

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 705

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides for technical corrections to TOPS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3042.1(A)(1)(e) and to enact Chapter 50 of Title 17 of the  
3 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:5001 through 5122  
4 and to repeal Chapter 20-G of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
5 comprised of R.S. 17:3048.1 through 3048.7, all relative to the Taylor Opportunity  
6 Program for Students (TOPS); to provide for a technical recodification of TOPS  
7 provisions contained in statutory law; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 50 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
10 comprised of R.S. 17:5001 through 5122, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 CHAPTER 50. TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

12 PART I. GENERAL

13 SUBPART A. AWARDS

14 §5001. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students

15 As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the state  
16 shall provide financial assistance to any eligible student who enrolls on a full-time  
17 basis in an eligible college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree  
18 or skill or occupational training as defined by the administering agency including a  
19 vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic  
20 undergraduate degree.

1        §5002. Awards and amounts

2                A. A student shall be eligible for an Honors, Performance, Opportunity, or  
3        TOPS-Tech Award based on his academic achievement.

4                B. Any student who is eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors  
5        Award pursuant to this Chapter and who has enrolled:

6                (1) In any public college or university a public college or university in this  
7        state, shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering  
8        agency to equal the tuition charged by the public college or university.

9                (2) At any regionally accredited independent college or university in the state  
10       which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and  
11       Universities to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, shall be awarded by the  
12       state an amount to be determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted  
13       average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and  
14       universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees at the baccalaureate level.

15               (3) In a school that has a valid and current certificate of registration issued  
16       by the State Board of Cosmetology in accordance with law and that is accredited by  
17       an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education  
18       or in any proprietary school that has a valid and current license issued by the Board  
19       of Regents in accordance with law and that is accredited by an accrediting  
20       organization recognized by the United States Department of Education, shall be  
21       awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the  
22       weighted average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending public  
23       colleges and universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational  
24       training, as may be applicable.

25               (4) In an out-of-state college or university that is specifically designed to  
26       accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students under R.S. 17:5027(C), shall be  
27       awarded an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted  
28       average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending Louisiana public  
29       colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees.

1           C.(1) A student who is eligible for the Performance Award shall receive the  
2           sum of two hundred dollars per semester or four hundred dollars per academic year  
3           in addition to the amount provided for in Subsection B of this Section.

4           (2) A student who is eligible for the Honors Award shall receive the sum of  
5           four hundred dollars per semester or eight hundred dollars per academic year in  
6           addition to the amount provided for in Subsection B of this Section.

7           D.(1) Any student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this  
8           Chapter and who is enrolled in an eligible public college or university that does not  
9           offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level shall be awarded  
10          by the state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition  
11          charged by the college or university.

12          (2) Any student who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this  
13          Chapter and who is enrolled in an eligible college or university other than as  
14          provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be awarded by the state an  
15          amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of  
16          amounts paid to students attending an eligible public college or university that does  
17          not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level.

18          E.(1) No student shall be eligible for tuition payment pursuant to this Section  
19          for the Opportunity Award, the Performance Award, or the Honors Award for more  
20          than eight semesters or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which  
21          operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters, unless an extension is  
22          granted by the administering agency in accordance with its rules.

23          (2) No student shall be eligible for tuition payment pursuant to this Section  
24          for the TOPS-Tech Award for more than two years unless an extension is granted by  
25          the administering agency in accordance with its rules.

26          (3)(a) Any student receiving an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award  
27          who successfully completes an academic undergraduate degree in less than the eight  
28          semesters or its equivalent of award benefits provided by this Subsection shall be  
29          eligible to continue to receive all applicable award benefits, in accordance with the

1 limitations as specified in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, for any remaining  
2 semester or semesters or the equivalent thereof of eligibility not used to obtain the  
3 undergraduate degree if the student pursues a postgraduate academic degree at an  
4 eligible institution and the student continues to meet all academic and other  
5 requirements provided by this Section and by rule of the administering agency for  
6 continued receipt of the award as an undergraduate except as such requirements,  
7 including requirements provided by this Section for undergraduate students, may be  
8 modified by the administering agency as necessary to apply such requirements to  
9 postgraduate study.

10 (b) In developing rules to implement this Paragraph, the administering  
11 agency shall establish reasonable time lines and deadlines for receipt of any  
12 information required to implement this Paragraph both for current and subsequent  
13 students receiving Opportunity, Performance, or Honors awards and for any student  
14 previously receiving such an award who successfully completed an academic  
15 undergraduate degree in less than eight semesters. Such rules shall also provide for  
16 appropriate notice to all such students of the time lines, deadlines, and rules  
17 governing implementation of this Paragraph.

18 (c) The amount of the award benefits as provided for in Subparagraph (a) of  
19 this Paragraph shall not exceed the amounts determined by the administering agency  
20 to equal the tuition charged for the postgraduate study or for undergraduate full-time  
21 enrollment charged by the highest cost public college university in the state,  
22 whichever amount is less.

23 F. No student shall receive a grant pursuant to this Section in an amount  
24 greater than the tuition charged by the institution attended or, if the student is the  
25 recipient of a Performance or an Honors Award as defined by R.S. 17:5002(C), the  
26 amount stipulated therein. The institution shall credit any amount in excess of the  
27 cost of tuition to the student's account to pay room and board or other cost of  
28 attendance.

1           G. In lieu of the payment of tuition as provided in this Section, any student  
2           participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the  
3           Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein.

4           However, in addition to any other payments provided for by R.S. 29:36.1:

5           (1) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program  
6           provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this  
7           Section for receipt of an Opportunity Award or a TOPS-Tech Award, the state shall  
8           pay on behalf of such student a sum of three hundred dollars per semester or six  
9           hundred dollars per academic year to be applied toward the cost of books and other  
10          instructional materials.

11          (2) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program  
12          provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this  
13          Section for receipt of a Performance Award, the state shall pay on behalf of the  
14          student a sum of three hundred dollars per semester or six hundred dollars per  
15          academic year to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional  
16          materials plus the sum of four hundred dollars per semester or eight hundred dollars  
17          per academic year for other educational expenses as defined by the Louisiana  
18          Student Financial Assistance Commission.

19          (3) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program  
20          provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this  
21          Section for receipt of an Honors Award, the state shall pay on behalf of the student  
22          a sum of three hundred dollars per semester or six hundred dollars per academic year  
23          to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials plus the sum  
24          of eight hundred dollars per semester or one thousand six hundred dollars per  
25          academic year for other educational expenses as defined by the Louisiana Student  
26          Financial Assistance Commission.

27          §5003. Eligibility

28          To be eligible for an award, a student shall meet all applicable initial  
29          eligibility requirements.

1                    SUBPART B. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

2                    §5021. Louisiana high school graduation

3                    A.(1) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection B of this Section, to be  
4                    eligible for an award pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall be certified as provided  
5                    in this Chapter to have graduated from a public high school or a nonpublic high  
6                    school which has been approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
7                    Education.

8                    (2)(a) For a student graduating from a Louisiana nonpublic high school to  
9                    be eligible for an award under this Chapter, beginning with applicants who graduate  
10                   from a nonpublic high school during the 1999-2000 school year, the nonpublic high  
11                   school from which the student graduates shall be approved by the State Board of  
12                   Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to R.S. 17:11 and, in addition, shall  
13                   meet the standards required by the board for the students in such school to be eligible  
14                   to receive from the state the benefit of appropriations for such items as  
15                   transportation, textbooks, and administrative cost reimbursement.

16                   (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph,  
17                   those nonpublic high schools that, not later than May 15, 2000, were approved by the  
18                   State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to R.S. 17:11 and  
19                   applied for and had their application forwarded by the state Department of Education  
20                   seeking the approval necessary for the students in such school to be eligible to  
21                   receive from the state the benefits of appropriations for such items as transportation,  
22                   textbooks, and administrative cost reimbursement shall have until the 2003-2004  
23                   school year to meet the latter requirement in order for the graduates from such high  
24                   school to be eligible for an award under this Chapter.

25                   B. Students funded through the Louisiana minimum foundation program and  
26                   who are attending any high school in an adjoining state pursuant to an agreement in  
27                   effect as of June 4, 1994, between the parish school system and the local governing  
28                   authority of the school in the adjoining state, shall be considered as having graduated  
29                   from a state-approved nonpublic high school.

1        §5022. Citizenship requirements

2                A. Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to be eligible for an award  
3        pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall be a citizen of the United States.

4                B.(1) A student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is eligible  
5        to apply for such citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship requirement  
6        of this Section if within sixty days after the date the student attains the age of  
7        majority, the student applies to become a citizen of the United States and obtains  
8        such citizenship within one year after the date of application.

9                (2) A student who graduates from high school during the 2002-2003 school  
10       year or thereafter, who is not a citizen of the United States but who is a permanent  
11       resident as defined by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, and  
12       who is eligible to apply for United States citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the  
13       citizenship requirement of this Section.

14               (3) An award under this Chapter shall be reinstated for any student who was  
15       determined eligible prior to the 2002-2003 school year, and such award was  
16       subsequently canceled due solely to that student's failure to become a United States  
17       citizen within one year after the date of the application, provided the student is a  
18       permanent resident, as defined by the United States Immigration and Naturalization  
19       Service, and is eligible to apply for United States citizenship or is now a United  
20       States citizen.

21               C. This Section is not applicable to a student who graduated from high  
22       school prior to the 1999-2000 school year.

23        §5023. Residency requirements

24               A. Except as provided by Subsection D of this Section, to be eligible for an  
25       award pursuant to this Chapter, an independent student, as defined by the  
26       administering agency, shall have been a resident of Louisiana during the twenty-four  
27       months preceding the date of the student's graduation from high school. However,  
28       an independent student who graduated from a public or approved nonpublic high  
29       school in this state in the 2002-2003 school year or thereafter meets the requirements

1 of this Section if he actually resided or lived in this state for the period of his last two  
2 full years of high school culminating in graduation as certified by the high school.

3 B. Except as provided by Subsection D of this Section, to be eligible for an  
4 award pursuant to this Chapter, a dependent student, as defined by the administering  
5 agency, shall meet one of the following requirements:

6 (1) He has a parent or court-ordered custodian who is a resident of Louisiana  
7 during the twenty-four months preceding the date of the student's graduation from  
8 high school.

9 (2) He is the dependent child of a resident of Louisiana on active duty with  
10 the United States Armed Forces who is stationed outside Louisiana but who claims  
11 Louisiana as his official state of legal residence and who has filed a Louisiana state  
12 income tax return for the most recent two years.

