

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 524 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 520 by Senator Reese)

BY SENATOR REESE

CURRICULA. Creates the Louisiana Jump Start Modernization Act. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart A-4 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes

3 of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:189.1 through 189.20, and to repeal R.S.

4 17:183.1 through 183.5, relative to high school career option; to provide for a high-

5 quality K-12 career and technical education pathway system; to provide for

6 definitions; to provide for governance and authority of a membership collaborative;

7 to provide for a statewide priority list identifying the industry sectors in the state; to

8 provide for a four-stage developmental framework for K-12 career and technical

9 education; to provide for each student to have an individual career and academic plan

10 beginning in the seventh grade; to provide for career counseling and career coaching

11 standards; to provide for a career major program in each authorized K-12 Jump Start

12 pathway that constitutes the core academic and technical coursework sequence

13 through which a student pursues a Career Diploma and the nine-credit Jump Start

14 career and technical education course sequence; to provide for work-based learning

15 quality continuum; to provide access to rural education agencies; to provide for an

16 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

17 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

1 Section 1. Subpart A-4 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised
2 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:189.1 through 189.20, is hereby enacted to read as
3 follows:

4 **SUBPART A-4. LOUISIANA JUMP START MODERNIZATION ACT**

5 **189.1. Legislative findings; purpose**

6 **A. Legislative findings.**

7 **The legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:**

8 **(1) Career and technical education is foundational to Louisiana's**
9 **workforce development, economic competitiveness, and educational goals, and**
10 **a coherent, high-quality career and technical education system is essential to**
11 **connecting Louisiana students to priority careers and to meeting regional and**
12 **statewide employer demand.**

13 **(2) Louisiana's long-term economic competitiveness depends on a system**
14 **that is responsive to labor market demand, supported by cross-agency**
15 **coordination, and grounded in transparent outcome data.**

16 **(3) Louisiana's students, families, and employers are best served by a**
17 **Jump Start program grounded in strong governance accountability, rigorous**
18 **program quality standards, public data reporting, and durable industry**
19 **alignment mechanisms, and this Act establishes the statutory framework**
20 **necessary to ensure the program delivers lasting, measurable value across**
21 **administrations and budget cycles.**

22 **B. Statement of purpose.**

23 **The purposes of this Subpart are to accomplish all of the following:**

24 **(1) To establish a coherent, high-quality K-12 Jump Start pathway**
25 **system organized around a clearly defined framework.**

26 **(2) To strengthen the governance, quality, and accountability of the**
27 **Jump Start program by creating a collaborative overseen and facilitated by the**
28 **Louisiana Workforce Investment Council with defined composition and**
29 **authority; establishing cross-agency coordination among the state Department**

1 of Education, Louisiana Works, the Board of Regents, and the Louisiana
2 Community and Technical Colleges; ensuring that authorized Jump Start
3 pathways lead to viable, high-wage, high-demand occupations; and establishing
4 statute criteria on transparent public data reporting.

5 (3) To ensure that every Louisiana student has access to, and can
6 complete, rigorous Jump Start pathways by establishing differentiated
7 provisions, guaranteeing postsecondary articulation credit opportunities for
8 Career Diploma completers, and providing that no student's geographic
9 location shall determine the quality or availability of Jump Start pathways
10 available to that student.

11 C. Program designation; short title.

12 (1) The career and technical education program established by this
13 Subpart shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Jump Start Career
14 Diploma Program".

15 (2) This Subpart may be cited as the "Louisiana Jump Start
16 Modernization Act".

17 (3) Nothing in this Subpart shall be construed to alter the program
18 designation established in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, or to limit the
19 authority of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop
20 program materials, adopt administrative rules, and communicate with the
21 public regarding this Subpart using the program name established by this
22 Subsection. Any rules, bulletins, or guidance documents adopted by the State
23 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to this Subpart shall
24 reference the program by its statutory designation.

25 §189.2. Definitions

26 The definitions set forth in this Section shall govern the interpretation
27 of every Section of this Subpart. As used in this Subpart, the following terms
28 shall have the following meanings:

29 (1) "Career and technical education" or "CTE". This term shall be

1 interpreted consistent with, and shall not be construed more narrowly than, the
2 definition established in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
3 Act of 2006, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 2302(5).

