

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 329

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

TOPS. Increases the minimum cumulative grade point average for the Opportunity Award, the Performance Award, and the Honors Award in four years. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5024(A), relative to the academic requirements for the Taylor
3 Opportunity Program for Students; to increase the minimum cumulative grade point
4 average required for certain awards; to provide for an effective date; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:5024(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §5024. Academic requirements

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

13 (a) For an Opportunity Award, a minimum cumulative grade point average
14 of ~~2.50~~ **2.75**.

15 (b) For a Performance Award, a minimum cumulative grade point average
16 of ~~3.00~~ **3.25**.

17 (c) For an Honors Award, a minimum cumulative grade point average of ~~3.00~~

1 **3.50.**

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

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

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

11 **(c)(i) For a student who graduated prior to the 2020-2021 school year,**
12 **the minimum cumulative high school grade point average necessary for such**
13 **student to be eligible for an initial Opportunity Award shall be 2.50 on a 4.00**
14 **scale.**

15 **(ii) For a student who graduated prior to the 2020-2021 school year, the**
16 **minimum cumulative high school grade point average necessary for such**
17 **student to be eligible for an initial Performance Award shall be 3.00 on a 4.00**
18 **scale.**

19 **(iii) For a student who graduated prior to the 2020-2021 school year, the**
20 **minimum cumulative high school grade point average necessary for such**
21 **student to be eligible for an initial Honors Award shall be 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.**

22 (3)(a) The calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average
23 specified in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall utilize a five-point scale for grades
24 earned in certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses,
25 gifted and talented courses, honors courses, articulated courses for college credit, and
26 dual enrollment courses as approved by the Board of Regents and the State Board of
27 Elementary and Secondary Education, which may result in a student earning a
28 cumulative grade point average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality
29 points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned

1 to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C",
2 two quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points
3 shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

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

6 * * *

7 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
8 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
9 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
10 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
11 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Laura Gail Sullivan.

DIGEST

SB 329 Original 2016 Regular Session Claitor

Present law provides for academic requirements for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) awards. Provides for a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) and ACT score for each award type.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that for an Opportunity Award a minimum GPA of 2.50 is required. Provides that for a Performance Award and an Honors Award a minimum GPA of 3.00 is required.

Proposed law retains present law for any student who graduates prior to the 2020-2021 school year.

For a student who graduates in the 2020-2021 school year or later, proposed law requires a minimum GPA of 2.75 for an Opportunity Award, 3.25 for a Performance Award, and 3.50 for an Honors Award.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5024(A))