantee that a beneficiary will be admitted to the beneficiary's eligible educational institution of choice.

2. Payment of Qualified Education Expenses—that no more than $10,000 may be withdrawn from a START K12 account annually and that this amount is not guaranteed to pay all qualified education expenses.

3. Maintenance of Continuous Enrollment—that once admitted to an eligible educational institution, participation in the START K12 Program does not guarantee that the beneficiary will be permitted to remain at the school throughout the beneficiary's kindergarten through twelfth grade education.

4. Guarantee of Redemption Value—that the LATTA does not guarantee the value of a START K12 Account that is invested in variable earnings.

5. Conditions for Payment of Qualified Education Expenses—that payments for qualified education expenses under the START K12 Program are conditional upon the beneficiary's enrollment at an eligible educational institution.

6. Fees

a. That fees imposed by investment institutions for opening or maintenance of variable earnings accounts may be charged to the account owner.

b. That financial and investment institutions may be authorized by the LATTA to offer prospective owners information and assistance in opening a START K12 account.

7. That an account whose owner is a legal entity or is classified under §711.A.5. cannot be terminated and the funds deposited in the account will not be refunded to the account owner.

8. That an account owner who is a legal entity or is classified under §711.A.5, can change the beneficiary of an account to one or more persons who are not members of the family of the beneficiary in accordance with §719.A.3.b, however, in such case:

a. these transfers may be treated as refunds under federal and state tax laws in which case the account owner will be subject to any associated tax consequences; and

b. the provisions of §709.A.2 shall apply to account owners classified in accordance with §711.A.5.

9. Only the account owner or the beneficiary may be designated to receive refunds from the account owned by an account owner who is a natural person other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §711.A.5. In the event of the death of the account owner when the account owner is designated to receive the refund and there is no substitute account owner named, the refund shall be made to the account owner's estate.

10. That in the event an account owner who is a legal entity classified as an account owner under §711.A.3 or 4 is dissolved, the beneficiary will become the owner of the account.

11. No refunds shall be paid to account owner classified under §711.A.5. If such an account is terminated by the LATTA in accordance with §717.E, the beneficiary shall become the owner of the account, provided that, all the rights and restrictions provided in law and these rules regarding account owners classified under §711.A.5, including, but not limited to, use of the funds, refunds, terminations, designation of beneficiary, etc., shall be applicable to the beneficiary that becomes the owner of such an account. If an account owner classified under §711.A.5 dies or is dissolved and the beneficiary has died or failed to graduate high school by age 21, and no substitute beneficiary has been designated by the account owner, the authority shall designate a new beneficiary who must meet the requirements of §709.A.3 and §711.A.5.

E. Acceptance of the Owner's Agreement

1. A properly completed and submitted owner's agreement will be accepted upon receipt.

2. Upon acceptance of the owner's agreement, the LATTA will establish the account of the named beneficiary.

F. Citizenship Requirements. Both an account owner who is not a legal entity and the beneficiary must meet the following citizenship requirements:

1. be a United States citizen; or

2. be a permanent resident of the United States as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor and provide copies of USCIS documentation with the submission of the owner's agreement; or

3. be lawfully residing in the United States and have a valid Social Security number.

G. Residency Requirements

1. On the date an account is opened, either the account owner or his designated beneficiary must be a *Louisiana resident*, as defined in §707 of these rules.

2. The LATTA may request documentation to clarify circumstances and formulate a decision that considers all facts relevant to residency.

H. Providing Personal Information

1. The account owner is required to disclose personal information in the owner's agreement, including:

a. his Social Security number;

b. the designated beneficiary's Social Security number;

c. the beneficiary's date of birth;

d. the familial relationship between the account owner and the designated beneficiary, if any;

e. the account owner's prior year's federal adjusted gross income as reported to the Internal Revenue Service; and

f. in the case of an account owner classified under §711.A.5:

i. the Social Security number of the beneficiary's family and authorization from that person for the LATTA to access his annual tax records through the Louisiana Department of Revenue, for the purpose of verifying federal adjusted gross income; and

ii. if applicable, proof that the beneficiary is a ward of the court; or

iii. if applicable, proof the beneficiary is eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.).

2. By signing the owner's agreement, the account owner who is classified under §711.A.1 or 2 (does not include legal entities or other persons classified as account owners under §711.A.5) provides written authorization for the LATTA to access his annual tax records through the Louisiana Department of Revenue, for the purposes of verifying federal adjusted gross income.

3. By signing the owner's agreement:

a. the account owner who is a natural person, other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §711.A.5, certifies that:

i. both account owner and beneficiary are United States citizens or permanent residents of the United States as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor or be lawfully residing in the United States and have a valid Social Security number; and

(a). if permanent residents have provided copies of USCIS documentation with the submission of the application and owner's agreement; or

(b). if in the United States lawfully with a valid Social Security number have provided the visa or other document(s) from the USCIS evidencing lawful residency and a copy of the Social Security card from the Social Security Administration; and

ii. the information provided in the application is true and correct;

b. the person signing on behalf of an account owner who is a legal entity certifies that:

i. the account owner is a *legal entity* as defined in rule and the application;

ii. he or she is the designated agent of the legal entity;

iii. he or she is authorized to take any action permitted the account owner;

iv. the account owner acknowledges and agrees that once funds are deposited in a START account, neither the deposits nor the interest earned thereon can be refunded to the account owner;

v. the information provided in the application is true and correct; and

vi. if the beneficiary is not a Louisiana resident, the legal entity fulfills the definition of *Louisiana resident* as found in rule and the application;

c. the natural person classified as an account owner under §711.A.5 certifies that:

i. the beneficiary is a Louisiana resident;

ii. the federal adjusted income of the beneficiary's family is less than $30,000 or the beneficiary is eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.);

iii. the beneficiary is not a member of the account owner's family nor a member of the family of any member or employee of the authority or LOSFA;

iv. the account owner acknowledges and agrees that once funds are deposited in a START account, neither the deposits nor the interest earned thereon can be refunded to the account owner; and

v. the information provided in the application is true and correct.

4. Social Security numbers and federal and state employer identification numbers will be used for purposes of federal and state income tax reporting and to access individual account information for administrative purposes (see §721).

I. Number of Accounts for a Beneficiary. There is no limit on the number of START K12 accounts that may be opened for one beneficiary by different account owners; however, the cumulative credits in all accounts for the same beneficiary may not exceed the maximum allowable account balance for that beneficiary and the cumulative credits in all START K12 accounts for the same beneficiary will be used to determine when these accounts are fully funded.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1880 (October 2018).

§711. Account Owner Classifications

A. An account owner shall be classified by the authority under one of the following classifications:

1. a person or persons determined by the authority to be the parent, grandparent, or court ordered custodian of the person being designated as beneficiary of the account or who claim the person being designated as beneficiary as a dependent on their federal income tax return, and, at the time of the initiation of the agreement, the person or beneficiary is a resident of the state; or

2. a person determined by the authority to be a member of the family of the beneficiary and, at the time of the initiation of the agreement, the person or the beneficiary is a resident of the state; or

3. any other person and, at the time of the initiation of the agreement, the beneficiary is a resident of the state; or

4. any other person who, at the time of the initiation of the agreement, is a resident of the state and the beneficiary is not a resident of the state;

5. any other person or any government entity, and at the time of the initiation of the agreement:

a. the beneficiary is a resident of the state;

b. the federal adjusted income of the beneficiary's family is less than $30,000 or the beneficiary must be eligible for a free lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.);

c. the beneficiary is not a member of the account owner's family nor a member of the family of any member or employee of the authority or LOSFA;

d. the deposits to the account are an irrevocable donation by the owner.

B. In order to qualify as an account owner in any classification, a natural person, to include an independent student, must be of the age of majority under Louisiana law.

C. Account owner classification is made at the time of the initiation of the agreement. Changes in the residency of the account owner or beneficiary after the initiation of the agreement do not change the account owner's classification.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1882 (October 2018).