4 (2) "Career Diploma". A secondary school diploma issued by the State
5 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to a student who has
6 successfully completed all requirements of an approved Louisiana Jump Start
7 career pathway under this Subpart. A Career Diploma shall be recognized by
8 all Louisiana public postsecondary education institutions.

9 (3) "Career coach" or "qualified career coach". A person who is not a
10 licensed school counselor but who is authorized by a public school governing
11 authority to provide individualized student career planning and advising
12 services pursuant to R.S. 17:2926, the requirements of this Subpart, and who
13 meets the qualifications pursuant to R.S. 17:189.8. Nothing in this definition
14 shall be construed to authorize a career coach to perform duties reserved by law
15 to a licensed school counselor, except as specifically provided by this Subpart.

16 (4) "CTE concentrator". A secondary student who has completed at least
17 two credits in a single approved Jump Start pathway.

18 (5) "CTE completer". A secondary student who has satisfied all
19 requirements of an approved Jump Start pathway under this Subpart,
20 including the nine-credit Jump Start course sequence established in R.S.
21 17:189.10, and who has earned at least one credential as required for Career
22 Diploma completion. The term includes both students who earn a Career
23 Diploma and students who complete all pathway requirements but do not elect
24 to receive a Career Diploma.

25 (6) "Career major program". A structured sequence of academic core
26 and career and technical education courses constituting the curriculum of an
27 authorized Jump Start pathway through which a student satisfies the
28 requirements for a Louisiana Career Diploma.

29 (7) "Enhanced wage record" or "EWR". A quarterly wage record

1 submitted by an employer to Louisiana Works that may include, in addition to
2 the elements required for standard unemployment insurance wage reporting
3 under Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the following job-level
4 data elements for each employee during the reporting period:

5 (a) Occupation code consistent with the Standard Occupational
6 Classification (SOC) system.

7 (b) Total hours worked.

8 (c) Primary work location.

9 (d) Hourly wage equivalent.

10 (e) Job start and end dates.

11 Enhanced wage record data shall serve as the primary wage and
12 employment outcome tracking mechanism for career and technical education
13 pathway completers pursuant to R.S. 17:189.18.

14 (8) "Individual Career and Academic Plan" or "ICAP". Longitudinal
15 career development and academic planning document required for each student
16 under R.S. 17:189.7 that identifies the student's career interests, academic
17 strengths, and preliminary career pathway goals. An ICAP shall be initiated no
18 later than the beginning of grade seven, reviewed, and updated annually
19 through grade twelve. The ICAP shall serve as the primary planning instrument
20 connecting the K-12 career awareness and exploration framework to approved
21 Jump Start pathway selection and enrollment, as established in R.S. 17:189.7.

22 (9) "Individual Graduation Plan" or "IGP". The individualized
23 graduation plan required for each student pursuant to R.S. 17:2925 that sets
24 forth the student's selected course of study, chosen diploma pathway, and
25 postsecondary goals. The IGP shall be aligned with the student's Individual
26 Career and Academic Plan as provided in R.S. 17:189.7, shall be developed,
27 reviewed annually, and revised with the assistance of a school counselor or
28 career coach as provided in R.S. 17:2925, and shall, for a student pursuing a
29 Career Diploma under this Subpart, identify the approved Jump Start pathway

1 selected by the student.

2 (10) "Individualized Education Program" or "IEP". Written educational
3 plan required for each eligible student with a disability under the Individuals
4 with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., and as the term
5 applies to students with exceptionalities as defined in R.S. 17:1942. For purposes
6 of this Subpart, an IEP shall be coordinated with the student's Individual
7 Career and Academic Plan and Individual Graduation Plan to ensure
8 meaningful access to appropriate career and technical education pathways
9 consistent with the student's educational goals and all applicable requirements
10 under IDEA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g,
11 and R.S. 44:1 et seq.

12 (11) "Industry credential". An independent, third-party credential that:

13 (a) Reflects a specific set of competencies related to a particular industry
14 sector or occupation.

15 (b) Is recognized and accepted by employers in the relevant labor market
16 as evidence of workplace readiness.

17 (c) Is portable across employers and geographic areas.

18 (d) Provides a valid and reliable measure of an individual's technical
19 knowledge and skills.

20 (e) Takes the form of a diploma, certification, certificate, or occupational
21 license. For purposes of this Subpart, a credential must be approved by the
22 Louisiana Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:206.