13 (3) If he graduated from a public or approved nonpublic high school in this  
14 state in the 2002-2003 school year or thereafter, he actually resided or lived in this  
15 state for the period of his last two full years of high school culminating in graduation  
16 as certified by the high school.

17 (4) He is the dependent child of a nonresident of Louisiana on active duty  
18 with the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in Louisiana under permanent  
19 change of station orders and who not later than one hundred eighty days after  
20 reporting to such station changes his military personnel records to establish  
21 Louisiana as his official state of legal residence and complies with Louisiana income  
22 tax laws and regulations for the time period while stationed in Louisiana.

23 C. Residency shall be demonstrated by proof of the following as required by  
24 the administering agency or by other proof required by the administering agency by  
25 rule:

26 (1) If registered to vote, is registered in Louisiana.

27 (2) If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, is in possession of a Louisiana  
28 driver's license.



1           (3) If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, is in possession of  
2           Louisiana registration for that vehicle.

3           (4) If earning an income, has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and  
4           has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.

5           D.(1) Any student who is the dependent child of a member of the United  
6           States Armed Forces who is not a resident of this state, is living in this state under  
7           permanent change of station orders but does not claim Louisiana as his state of legal  
8           residence, who graduates from a public or approved nonpublic high school in this  
9           state in the 2000-2001 academic school year or thereafter shall meet the  
10           requirements of this Section if he actually lives in this state for the period of his last  
11           two full years of high school culminating in graduation as certified by the high  
12           school.

13           (2)(a) Any displaced student as defined by R.S. 17:5101(A)(2) who  
14           graduates from an out-of-state school during the 2006-2007 school year and is  
15           awarded a Louisiana Distance Diploma issued by the Department of Education shall  
16           meet the requirements of this Section if he actually resided in Louisiana during his  
17           entire tenth grade year of high school and was enrolled for such time in an eligible  
18           Louisiana high school or, for dependent students, if the displaced student has a  
19           parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in R.S.  
20           17:5101(A)(2)(a) for at least the twelve months prior to August 26, 2005, or in a  
21           parish listed in R.S. 17:5101(A)(2)(b) for at least the twelve months prior to  
22           September 20, 2005.

23           (b) A displaced student who meets the residency requirement of this  
24           Paragraph shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum  
25           composite score on the ACT or on the SAT than required for a student who graduates  
26           from an eligible Louisiana high school provided such student has, for Opportunity  
27           awards, a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the high  
28           school transcript of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale or, for Performance and

1 Honors awards, a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the  
2 high school transcript of at least 3.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale.

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

13 (b) Any dependent student who meets the requirements of this Paragraph  
14 shall qualify for an award under this Chapter if the student has a composite score on  
15 the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least two points higher than that required by  
16 this Section for a student graduating from a Louisiana public high school or  
17 nonpublic high school which has been approved by the State Board of Elementary  
18 and Secondary Education or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or  
19 revised version of such test or on the SAT.

20 §5024. Academic requirements

21 A.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Subsection, students shall meet  
22 the following minimum grade point average requirements, calculated on a 4.00 scale  
23 using only the grades obtained by the student in completing the core curriculum  
24 requirements established by this Chapter, for the respective awards:

25 (a) For an Opportunity Award, a minimum cumulative grade point average  
26 of 2.50.

27 (b) For a Performance Award, a minimum cumulative grade point average  
28 of 3.00.

1           (c) For an Honors Award, a minimum cumulative grade point average of  
2           3.00.

3           (d) For a TOPS-Tech Award, a minimum cumulative grade point average of  
4           2.50.

5           (2)(a) For a student who graduated prior to the 2002-2003 school year the  
6           minimum cumulative grade point average shall be calculated by using the grades  
7           obtained by the student in completing all classes taken.

8           (b) For a student who graduated prior to the 2007-2008 school year, the  
9           minimum cumulative high school grade point average necessary for such students  
10          to be eligible for an initial Performance Award or Honors Award shall be 3.50 on a  
11          4.00 scale.

12          (3)(a) The calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average  
13          specified in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall utilize a five-point scale for grades  
14          earned in certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses,  
15          gifted and talented courses, honors courses, articulated courses for college credit, and  
16          dual enrollment courses as approved by the Board of Regents and the State Board of  
17          Elementary and Secondary Education, which may result in a student earning a  
18          cumulative grade point average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality  
19          points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned  
20          to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C",  
21          two quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points  
22          shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

23          (b) The provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph do not apply to  
24          students who graduated prior to the 2017-2018 school year.

25          B.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Subsection, a student shall earn  
26          the following minimum test scores for the respective awards:

27          (a) For an Opportunity Award, a composite score on the 1990 version of the  
28          ACT which is at least equal to or higher than the state's average composite score,  
29          rounded to the nearest whole number, reported for the prior year but never less than

1 twenty or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such  
2 test or on the SAT.

3 (b) For a Performance Award, a composite score on the 1990 version of the  
4 ACT of twenty-three or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced  
5 or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

6 (c) For an Honors Award, a score of twenty-seven or higher on the 1990  
7 version of the ACT or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised  
8 version of such test or on the SAT.

9 (d) For a TOPS-Tech Award, a composite score on the specified ACT of  
10 seventeen or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised  
11 version of such test or on the SAT. The student may, as an alternative requirement,  
12 have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system.

13 (2)(a) For a student who graduated prior to the 2010-2011 school year, the  
14 ACT WorkKeys system is not an alternative assessment for establishing eligibility  
15 for a TOPS-Tech Award.

16 (b) For a student who graduated prior to the 2000-2001 school year, the  
17 minimum ACT score for a TOPS-Tech Award is nineteen.

18 C. A student who graduated after the 2002-2003 school year but prior to the  
19 2006-2007 school year is eligible to receive a Performance Award pursuant to this  
20 Chapter if he meets the other requirements of this Chapter and each of the following  
21 conditions is met:

22 (1) The student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT of  
23 twenty-four or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised  
24 version of such test or on the SAT.

25 (2) The student achieved a minimum cumulative high school grade point  
26 average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale when calculated in accordance with applicable rules  
27 adopted by the administering agency and such calculation is based on ten or more of  
28 the grades being grades for completion of honors curriculum courses, gifted

1 curriculum courses, or advanced placement courses, or any combination of such  
2 courses, and the high school awards grades for such courses on a 4.0 scale or higher.

3 §5025. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,

4 Honors Awards

5 To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant  
6 to this Chapter, a student who graduates during or after the 2017-2018 school year  
7 shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of nineteen units  
8 of high school course work as follows:

9 (1) English - Four Units

10 (a) English I.

11 (b) English II.

12 (c) One unit chosen from the following: English III, AP English Language  
13 Arts and Composition, or English III IB (Language A or Literature and  
14 Performance).

15 (d) One unit chosen from the following: English IV, AP English Literature  
16 and Composition, or English IV IB (Language A or Literature and Performance).

17 (2) Mathematics - Four Units

18 (a) Algebra I (one unit), Geometry (one unit), and Algebra II (one unit).  
19 Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III  
20 may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.

21 (b) One unit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math  
22 Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math  
23 Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math  
24 Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP  
25 Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.

26 (3) Science - Four Units

27 (a) Biology I.

28 (b) Chemistry I.

1           (c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental  
2           Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined);  
3           Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB  
4           Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C:  
5           Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics  
6           I and AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II.

7           (4) Social Studies - Four Units

8           (a) One unit chosen from the following: U.S. History, AP US History, or IB  
9           US History.

10          (b) One unit chosen from the following: Civics, Government, AP US  
11          Government and Politics: Comparative, AP US Government and Politics: United  
12          States.

13          (c) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European  
14          History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB  
15          Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of  
16          Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics.

17          (5) Foreign Language - two units in the same language, which may include  
18          the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture,  
19          AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese  
20          Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB,  
21          French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.

22          (6) Art - one unit chosen from the following: Performance course in Music,  
23          Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and  
24          IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech  
25          III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design;  
26          AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film Study  
27          I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB;  
28          Theatre I IB; or Drafting.

1           (7) For the purposes of this Section, any core curriculum course that is taken  
2           by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary  
3           and Secondary Education policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's  
4           Individualized Education Plan shall be considered a gifted course and shall fulfill the  
5           core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

6           §5025.1. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,

7           Honors; students graduating prior to 2007-2008 school year

8           To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant  
9           to this Chapter, a student who graduated from high school prior to the 2007-2008  
10          school year shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of  
11          sixteen and one-half units of high school course work as follows:

12           (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units).

13           (2) Algebra I (one unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units) and  
14          Algebra II (one unit).

15           (3) Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or comparable Advanced  
16          Mathematics (one unit; however, Trigonometry is not an option for meeting this  
17          requirement for students graduating after the 2004-2005 school year).

18           (4) Biology (one unit).

19           (5) Chemistry (one unit).

20           (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II,  
21          Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, Physics for Technology, or Agriscience I and II  
22          (both for one unit)(one unit).

23           (7) American History (one unit).

24           (8) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit).

25           (9) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,  
26          nonpublic).

27           (10) Fine Arts Survey (one unit).

1           (11) Foreign Language (two units in a single language; however, one unit for  
2           students graduating from high school during the 1996-1997 or 1997-1998 school  
3           year).

4           (12) Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer  
5           Applications (one-half unit; or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course  
6           related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and  
7           Secondary Education; or substitute at least one-half unit as an elective from among  
8           the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).

9           §5025.2 High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,  
10           Honors; students graduating 2007-2008 through 2012-2013

11           To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant  
12           to this Chapter, a student who graduated from high school during or after the 2007-  
13           2008 school year but not later than the 2012-2013 school year shall have successfully  
14           completed a core curriculum which consists of seventeen and one-half units of high  
15           school course work as follows:

16           (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units).

17           (2) Algebra I (one unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units) and  
18           Algebra II (one unit).

19           (3) Geometry, Calculus, or comparable Advanced Mathematics (one unit).

20           (4) Biology (one unit).

21           (5) Chemistry (one unit).

22           (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II,  
23           Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, Physics for Technology, or Agriscience I and II  
24           (both for one unit)(one unit).

25           (7) American History (one unit).

26           (8) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit).

27           (9) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,  
28           nonpublic).



1           (10) Fine Arts Survey (one unit; or substitute two units of performance  
2           courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute two units of visual art courses; or  
3           substitute two units of studio art courses; or substitute one unit as an elective from  
4           among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).

