

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 207

BY SENATORS CARTER, EDMONDS, JACKSON-ANDREWS, MIGUEZ AND
MIZELL

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

SECONDARY EDUCATION. Requires all public high school students to have access to
available vocational and technical courses. (8/1/25)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:183.4 and 3996(B)(4), relative to public high schools; to require that
certain public school students have access to vocational and technical education
courses; to provide for agreements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:183.4 and 3996(B)(4) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§183.4. Vocational and technical education; partnering with other schools to
provide courses**

**A. All public high schools shall provide students the opportunity to enroll
in vocational and technical education courses.**

**B.(1) A school that does not offer vocational and technical education
courses may enter into agreements to partner with other public schools or with
one or more public postsecondary two-year institutions of higher education in
the state, or with nonprofit proprietary schools approved by the State Board of
Elementary and Secondary Education to provide available vocational and
technical education courses for the student as required in Subsection A of this
Section. Nothing in this Section shall be interpreted to supersede R.S. 17:4002.1**

et seq.

(2) If the high school's approved mission or curricular model does not align with providing vocational and technical education courses, the school may request a waiver from both its local governing authority and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education of the requirements of this Subsection.

(3) No student shall be assessed a course fee when the local education agency receives career development funds in the minimum foundation program for such course.

C. All public high schools shall advise students of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award for eligible students and shall provide information on the eligibility criteria of the award.

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(4) Vocational and technical education (R.S. 17:183.4).

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 207 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Carter

Present law provides for a career diploma as an option in high schools and consists of a

career major containing academic courses and modern career and technical studies.

Proposed law provides that all public high schools provide students with the opportunity to enroll in vocational and technical education courses. Provides that, if the school does not offer the vocational and technical education courses, the school may enter into agreements to partner with other public schools or with one or more public postsecondary two-year institutions of higher education in the state, or with nonprofit proprietary schools approved by BESE to provide available vocational and technical education courses.

Proposed law provides that proposed law does not supercede the Course Choice Program that allows La. high school students to take courses beyond their traditional school curriculum, including college and university classes, career and technical education, and internships with private companies.

Proposed law provides that, if the high school's approved mission or circular model does not align with providing vocational and technical education courses, the school may request a waiver from both its local governing authority and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) of the requirements of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that no student shall be assessed a course fee when the local education agency receives career development funds in the minimum foundation program for such course.

Proposed law provides that public high schools are to advise students of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award for eligible students and are to provide information on the eligibility criteria of the award.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 17:183.4 and 3996(B)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Change the requirement that schools offer only those vocational and technical courses to only those available courses.
2. Change those with whom the partnership agreements may be entered into to provide vocational and technical education.
3. Require that public high schools are to advise students of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Add that high schools with a specific mission other than vocational and technical training, may seek a waiver from BESE.
2. Prohibit charging students a fee for courses in certain circumstances.
3. Makes technical changes.