§713. Deposits to Education Savings Accounts

A. Application Fee and Initial Deposit Amount

1. No application fee will be charged to participants applying for a START K12 account directly to the LATTA.

2. Financial and investment institutions may be authorized by the LATTA to offer assistance in establishing a START K12 account. (See *fees* in §709.D.6.)

3. An initial deposit is not required to open an START K12 account; however, a deposit of at least $10 must be made within 180 days from the date on the letter of notification of approval of the account.

4. A lump sum deposit may not exceed the maximum allowable account balance (see §707).

B. Deposit Options

1. The account owner shall select one of the following deposit options during the completion of the owner's agreement; however, the account owner may change the monthly deposit amount at any time and the payment method by notifying the LATTA:

a. occasional lump sum payment(s) made directly to the LATTA or to a LATTA-approved investment institution;

b. monthly payments made directly to the LATTA or to a LATTA-approved financial or investment institution;

c. automatic account debit, direct monthly transfer from the account owner's checking or savings account to the LATTA or a LATTA-approved investment institution;

d. payroll deduction, if available through the account owner's employer.

2. Account owners are encouraged to maintain a schedule of regular monthly deposits.

C. Limitations on Deposits

1. All deposits must be rendered in amounts of at least $10 and must be made in cash, check, money order, automatic account debit or payroll deduction, defined as any of the deposit options listed in §713.B.1.

2. Once the cumulative contributions and earnings on contributions has reached or exceeded the maximum allowable account balance (see §707), principal deposits will no longer be accepted to the account until a qualified distribution is made which reduces the account balance below the maximum allowable account balance.

D. Investment Options

1. The state treasurer shall select fixed earnings and variable earnings investment options.

2. The authority shall furnish each account owner with information that discloses each of the investment options offered by the program.

3. The account owner shall select the investment options in completing the owner's agreement, and

4. The investment option may be changed two times each calendar year.

5. Once a selection is made, all deposits shall be directed to the last investment option selected.

E. Effective Date of Deposits

1. Deposits for investment options that are limited to fixed earnings will be considered to have been deposited on the date of receipt.

2. Deposits for investment options that include variable earnings will be assigned a trade date based on the method of deposit and the date of receipt.

a. Deposits by check will be assigned a trade date three business days after the business day during which they were received.

b. Deposits made by electronic funds transfer through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network, or its successor, will be assigned a trade date of three business days after the business day during which they were received.

c. Deposits made by all other means of electronic funds transfer, including deposits made by transferring funds from a variable earnings option in which they are currently deposited to another option, will be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day during which they were received.

3. Deposits for investment options that include variable earnings which are received via check or electronic funds transfer through the Automated Clearing House Network will be deposited into the fixed earnings option until the trade date. Earnings accrued on these deposits prior to the trade date shall be deposited in the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund.

4. Deposits received on weekends and holidays will be considered received on the next business day.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1883 (October 2018).

§715. Disbursement of Account Funds for Payment of Qualified Education Expenses of a Beneficiary

A. Request for Disbursement

1. For each term the account owner intends to fund the beneficiary's qualified education expenses, the account owner shall submit a request for disbursement.

2. The request for disbursement must include:

a. the START K12 account number;

b. the account owner's name, address, and signature (may be electronic);

c. the beneficiary's name and address;

d. the amount to be disbursed and to whom; and

e. the name and address of the eligible educational institution.

3. In the event funds are invested in more than one investment option, the disbursement shall be made proportionally from each investment option in the account.

4. If there is more than one account with the same beneficiary, each account owner requesting a disbursement must complete a request for disbursement and the disbursements shall be made from each account, in turn, in the order the disbursement requests were received.

B. Disbursements from all accounts with the same beneficiary shall not exceed $10,000 in one calendar year.

C. Disbursements shall be made to the account owner. If LOSFA determines that the beneficiary is not enrolled in an eligible educational institution during the semester or term for which the disbursement was intended, LOSFA shall notify the account owner that the disbursement will constitute a refund for state and federal income tax purposes unless returned to the START K12 account. If the disbursement is not returned to the account within 60 days of the original notice, LOSFA, in the authority's sole discretion, may refund any balance remaining thereafter and close the account.

D. Disbursements from investment options with variable earnings shall be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day of receipt of the transfer request.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1883 (October 2018), amended LR 45:1177 (September 2019).

§717. Termination, Refund, and Rollovers of a START K12 Account

A. Account Termination

1. The account owner who is a natural person, other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §711.A.5, may terminate an account at any time.

2. The LATTA may terminate an account in accordance with this Subsection, §717.D or §717.E.

3. The LATTA may terminate an account if no deposit of at least $10 has been made within 180 days from the date on the letter of notification of approval of the account.

4. The LATTA may terminate an account if the beneficiary dies and a new beneficiary is not named within 60 days of the death.

5. The LATTA may terminate an account if the beneficiary becomes disabled and a new beneficiary is not named by the time the beneficiary who has become disabled reaches age 21.

6. The account owner who is a legal entity or is classified under §711.A.5, may not terminate an account; however, the account owner who is a legal entity or is classified under §711.A.5 may designate a substitute beneficiary in accordance with §719.A.3.b.

B. Refunds

1. A partial refund of an account may only be made as described in §717.E.3.

2. All other requests for refund may result in the termination of the account and in the refund of:

a. the deposits invested in fixed earnings, if the account has been open for less than 12 months;

b. the redemption value, if the account has been open for 12 or more months;

c. the deposits to or the current value of an account invested in a variable earnings option, whichever is less. Any increase in the value of an account invested in a variable earnings option over the amount deposited shall be forfeited by the account owner and deposited in the variable earnings transaction fund, if the account was invested in a variable earnings option and terminated within 12 months of the date the account was opened;

d. the current value of an account invested in variable earnings, if the account has been open for 12 or more months.

3. No refunds shall be made to an account owner who is a legal entity classified under §711.A.3 or 4. If an account owned by a legal entity classified as an account owner under §711.A.3 or 4 is terminated by the LATTA or by the account owner in accordance with §717.D or E, the refund will be made to the beneficiary or to the estate of the beneficiary if no substitute beneficiary has been designated by the account owner.

4. No refunds shall be paid to account owner classified under §711.A.5. If such an account is terminated by the LATTA in accordance with §717.E, the beneficiary shall become the owner of the account, provided that, all the rights and restrictions provided in law and these rules regarding account owners classified under §711.A.5, including, but not limited to, use of the funds, refunds, terminations, designation of beneficiary, etc., shall be applicable to the beneficiary that becomes the owner of such an account. If an account owner classified under §711.A.5 dies or is dissolved and the beneficiary has died or failed to graduate high school by age 21, and no substitute beneficiary has been designated by the account owner, the authority shall designate a new beneficiary who must meet the requirements of §709.A.3 and §711.A.5.

5. Refunds from investment options with variable earnings shall be assigned a trade date of one business day after the business day of receipt.

C. Designation of a Refund Recipient

1. In the owner's agreement, the account owner who is a natural person, except one who is classified under §711.A.5, may designate himself or the beneficiary to receive refunds from the account.

2. Refunds of interest earnings will be reported as income to the individual receiving the refund for both federal and state tax purposes.

3. The beneficiary of an account owned by a legal entity classified as an account owner under §711.A.3 or 4 is automatically designated as the refund recipient.

4. Funds in an account classified under §711.A.5 shall not be refunded.

D. Involuntary Termination of an Account with Penalty

1. The LATTA may terminate an owner's agreement if it finds that the account owner provided false or misleading information (see §707).

2. If the LATTA terminates an owner's agreement under this Section, all interest earnings on principal deposits may be withheld and forfeited, with only principal being refunded.

3. An individual who obtains program benefits by providing false or misleading information will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

E. Voluntary Termination of an Account

1. Refunds shall be equal to the redemption value of the START K12 account at the time of the refund, and shall be made to the person designated in the owner's agreement or by rule.