23 (12) "K-12 Jump Start pathway" or "Jump Start pathway". An
24 approved, structured sequence of career and technical education courses, work-
25 based learning experiences, and credentials organized around a defined career
26 field within a recognized career cluster and authorized by the State Board of
27 Elementary and Secondary Education following a recommendation by the
28 collaborative. The term includes both statewide pathways and regional
29 pathways as defined in this Section, and shall not be construed to include any

1 sequence of courses that does not satisfy the minimum standards pursuant to
2 R.S. 17:189.10.

3 (13) "Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges" or "LCTC". The
4 public postsecondary education system charged with the administration,
5 management, and supervision of the community colleges, technical colleges, and
6 affiliated institutions within the state.

7 (14) "Louisiana Workforce Investment Council" or "WIC". The state
8 workforce development board created within Louisiana Works pursuant to R.S.
9 23:2042 et seq., and placed within the executive office of the secretary of
10 Louisiana Works. The council serves as the state's workforce development
11 board for the purposes of meeting the requirements of the federal Workforce
12 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, 29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., and is
13 responsible for directing the Occupational Forecasting Conference in
14 determining official information necessary for workforce development planning
15 and budgeting.

16 (15) "Louisiana Works" or "LA Works". State agency established
17 pursuant to R.S. 23:2061 et seq., that administers Louisiana's workforce
18 development programs, unemployment insurance system, and labor market
19 information services. Louisiana Works shall serve as a data and coordination
20 partner for career and technical education outcome tracking and industry
21 alignment review pursuant to R.S. 17:189.18.

22 (16) "Local education agency". A public board of education or other
23 public authority legally constituted within Louisiana for the administrative
24 control and direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary
25 or secondary schools in a city, parish, or other local public school district,
26 consistent with the definition established in R.S. 17:1942. The term includes
27 each city, parish, and other local public school board responsible for
28 implementing a career and technical education program under this Subpart,
29 and each local school system participating in a regional team pursuant to R.S.

1 **17:189.9.**

2 **(17) "Priority occupation". An occupation that has been formally**
3 **designated by the Workforce Investment Council based on current and**
4 **projected regional or statewide labor market demand data from Louisiana**
5 **Works, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as a priority occupation for career and**
6 **technical education pathway development and public investment. A priority**
7 **occupation designation is distinct from the viable occupation standard in**
8 **Paragraph (22) of this Section in that it reflects an affirmative policy**
9 **designation for pathway development, not the minimum threshold for pathway**
10 **authorization.**

11 **(18) "Regional pathway". A Jump Start pathway developed by a**
12 **regional team and authorized by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary**
13 **Education for delivery within a defined geographic region of the state, which**
14 **may be tailored to address regionally specific labor market demands, local**
15 **industry partner capacity, and regional workforce priorities within that region.**
16 **A regional pathway shall satisfy all minimum pathway authorization**
17 **requirements pursuant to R.S. 17:189.13 and shall adhere to the same academic**
18 **requirements as statewide pathways to enable students to continue**
19 **postsecondary education following high school graduation.**

20 **(19) "Regional team". A multi-agency, multi-sector body under the**
21 **leadership of LCTC, aligning state and regional workforce priorities with**
22 **Louisiana Works' strategic goals and federal requirements of the Carl D.**
23 **Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. Regional teams will**
24 **include representatives of public community and technical colleges, local**
25 **education agencies, and business and industry.**

26 **(20) "Rural local education agency" or "rural LEA". A local education**
27 **agency that meets the population density, school enrollment, and geographic**
28 **criteria established in R.S. 17:189.14 and that is therefore eligible for:**

29 **(a) Differentiated pathway authorization thresholds that account for**

1 limited local industry partner pools and small student enrollment sizes.

2 (b) Inter-district consortium pathway authorization allowing multiple
3 rural LEAs to jointly develop and deliver a single pathway.

4 (c) Rural-specific program delivery provisions pursuant to R.S.
5 17:189.14.

6 (21) "Statewide pathway". A Jump Start pathway authorized by the
7 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for delivery statewide,
8 anchored to one or more credentials approved by the Louisiana Workforce
9 Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065, and meeting all pathway
10 authorization requirements pursuant to R.S. 17:189.13.

11 (22) "Viable occupation". An occupation that meets the minimum wage
12 and demand standards established by Louisiana Works. The viable occupation
13 standard constitutes the minimum authorization floor for pathway approval
14 and is distinct from a priority occupation designation under Paragraph (17) of
15 this Section.

