

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 449 (SB 207)

2025 Regular Session

Carter

Existing 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.

New law requires public high schools to provide students with the opportunity to enroll in available vocational and technical education courses.

New law provides that, if a high school does not offer vocational and technical education courses, the governing authority of the school may enter into agreements to partner with any of the following to provide available vocational and technical education courses for students as required by new law:

- (1) Other public schools.
- (2) Two-year public postsecondary education institutions in La.
- (3) Nonprofit proprietary schools approved by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).
- (4) Course Choice providers.

New law provides that new law does not supersede the Course Choice Program as provided in existing law (R.S. 17:4002.1 et seq.), which authorizes high school students to take courses beyond their traditional school curriculum, including postsecondary education courses, and pursue internships with private companies.

New law provides that, if the high school's approved mission or curriculum model does not align with providing vocational and technical education courses, the governing authority of the school may request a waiver from BESE for the requirement of new law to provide students with the opportunity to enroll in available vocational and technical education courses.

New law prohibits a student from being assessed a course fee when the local education agency receives career development funds in the minimum foundation program (MFP) for such course.

New law requires public high schools to advise students of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award as provided in existing law (R.S. 17:5081) for eligible students and to provide information on the eligibility criteria of the award.

Effective August 1, 2025.

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