2. The person receiving the refund shall be responsible for any state or federal income tax that may be payable due to the refund.

3. Except for accounts classified in accordance with §711.A.5, accounts may be terminated and fully refunded for the following reasons:

a. the death of the beneficiary in which case the refund shall be equal to the redemption value of the account and shall be made to:

i. the account owner, if the account owner is a natural person; or

ii. the beneficiary's estate, if the account owner is a legal entity;

b. the disability of the beneficiary, in which case the refund shall be equal to the redemption value of the account and shall be made to:

i. the account owner or the beneficiary, as designated in the owner's agreement, if the account owner is a natural person; or

ii. the beneficiary, if the account owner is a legal entity;

c. the beneficiary receives a scholarship, waiver of tuition, or similar subvention that the LATTA determines cannot be converted into money by the beneficiary, to the extent the amount of the refund does not exceed the amount of the scholarship, waiver of tuition, or similar subvention awarded to the beneficiary. In such case, the refund shall be equal to the scholarship, waiver of tuition, or similar subvention that the LATTA determines cannot be converted into money by the beneficiary, or the redemption value, whichever is less, and shall be made to:

i. the account owner or the beneficiary, as designated in the owner's agreement, if the account owner is a natural person; or

ii. the beneficiary, if the account owner is a legal entity.

4. Refunds made under this §717.E.3 are currently exempt from additional federal taxes.

F. Effective Date of Account Termination. Account termination shall be effective at midnight on the business day on which the request for account termination and all supporting documents are received. Accounts will be credited with interest earned on principal deposits through the effective date of the closure of the account.

G. Refund Payments. Payment of refunds for voluntary termination under §717.E or partial refunds of accounts pursuant to §717.E.3 shall be made within 30 days of the date on which the account was terminated. The termination refund shall consist of the principal remaining in the account and interest remaining in the account accrued on the principal through the end of the calendar year preceding the year in which the request to terminate an account is made. Interest earned in excess of $10 during the calendar year of termination will be refunded within 45 days of the date the state treasurer announces the interest rate for the preceding calendar year. Interest earned of $10 or less during the calendar year of termination will be forfeited to the Louisiana Education and Tuition Savings Fund.

H. Rollovers

1. Rollovers among START K12 Accounts of the Same Account Owner. An account owner may rollover any part or all of the value of an START K12 account to another START K12 account if the beneficiary of the account receiving the funds is a member of the family of the beneficiary of the original account.

2. Rollover to a START Saving Program Account. In the event funds remain in a START K12 account after all qualified education expenses for enrollment in kindergarten through twelfth grade have been paid, an account owner classified under §711.A.1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 may rollover any remaining funds to a START Saving Program Education Savings Account (ESA) for use by the beneficiary in an eligible postsecondary institution.

3. Rollover to another Qualified Tuition Program. An account owner may request a rollover of the current value of the account to another qualified tuition program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1884 (October 2018).

§719. Substitution, Assignment, and Transfer

A. Substitute Beneficiary. The beneficiary of a START K12 account may be changed to a substitute beneficiary provided the account owner completes a beneficiary substitution form and the following requirements are met:

1. the substitute beneficiary is a member of the family as defined under §707;

2. the substitute beneficiary meets the citizen/resident alien requirements of §709.F, and, if the account owner is a nonresident of the state of Louisiana, the substitute beneficiary meets the applicable residency requirements (see §709.G);

3. if the substitute beneficiary is not a member of the family of the previous beneficiary:

a. and the account owner is a natural person classified under §711.A.1-4, the account must be refunded to the account owner and a new account must be opened;

b. and the account owner is a legal entity classified under §711.A.3 or 4, a new account shall be opened in the name of the new beneficiary. These transfers may be treated as refunds under federal and state tax laws in which case the account owner will be subject to any associated tax consequences; and

c. and the account owner is classified under §711.A.5, a new account shall be opened in the name of the new beneficiary only if the beneficiary meets all the requirements of §711.A.5; and

i. these transfers may be treated as refunds under federal and state tax laws in which case the account owner will be subject to any associated tax consequences; and

ii. the provisions of §709.A.2 shall apply to account owners classified in accordance with §711.A.5.

B. Substitution/Transfer of Account Ownership. The ownership of an START K12 account is transferable only with the written approval of the LATTA and only as follows.

1. The account owner who is a natural person, other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §711.A.5, may designate a person who will become the substitute account owner in the event of the original account owner's death.

2. In the event of the death of an account owner who is a natural person, other than a natural person classified as an account owner under §711.A.5, who has not named a substitute account owner, the account shall be terminated and the account shall be refunded to the beneficiary, if designated to receive the refund by the account owner, or the account owner's estate.

3. An account owner who is a legal entity classified under §711.A.3 or 4 may indicate in the owner's agreement that upon the beneficiary's graduation from high school, the account shall be rolled over into a START Saving ESA and ownership of the ESA shall be transferred to the beneficiary of the account upon his 18th birthday, or upon his enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution full time, whichever is later. If the account owner transfers the account in accordance with this section, disbursements may only be made for payment of the qualified higher education expenses of the beneficiary.

4. In the event of the dissolution of an account owner who is a legal entity classified as an account owner under §711.A.3 or 4, the beneficiary shall become the substitute

account owner. If the account owner who is a legal entity classified as an account owner under §711.A.3 or 4 is dissolved, the beneficiary designated to receive the refund has died, and there is no substitute beneficiary named, the refund shall be made to the beneficiary's estate.

5. No refunds shall be paid to account owner classified under §711.A.5. If such an account is terminated by the LATTA in accordance with §717.E, the beneficiary shall become the owner of the account, provided that, all the rights and restrictions provided in law and these rules regarding account owners classified under §711.A.5, including, but not limited to, use of the funds, refunds, terminations, designation of beneficiary, etc., shall be applicable to the beneficiary that becomes the owner of such an account. If an account owner classified under §711.A.5 dies or is dissolved and the beneficiary has died or failed to graduate high school by age 21, and no substitute beneficiary has been designated by the account owner, the authority shall designate a new beneficiary who must meet the requirements of §709.A.3 and §711.A.5..

C. Assignment of Account Ownership. Ownership of an START K12 account cannot be assigned.

D. Changes to the Owner's Agreement

1. The account owner may request changes to the owner's agreement.

2. Changes must be requested in writing and be signed by the account owner.

3. Changes, if accepted, will take effect as of the date the notice is received by the LATTA.

4. The LATTA shall not be liable for acting upon inaccurate or invalid data which was submitted by the account owner.

5. The account owner will be notified by the LATTA in writing of any changes affecting the owner's agreement which result from changes in applicable federal and state statutes and rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3100.1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:1885 (October 2018).

§721. Miscellaneous Provisions

A. Account Statements and Reports

1. The LATTA will forward to each account owner an annual statement of account which itemizes the:

a. date and amount of deposits and interest earned during the prior year; and

b. total principal and interest accrued to the statement date; and

2. The account owner must report errors on the annual statement of account to the LATTA within 60 days from the date on the account statement or the statement will be deemed correct.

B. Earned Interest

1. Interest earned on principal deposits during a calendar year will be credited to accounts and reported to account owners after the conclusion of the calendar year in which the interest was earned.

2. The rate of interest earned shall be the rate of return earned on the fund as reported by the state treasurer and approved by the LATTA.

C. Refunded Amounts

1. Interest earned on a START K12 account which is refunded to the account owner or beneficiary will be taxable for state and federal income tax purposes.

2. No later than January 31 of the year following the year of the refund, the LATTA will furnish the State Department of Revenue, the Internal Revenue Service and the recipient of the refund an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099, or whatever form is appropriate according to applicable tax codes.

D. Rule Changes. The LATTA reserves the right to amend the rules regulating the START K12 Program's policies and procedures; however, any amendments to rules affecting participants will be published in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

E. Determination of Facts. The LATTA shall have sole discretion in making a determination of fact regarding the application of these rules.

F. Individual Accounts. The LATTA will maintain an individual account for each beneficiary, showing the redemption value of the account.