16 (23) "Work-based learning". A structured, supervised learning activity
17 that integrates classroom instruction with employer-directed workplace
18 experience through progressively intensive levels of engagement, organized as
19 a tiered quality continuum as established in R.S. 17:189.11. The term includes
20 both school-supervised and employer-supervised placements as categorized in
21 R.S. 17:189.11.

22 §189.3. Collaborative board; governance; duties

23 A. Governance; authority.

24 (1) There is hereby created a multi-agency collaborative, sometimes
25 hereinafter referred to as the "collaborative". The Louisiana Workforce
26 Investment Council within Louisiana Works shall oversee and facilitate the
27 multi-agency collaborative. The collaborative shall include the following
28 members:

29 (a) The secretary of Louisiana Works, or his designee.

1 **(b) The state Superintendent of Education, or his designee.**

2 **(c) The commissioner of Higher Education, or his designee.**

3 **(d) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges,**
4 **or his designee.**

5 **(e) The chairman of the Workforce Investment Council, or his designee.**

6 **(2) Representatives of industry sectors designated as priority industries**
7 **by the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council and presidents or senior staff**
8 **representing statewide business or industry associations headquartered in**
9 **Louisiana shall also serve as members of the established collaborative.**

10 **(a) No more than seven industry members shall serve at any one time,**
11 **and no more than two of the seven industry members shall represent the same**
12 **priority industry sector. Each such member shall be a current owner, officer,**
13 **or senior employee of a Louisiana domiciled business.**

14 **(b) No more than three presidents or senior staff representing statewide**
15 **business or industry associations headquartered in Louisiana shall serve at any**
16 **one time.**

17 **(c) The industry representative members described in this Paragraph**
18 **shall be appointed by the chairman of the Louisiana Workforce Investment**
19 **Council.**

20 **(3) The chairman of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council shall**
21 **determine the operational placement of the collaborative within Louisiana**
22 **Works in consultation with the secretary of Louisiana Works.**

23 **(4) Members of the collaborative shall serve as voting members and shall**
24 **adhere to all meeting and quorum requirements as established by the Louisiana**
25 **Workforce Investment Council.**

26 **(5) The collaborative shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law,**
27 **pursuant to R.S. 42:11 et seq., the Public Records Law, pursuant to R.S. 44:1**
28 **et seq., and the Code of Governmental Ethics, pursuant to R.S. 42:1101 et seq.,**
29 **as applicable to its operations.**

1 (6) The collaborative shall elect a chairman by majority vote of its
2 members. The chairman shall be selected from the industry representative
3 members serving pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

4 B. Meeting requirements; frequency; public access; record-keeping.

5 (1) The collaborative shall meet not fewer than four times per calendar
6 year.

7 (2) All meetings of the collaborative shall be open to the public and
8 conducted in compliance with the Open Meeting Law pursuant to R.S. 42:11 et
9 seq. Written notice of each regular meeting shall be provided not fewer than
10 five business days in advance through the publicly accessible website
11 maintained pursuant to Paragraph (3) of this Subsection. Emergency meetings
12 shall be convened only in compliance with R.S. 42:19.

13 (3) All records, including meeting minutes, official correspondence,
14 written recommendations, and agency responses, shall constitute public records
15 subject to R.S. 44:1 et seq.

16 C. Duties and responsibilities.

17 The collaborative shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

18 (1) To review each of the following categories of proposed decisions and
19 to issue written recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and
20 Secondary Education thereon, prior to and as a condition of board action:

21 (a) Authorization of any new statewide or regional Jump Start pathway
22 pursuant to R.S. 17:189.9.

23 (b) Significant modification of any currently authorized statewide or
24 regional pathway, defined as any change to a pathway identified credential,
25 required Jump Start career and technical education course sequence, or the
26 work-based learning tier requirement.

27 (c) Sunset, discontinuation, or deauthorization of any currently
28 authorized statewide or regional pathway pursuant to R.S. 17:189.13.

29 (d) Reclassification of any credential from one tier to another under the

1 approved credential tier list established pursuant to R.S. 17:189.12, including
2 elevation to a higher tier, demotion to a lower tier, or removal from the
3 approved list.

4 (e) Adoption or significant revision of the statewide standards applicable
5 to all Jump Start pathway designation proposals under R.S. 17:189.9.