5           (11) Foreign Language (two units in a single language; however students  
6           graduating from high school during the 1996-1997 school year or the 1997-1998  
7           school year are required to have only one unit).

8           (12) Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer  
9           Applications (one-half unit; or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course  
10           related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and  
11           Secondary Education; or substitute at least one-half unit as an elective from among  
12           the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).

13           (13) At least one unit as an elective from among the following math subjects:  
14           Geometry, Calculus, or approved advanced math substitute, or the following science  
15           subjects: Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics or Physics II.

16           §5025.3. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,  
17           Honors; students graduating 2013-2014 through 2016-2017 school years

18           To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award, a student  
19           who graduated from high school during or after the 2013-2014 school year but not  
20           later than the 2016-2017 school year shall have successfully completed a core  
21           curriculum which consists of nineteen units of high school course work as follows:

22           (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units).

23           (2) Algebra I (one unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units) and  
24           Algebra II (one unit).

25           (3) Geometry, Calculus, or comparable Advanced Mathematics (two units).

26           (4) Biology (one unit).

27           (5) Chemistry (one unit).

1           (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II,  
2           Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, Physics for Technology, or Agriscience I and II  
3           (both for one unit) (two units).

4           (7) American History (one unit).

5           (8) World History, Western Civilization, World Geography, or History of  
6           Religion (two units).

7           (9) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,  
8           nonpublic).

9           (10) Fine Arts Survey (one unit or substitute one unit of a performance  
10           course in music, dance, or theater; or substitute one unit of a visual art course; or  
11           substitute one unit of a studio art course; or substitute one unit of drafting).

12           (11) Foreign Language (two units in a single language).

13           §5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

14           A. Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to be eligible for a TOPS-  
15           Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall have successfully completed  
16           a core curriculum requirements of R.S. 17:5025 or 5025.3 or the core curriculum  
17           defined as follows:

18           (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units, or substitute one unit of Business  
19           English for English IV).

20           (2) Algebra I (one unit); or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or  
21           both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II.

22           (3) Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics,  
23           Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Discrete Mathematics, or  
24           Probability and Statistics (two units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be  
25           substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall be considered the  
26           equivalent of the three required math units.

27           (4) Biology (one unit).

1           (5) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and II (both for one  
2           unit), Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, Chemistry or Applied  
3           Chemistry, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology (two units).

4           (6) American History (one unit).

5           (7) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit).

6           (8) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,  
7           nonpublic).

8           (9) Remaining core courses shall be selected from one of the following  
9           options:

10          (a) OPTION 1, consisting of four units as follows:

11           (i) Fine Arts Survey (one unit) or drafting (one unit) or substitute two units  
12           of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute two units of visual  
13           art courses; or substitute two units of studio art courses; or a course from the career  
14           and technical program of studies that is approved by the State Board of Elementary  
15           and Secondary Education; or substitute one unit as an elective from among the other  
16           subjects listed in this core curriculum.

17           (ii) Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I, or Speech II (two units).

18           (iii) One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that  
19           is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

20          (b) OPTION 2, consisting of six units required as a concentration under the  
21          career options law as follows:

22           (i) At least four units in a career major comprised of a sequence of related  
23           specialty courses.

24           (ii) At least two units in related or technical fields, including credit in a basic  
25           computer course.

26          B. For a student graduating during or prior to the 2001-2002 school year, to  
27          be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall meet  
28          the standards for admission to the desired college or university and have successfully

1 completed a core curriculum requirements of Subsection A of this Section or of R.S.

2 17:5025.3 or the core curriculum defined as follows:

3 (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units, or substitute one unit of Business  
4 English for English IV).

5 (2) Algebra I (one unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units) and  
6 Algebra II (one unit).

7 (3) Geometry or Applied Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or comparable  
8 Advanced Mathematics (one unit).

9 (4) Biology (one unit).

10 (5) Chemistry or Applied Physics (one unit).

11 (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and II (both for one  
12 unit), Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for  
13 Technology (one unit).

14 (7) American History (one unit).

15 (8) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit).

16 (9) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,  
17 nonpublic).

18 (10) Fine Arts Survey or any approved vocational course in the areas of  
19 Agriscience, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health  
20 Occupations, Marketing Education, Technology Education, or Trade and Industrial  
21 Education (one unit); or substitute two units of performance courses in music, dance,  
22 or theater; or substitute two units of visual art courses; or substitute two units of  
23 studio art courses; or substitute one unit as an elective from among the other subjects  
24 listed in this core curriculum.

25 (11) Foreign Language (one unit for students graduating from high school  
26 during the 1996-1997 school year or the 1997-1998 school year; two units in a single  
27 language for students graduating from high school during the 1998-1999 school year  
28 and thereafter) or Technical Writing, Speech I, or Speech II (two units).

1           (12) Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer  
2           Applications (one-half unit; or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course  
3           related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and  
4           Secondary Education; or substitute at least one-half unit as an elective from among  
5           the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).

6           §5027. Postsecondary institution enrollment

7           A.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to be eligible for an  
8           award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall enroll in an eligible college or  
9           university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer  
10           semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the  
11           student graduated from high school.

12           (2) The administering agency may grant exceptions to Paragraph (1) of this  
13           Subsection for cause.

14           (3) A student who joins the United States Armed Forces within one year  
15           after graduating from high school meets the eligibility requirement of this Section  
16           if he enrolls in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not later than  
17           the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the  
18           fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school; however,  
19           effective for the 1996-1997 school year and thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth  
20           anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school, the student  
21           reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and maintains continuous active duty,  
22           the five-year period shall be extended to the semester immediately following the  
23           one-year anniversary of the student's separation from active duty service.

24           B. "Eligible college or university" means a public college or university in  
25           this state or a regionally accredited independent college or university in the state that  
26           is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

27           C. Notwithstanding any provision of Subsection B of this Section, any  
28           student who meets all applicable initial and continuing program eligibility  
29           requirements of this Chapter for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award

1 may use such award at an out-of-state nonpublic college or university when each of  
2 the following conditions is met:

3 (1) The college or university is accredited by a regional accrediting  
4 organization recognized by the United States Department of Education.

5 (2) All programs and services at the college or university are specifically  
6 designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

7 (3) Deaf and hard-of-hearing students comprise the majority of students  
8 enrolled at the college or university at the undergraduate level.

9 (4) The award recipient meets the admission requirements of the college or  
10 university that are applicable to deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

11 (5) The initial program award is made to the student for the 2005-2006  
12 award year or thereafter.

13 (6) The college or university provides to the administering agency such  
14 information as would otherwise be required by the agency for program  
15 administration purposes from an eligible Louisiana college or university if the  
16 student was enrolled in such Louisiana institution.

17 D.(1) Effective for the 2009-2010 award year and thereafter, for purposes of  
18 the TOPS-Tech Award as provided by this Chapter, the term "eligible colleges and  
19 universities" shall include any school that has a valid and current certificate of  
20 registration issued by the State Board of Cosmetology in accordance with law and  
21 that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States  
22 Department of Education and any proprietary school that has a valid and current  
23 license issued by the Board of Regents in accordance with law and that is accredited  
24 by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of  
25 Education. Such a school also shall comply with all other applicable provisions of  
26 this Chapter and rules adopted by the administering agency relative to a college or  
27 university being initially eligible and remaining eligible for program purposes.

28 (2) Effective for the 2010-2011 award year and thereafter, a student who is  
29 the recipient of an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award and who pursues skill

1 or occupational training as defined by the administering agency, including a  
2 vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic  
3 undergraduate degree, may use the award at any school that has a valid and current  
4 certificate of registration issued by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology in  
5 accordance with law and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized  
6 by the United States Department of Education and at any proprietary school that has  
7 a valid and current license issued by the Board of Regents in accordance with law  
8 and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States  
9 Department of Education. Such a school shall comply with all other applicable  
10 provisions of this Chapter and rules adopted by the administering agency relative to  
11 a college or university being initially eligible and remaining eligible for program  
12 purposes.

13 §5028. Other student eligibility requirements

14 A. To be eligible for an award pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall not  
15 have any criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations and, if the  
16 student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such  
17 service, he shall have received an honorable discharge or general discharge under  
18 honorable conditions.

19 B. The student shall apply for a federal grant prior to receiving a grant of  
20 state funds under this Section unless the student can demonstrate that he does not  
21 qualify for federal grant aid.

22 §5029. Alternative initial eligibility requirements

23 A. A student who graduates from an out-of-state high school shall be eligible  
24 to receive an award pursuant to this Chapter if each of the following conditions is  
25 met:

26 (1) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have met  
27 one of the following criteria:

1           (a) The student graduated during the 1996-1997 school year or thereafter  
2           from an out-of-state high school that has been approved by the appropriate state  
3           educational agency in the state in which the school is located.

4           (b) The student graduated from an out-of-state high school that is accredited  
5           by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and that meets the standards  
6           adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval of  
7           nonpublic schools in Louisiana.

8           (c) The student graduated during the 2002-2003 school year or thereafter  
9           from an out-of-state high school that is accredited by a regional accrediting  
10          organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and that  
11          meets the standards adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
12          Education for approval of nonpublic schools in Louisiana.

13          (d) The student graduated from a high school that has been approved by the  
14          United States Department of Defense.

15          (e) The student graduated during the 2009-2010 school year or thereafter  
16          with an International Baccalaureate Diploma from an out-of-state high school  
17          approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue such a diploma.

18          (2) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5027, and  
19          5028.

20          (3) The student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which  
21          is at least three points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular  
22          award or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such  
23          test or on the SAT.

24          B. A student who completes a home study program shall be eligible to  
25          receive an award pursuant to this Chapter if each of the following conditions is met:

26          (1)(a) The student has been certified by a parent or court-ordered custodian  
27          to have successfully completed at the twelfth grade level a home study program  
28          approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.