G. Confidentiality of Records. All records of the LATTA identifying account owners and designated beneficiaries of START K12 accounts, amounts deposited, expended or refunded, are confidential and are not public records.

H. No Investment Direction. No account owner or beneficiary of a START K12 account may direct the investment of funds credited to an account, except to make an annual election among investment options that offer fixed earnings, variable earnings or both. Deposits will be invested on behalf of the START K12 Program by the state treasurer.

I. No Pledging of Interest as Security. No interest in an START K12 account may be pledged as security for a loan.

J. Excess Funds

1. Principal deposits to an START K12 account are no longer accepted once the account total reaches the maximum allowable account balance (see §713.C); however, the principal and interest earned thereon may continue to earn interest.

2. Funds in excess of the maximum allowable account balance may remain in the account and continue to accrue interest and may be disbursed in accordance with §715, or will be refunded in accordance with §717 upon termination of the account.

K. Withdrawal of Funds. Funds may not be withdrawn from an START K12 ACCOUNT except as set forth in §715 and §717.

L. NSF Procedure

1. A check received for deposit to an START K12 ACCOUNT which is returned due to insufficient funds in the owner's account on which the check is drawn, will be redeposited and processed a second time by the START K12 Program's financial institution.

2. If the check is returned due to insufficient funds a second time, the check will be returned to the depositor.

3. Earnings reported by the state treasurer on deposits made by check or an ACH transfer which is not honored by the financial institution on which it was drawn subsequent to the trade date shall be forfeited by the account owner and deposited into the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund.

M. Effect of a Change in Residency. On the date an account is opened, either the account owner or beneficiary must be a resident of the state of Louisiana (see §709.G); however, if the account owner or beneficiary, or both, temporarily or permanently move to another state after the account is opened, they may continue participation in the program in accordance with the terms of the owner's agreement.

N. Abandoned Accounts. Abandoned accounts will be defined and treated in accordance with R.S. 9:151 et seq., as amended, the Louisiana Uniform Unclaimed Property Act.

O. Investment in Variable Earnings. When an account owner selects a variable earnings account, up to 100 percent of the deposits may be invested in equity securities.

P. Variable Earnings Transaction Fund

1. Monies in the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund shall be used to pay any charges assessed to the START K12 Program by a financial institution and to pay any loss of value between the purchase and redemption of units in a variable earnings option that are incurred when a check or ACH transfer is dishonored after the trade date by the financial institution on which it was drawn.

2. After the payment of expenses as provided in Paragraph 1, above, the LATTA may declare monies remaining in the Variable Earnings Transaction Fund as surplus.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 17:3100.1 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance. LR 44:1886 (October 2018).

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part VII. Tuition Trust Authority

Chapter 1. Bylaws

§101. Definitions and Authority

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in these rules shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Assistant Executive Director (as used in these bylaws)—those persons appointed in the unclassified service as assistants to the executive director.

Business of the Authority (as used in these bylaws)—activities on behalf of the authority, including attendance at authority meetings and authority committee meetings; presentations at legislative committee hearings on issues or bills which relate to the role, scope, mission or programs assigned the authority; presentations to the public and to federal and state officials related to the role, scope, mission, or programs assigned the authority; and participation in projects, meetings or conferences related to the role, scope, mission or programs assigned the agency; all or any of the foregoing as directed by the authority, authorized by the chairman or a committee chairman, or requested by the executive director.

Chairman of the Authority—the executive secretary to the governor or his/her designee to the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC), who shall also serve as ex officio chairman of the authority.

Deputy Executive Director (as used in these bylaws)—the principal assistant to the executive director.

Director—that person appointed in the classified service as the administrative head of a division of the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Division—a subordinate organizational element of the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Executive Director—that person duly appointed by the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission pursuant to R.S. 17:3022(B) to serve in the unclassified service as executive director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, who shall be its chief executive officer and the appointing authority for all classified employees of the office.

Fiscal Officer—that employee of the office assigned responsibility for preparation and monitoring of the approved budget of the authority, who may jointly serve as a director.

Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority or *Authority*—the statutory body created by R.S. 17:3093 et seq., and composed of the members who are duly appointed and qualified as provided by law. The authority shall administer the Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust Program, commonly referred to as the "START Saving Program," through the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Office of Student Financial Assistance, Louisiana Department of Education or *Office*—the organization created by R.S. 36:650 to perform the functions of the state relating to the programs of financial assistance and certain scholarship programs for higher education in accordance with the directives of its governing bodies and applicable law.

Services (as used in these bylaws)—conducting the business of the authority.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1653 (December 1997), amended LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 33:444 (March 2007), LR 33:2618 (December 2007).

§103. Meetings

A. Regular Meetings

1. The authority shall hold at least one but not more than 12 meetings per calendar year.

2. All regular meetings shall be held at meeting places designated by the authority.

3. Proxy voting shall be allowed at all meetings for the chairman of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; Board of Supervisors, Louisiana State University; Board of Supervisors, Southern University; Board of Regents; Board of Supervisors, University of Louisiana System and Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, or each of their designees; however, any proxy holder must also be a member of that respective board.

4. The state superintendent of education and the state treasurer may vote by proxy through members of their executive staffs.

5. The member from the Louisiana Bankers Association may vote by proxy. No other members shall have the right of proxy voting.

B. Special Meetings

1. Special meetings of the authority may be called by the chairman at any time, or by the secretary upon written

request therefor, signed by a majority of the members and specifying the purposes of the desired meeting.

2. Written notification shall be sent to each member at least three calendar days before the time of the meeting.

C. Compensation

1. Members of the authority shall receive per diem as compensation for their services at the rate authorized by statute or as authorized by executive order. Members shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses actually incurred in the conduct of the business of the authority.

2. The authority is limited to 12 meetings per year for which per diem may be drawn by authority members.

D. Quorum. A simple majority of the authority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, and a simple majority of the quorum present at any meeting voting in favor or against a particular item shall be the act of the authority.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1653 (December 1997), amended LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 33:444 (March 2007).

§105. Officers of the Authority and Executive Staff

A. Chairman and Vice-Chairman

1. The chairman of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall serve as chairman of the authority.

2. The authority shall select a vice-chairman annually.

3. The authority may elect such other officers as it deems necessary.

4. The chairman of the authority shall preside over all meetings of the authority; serve as ex officio member of all committees; name the appointive members of all standing and special committees of the authority; and fill all vacancies in the membership of such committees, in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws.

5. The vice-chairman of the authority shall perform the duties of the chairman in the absence of the chairman.

6. In the event both the chairman and the vice-chairman are absent from a meeting of the authority, the authority shall elect a temporary chairman from those present.

B. Secretary. The authority shall select a secretary annually, who may certify the minutes, papers and documents of the authority or of its committees to be true and correct copies.

C. Executive Staff

1. The executive staff of the authority shall include the incumbent of those positions within the Office of Student Financial Assistance so designated by the executive director and will normally be composed of the executive director, the deputy executive director, the assistant executive directors, the general counsel, the directors of the designated divisions within the office, and such other personnel as may be required for the efficient performance of the functions of the authority.

2. The executive staff shall be tasked, directed and supervised by the executive director.

D. Authentication. Copies of all minutes, papers and documents of the commission, or its committees, may be certified to be true and correct copies by either the chairman, secretary or executive director.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1654 (December 1997), amended LR 33:2618 (December 2007).

§107. Order of Business

A. Rules of Order. When not in conflict with any of the provisions of this article, *Roberts Rules of Order* (latest revision) shall constitute the rules of parliamentary procedure applicable to all meetings of the authority or its committees.

B. Order of Business. The order of business of regular meetings of the authority shall be as follows, unless the rules are suspended by a simple majority of the quorum present:

1. call to order;

2. roll call;

3. introductions and announcements;

4. corrections and approval of minutes of preceding regular meetings and of all special meetings held subsequently thereto;

5. public comment;

6. program updates and special reports;

7. old business, including reports and recommendations of standing and special committees;

8. new business; and

9. adjournment.