6 (2) To establish and maintain an inter-agency shared performance
7 framework for the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program. The shared
8 performance framework shall be binding on each member agency for purposes
9 of annual reporting and shall be reviewed and updated by the collaborative not
10 less than every two years. The framework shall include at minimum:

11 (a) Student Jump Start pathway completion rates, disaggregated by race,
12 income, disability status, and geographic region.

13 (b) Credential attainment rates by pathway, disaggregated by credential
14 tier established under R.S. 17:189.12.

15 (c) Post-graduation employment rates and median wages for Career
16 Diploma holders, measured at one year and three years after graduation using
17 enhanced wage record data as defined in R.S. 17:189.2.

18 (d) Postsecondary continuation rates for Career Diploma holders at
19 Louisiana public postsecondary institutions.

20 (e) Advanced work-based learning participation rates, defined as Level
21 3 or above under R.S. 17:189.11.

22 (f) Pathway-level return on investment metrics pursuant to R.S.
23 17:3138.13.

24 (3) To implement and maintain the shared performance framework
25 established pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection in a manner that is
26 consistent and coordinated with any existing or future legislation addressing K-
27 12, postsecondary, or workforce data collection, performance metrics,
28 accountability reporting, or data transparency. In conducting each biennial
29 review and update of the shared performance framework under Paragraph (2)

1 of this Subsection, the collaborative shall assess the framework's consistency
2 with any such legislation enacted or amended since the prior review and shall
3 revise the framework as necessary to avoid duplication, ensure compatibility,
4 and leverage data resources and reporting obligations established by such
5 legislation.

6 (4) To review and issue written recommendations to the State Board of
7 Elementary and Secondary Education on the designation, reclassification,
8 elevation, demotion, or removal of credentials from the approved credential tier
9 list pursuant to R.S. 17:189.12.

10 (5) To prepare and publish an annual performance report on Jump Start
11 program outcomes, submitted to the legislature and posted publicly not later
12 than December first of each year. The annual report shall present data
13 measured under the shared performance framework established pursuant to
14 Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

15 (6) To establish an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
16 specifying each member agency's obligations under the shared performance
17 framework, annual reporting deadline, and data sharing responsibilities
18 pursuant to R.S. 17:189.18.

19 D. Collaborative authority; scope and limits.

20 (1) The authority of the collaborative is limited to the powers expressly
21 granted by this Subpart. No provision of this Subpart shall be construed to
22 expand the collaborative's authority beyond those expressly granted powers,
23 nor shall this Subpart be construed to limit the rulemaking authority of the
24 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education under R.S. 17:7, except
25 as expressly provided in Subsection F of this Section.

26 (2) The collaborative's written recommendations issued pursuant to
27 Subsection F of this Section are advisory in legal character; they create a
28 procedural prerequisite to The State Board of Elementary and Secondary
29 Education action on specified decisions and impose transparency obligations

1 when The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education departs from
2 such recommendations, but they do not in themselves constitute final agency
3 action and shall not be subject to judicial review as final orders.

4 E. State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education-collaborative
5 jurisdictional boundary; decisionmaking hierarchy

6 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Subpart or of R.S. 17:7,
7 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not take formal
8 action on any of the following categories of decisions without first receiving a
9 written recommendation from the collaborative pursuant to Paragraph (2) of
10 this Subsection:

11 (a) Authorization of any new statewide or regional Jump Start pathway
12 pursuant to R.S. 17:189.9.

13 (b) Significant modification of any currently authorized statewide or
14 regional Jump Start pathway, defined for purposes of this Subsection as any
15 change to one or more of the following elements of an authorized pathway:

16 (i) Pathway identified credential or credential tier.

17 (ii) The required career and technical education course sequence.

18 (iii) Work-based learning tier requirement.

19 (c) Sunset, discontinuation, or deauthorization of any currently
20 authorized statewide or regional pathway pursuant to R.S. 17:189.13.

21 (d) Reclassification of any credential from one tier to another under the
22 approved credential tier list established pursuant to R.S. 17:189.12, including
23 elevation to a higher tier, demotion to a lower tier, or removal from the
24 approved list.

25 (e) Adoption or significant revision of the statewide standards applicable
26 to all Jump Start pathway authorization proposals under R.S. 17:189.9.