1           **(b)(i) Any such student who has previously attended a Louisiana public high**  
2           **school or nonpublic high school that has been approved by the State Board of**  
3           **Elementary and Secondary Education, must have begun his studies in the approved**  
4           **home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade year.**

5           **(ii) Any such student who has previously attended a Louisiana public high**  
6           **school, a Louisiana nonpublic high school, or an out-of-state high school shall be**  
7           **required to provide certification from the principal, headmaster, or other appropriate**  
8           **person at the high school previously attended that the student was in good standing**  
9           **at the time the student last attended such school.**

10           **(2) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5027, and**  
11           **5028.**

12           **(3)(a) Except as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, the student**  
13           **has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least three points**  
14           **higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular award or an**  
15           **equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the**  
16           **SAT.**

17           **(b)(i) For a student qualifying for an initial program award for the 2005-2006**  
18           **through the 2007-2008 award year pursuant to this Subsection, the student shall have**  
19           **a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least two points higher**  
20           **than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular award or an equivalent**  
21           **concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.**

22           **(ii) For a student qualifying for an initial TOPS-Tech or Opportunity Award**  
23           **for the 2008-2009 award year or thereafter pursuant to this Subsection, the student**  
24           **shall have a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least two**  
25           **points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular award or an**  
26           **equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the**  
27           **SAT.**

28           **(iii) For a student qualifying for an initial Performance or Honors Award for**  
29           **the 2008-2009 award year or thereafter pursuant to this Subsection, the student shall**

1 have a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least one point  
2 higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular award or an  
3 equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the  
4 SAT.

5 C. A student who graduates from an out-of-country high school shall be  
6 eligible to receive an Opportunity or TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter if  
7 each of the following conditions is met:

8 (1) The student meets one of the following criteria:

9 (a) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have  
10 graduated during the 2000-2001 school year or thereafter from a high school located  
11 outside of the United States and its territories which meets the standards adopted by  
12 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval of nonpublic  
13 schools in Louisiana and which is accredited by an accrediting organization  
14 recognized by the United States Department of Education.

15 (b)(i) The student has been certified by a parent or court-ordered custodian  
16 to have successfully completed at the twelfth grade level a home study program  
17 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted  
18 outside the United States and its territories.

19 (ii) Any such student who has previously attended a Louisiana public high  
20 school, a Louisiana nonpublic high school, or an out-of-state high school shall be  
21 required to provide certification from the principal, headmaster, or other appropriate  
22 person at the high school previously attended that the student was in good standing  
23 at the time the student last attended such school.

24 (c) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have  
25 graduated during the 2009-2010 school year or thereafter with an International  
26 Baccalaureate Diploma from a high school located outside of the United States and  
27 its territories and approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue  
28 such a diploma.

1           (2) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5027, and  
2           5028.

3           (3) The student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which  
4           is at least three points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular  
5           award or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such  
6           test or on the SAT.

7           D.(1) Beginning with the 2004-2005 award year, a student who does not  
8           graduate from high school or complete a home study program shall be eligible to  
9           receive an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant to this Chapter if  
10          each of the following conditions is met:

11           (a) As certified by a psychologist or psychiatrist licensed to practice in  
12          Louisiana, the student has a score that is at least in the superior range on the  
13          Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (Third Edition) or revised version of such  
14          instrument or, if provided for by the administering agency by rule, has an equivalent  
15          score on a comparable diagnostic instrument.

16           (b) As certified by a psychologist or psychiatrist licensed to practice in  
17          Louisiana, the student has a composite score that is at least at the ninetieth percentile  
18          at the twelfth grade level in the reading, mathematics, and written language portions  
19          of the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (Second Edition) or revised version  
20          of such test or, if provided for by the administering agency by rule, has an equivalent  
21          score on a comparable test.

22           (c) Prior to enrolling for the first time in an eligible college or university, the  
23          student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5024(B) otherwise applicable to a student  
24          who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school relative to the student having  
25          at least the minimum composite score on the ACT or having an equivalent score on  
26          the SAT as specified for the respective awards.

27           (d) The student enrolls in an eligible college or university and after  
28          successful completion of twelve hours of credit the student is enrolled in such a  
29          college or university on a full-time basis no later than his nineteenth birthday to

1 pursue an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level. A student's  
2 award pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph shall be effective upon such  
3 enrollment on a full-time basis.

4 (e) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5027, and  
5 5028.

6 (2) State payments on behalf of a student eligible for an award pursuant to  
7 this Subsection shall be in the same amounts as otherwise provided for by this  
8 Chapter for such award. The awards provided by this Subsection shall be for no  
9 more than eight semesters or an equivalent number of units in a college or university  
10 which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters unless an extension  
11 is granted by the administering agency in accordance with its rules.

#### 12 SUBPART C. MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY

##### 13 §5041. Maintaining eligibility; Honors, Performance, Opportunity

14 To maintain continued state payment of an amount equal to tuition and other  
15 amounts for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant to this Chapter  
16 once enrolled in college a student shall meet all of the following:

17 (1)(a) If pursuing an academic undergraduate degree, make steady academic  
18 progress toward a degree as defined by the administering agency, earning not less  
19 than the minimum number of hours of credit required for full-time standing in each  
20 academic year or the required number of hours needed to complete the undergraduate  
21 degree during that semester or quarter.

22 (b) If pursuing skill or occupational training, make steady academic progress  
23 as defined by the administering agency toward completion of the requirements of the  
24 program in which enrolled earning not less than the minimum number of hours of  
25 credit required for full-time standing or the required number of hours needed to  
26 complete the program's requirements.

27 (c) If at any time a student fails to maintain the cumulative grade point  
28 average required for continuation in the program or as of the end of any semester or  
29 term during the academic year fails to make steady academic progress as defined by

1 the administering agency, such student shall become ineligible for further payments.  
2 Payments limited to those provided in R.S. 17:5002(B) regardless of whether the  
3 originally granted award was an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award may  
4 be reinstated upon attainment of the grade point average required by this Section for  
5 a student to maintain continued state payments once enrolled in college and the  
6 standards for steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency,  
7 provided that the student has maintained other continuation requirements and the  
8 period of ineligibility did not persist for more than two years from the date of loss  
9 of eligibility. If this two-year period is interrupted due to a student's active duty  
10 service in the United States Armed Forces, the two-year period shall be extended for  
11 a length of time equal to the student's active duty service, not to exceed four years,  
12 unless the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and maintains  
13 continuous active duty, in which case the period shall be extended for a length of  
14 time equal to the student's active duty service; or unless the student is granted an  
15 exception for cause by the administering agency.

16 (2)(a) If pursuing an academic undergraduate degree, maintain continuous  
17 enrollment for not less than two semesters or three quarters in each successive  
18 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency.

19 (b) If pursuing skill or occupational training, maintain continuous enrollment  
20 as a full-time student unless granted an exception for cause by the administering  
21 agency.

22 (3) For students qualifying for an Opportunity Award, have a cumulative  
23 grade point average of the following as evaluated at the end of each academic year:

24 (a) At least 2.30 calculated on a 4.00 scale after completion of twenty-four  
25 hours of credit.

26 (b) At least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale after completion of forty-eight  
27 hours of credit.

1           (4)(a) For students qualifying to receive a Performance or an Honors Award,  
2           have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale at the end of  
3           each academic year.

4           (b) However, if at any time an otherwise eligible student receiving a  
5           Performance Award or an Honors Award in accordance with the provisions of this  
6           Chapter fails to have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale  
7           at the end of any academic year but has and continues to maintain a cumulative grade  
8           point average at least equal to that required by Paragraph (3) of this Subsection for  
9           continued participation by a recipient of an Opportunity Award, the student receiving  
10          a Performance Award or an Honors Award shall remain eligible for state payments  
11          but only in the amount provided for in R.S. 17:5002(B) for a recipient of an  
12          Opportunity Award. The provisions of this Subparagraph shall apply to all students  
13          who receive state payments pursuant to a Performance Award or an Honors Award,  
14          including all such students from the beginning of the program.

15          (5) Have no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations  
16          and, if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated  
17          from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under  
18          honorable conditions.

19          §5042. Maintaining eligibility; TOPS-Tech

20                 To maintain continued state payment of an amount equal to tuition pursuant  
21                 to a TOPS-Tech Award once enrolled in an institution, a student shall meet all of the  
22                 following:

23                 (1) Make steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency  
24                 toward completion of the requirements of the program in which enrolled earning not  
25                 less than the minimum number of hours of credit required for full-time standing or  
26                 the required number of hours needed to complete the program's requirements. If at  
27                 any time a student fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average required for  
28                 continuation in the program or as of the end of any term during the school year fails  
29                 to make steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency, the

1 student shall become ineligible for further payments. Payments may be reinstated  
2 upon attainment of the grade point average required for continuation of the original  
3 award and the standards for steady academic progress as defined by the  
4 administering agency, provided that the student has maintained other continuation  
5 requirements and the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than one year  
6 from the date of loss of eligibility. If this one-year period is interrupted due to a  
7 student's active duty service in the United States Armed Forces, the one-year period  
8 shall be extended for a length of time equal to the student's active duty service, not  
9 to exceed four years, unless the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces  
10 and maintains continuous active duty, in which case the period shall be extended for  
11 a length of time equal to the student's active duty service; or unless the student is  
12 granted an exception for cause by the administering agency.

13 (2) Maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student unless granted an  
14 exception for cause by the administering agency.

15 (3) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 calculated on a 4.00  
16 scale.

17 (4) Have no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations  
18 and, if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated  
19 from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under  
20 honorable conditions.

21 §5043. Returning students

22 Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the contrary, any otherwise  
23 qualified student who meets each of the following conditions and who enrolls as a  
24 first-time freshman in an out-of-state college or university, or beginning with the  
25 2009-2010 academic year, first enrolls as a first-time freshman in an eligible college  
26 or university in Louisiana and subsequently enrolls in an out-of-state college or  
27 university, may use the program award provided for by this Section at an eligible  
28 college or university in Louisiana in accordance with this Subsection and other  
29 applicable provisions of this Chapter; however, the time period of award eligibility

1 set forth in R.S. 17:5002(E) shall be reduced by an equivalent number of units as  
2 may be applicable for each semester or equivalent time period that the student is  
3 enrolled in an out-of-state college or university:

4 (1) The student has been determined by the administering agency to meet the  
5 initial eligibility requirements established by this Section for an Opportunity,  
6 Performance, or Honors Award.

7 (2) The student enrolled as a first-time freshman in one of the following:

8 (a) An out-of-state college or university in accordance with the timelines  
9 specified by this Section for such enrollment in an eligible college or university in  
10 Louisiana and the out-of-state college or university is accredited by a regional  
11 accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education.

12 (b) An eligible college or university in Louisiana in accordance with the  
13 timelines specified by this Section for such enrollment, who subsequently enrolled  
14 in an out-of-state college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting  
15 organization recognized by the United States Department of Education, and then  
16 reenrolled in an eligible college or university in Louisiana during the 2009-2010  
17 academic year or thereafter.