C. Reference to Committees

1. In cases where the authority determines it is feasible and desirable, it may refer any subject or measure to the executive committee or to a special committee.

2. The committee to which a matter is referred should submit to the authority its recommendations in writing, together with any resolutions necessary to facilitate such recommendations.

D. Meetings

1. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with state law governing public bodies.

2. It is the policy of the authority for all meetings to be open to all who wish to attend and that the public shall be granted an opportunity to comment.

3. The authority may enter into an executive session only upon two-thirds majority vote of the quorum present and only for one of the exceptions specified in the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

4. Prior to each regular meeting of the authority, the executive director, with approval of the chairman, shall prepare and forward to each member of the authority a tentative agenda for the meeting at least five working days prior to such regular meeting.

5. Upon request of three members of the authority made prior to the fifth day before the authority's next meeting that a particular item be included, the chairman shall place the subject or subjects upon the agenda.

6. The authority may add any item to its agenda upon a simple majority vote of the quorum present.

7. Each proposal and/or resolution shall be reduced to writing and presented to the authority before it is acted upon.

8. All official actions of the authority shall require a simple majority vote of the quorum present at the meeting.

E. Minutes

1. The minutes of the authority shall record official action taken upon motions or resolutions which are voted upon by the authority, and may contain a summary of reports and pertinent discussion.

2. The foregoing provisions relative to contents of the minutes shall, in general, also apply to minutes of committees of the authority.

3. The minutes of meetings of the authority become official only when completed and approved by the authority.

F. Meeting Attendance

1. Authority members are required to attend all authority meetings.

2. Failure to annually attend a minimum of one-fourth of the authority's meetings will result in a notice being sent from the authority to the absent member stating that failure to attend one more meeting will result in a request being made to the appointing authority that the absent member be replaced.

3. The absent member shall be relieved of duties on any committee to which he/she has been appointed to serve.

4. This Subsection is not applicable to meetings that are missed with just cause, as determined by the chairman.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1654 (December 1997), amended LR 37:2988 (October 2011).

§109. Committees

A. In addition to the executive committee established in these bylaws, the authority may establish standing committees by simple vote of a majority of the membership of the authority.

B. Appointment and Terms

1. Members of all standing committees, one of whom shall be designated as chairman and one of whom shall be designated as vice-chairman, shall be appointed by the chairman of the authority, ordinarily soon after the chairman assumes office.

2. The state treasurer shall serve as the chairman of the investment committee.

3. The vice chairman of the authority shall be chairman of the rules committee.

4. The term of committee appointments shall be one year.

5. Vacancies occurring among the appointive members of any committees, however arising, shall be filled by the chairman of the authority for the remainder of the unexpired term.

C. Officers of Standing Committees

1. The chairman and the vice-chairman of the authority shall be chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the executive committee.

2. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall preside.

3. In the event both the chairman and vice-chairman are absent from a meeting, the committee shall elect a temporary chairman from those present.

4. It shall be the duty of the chairman of each committee to call and preside over the necessary meetings.

5. The minutes of the meeting of the committee, showing its actions and recommendations, shall be deemed in compliance with the provisions of §107.C, concerning the written recommendations of the committee.

D. Quorum of Committee Meetings

1. A simple majority of the regular and/or ex officio members present at a meeting of a committee of the authority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

2. When a quorum is not present, the chairman of the authority, the chairman of the committee, or vice-chairman in the chairmen's absence, may designate a member of the authority to serve as a substitute member of the committee concerned.

E. Authority of Committees. The authority of committees of the authority shall be subject to these bylaws and to the policies and direction of the authority.

F. Executive Committee

1. The executive committee shall consist of seven members.

2. The chairman and vice-chairman of the authority shall serve in those capacities on the executive committee.

3. The remaining members, for a total of seven members, shall be appointed by the chairman of the authority from the other members of the authority.

4. The executive committee shall:

a. meet for and conduct the business of the authority in all instances that the public has been given notice of a meeting of the authority and the authority does not have a quorum at that meeting. In such cases, the actions of the authority shall have the same force and effect as if a quorum of the authority had taken the action;

b. consider such matters as shall be referred to it by the authority and shall execute such orders and resolutions as shall be assigned to it at any meeting of the authority;

c. in the event that an emergency requiring immediate authority action shall arise between authority meetings, meet in emergency session to take such action as may be necessary and appropriate. The executive committee shall report the actions it takes in emergency session to the authority for ratification at the authority's next meeting.

5. All official actions of the executive committee shall require a majority vote of the quorum present at the meeting.

6. The executive committee may enter into an executive session only upon two-thirds majority vote of the quorum present and only for one of the reasons specified in the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

G. Special Committees

1. As the necessity therefor arises, the chairman may, with the concurrence of the authority, create special (ad hoc) committees with such functions, powers and authority as may be delegated.

2. The chairman may appoint special committees for special assignments for limited periods of existence not to exceed the completion of the assigned task.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3091et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1655 (December 1997), amended LR 27:190 (February 2001), LR 27:1221 (August 2001), LR 30:785 (April 2004), LR 32:392 (March 2006), LR 37:2989 (October 2011).

§111. Communications to the Authority

A. All communications to the authority, or to any committee thereof, from persons having official relations with the authority shall be filed in writing with the executive director and duly transmitted by him to the authority.

B. "Official relations" with the authority shall include those with other agencies of government, contractors, and employees.

C. The executive director shall have the authority to read and comment upon all communications from employees of the office but shall not delay or withhold such communications, except as hereinafter provided.

1. Such communications shall be filed with the executive director at least five days before the meeting of the authority or committee and with the chairman at least three days before such meeting.

2. Otherwise, the executive director may either submit such communication at that time or withhold such communication until the next meeting.

3. In the event the executive director elects to withhold any such communication until the next meeting, such communication shall be promptly forwarded to the chairman with the notation of the executive director concerning such withholding.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1656 (December 1997).

§113. Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of Executive Staff of the Authority

A. Executive Staff of the Authority

1. The executive staff shall be tasked, directed and supervised by the executive director.

2. Unless otherwise directed by the executive director, the executive staff shall attend the meetings of the authority and its various committees.

B. Executive Director

1. The executive director shall:

a. be the executive head and chief administrative officer of the Office of Student Financial Assistance;

b. be responsible to the authority for the conduct of the Office of Student Financial Assistance in all affairs; and

c. execute and enforce all of the decisions, orders, rules and regulations of the authority with respect to the conduct of the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

2. The executive director's discretionary authority shall be broad enough to enable him/her to meet his/her responsibilities, in the day to day operations of the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

3. The executive director shall be the "appointing authority" for the purposes defined by State Civil Service law, rules and regulations and shall exercise the authority granted to an "appointing authority" thereunder.

4. Subject to these bylaws and the regulations and directions of the authority, the executive director shall:

a. establish administrative policies and procedures for the operation of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, as they may relate to the authority's program;

b. plan, organize, supervise, direct, administer, and execute the functions and activities of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, as they may relate to the authority's program;

c. prepare and present a business plan and consolidated budget for the Office of Student Financial Assistance and the authority;

d. serve as governmental liaison and spokesperson for the authority; and

e. promote the development of the authority's program.

5. The executive director shall task, direct, and supervise the executive staff.

6. The executive director shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the legislatively enacted budgets as approved by the authority.

C. Deputy Executive Director. The deputy executive director shall be the assistant executive director nominated by the executive director and confirmed by the authority to serve as the principal assistant to the executive director. He/She shall be responsible to the executive director for the effective performance of all duties assigned by the executive director, in accordance with the policies, rules, regulations, directives and memoranda issued by the executive director and the authority.

D. Assistant Executive Directors. The assistant executive directors shall be nominated by the executive director and confirmed by the authority. The assistant executive directors shall serve as the principal assistants to the executive director. He/She shall be responsible to the executive director, and the deputy executive director in the absence of the executive director, for the effective performance of all duties assigned by the executive director, in accordance with the policies, rules, regulations, directives and memoranda issued by the executive director and the authority.