27 (2) When The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
28 proposes to take action on a decision enumerated in Paragraph (1) of this
29 Subsection, the following process shall govern:

1 **(a) The state Department of Education shall transmit to the collaborative**
2 **a written notice of the proposed decision, a complete description of the proposed**
3 **action, and all supporting documentation material to the decision.**

4 **(b) The collaborative shall issue its written recommendation. The written**
5 **recommendation shall include:**

6 **(i) The collaborative's specific recommendation, stated as a**
7 **recommendation to approve, approve with conditions, deny, or defer the**
8 **proposed action.**

9 **(ii) The collaborative's written findings supporting the recommendation.**

10 **(c) If the collaborative fails to issue a written recommendation, the State**
11 **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may proceed with the proposed**
12 **action without a recommendation. The State Board of Elementary and**
13 **Secondary Education action record shall document that the collaborative did**
14 **not issue a timely recommendation.**

15 **(3) If the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education takes**
16 **action contrary to a written recommendation issued by the collaborative**
17 **pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the following requirements shall**
18 **apply:**

19 **(a) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt,**
20 **at the same meeting at which it takes the action that departs from the**
21 **collaborative's recommendation, written findings stating specifically:**

22 **(i) The collaborative's recommendation and the basis stated in its written**
23 **findings.**

24 **(ii) The reasons for departing from the collaborative's recommendation.**

25 **(iii) The specific factual and policy basis for the action.**

26 **(4) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require the State**
27 **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to follow a recommendation or**
28 **to limit the Board's final rulemaking authority under R.S. 17:7. The**
29 **collaborative recommendation process required by this Subsection is a**

1 procedural prerequisite to final action by the State Board of Elementary and
2 Secondary Education on the enumerated decision categories, not a limitation on
3 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's substantive
4 authority. Compliance with this Subsection does not itself constitute compliance
5 with any other requirement of law applicable to the State Board of Elementary
6 and Secondary Education's rulemaking or decisionmaking processes.

7 F. Funding authorization; administrative support.

8 (1) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the state
9 general fund such sums as may be necessary for the collaborative to carry out
10 its duties and responsibilities under this Subpart. The collaborative's funding
11 authorization shall be a continuing authorization subject to annual legislative
12 appropriation.

13 (2) Members of the collaborative shall serve without compensation. Each
14 industry and association representative shall be entitled to reimbursement for
15 necessary and reasonable travel expenses and per diem incurred in the
16 performance of official collaborative duties, at the rates established by law for
17 state officials and employees.

18 (3) The Louisiana Workforce Investment Council within Louisiana
19 Works shall provide administrative and staff support to the collaborative,
20 including staff resources necessary for maintaining minutes and records,
21 coordinating meeting logistics, operating the publicly accessible website on
22 which collaborative documents are posted, and preparing reports as required
23 under this Subpart.

24 §189.4. Industry sector prioritization; priority occupation determination

25 A. Statewide priority industry list; establishment and maintenance;
26 priority industry alignment process.

27 (1) The collaborative shall establish, maintain, and update a Statewide
28 Priority Industry List, sometimes hereinafter referred to as the "Priority List",
29 identifying the industry sectors in Louisiana designated as priority industries

1 for purposes of K-12 Jump Start pathway development and credential tier
2 classification pursuant to R.S. 17:189.12 in alignment with the priorities of the
3 Board of Regents, Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges, and the
4 Workforce Investment Council's statewide strategic workforce plan. The
5 collaborative may identify an established Louisiana council, committee, or
6 agency to support the development and maintenance of the Priority List.

7 (2) An initial Priority List shall be acknowledged by the collaborative not
8 later than one hundred eighty calendar days after the effective date of this
9 Subpart, following the data-driven process specified in Subsection B of this
10 Section, and shall be published on the publicly accessible website maintained
11 pursuant to R.S. 17:189.3.

12 (3) No Jump Start pathway shall be authorized under this Subpart unless
13 the pathway is aligned to an occupation within an industry sector included on
14 the Priority List or, for regional pathways, the applicable Regional Priority
15 Industry List established under Subsection F of this Section. Inclusion of an
16 industry sector on the Priority List shall not constitute pathway authorization;
17 all pathways must separately satisfy the requirements of R.S. 17:189.9.

18 (4) All collaborative determinations under this Section shall be based on
19 documented analysis of current, publicly available labor market and wage data.

20 B. Biennial industry-level priority review; distinct from five-year
21 pathway cycle.

22 (1) The collaborative shall conduct a comprehensive review of the
23 Statewide Priority Industry List established under Subsection A of this Section
24 not less frequently than once every two years. The first Biennial Priority Review
25 shall be completed not later than twenty-four months after the initial Priority
26 List is established pursuant to Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section. Subsequent
27 Biennial Priority Reviews shall be completed not later than twenty-four months
28 after the completion of the preceding review.