18 (3) While enrolled in such an out-of-state college or university the student  
19 met all requirements of this Section that would have been applicable to such student  
20 for continuation of the initial award if the student had enrolled in an eligible college  
21 or university in Louisiana.

22 (4) The student graduated from high school during the 2001-2002 school  
23 year or thereafter.

## 24 PART II. ADMINISTRATION

### 25 §5061. Administering agency

26 The provisions of this Chapter shall be administered by the Louisiana Student  
27 Financial Assistance Commission. The administering agency may provide by rule  
28 adopted as provided by the Administrative Procedure Act for all matters necessary  
29 to the implementation of this Chapter.



1       §5062. Rules, procedures, and guidelines

2               A. The administering agency shall provide by rule for the following:

3                   (1) A mechanism for informing all students of the availability of the  
4                   assistance provided pursuant to this Chapter early enough in their schooling that a  
5                   salutary motivational effect is possible.

6                   (2) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures, eligibility and other  
7                   program audit procedures, and other matters related to efficient operation, including  
8                   timelines and deadlines for receipt by the administering agency of any information  
9                   required to implement the provisions of this Chapter. The administering agency may  
10                  provide an alternative application for students who can demonstrate that they do not  
11                  qualify for federal grant aid.

12               B. The administering agency shall provide the following procedures and  
13               requirements:

14                   (1) A procedure for waiver through the 2002-2003 school year of the  
15                   requirement that a student complete the high school curriculum specified in R.S.  
16                   17:5025.1 and 5026(B), upon proper documentation by the high school's principal  
17                   or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement was due solely  
18                   to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the applicant at  
19                   the school attended.

20                   (2) A procedure whereby any student graduating from high school during the  
21                   1996-1997 or the 1997-1998 school year who is required to meet the provisions of  
22                   R.S. 17:5025.1(11) or 5026(B)(11) relative to successful completion of one unit of  
23                   Foreign Language shall be able to meet such requirement after graduating from high  
24                   school.

25                   (3) A procedure for waiver of the requirement that a student complete the  
26                   high school curriculum specified in this Chapter upon proper documentation by the  
27                   high school's principal or authorized designee that the student is an exceptional child  
28                   as defined by R.S. 17:1942, excluding gifted and talented, and that failure to comply  
29                   with the specified curriculum was due solely to the student's exceptionality.

1           (4) A procedure for waiver of a high school curriculum requirement  
2           specified in this Chapter for any student not otherwise covered by the provisions of  
3           Paragraph (3) of this Subsection but who has one or more learning, visual, hearing,  
4           or physical disabilities diagnosed by a person licensed or certified to diagnose such  
5           disability, when the diagnosis states the need for the student to be provided special  
6           accommodation by the high school relative to the curriculum requirement, the  
7           student requested and was provided such special accommodation by the high school,  
8           and failure to comply with the curriculum requirement was due solely to the student  
9           being disabled.

10           (5) A requirement that all reports of student performance or disability  
11           submitted to the administering agency and used to determine student eligibility be  
12           certified by the responsible authority.

13           C. The administering agency shall provide the following guidelines:

14           (1) Guidelines and procedures by which the administering agency, subject  
15           to prior approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, may  
16           update the course name and establish course equivalencies for any course included  
17           in the definition of core curriculum provided by this Chapter, including necessary  
18           changes to course names and equivalencies for Advanced Placement and  
19           International Baccalaureate courses as prescribed by the College Board or the  
20           International Baccalaureate Foundation. The guidelines and procedures shall include  
21           but not be limited to a requirement that any change in a course name and the  
22           establishment of any course equivalency be done by rule adopted by the  
23           administering agency and a requirement that prior to issuing a notice of intent to  
24           consider any such rule the administering agency shall consult with and seek the  
25           written comments and recommendations of the Board of Regents on making the  
26           name change or establishing the course equivalency.

27           (2) Guidelines and procedures directing that when tuition is paid from a  
28           source other than the award made pursuant to this Chapter, the award shall be  
29           applied by the institution attended by the student toward payment of expenses other

1 than tuition which are described in the term "cost of attendance" as that term is  
2 defined in 20 U.S.C. 1087(II), as amended, for the purpose of qualifying the student  
3 or his parent or court-ordered custodian for the federal income tax credits provided  
4 for under 26 U.S.C. 25A.

5 (3)(a) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to  
6 receive and consider an application for an initial award, an application for the  
7 continuation of an award, or an application to return from an out-of-state college or  
8 university under this Chapter that is received by the agency after the final deadline  
9 established by the agency for the receipt of such application but not later than one  
10 hundred twenty days after the deadline.

11 (b) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency, for the  
12 2007-2008 academic year and thereafter, to receive and consider an application for  
13 an award under this Chapter as authorized by R.S. 17:5023 that is received by the  
14 agency after the final deadline established by the agency for the receipt of such  
15 application, but not later than one hundred twenty days after the deadline.

16 (c)(i) When granting an award based on an application that is considered by  
17 the agency pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph and such application is  
18 received by the agency not later than sixty days after the final deadline, the agency  
19 shall reduce the time period of eligibility for the award as set forth in R.S. 17:5002  
20 by one semester or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which  
21 operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters.

22 (ii) When granting an award based on an application that is considered by  
23 the agency pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph and such application is  
24 received by the agency more than sixty days after the final deadline, the agency shall  
25 reduce the time period of eligibility for the award as set forth in R.S. 17:5002 by two  
26 semesters or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates  
27 on a schedule based on units other than semesters.

28 (4)(a) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to  
29 receive and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2000-2001 academic year

1 and through the 2002-2003 academic year, an applicant's qualifying score on the  
2 ACT or on the SAT that is obtained on an authorized testing date after the date of the  
3 applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year of such  
4 graduation.

5 (b) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to receive  
6 and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2003-2004 academic year and  
7 thereafter, an applicant's qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT which is first  
8 obtained on an authorized testing date after the national April ACT testing date in the  
9 year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year of  
10 such graduation.

11 (c) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to receive  
12 and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2011-2012 academic year and  
13 thereafter, an applicant's qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT which is first  
14 obtained on an authorized testing date after the national April ACT testing date in the  
15 year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year of  
16 such graduation or, if the administering authority determines that the applicant was  
17 prevented from taking the test prior to July first of the year of graduation due to  
18 circumstances beyond the immediate control of the student and attributable to the  
19 administration of the test, prior to September thirtieth of the year of such graduation.

20 (d) When granting an award to an applicant whose qualifying test score is  
21 considered by the agency pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph, the agency  
22 shall reduce the time period of eligibility for the award as set forth in R.S. 17:5002  
23 by one semester or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which  
24 operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters.

25 §5063. Notice of Program Changes

26 In addition to any other requirements of this Chapter, the administering  
27 agency shall notify all appropriate public and nonpublic school personnel, including  
28 school counselors, of any changes in law or agency rules relative to the Taylor  
29 Opportunity Program for Students no later than sixty days after such change.

1        §5064. School boards

2                Each city and parish school board for the high school under its jurisdiction  
3        or the principals of such high schools and the principal or headmaster of each  
4        nonpublic high school approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
5        Education shall, using the criteria in Subpart B of Part I of this Chapter as the  
6        minimum qualifications for selection, identify and certify to the administering  
7        agency those achieving the required academic standards to qualify for an award  
8        pursuant to this Chapter.

9        §5065. Funding

10              A.(1) The legislature annually shall appropriate to the administering agency  
11        funds which, together with any other funds available, are sufficient to cover the costs  
12        required to be paid, both initial and continuing, for the coming academic year. All  
13        such payments shall be made by the administering agency directly to the institution  
14        to which such payment is due after notice to the institution that the state shall pay,  
15        on behalf of the qualifying student, the applicable amount stipulated in this Chapter  
16        and after notice from the institution that the student has actually enrolled.

17              (2) Effective beginning with the 1999-2000 academic year and thereafter, no  
18        state payments made on behalf of any student receiving an award pursuant to the  
19        provisions of this Chapter shall be used by an institution of higher education to  
20        supplant the granting of free tuition for such student pursuant to a scholarship given  
21        in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 43 of the 1884 Regular Session of the  
22        Legislature, as amended.

23              B. The administering agency may seek, accept, and expend funds from any  
24        source, including private business, industry, foundations, and other groups as well  
25        as any federal or other governmental funding available for this purpose.

26              C. Implementation of the tuition payment program provided by this Chapter  
27        shall be subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

28              D.(1) In the event the legislature appropriates insufficient money to fund all  
29        awards made to students qualifying under the provisions of this Chapter, the number

1 of students to whom awards shall be made shall be reduced as necessary pursuant to  
2 a procedure set out by rule adopted by the administering agency. The procedure  
3 shall provide for such reduction to be based on the scores on the ACT and then on  
4 the ability of each student's family to pay the student's tuition as evidenced by the  
5 expected family contribution determined by using the standardized federal  
6 methodology for establishing student financial need. The procedure shall provide  
7 that reductions of awards made necessary by insufficient appropriations shall first  
8 eliminate the cohort of students who score lowest on the ACT. The procedures shall  
9 provide that within that cohort of students, those whose families are most able to pay  
10 the student's tuition shall be eliminated first. After insufficient appropriations  
11 require the elimination of all students in such cohort, the procedures shall require  
12 repeating the process with those students in the next highest score cohort.

13 (2) Among students denied their awards as provided in this Subsection, those  
14 students whose families have the least capacity to pay shall be the first to receive  
15 their awards if monies become available. Any student for whom the expected family  
16 contribution cannot be determined as provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection  
17 shall be denied his award until the legislature appropriates sufficient monies to fund  
18 all awards made to students qualifying under the provisions of this Chapter.

19 §5066. With other financial assistance

20 A. A grant awarded pursuant to this Chapter may be combined with a  
21 disbursement from the Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust  
22 Program, as provided in R.S. 17:3091 through 3099.2, to pay the student's tuition,  
23 and any portion of the grant which is offset by such a disbursement shall then be  
24 expended in payment of current year educational expenses as defined by the  
25 administering agency and billed to the student by the institution. Any remaining  
26 balance of the grant award may then be expended by the student in payment of room  
27 and board.

28 B.(1)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the contrary, any  
29 student who qualifies for an award as provided in this Chapter and who also qualifies

1 for any other financial assistance offered by the state public college or university  
2 which the student attends shall be allowed to combine such award and financial  
3 assistance in any manner to cover any "cost of attendance" as determined for that  
4 student in accordance with regulations governing the award of federal student aid  
5 under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended, including room and  
6 board, books, and other instructional materials.