E. Delegation of Authority

1. In the absence of the executive director, the deputy executive director, as delegated by the executive director during his/her absences, will assume the duties of the executive director.

2. In the event both the executive director and the deputy executive director are absent, the executive director will appoint an incumbent of the assistant executive director positions to assume the duties of the executive director.

F. Directors of Divisions

1. There shall be a director for each division of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, appointed by the executive director in accordance with State Civil Service laws, rules and regulations.

2. Under the direction and authority of the executive director, each director shall administer the division for which he/she is appointed.

3. As the administrative head of a division, the director shall be responsible to the executive director for planning, supervising, directing, administering and executing the functions and programs assigned to the division in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies, directives, and budgets.

4. The directors may invite members of his/her administrative staff to aid in his/her presentations to the authority.

G. Recording Secretary. The executive director shall appoint a recording secretary whose duties shall include giving or causing to be given notice of all meetings of the authority and its committees as required by the Administrative Procedure Act or these bylaws, to record and prepare the minutes of all authority meetings and meetings of its committees and to maintain and provide for the safekeeping of all minutes and other official documents of the authority. The recording secretary shall have the authority to provide copies of the official records of the authority as required by the public records laws of the state of Louisiana or as otherwise directed by the authority or the executive director and to certify the authenticity of such records and the signatures of members of the authority, the executive directors or others acting in their official capacity on behalf of the authority.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1656 (December 1997), amended LR 25:1092 (June 1999), LR 33:444 (March 2007), LR 33:2618 (December 2007).

§115. Responsibilities of Authority Members

A. Authority members are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the functions and duties of the Office of Student Financial Assistance as they relate to the authority's program are performed effectively in fulfilling the purposes of R.S. 17:3091 through 3099.2.

B. Prior to assuming the responsibilities to which appointed and to avoid any potential conflict of interest, an authority member shall, to the best of his or her knowledge, disclose to the State Board of Ethics any pre-existing relationship between the authority and the member, the member's immediate family, or any entity in which the member has a substantial economic interest. This obligation to disclose is a continuing obligation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1657 (December 1997).

§117. Amendment or Repeal of Bylaws

A. New bylaws may be adopted, and bylaws may be amended or repealed, at any meeting of the authority, but no such action shall be taken unless notice of such proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal shall have been given at a previous meeting or notice in writing of the proposed change shall have been served upon each member of the authority at

least 30 days in advance of the final vote upon such change, provided, however, when deemed necessary, that by a simple majority of the entire membership of the authority, the requirements for such notice may be waived at any time.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1657 (December 1997).

§119. Rules and Regulations of Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority

A. Any action by the authority establishing policy or methods of procedure, administrative, business, or otherwise shall be known as "Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority."

B. "Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority" may be adopted by the authority, or may be amended or repealed, in whole or in part, at any meeting of the authority by a vote of simple majority.

C. All policies and procedures of the authority falling within the definition of rules and regulations, as herein defined, and in existence upon the date of the adoption of these bylaws, shall be a part of the "Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority."

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1657 (December 1997).

§121. Effective Dates

A. These bylaws shall be adopted and shall become effective on the date they are published as final rules in the *Louisiana Register*.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1657 (December 1997).

§123. Repealing Clause

A. All rules, orders, regulations, and resolutions heretofore enacted or adopted by the authority, which are in conflict with these bylaws, are hereby repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1657 (December 1997).

§125. Conforming Clause

A. No rule, order, regulation or resolution shall be adopted by the authority which is in conflict or is inconsistent with the law, rules, guidelines, officer selection and employment policies applicable to the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3093 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Tuition Trust Authority, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 23:1657 (December 1997).

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part VIII. Indian Affairs Scholarship

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§101. Purpose

A. This Part establishes procedures for the Indian Affairs Scholarship Program. LAC 28:VIII outlines the process of applying for and awarding the American Indian Scholarship.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:2303 and R.S. 47:463.78.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Office of Indian Affairs, LR 47:472 (April 2021).

§103. Enrollment

A. The scholarship applicant can enroll and be accepted into any institute of higher learning.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:2303 and R.S. 47:463.78.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Office of Indian Affairs, LR 47:472 (April 2021).

Chapter 3. Scholarship Application

§301. Application

A. Any student applying for the American Indian Scholarship must complete the application packet as provided through the Office of Indian Affairs. This application solicits the following data:

1. personal information;
2. financial information and verification; and
3. academic information and verification.

B. All applicants shall provide proof of tribal enrollment in a state-recognized Louisiana tribe.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:2303 and R.S. 47:463.78.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Office of Indian Affairs, LR 47:472 (April 2021).

§303. Application Review

A. Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis and selections will be based on the following criteria:

1. heritage;
2. financial need;
3. short essay answers; and
4. academic performance.

B. All applications must be received or postmarked by the deadline date on the application.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 46:2303 and R.S. 47:463.78.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Office of Indian Affairs, LR 47:472 (April 2021).

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part IX. Regents

Chapter l. Rules for Registration and Licensure

§101. Definition of Terms

A. Terms used in these regulations such as *Board of Regents*, *Postsecondary*, *Academic Degree-granting Institution*, *Registration*, *Licensure*, and *Fees* shall be interpreted in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

B. For institutions domiciled in Louisiana, the term *operate* applies to the offering of courses and programs through any modality. For institutions domiciled outside Louisiana, the term *operate* shall mean the offering of courses that are physically delivered in the state of Louisiana and/or require clinical experiences in the state of Louisiana.

C. The term *clinical experiences* shall mean site-based learning activities (e.g., clinical, internships, student teaching, practicum, field-based experiences, etc.) in settings (e.g., hospitals, schools, businesses, etc.) in which candidates are working with patients, children, teachers, principals, etc. in Louisiana and are observed/assisted/ evaluated by supervisors, preceptors, coaches, teachers, principals, or other individuals to determine that course and/program requirements have been addressed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1551 (December 1993), amended LR 36:2839 (December 2010).

§103. Registration and License Applications

A. All public and private postsecondary, academic degree-granting institutions offering instruction in the state of Louisiana must register annually with the Board of Regents. Regular licenses are reviewed every two years. Requests for registration forms and license applications are available at www.regents.la.gov.

B. Completed registration forms and license applications should be returned to:

Louisiana Board of Regents
Planning, Research, Performance and Academic Affairs-Licensure
P.O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-3677

C. License applications must be accompanied by a nonrefundable license application fee of $1,500 (approved by Louisiana Legislature Act 278 of the 2012 Regular Legislative Session). The license application fee must be paid by company or institutional check or by money order, and should be made payable to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1551 (December 1993), amended LR 21:168 (February 1995), LR 36:2839 (December 2010), LR 39:84 (January 2013), LR 45:528 (April 2019).

§105. License Fees

A. All license applications must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of $1,500.00 (approved by Louisiana Legislature Act 278 of the 2012 Regular Legislative Session). The license application fee must be paid by company or institutional check or by money order, and should be made payable to the Louisiana Board of Regents. Any institution granted a license to operate will be required to pay an additional $1,500.00 at the start of the second year of the two-year licensing period. License renewal fees are required during each subsequent two-year licensing period and are non-refundable. However, the initial license application fee may be reduced to $200 for those institutions seeking initial licensure in order to allow clinical practicum experiences for fewer than five Louisiana residents enrolled in nursing and other health-related programs only. In order to continue and renew their licenses, those institutions will be required to pay all subsequent fees, including renewal fees. License renewal fees are required during each subsequent two-year licensing period and are nonrefundable.

B. If a request for license renewal is not received at the Board of Regents' offices at least 30 days prior to its expiration date, the institution can be subject to a delinquent fee of $500 in addition to the renewal fee.

C. The Board of Regents may authorize assessment of special or supplemental fees to be paid by institutions seeking licensure pursuant to special actions or requests.

