



an associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the La. Workforce Investment Council, the award amount equals the amount determined by LASFAC to equal the weighted average of amounts paid for students attending public institutions that do not offer a baccalaureate degree.

Present law provides that for students who graduated prior to the 2016-2017 school year, eligibility for a TOPS-Tech award is not contingent upon a determination by the Board of Regents and the La. Workforce Investment Council that the students course of study is aligned with state workforce priorities. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that the amount awarded by the state to a student who is the recipient of any TOPS award shall be equal to the award amount established for each respective award at the postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled for the 2016-2017 award year, unless the legislature, by law, increases the award amount.

Proposed law retains payment of the supplemental amounts established in present law for a recipient of a Performance or Honors award.

Present law provides with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) that a recipient, among other eligibility criteria, must have a composite ACT score equal to or higher than the state average composite score, rounded to the nearest whole number, reported for the previous year, but never less than 20 or an equivalent value on the SAT in order to receive a TOPS Opportunity award.

Proposed law retains the requirement that a student have a minimum ACT score equal to or greater than the state average, truncated to a whole number, but never less than 20.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:5002(A), (B), and (D) and 5024(B)(1)(a))