7 (b) Additionally, notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the  
8 contrary and effective for the 2004-2005 award year and thereafter, any student who  
9 qualifies for an award as provided in this Chapter shall be allowed to use such award  
10 in any manner to cover any "cost of attendance" at an eligible public college or  
11 university as determined for that student in accordance with regulations governing  
12 the award of federal student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
13 as amended.

14 (2) If a student is receiving other financial assistance that, when combined  
15 with a tuition payment under this Chapter, exceeds the "cost of attendance" as  
16 determined for that student in accordance with regulations governing the award of  
17 federal student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended,  
18 the amount of the tuition payment shall be reduced by the amount of such excess.

19 (3)(a)(i) Any student who receives a financial assistance award pursuant to  
20 this Chapter may elect to accept the award on the basis provided in this Paragraph.  
21 The student may elect to delay the acceptance of his financial assistance award until  
22 after the student, if he is not claimed as a dependent of a parent or court-ordered  
23 custodian on a federal income tax return, or his parent or court-ordered custodian,  
24 if he is claimed as a dependent on a federal income tax return, files his federal  
25 income tax return.

26 (ii) If the student delays the acceptance of his award and the student, parent,  
27 or court-ordered custodian claims a federal income tax credit for money expended  
28 on educational tuition for the postsecondary education of the student, the  
29 administering agency shall pay directly to the student an amount equal to the amount

1 of the award that would have been paid to the eligible institution on behalf of the  
2 student less the amount of the tax credit claimed plus as an incentive for claiming the  
3 credit and thus reducing the cost to the state of this program, an amount equal to  
4 twenty-five percent of the amount of the credit claimed.

5 (iii) If the student delays the acceptance of his award and the student, parent,  
6 or court-ordered custodian does not claim such a credit, then the amount of the award  
7 that would have been paid to the eligible institution on behalf of the student shall be  
8 paid directly to the student.

9 (b) In order to receive the additional incentive payment provided for in Item  
10 (a)(ii) of this Paragraph, the student, parent, or court-ordered custodian filing the  
11 return shall provide such proof to the administering agency of the amount of federal  
12 income tax credit for money expended on educational tuition claimed as required by  
13 the agency, including access to their federal income tax records or other appropriate  
14 records.

15 (c) In any case in which the award amount is paid directly to the student as  
16 a result of an election under this Paragraph, the amount of the award may be  
17 expended on any item considered as part of the "cost of attendance" as determined  
18 for that student in accordance with regulations governing the award for federal  
19 student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

20 (d) The administering agency shall establish by rule the procedure and time  
21 schedules necessary for a student to make the election provided for in this Paragraph,  
22 for receipt of notice of such an election by the agency, and for delayed payment of  
23 the award and any applicable incentive.

24 (e) In any case in which a federal income tax credit claim for tuition is  
25 disallowed, no additional payment shall be made by the agency as a result.

26 (f) The election provided for in this Paragraph may be made in any year for  
27 which the student is eligible for an award under this Paragraph.



1        §5067. Program information reporting system; implementation; requirements;  
2                    applicability; participation by eligible institutions and others

3                    A.(1) The Board of Regents shall formulate, develop, establish, and  
4                    implement a uniform Taylor Opportunity Program for Students information reporting  
5                    system for the purposes of policy analysis and program evaluation and for providing  
6                    accurate data and statistics to the legislature, the governor and appropriate executive  
7                    branch agencies, and the public relative to the program's impact on the state and on  
8                    students.

9                    (2) In formulating and developing the information reporting system, the  
10                    Board of Regents shall consult with and seek written recommendations from the  
11                    Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, each college or university  
12                    eligible for participation in the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, each of the  
13                    public postsecondary education management boards, the Louisiana Association of  
14                    Independent Colleges and Universities, legislators, and knowledgeable others as  
15                    determined appropriate by the Board of Regents.

16                    (3) It is the intention of the legislature that the reporting system provided by  
17                    this Section and the requirements thereof shall be applicable to all Taylor  
18                    Opportunity Program for Students applicants, all award recipients regardless of  
19                    eligible college or university attended, and all such eligible colleges and universities.  
20                    Effective for the 2002-2003 award year and thereafter, compliance with the  
21                    requirements of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students information reporting  
22                    system shall be a condition for an eligible college or university to remain eligible to  
23                    receive payments from the state on behalf of an award recipient. Compliance  
24                    determinations shall be made annually by the Board of Regents.

25                    B. The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students information reporting  
26                    system shall include but not be limited to the following:

27                    (1) A report prepared as of the end of the Fall semester and again as of the  
28                    end of the Spring semester or equivalent periods of time during each academic year  
29                    relative to the rate of retention of program awards by students as they progress from

1 semester to semester or other equivalent periods of time as may be applicable once  
2 enrolled at an eligible college or university. The data shall be reported by institution  
3 attended, by the two-digit classification of instructional program, and by program  
4 award category and shall include the percent of students losing program eligibility  
5 due to not earning the minimum number of credit hours, the percent of students  
6 losing program eligibility due to not having the required cumulative grade point  
7 average, and the percent of students losing program eligibility for failing to make  
8 steady academic progress.

9 (2) The persistence rates at colleges and universities of freshman,  
10 sophomore, junior, and senior students receiving a program award reported by award  
11 category and by award year.

12 (3) The graduation rates or rates of completion of the chosen postsecondary  
13 education program if otherwise applicable for students receiving a program award,  
14 reported by award category and award year, including for those graduating with an  
15 academic degree at the baccalaureate level the rate for persons graduating within four  
16 years, within five years, and within six years, respectively.

17 (4) The mean length of time required for a student receiving a program  
18 award to graduate with an academic degree at the baccalaureate level or to complete  
19 the chosen postsecondary education program if otherwise applicable with such  
20 information being reported by award category and by award year.

21 (5) An annual report on the number of applicants as well as the percent of  
22 high school graduates by high school and by parish who apply for a program award,  
23 by award category, and the percent of those students who subsequently enroll in a  
24 college or university.

25 (6) Statistical studies on the relationship between the courses taken and  
26 grades earned by a high school student and the student's score on the ACT or the  
27 SAT. Relative to public high schools, such statistical studies shall use student course  
28 and grade data that is otherwise available from the schools and such studies shall be  
29 conducted at no additional cost to the governing authority of any public high school.

1           (7) Demographic information of program award recipients, including but not  
2           limited to race, gender, and parents' household income.

3           (8) High school grade point average and ACT or concordant SAT scores of  
4           program award recipients grouped by mean, median, and mode.

5           (9) High school grade point average and ACT or concordant SAT score  
6           cross-referenced with those students who lost the award and those who were placed  
7           on probationary status and the reasons therefor.

8           C. When necessary due to limitations in existing secondary data sources and  
9           systems, the Board of Regents, consistent with the general provisions of this Section,  
10           may modify any specific requirement of this Section. However, prior to making any  
11           such modifications the board shall report in writing to the House Committee on  
12           Education and the Senate Committee on Education on the proposed action and the  
13           board shall have received approval from each committee relative to the proposed  
14           action.

15           D. The Board of Regents shall submit a written report including all of the  
16           information required by this Section for the preceding academic year to the Senate  
17           Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education, not later than  
18           December first of each year.

19           E. All information reported pursuant to this Section shall be reported in the  
20           aggregate only and shall contain no personally identifiable information for any  
21           recipient of a program award.

22           §5068. Miscellaneous

23           A. Each student who initially qualifies for more than one award under the  
24           provisions of this Chapter shall receive the award requiring the most rigorous  
25           eligibility criteria.

26           B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter to the contrary, any  
27           public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make a directed  
28           donation to any eligible postsecondary institution for a student who is a recipient of  
29           a Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students eligibility.

1           C. Annually, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall,  
2           with the cooperation and assistance of the state's institutions of postsecondary  
3           education, query each first-time recipient of a Taylor Opportunity Program for  
4           Students award to determine the extent to which receiving the award influenced the  
5           decision of the student to attend a Louisiana college or university.

6           D.(1) Recognizing the success and growth of the Taylor Opportunity  
7           Program for Students and in order to maintain the long-term financial stability of  
8           such program, private businesses, industry, foundations, charities, and other  
9           individuals or groups may, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, ask  
10          the division of administration for authority to create scholarship programs to make  
11          payments to eligible colleges and universities on behalf of individual students. If the  
12          division of administration authorizes a private scholarship program, scholarship  
13          funds received by an eligible college or university from such private scholarship  
14          program on behalf of a student shall cause a reduction in the dollar amount of any  
15          award pursuant to this Chapter associated with that student to an amount that is equal  
16          to the dollar amount that the award would have been if no such private scholarship  
17          funds had been received less the amount of private scholarship funds received by the  
18          eligible college or university.

19          (2) This Subsection shall in no way be interpreted in such a manner that a  
20          student could receive less benefits from a combination of the award pursuant to this  
21          Chapter and the private scholarship funded on his behalf than he would have  
22          received solely from the award pursuant to this Chapter if there had been no private  
23          scholarship funded on his behalf. Therefore, to the extent that any privately funded  
24          scholarship funds provided for in this Subsection made to an eligible college or  
25          university on behalf of a qualified student are for an amount less than the amount a  
26          given student would have otherwise received if no such private scholarship funds had  
27          been paid as an award pursuant to this Chapter, then the eligible college or university  
28          shall receive that difference on behalf of the student as the student's award from the  
29          Taylor Opportunity Program for Students.

1           (3) As provided in this Subsection, if an eligible college or university  
2           receives privately funded scholarship funds on behalf of a student, the state funds for  
3           the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students shall be reduced by the amount of the  
4           private scholarship program funds so received. A reduction shall not affect the  
5           estimated nature of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students appropriation as  
6           provided in the Act or Acts that contain such appropriations. The commissioner of  
7           administration shall determine and specify the amount of the reduction from the  
8           source of the funds to provide the maximum benefit to the state from the privately  
9           funded scholarship program. The state treasurer shall deposit the amount of such  
10           reduction as specified by the commissioner of administration into the  
11           Overcollections Fund created in R.S. 39:100.21 and credit the deposit to an account  
12           within the fund hereby established and created to be known as the "Program  
13           Participation Savings Account".

14           E. Notwithstanding any rule by the administering agency to the contrary, no  
15           student who graduates from high school in less than four years and who receives an  
16           award under this Chapter shall be restricted or otherwise delayed as to the date the  
17           award may be first used at an eligible institution due to the student having graduated  
18           from high school in less than four years.