D. Institutions seeking licensure shall submit all required materials and the nonrefundable license fee to the Board of Regents. If a final determination concerning the institution's qualifications for licensure is not reached within 180 days of receipt of the license application and all supporting materials, a provisional license will be issued to the institution. The provisional license will remain in effect pending a final licensing decision by the board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1551 (December 1993), amended LR 21:168 (February 1995), LR 36:2839 (December 2010), LR 39:84 (January 2013), LR 45:528 (April 2019).

§107. Information Requirements for Registration[1]

A. All postsecondary, academic degree-granting institutions are required to provide the following information on an annual basis:

1. name and in-state address of the institution;

2. location of its main campus or office;

3. a role, scope, and mission statement;

4. degrees offered in Louisiana;

5. courses offered in Louisiana;

6. the name of the institution's chief executive officer and chief financial officer;

7. names and addresses of the institution's governing board members, if applicable;

8. description of its physical facilities in Louisiana;

9. information relative to the institution's accreditation or official candidacy status from a regional, national or professional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education;

10. other information as specified by the Board of Regents.

[1]Registration with the Board of Regents shall in no way constitute state approval or accreditation of any institution and shall not be used in any form of advertisement by any institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1551 (December 1993), amended LR 45:529 (April 2019).

Chapter 3. Criteria and Requirements for Licensure

§301. General Standards

A. General standards for public and private academic degree-granting institutions offering similar degrees and titles must be as close as possible.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1552 (December 1993), amended LR 21:168 (February 1995).

§302. Institutional Accreditation

A. Institutions must hold accreditation through an association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions domiciled outside the state of Louisiana must be fully accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education prior to making an application for licensure with the Board of Regents. Existing institutions domiciled in the state of Louisiana must hold recognized accreditation. New institutions must make formal application and obtain accreditation from a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting association by date certain as a requirement for licensure.

B. Institutions seeking accreditation that have been found to meet other requirements set forth by the Board of Regents will be granted a conditional license until such time that they are accredited, or at a minimum, receive candidacy status from a recognized accrediting association. An institution that does not receive accreditation within a specified time frame will have its conditional license revoked.

C. The Board of Regents will consider a waiver of the accreditation requirement in the case of single purpose institutions. This consideration will be given only in extraordinary circumstances where the board determines that it would be educationally impractical for an institution to reorganize its programs and operations in order to become eligible for consideration by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting association.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 21:168 (February 1995), amended LR 36:2840 (December 2010), LR 45:529 (April 2019).

§303. Faculty

A. Qualifications of Faculty

1. Faculty shall be qualified by education and experience in the fields in which they teach. Faculty must meet the following minimum requirements.

a. Faculty shall possess no less than the degree awarded to a graduate of the program in which they are teaching.

b. The faculty shall be sufficient in number to establish and maintain the effectiveness of the educational program.

B. Institutions offering advanced degrees must employ faculty who hold advanced degrees in appropriate fields from institutions accredited by recognized agencies.[1] It is required that faculty credentials be verifiable.

1. If any institution employs a faculty member whose highest earned degree is from a non-regionally-accredited institution within the United States or an institution outside the United States, the institution must show evidence that the faculty member has appropriate academic preparation.

2. It is the responsibility of the institution to keep on file for all full-time and part-time faculty members documentation of academic preparation, such as official transcripts, and if appropriate for demonstrating competency, official documentation of professional and work experience, technical and performance competency, records of publications, and certifications and other qualifications.[2]

[1] Recognized accrediting agencies are those approved by the United States Department of Education.

[2] Source: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1552 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995), LR 36:2840 (December 2010).

§305. Academic Program Standards

A. All curricula leading to academic credits, certification, and degrees shall be formulated and evaluated by qualified faculty with appropriate education and experience acceptable to public postsecondary, academic degree-granting institutions in Louisiana and elsewhere in the nation.

B. Institutions shall provide prospective students and other interested persons with the following information:

1. admissions policies;

2. program descriptions and objectives;

3. schedule of tuition, fees, and other charges;

4. cancellation and refund policies;

5. other material information about the institution and its programs which may impact a student's enrollment decision.

C. Institutions must provide programs of sufficient quality and content to achieve stated learning objectives. Curricula offered by the institutions must be formulated and evaluated by faculty with appropriate earned degrees from institutions with U.S. Department of Education recognized accreditation. Institutions are also required to establish procedures for evaluating program effectiveness.

D. Currently licensed institutions seeking to implement new academic degree programs must first advise the Board of Regents of the proposed change. New programs will be reviewed as part of the regular license renewal process.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1552 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995), LR 36:2840 (December 2010), LR 38:1228 (May 2012), LR 45:529 (April 2019), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1294 (September 2021).

§307. Student Level Data Collection and Reporting

A. Institutions seeking initial licensure shall certify in writing that they have the capabilities to annually submit to the Board of Regents student-level data for each student, in a format prescribed by the Board of Regents.

B. Institutions seeking renewal licensure shall annually collect, and all institutions licensed by the Board of Regents shall annually report, student-level data from the prior year for each student, in a format prescribed by the Board of Regents. At minimum, data from the prior year must include

1. withdrawal data;

2. program completion/graduation data;

3. student demographic information (including full name, date of birth, social security number, sex, race/ethnicity);

4. Type of credential earned.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 47:1294 (September 2021).

§309. Physical Plant Standards [Formerly §307]

A. Library

1. Depending on the delivery method of instruction, (online, hybrid, brick and mortar), the institution shall maintain and/or provide student access to an appropriate library collection with adequate support staff, services, and equipment. Any contractual agreements with libraries not directly affiliated with the institution shall be available in writing to the Board of Regents.

B. Facilities and Equipment

1. The institution shall maintain or provide access to appropriate administrative, classroom, and laboratory space, and appropriate equipment and instructional materials to support quality education based on the type, level, and delivery method of program being offered. Facilities must comply with all health and safety laws and ordinances.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993), amended LR 45:529 (April 2019), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1294 (September 2021).

§311. Financial Operations [Formerly §309]

A. The business and financial management of the institution shall be directed by a qualified and bonded business officer responsible to the institution's chief executive officer.

B. Institutions are required to maintain adequate insurance to protect the operation of the institution and to guard against any personal or public liability.

C. All institutions shall provide the Board of Regents with a financial review prepared in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. However, an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education may, at its discretion, submit financial statements prepared in accordance with rules and guidelines established by the accrediting agency.

D. Institutions shall maintain and update a long-range financial development plan for the institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993),

amended LR 21:169 (February 1995), LR 45:529 (April 2019), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1294 (September 2021).

§313. Maintenance of Records [Formerly §311]

A. Institutions are required to keep records for a minimum of three years which detail:

1. the composition and background of students, faculty, and administrative staff;

2. the institution's physical plant including land, buildings, library, and research facilities;

3. copies of brochures, catalogs, and advertising which describe student admissions, programs, and scholarships.

B. A student's records must be available for review by that student at the institution's central office.

C. Individual student records must include:

1. the name and address of the student;

2. commencement date of the program;

3. titles of courses within the student's chosen curriculum;

4. total hours (quarter, trimester, semester);

5. a payment schedule which includes the total cost to the student.

D. Student records must also include:

1. grades received;

2. all obligations incurred and all funds paid by the student to the institution;

3. counseling records;

4. a transcript;

5. financial aid records.

E. Student records shall be available and readily accessible for use and review by authorized officials of the institution and authorized representatives of the Board of Regents.

F. All licensed institutions are required to have a plan for the maintenance, safekeeping and retention of student records in the event of an institutional closure. The plan must contain the arrangements made by the institution and procedures students must follow in order to obtain their records.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993), amended LR 45:530 (April 2019), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1294 (September 2021).

§315. Student Services [Formerly §313]

A. Institutions shall provide appropriate orientation and counseling services throughout enrollment. Special services including financial aid, employment placement for graduates, and student housing, if appropriate, must be evaluated periodically by the institution to determine effectiveness in meeting student needs and contribution to the educational purpose of the institution.

1. The Board of Regents recommends that prospective students seek independent job/career counseling prior to enrollment in an academic degree-granting postsecondary institution and encourages such institutions to promote this recommendation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1295 (September 2021).

§317. Organization and Administration [Formerly §315]

A. An institution shall establish a governing structure which delineates responsibility for institutional operations, policy formation, and the selection of the institution's chief executive officer. If the institution is governed by a board or group of officers, the role and responsibilities of that body must be clearly defined.

B. Administrative personnel must possess qualifications which support the institution's stated purpose and effective operation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1295 (September 2021).

§319. Procedures for Tuition and Fee Refunds [Formerly §317]

A. Pricing and Refund Policy

1. The institution must fully disclose all charges and fees in writing to prospective students. The parent or guardian of prospective students under legal adult age must be notified in writing of all charges and fees prior to enrollment.

2. Prospective students shall not be required to make a nonrefundable tuition payment until it has been determined that the prospective student has been accepted for enrollment.

3. The institution's refund policy must be disclosed in any contract to be signed by the prospective student or the student's legal adult guardian.

4. Institutions are required to follow the minimum standards for tuition refunds as set forth herein. These guidelines are:

a. students who withdraw prior to the first day of classes are entitled to a full refund of tuition and fees. Institutions may, however, require a nonrefundable application fee;

b. any administrative fees retained by the institution upon the early withdrawal of a student shall not exceed 15 percent of the total cost of tuition and fees paid by the student;

c. institutions which financially obligate students on a quarter, semester, or similar basis will be subject to the following tuition and fee refund policy:

i. students withdrawing during the first 10 days of classes shall receive a minimum refund of 75 percent of total tuition and fees paid, excluding any nonrefundable application fees, less the maximally-allowable administrative fees retained by the institution;

ii. students withdrawing from day 11 through day 24 of classes shall receive a minimum refund of 50 percent of total tuition and fees paid, excluding any nonrefundable application fees, less the maximally-allowable administrative fees retained by the institution;

iii. students withdrawing from day 25 through the end of the quarter, semester, or similar time period may be ineligible to receive a refund;

d. institutions which financially obligate students for longer periods of time, i.e., periods exceeding six months, shall be subject to the following tuition and fee refund policy:

i. students completing up to 25 percent of the course of study shall receive a minimum refund of 50 percent of total tuition and fees paid, excluding any nonrefundable application fees, less the maximally-allowable administrative fees retained by the institution;

ii. students completing more than 25 percent but less than 50 percent of the course of study shall receive a minimum refund of 25 percent of total tuition and fees paid, excluding any nonrefundable application fees, less the maximally-allowable administrative fees retained by the institution;

iii. institutions are not allowed to keep the full amount of tuition and fee charges until at least half the program of study has been completed;

iv. refund policies for programs offering tuition/fee payments on an installment plan or programs offered through distance learning will be examined by the Board of Regents on an individual basis. Refund policies for installment programs are expected to conform generally to refund policies which appear in Subparagraphs A.4.c.i through iii and d.i through iv of this Section;

e. refunds must be paid within 45 days of the date of withdrawal of the student from the institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1553 (December 1993), amended LR 21:169 (February 1995), LR 36:2840 (December 2010), LR 45:530 (April 2019), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1295 (September 2021).

§321. Surety Bonding [Formerly §319]

A. New Louisiana domiciled unaccredited institutions are required to post a surety bond issued by a surety authorized to do business in the state of Louisiana in the amount of $10,000 to cover the period of the license. These bonds are intended to protect students in the event of a sudden closure of the institution. Institutions that are also licensed and bonded under provisions set forth by R.S. 17:3141 et seq., need not seek additional bonding.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1554 (December 1993), amended LR 36:2840 (December 2010), LR 45:530 (April 2019), LR 47:1295 (September 2021).

§323. Rules and Guidelines on Advertising [Formerly §321]

A. Registration with the Board of Regents shall LR 45:530 (April 2019).in no way constitute state approval or accreditation of any institution and shall not be used in any form of advertising by any institution.307

B. Licensed institutions may use the state name and licensing agency as follows:

1. *(Name of Institution)* is currently licensed by the Board of Regents of the State of Louisiana. Licenses are renewed by the State Board of Regents every two years. Licensed institutions have met minimal operational standards set forth by the state, but licensure does not constitute accreditation, guarantee the transferability of credit, nor signify that programs are certifiable by any professional agency or organization.

2. Any licensed institution wishing to use the state name and licensing agency in any promotion or advertising is restricted to the language which appears above. The statement must appear in its entirety and any modifications are not permissible under these rules or the law.

3. Advertising shall not include false or misleading statements with respect to the institution, its personnel, courses, or services, or the occupational opportunities of its graduates.

4. Institutions claiming accreditation by agencies not recognized by the United States Department of Education must clearly state in all advertising and promotional literature that the institutions' accreditation is not recognized by either the United States Department of Education or the State of Louisiana.

NOTE: Neither the institution nor its agents shall engage in false advertising or other misleading practices.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1554 (December 1993), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1296 (September 2021).

§325. Hearings and Appeals [Formerly §323]

A. Institutional hearings and appeals are handled in accordance with guidelines set forth in R.S. 17:1808, §1(E)(F).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1554 (December 1993), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1296 (September 2021).

§327. Sale of Ownership and Transfer of License [Formerly §325]

A. In the event that an institution sells all or a majority interest in its ownership, it is required to notify the board of Regents of both expected and final sale. A review of the institution's operations and objectives will be required upon final sale to determine if the institution's operating license should be transferred to the new ownership. Any and all costs associated with the Board of Regents' review will be borne by the new ownership of the institution.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 21:170 (February 1995), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1296 (September 2021).

§329. Licensure Denial [Formerly §327]

A. Any institution denied licensure by the Board of Regents that wishes to seek reconsideration by the board is required to wait a minimum of 24 months before resubmitting its license application.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 21:170 (February 1995), amended by the Board of Regents, LR 47:1296 (September 2021).

Chapter 5. Consumer Protection

§501. General Provisions

A. Individuals must make every reasonable effort to solve disputes directly with the institution. If a solution cannot be reached, an individual may file a written complaint with the Board of Regents. Board of Regents' staff will review the facts and intervene where appropriate. Such intervention shall not include legal action on behalf of the party, but may include additional investigation of the institution including a site visit to determine if the institution's license should be revoked.

B. Disciplinary Provisions and Administrative Penalties

1. The Board of Regents may institute disciplinary proceedings against a licensed agent who engages in false or misleading advertising. The Board of Regents may also require an institution to submit all advertising for approval prior to use.

2. It is illegal for institutions which come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents to advertise, recruit students for, and/or operate educational programs in the state of Louisiana unless properly registered and licensed.

3. Penalties may be assessed for the following violations:

a. operating an institution without a license;

b. deceptive or fraudulent advertising;

c. offering an unapproved program;

d. other violations as determined by the Board of Regents.

4. Violations may result in suspension of student enrollments where patterns of abuse and willful misconduct have been established.

C. Meetings, Site Visits, and Reports

1. The Board of Regents, at its discretion, may conduct preliminary conferences with institutional officers and board members to discuss standards and procedures for implementing licensure.

2. The Board of Regents may require a site visit and examiner's report at the cost of the institution. The cost shall not exceed the actual dollar amount incurred by the Board of Regents.

3. Site visits could include an inspection of facilities, books, school files and records, as well as interviews with administrators, faculty, and students.

4. Examiners would submit a report following the site visit with recommendations pertaining to the licensure of the institution.

D. Enforcement

1. The attorney general is authorized to seek injunctive relief against an institution operating in noncompliance with the law. All costs incurred by the state of Louisiana in connection with such action shall be borne by the institution if it is found to be operating illegally.

AUTHORITY NOTE:Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:1808.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 19:1554 (December 1993), amended LR 36:2840 (December 2010).