### 19           PART III. TOPS-TECH EARLY START AWARD

20           §5081. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award; purpose; eligibility; limitations;  
21           administration; implementation; reports

22           A. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award is hereby established as part of the  
23           Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students for eligible eleventh and twelfth  
24           grade students attending Louisiana public high schools.

25           B.(1) A TOPS-Tech Early Start Award may be used to fund any technical  
26           or applied course leading to an Industry-Based Certification, a Certificate of Applied  
27           Science, and a Certificate of Technical Sciences offered at a Louisiana public or  
28           nonpublic postsecondary education institution or by any Louisiana training provider  
29           recognized by the Louisiana Workforce Commission and approved by the State

1 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as provided in Paragraph (4) of this  
2 Subsection when such certification or certificate is approved by the Workforce  
3 Investment Council as meeting the following requirements:

4 (a) Is identified by the Occupation Forecasting Conference as a credential  
5 for an occupation in top demand in Louisiana.

6 (b) Is recognized by the State Industry-Based Certification Leadership  
7 Council.

8 (2) An eligible recipient may receive a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award for  
9 two semesters during the eleventh grade and two semesters during the twelfth grade,  
10 excluding summer sessions.

11 (3) The administering agency, on behalf of a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award  
12 recipient, shall pay to the Louisiana postsecondary education institution in which the  
13 student is enrolled in an eligible program of studies or a training program provider  
14 an amount of one hundred fifty dollars for each three credit-hour or equivalent time  
15 course taken by the student, not to exceed two such courses per high school semester  
16 for an eleventh-grade student and two such courses per high school semester for a  
17 twelfth-grade student.

18 (4)(a) By January thirty-first annually, the State Board of Elementary and  
19 Secondary Education shall determine which training program providers it approves  
20 for the academic year that begins in the fall of that year.

21 (b) For the 2014-2015 academic year, the number of training program  
22 providers at which a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award may be used shall be limited to  
23 five providers as selected by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
24 Education.

25 (c) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall  
26 promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure  
27 Act to implement the provisions of this Paragraph.

28 (5) Implementation of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to the  
29 appropriation of funds for this purpose.

1           C. An application for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award shall be required at  
2           a time and in a manner and form established by the administering agency. At a  
3           minimum, information necessary to fully inform Louisiana public high school  
4           students and their parents on the requirements of and procedures for applying for the  
5           award shall be made available by the administering agency in the same manner as  
6           required by law for other awards provided by the Taylor Opportunity Program for  
7           Students.

8           D. To be eligible for an initial TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, a student shall  
9           meet each of the following conditions and comply with other applicable provisions  
10          of this Section and administering agency rules:

11           (1) Be in the eleventh or twelfth grade in a Louisiana public school.

12           (2) Have prepared a five-year education and career plan, including a  
13          sequence of related courses with a career focus as provided by Subpart A-1 of Part  
14          III of Chapter 1 of this Title.

15           (3) Have a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses  
16          attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale.

17           (4) Score at least fifteen on the English subsection and fifteen on the  
18          mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment administered as part of  
19          Louisiana's Educational Planning and Assessment System.

20          E. To maintain continuing eligibility for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award,  
21          a student must meet each of the following conditions and comply with other  
22          applicable provisions of this Section and administering agency rules:

23           (1) Be a student in good standing in a Louisiana public high school.

24           (2) Maintain a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses  
25          attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale.

26           (3) Be a student in good standing while enrolled in a Louisiana public or  
27          nonpublic postsecondary education institution or training program and continue to  
28          pursue one or more courses leading to an industry-based credential.

1           F.(1) The provisions of this Section shall be administered by the Louisiana  
2           Student Financial Assistance Commission, herein referred to as the "administering  
3           agency". Except as otherwise provided by this Section, the authority granted to and  
4           limitations placed on the administering agency by Parts I and II of this Chapter  
5           relative to administering other awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program  
6           for Students shall be deemed to apply also to the administration of the TOPS-Tech  
7           Early Start Award.

8           (2) The agency shall adopt, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure  
9           Act, rules to implement and administer the provisions of this Section. Such rules  
10          shall include but not be limited to necessary guidelines, policies, procedures, forms,  
11          and time lines.

12          G. Prior to the convening of each regular legislative session, the Louisiana  
13          Student Financial Assistance Commission shall provide to the governor, the House  
14          Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education a written review  
15          and analysis of TOPS-Tech Early Start awards relative to award use by students and  
16          the benefits therefrom as well as the impact on subsequent use by students of TOPS-  
17          Tech awards.

#### 18          PART IV. STUDENTS DISPLACED BY CERTAIN NATURAL DISASTERS

19          §5101. Initial eligibility for program awards; students displaced by certain natural  
20          disasters; waivers and exceptions; limitations

21          A.(1)(a) The legislature finds that due to the effects of natural disasters  
22          declared by the governor on August 26, 2005, relative to Hurricane Katrina, and on  
23          September 20, 2005, relative to Hurricane Rita, it is in the best interest for the  
24          education of the people of the state that initial eligibility requirements established in  
25          Part I of this Chapter for awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for  
26          Students be modified as provided by this Section for the 2005-2006, 2006-2007,  
27          2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years for students displaced as a result of the  
28          disasters.



1           **(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, all**  
2           **modifications of initial eligibility requirements established in Part I of this Chapter**  
3           **for awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students provided by this**  
4           **Section for the 2005-2006 school year for a displaced student and for a dependent**  
5           **student pursuant to the provisions of Subitems (B)(1)(c)(ii)(aa) and (bb) of this**  
6           **Section shall be applicable to a displaced student and a dependent student, as**  
7           **applicable, for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years.**

8           **(2) For the purposes of this Section, the phrase "a student displaced as a**  
9           **result of the disasters", hereinafter referred to in this Section as a "displaced student",**  
10          **shall mean a student who meets either or both of the following conditions:**

11           **(a) The student, on August 26, 2005, was enrolled in a public high school or**  
12          **a nonpublic high school having the approvals by the State Board of Elementary and**  
13          **Secondary Education required by Part I of this Chapter for program eligibility**  
14          **purposes and such school was located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines,**  
15          **St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish or the student resided**  
16          **in such a parish and was enrolled in a home study program approved by the State**  
17          **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.**

18           **(b) The student, on September 20, 2005, was enrolled in a public high school**  
19          **or a nonpublic high school having the approvals by the State Board of Elementary**  
20          **and Secondary Education required by Part I of this Chapter for program eligibility**  
21          **purposes and such school was located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu,**  
22          **Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish or the**  
23          **student resided in such a parish and was enrolled in a home study program approved**  
24          **by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.**

25           **B.(1) Relative to initial eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity**  
26          **Program for Students award applicable to a student displaced during the 2005-2006**  
27          **school year, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, in accordance**  
28          **with the Administrative Procedure Act, shall provide by rule as follows:**

1           (a) A displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster  
2           to have graduated during the 2005-2006 school year from an out-of-state high school  
3           that meets the criteria to be an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in R.S.  
4           17:5029 shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum  
5           composite score on the ACT or on the SAT than required for a student who graduates  
6           from an eligible Louisiana high school provided such student has, for a TOPS-Tech  
7           Award or Opportunity Award, a cumulative high school grade point average on all  
8           courses on the high school transcript of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale or, for  
9           a Performance or Honors award, a cumulative high school grade point average on all  
10          courses on the high school transcript of at least 3.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale.

11          (b) The program requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible  
12          Louisiana high school during the 2005-2006 school year must have successfully  
13          completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student  
14          upon proper documentation by the student's high school principal or headmaster or  
15          authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the  
16          fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school  
17          attended.

18          (c)(i) A dependent or independent displaced student shall be deemed to meet  
19          the residency requirements for a program award if such student actually resided in  
20          Louisiana during his entire eleventh grade year of high school and was enrolled for  
21          such time in an eligible Louisiana high school or, for dependent students, if the  
22          displaced student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a  
23          parish listed in Subparagraph (A)(2)(a) of this Section for at least the twelve months  
24          prior to August 26, 2005, or in a parish listed in Subparagraph (A)(2)(b) of this  
25          Section for at least the twelve months prior to September 20, 2005.

26          (ii)(aa) A parent or court-ordered custodian of a dependent student who is  
27          eligible for a program award pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 17:5029, relative to  
28          students who graduate from certain out-of-state high schools, and who was displaced  
29          as a resident from a parish listed in Subparagraph (A)(2)(a) of this Section due to

1 Hurricane Katrina shall be deemed to meet program residency requirements if such  
2 parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the twelve  
3 months prior to August 26, 2005.

4 (bb) A parent or court-ordered custodian of a dependent student who is  
5 eligible for a program award pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 17:5029, relative to  
6 students who graduate from certain out-of-state high schools, and who was displaced  
7 as a resident from a parish listed in Subparagraph (A)(2)(b) of this Section due to  
8 Hurricane Rita shall be deemed to meet program residency requirements if such  
9 parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the twelve  
10 months prior to September 20, 2005.

11 (d) A displaced student who during the 2005-2006 school year successfully  
12 completes at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by the State  
13 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall be eligible for program awards  
14 by complying with the provisions of R.S. 17:5029, relative to certain students who  
15 have successfully completed home study programs approved by the state board. In  
16 such case, the statutory requirement that a student, if ever enrolled in an eligible  
17 Louisiana high school, must have begun his approved home study program no later  
18 than the conclusion of the tenth grade year shall not apply to the displaced student.

19 (2)(a)(i) Relative to initial eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity  
20 Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 school year to a displaced  
21 student, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, in consultation  
22 with the commissioner of higher education and in accordance with the  
23 Administrative Procedure Act, shall by rule waive any provision of Part I of this  
24 Chapter that imposes on such displaced student a program requirement or condition  
25 that such student cannot comply with or meet when it is determined by the  
26 commission that a failure to comply with the requirement or meet the condition,  
27 more likely than not, is due solely to a consequence of Hurricane Katrina or Rita, or  
28 both.

1           (ii) Relative to initial eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity  
2 Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 school year to any student  
3 displaced during the 2005-2006 school year as a consequence of a disaster or  
4 emergency other than Hurricane Katrina or Rita and for which the governor declares  
5 a state of emergency to exist, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance  
6 Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of higher education and in  
7 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, shall by rule waive any provision  
8 of Part I of this Chapter that imposes on such student a program requirement or  
9 condition that the student cannot comply with or meet when it is determined by the  
10 commission that a failure to comply with the requirement or meet the condition,  
11 more likely than not, is due solely to a consequence of the declared disaster or  
12 emergency.

13           (b) In addition to provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act relative to  
14 oversight by the legislature of the adoption of commission rules, the Joint Legislative  
15 Committee on the Budget, in accordance with procedures and threshold amounts  
16 established by the committee, shall have oversight and approval authority over any  
17 rule proposed for adoption pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph that has a  
18 significant program or other cost, or both, to the state.

19           C. The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall take all  
20 administrative action necessary to expedite full implementation of the provisions of  
21 this Section. The commission also shall disseminate information to displaced  
22 students and others regarding program changes pursuant to the provisions of this  
23 Section in the most timely manner possible.

24           §5102. Continuing eligibility for program awards; students displaced by certain  
25 natural disasters; waivers and exceptions; limitations

26           A.(1) The legislature finds that due to the effects of natural disasters declared  
27 by the governor on August 26, 2005, relative to Hurricane Katrina, and on September  
28 20, 2005, relative to Hurricane Rita, it is in the best interest for the education of the  
29 people of the state that continuing eligibility requirements established in Part I of this

1 Chapter for awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students be  
2 modified as provided by this Section for the 2005-2006 academic year for students  
3 displaced as a result of either, or both, of the disasters.

4 (2) For the purposes of this Section, the phrase "a student displaced as a  
5 result of either, or both, of the disasters", hereinafter referred to in this Section as a  
6 "displaced student", shall mean a person who meets any of the following conditions:

7 (a) The person, on August 26, 2005, was eligible for or had a program award  
8 and had a home of record in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St.  
9 Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish.

10 (b) The person, on September 20, 2005, was eligible for or had a program  
11 award and had a home of record in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron,  
12 Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish.

13 (c) The person, on August 26, 2005, was eligible for or had a program award  
14 and was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution listed below:

15 (i) Delgado Community College

16 (ii) Dillard University

17 (iii) Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans

18 (iv) Louisiana Technical College: Jefferson, Sidney N. Collier, Slidell,

19 Sullivan, and West Jefferson campuses

20 (v) Loyola University

21 (vi) New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

22 (vii) Nunez Community College

23 (viii) Our Lady of Holy Cross College

24 (ix) St. Joseph Seminary College

25 (x) Southern University at New Orleans

26 (xi) Tulane University

27 (xii) University of New Orleans

28 (xiii) Xavier University

1           (d) The person, on September 20, 2005, was eligible for or had a program  
2           award and was enrolled in McNeese State University or Sowela Technical  
3           Community College.

4           (3) For the purposes of Subparagraphs (2)(a) and (b) of this Subsection,  
5           "home of record" for a dependent student shall mean the domiciliary address of the  
6           student's parent or court-ordered custodian and for an independent student shall mean  
7           the domiciliary address of such student.

8           B.(1) Relative to continuing eligibility requirements for a Taylor  
9           Opportunity Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 academic year  
10           to a student displaced during the 2005-2006 academic year, the Louisiana Student  
11           Financial Assistance Commission, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure  
12           Act, shall provide by rule as follows:

13           (a)(i) The provisions of R.S. 17:5043 permitting a student qualified for a  
14           program award who enrolls as a first-time freshman in an eligible out-of-state  
15           college or university to subsequently use the award at an eligible Louisiana college  
16           or university shall apply to a displaced student except that the time period of award  
17           eligibility shall not be reduced due to the student's attendance at an eligible out-of-  
18           state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year.

19           (ii) Relative to a displaced student having a suspended program award due  
20           to the student not meeting a requirement relative to having a specified grade point  
21           average or making steady academic progress, the respective time periods provided  
22           in Part I of this Chapter for the student to meet such requirement or lose program  
23           eligibility shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or other term  
24           in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible college or  
25           university during the 2005-2006 academic year.

26           (iii) The program award for a displaced student shall not be canceled if the  
27           student enrolls during the 2005-2006 academic year in an eligible out-of-state  
28           institution subsequent to use of a program award at an eligible Louisiana college or  
29           university. Additionally, the periods of time provided in Part I of this Chapter for

1        use by eligible recipients of program awards shall not be reduced for those semesters  
2        or terms such displaced student was enrolled in an eligible out-of-state institution  
3        during the 2005-2006 academic year and the unused period of time shall remain  
4        available to the displaced student for use at an eligible Louisiana college or  
5        university.

6                (iv) In addition to the provisions of Part I of this Chapter permitting a  
7        recipient to use a TOPS-Tech Award at an eligible Louisiana college or university  
8        to pursue skill or occupational training, as defined by the administering agency,  
9        including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a  
10       nonacademic degree, a TOPS-Tech Award also may be used during the 2005-2006  
11       academic year by a displaced student to enroll on a full-time basis at an eligible  
12       Louisiana college or university granting academic undergraduate degrees to take  
13       courses that contribute to the pursuit of a skill or occupation. In such case, the award  
14       amount paid by the state on behalf of the student shall be at the Opportunity Award  
15       level.

16                (2)(a)(i) Relative to continuing eligibility requirements for a Taylor  
17       Opportunity Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 academic year  
18       to a student displaced during the 2005-2006 academic year, the Louisiana Student  
19       Financial Assistance Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of higher  
20       education and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, shall by rule  
21       wave any provision of Part I of this Chapter that imposes on a displaced student a  
22       program requirement or condition that such student cannot comply with or meet  
23       when it is determined by the commission that a failure to comply with the  
24       requirement or meet the condition, more likely than not, is due solely to a  
25       consequence of Hurricane Katrina or Rita, or both.

26                (ii) Relative to continuing eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity  
27       Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 academic year to any  
28       student displaced during the 2005-2006 academic year as a consequence of a disaster  
29       or emergency other than Hurricane Katrina or Rita and for which the governor

1 declares a state of emergency to exist, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance  
2 Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of higher education and in  
3 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, shall by rule waive any provision  
4 of Part I of this Chapter that imposes on such student a program requirement or  
5 condition that the student cannot comply with or meet when it is determined by the  
6 commission that a failure to comply with the requirement or meet the condition,  
7 more likely than not, is due solely to a consequence of the declared disaster or  
8 emergency.

9 (b) In addition to provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act relative to  
10 oversight by the legislature of the adoption of commission rules, the Joint Legislative  
11 Committee on the Budget, in accordance with procedures and threshold amounts  
12 established by the committee, shall have oversight and approval authority over any  
13 rule proposed for adoption pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph that has a  
14 significant program or other cost, or both, to the state.

15 C. The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall take all  
16 administrative action necessary to expedite full implementation of the provisions of  
17 this Section. The commission also shall disseminate information to displaced  
18 students and others regarding program changes pursuant to the provisions of this  
19 Section in the most timely manner possible.

#### 20 PART V. ANCILLARY AND CONTINUATION PROVISIONS

21 §5121. Effectiveness of Chapter; continuance of certain tuition payments

22 A. Awards pursuant to this Chapter may be made for the first time such that  
23 payments would be made beginning with the 1998-1999 school year.

24 B. Students graduating from high school or who have successfully completed  
25 at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by the State Board of  
26 Elementary and Secondary Education during a 1996-1997 school year and thereafter  
27 may apply for and if otherwise qualified be eligible to receive an Opportunity  
28 Award, Performance Award, or Honors Award as provided by this Chapter.



1           C. Students graduating from high school or who have successfully completed  
2           at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by the State Board of  
3           Elementary and Secondary Education during the 1997-1998 school year and  
4           thereafter may apply for and if otherwise qualified be eligible to receive the TOPS-  
5           Tech Award as provided by this Chapter.

6           §5122. Notice to students and parents

7           The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall require that  
8           the governing authority of every public secondary school include as a component of  
9           a student's Five Year Educational Plan as required by R.S. 17:183.2 comprehensive  
10          information relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students and program  
11          eligibility requirements for each of the awards. Additionally, the parent or other  
12          person responsible for the student's school attendance at the ninth grade level shall  
13          be required to return to the school at the start of the student's ninth grade year a  
14          signed notice that the program information and eligibility requirements have been  
15          reviewed by the parent or other responsible person and by the student and that, for  
16          informational and data collection purposes only, expresses the intent of the parent  
17          or other responsible person as to whether or not the student will be pursuing the  
18          necessary program of studies to be eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for  
19          Students award.

20          Section 2. R.S. 17:3042.1(A)(1)(e) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
21 follows:

22          §3042.1. Loans for students enrolled in colleges or universities to prepare to  
23                  teach

24                  A.(1) In addition to all other powers and duties of the Louisiana Student  
25          Financial Assistance Commission, the commission may make loans to a student who  
26          meets all of the following requirements:

27    \*           \*           \*

28                  (e) Has successfully completed high school course work which constitutes  
29          a core curriculum and meets standards for admission to the eligible college or

1 university. The core curriculum and the eligible college or university shall be as  
 2 provided in ~~R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)~~ Subpart B of Part I of Chapter 50 of this Title.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 3. Chapter 20-G of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
 5 comprised of R.S. 17:3048.1 through 3048.7, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

6 Section 4. The provisions of R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a)(i), (ii), and (iii)(ee)(III) and  
 7 (S)(1) through (3) and 3048.2(D) through (G) as repealed by this Act remain in effect for  
 8 students to whom they are applicable under the terms specified therein. The administering  
 9 agency shall continue to grant awards to students who are not otherwise qualified but who  
 10 qualify under those provisions and shall otherwise give full force and effect to those  
 11 provisions.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 705 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Broadwater

**Abstract:** Reorganizes the law providing for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) without making any changes to the program.

Present law generally provides a state-funded scholarship program for the payment of higher education tuition for Louisiana highschool students who merit certain grades and achievements. Now called the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), present law was enacted over 25 years ago and over the years has been frequently amended. Proposed law reorganizes, renumbers, and recodifies present law without making any substantive changes to TOPS.

Present law is designated as Chapter 20-G of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and contains seven individual statutes. The main TOPS provision is R.S. 17:3048.1. Proposed law untangles the many provisions of R.S. 17:3048.1 into 25 separate statutes and organizes all TOPS provisions into five Parts, now all contained in Chapter 50 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

(Adds R.S. 17:5001 - 5122; Repeals R.S. 17:3048.1 - 3048.7)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Were generally technical.
2. Remove certain provisions applicable to students who graduated from high school prior to 2000 from the bill but provide that they remain in effect.

3. Clarify that a 24-month state residency requirement applies to independent students. In present law the requirement clearly applies to dependent students but its applicability to independent students is ambiguous.