29 (2) The Biennial Priority Review is a distinct and independent process

1 from the five-year pathway reauthorization cycle established in R.S. 17:189.13.

2 Neither process satisfies nor substitutes for the other.

3 (3) Following each Biennial Priority Review, the collaborative shall:

4 (a) Issue a written Priority Review Report summarizing all findings, data
5 sources, and determinations.

6 (b) Post the Priority Review Report on the publicly accessible website
7 maintained pursuant to R.S. 17:189.3, not later than thirty calendar days
8 following the meeting at which the review was completed.

9 (c) Notify each local education agency and each regional team of any
10 additions to, removals from, or modifications to the Priority List, including the
11 effective date of such changes and the data basis for each change.

12 (d) Transmit the Priority Review Report to the chair of the House
13 Committee on Education and the chair of the Senate Committee on Education,
14 consistent with the collaborative's annual reporting obligations under R.S.
15 17:189.3.

16 (4) Where the collaborative's Biennial Priority Review results in the
17 removal of an industry sector from the Priority List, Jump Start pathways
18 aligned to occupations within that sector that were authorized before the
19 removal shall not be automatically deauthorized. Such pathways shall remain
20 authorized until their next scheduled reauthorization review under R.S.
21 17:189.13.

22 C. Regional priority industry lists.

23 (1) In addition to the Statewide Priority Industry List established under
24 Subsection A of this Section, each region and regional team, established
25 pursuant to R.S. 17:189.9 shall develop a Regional Priority Industry List,
26 sometimes hereinafter referred to as the "Regional List", identifying the
27 priority industry sectors of the region served by that regional team. Regional
28 Lists shall reflect the specific labor market conditions of the relevant region.

29 (2) Regional Lists shall be developed and approved through the following

1 process:

2 (a) Each regional team shall develop a proposed Regional List, drawing
3 on the regional labor market data.

4 (b) The regional team shall submit its proposed Regional List to the
5 collaborative, accompanied by:

6 (i) All supporting regional labor market data.

7 (ii) Where sectors not on the Statewide Priority Industry List are
8 proposed for regional inclusion, employer demand documentation.

9 (c) The collaborative shall review each proposed Regional List and shall
10 approve, approve with modifications, or return the proposed list to the regional
11 team with written findings. A Regional List approved under this Subparagraph
12 shall take effect upon collaborative approval and shall be published on the
13 publicly accessible website maintained pursuant to R.S. 17:189.3 (H)(3).

14 (3) A Regional List shall be updated by its regional team within six
15 months following the collaborative's completion of each Biennial Priority
16 Review. A regional team may propose an interim update to its Regional List at
17 any time, prior to the conclusion of a Biennial Priority Review cycle, if
18 documented changes in regional labor market conditions published by
19 Louisiana Works or reported by local and regional workforce development
20 boards warrant a revision.

21 (4) No Jump Start pathway shall be authorized under this Subpart for
22 an occupation within an industry sector that is not included on an applicable
23 Regional Priority Industry List for the workforce development region in which
24 the pathway would be delivered. Alignment with a Regional List is a necessary
25 but not sufficient condition for regional pathway authorization; all regional
26 pathways must separately satisfy the full requirements of R.S. 17:189.9.

27 §189.5. Louisiana Career Diploma; equal status

28 A. Career Diploma.

29 (1) There is hereby established within the Louisiana Jump Start Career

1 Diploma Program a credential to be known as the "Louisiana Career Diploma",
2 which shall be issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
3 Education to any student who successfully completes all requirements of an
4 approved Louisiana Jump Start pathway under this Subpart, as defined in R.S.
5 17:189.2(12).

6 (2) All provisions of this Subpart shall be administered to support and
7 accurately measure Career Diploma attainment.

8 (3) The state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
9 establish and maintain, in administrative rules adopted consistent with R.S.
10 17:7, all requirements for the award of the Louisiana Career Diploma,
11 consistent with the standards established in this Subpart.

12 B. Standard diploma.

13 (1) A Louisiana Career Diploma issued pursuant to this Subpart shall be
14 a standard diploma for all purposes under Louisiana law.

15 (2) For purposes of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, "all purposes under
16 Louisiana law" includes but is not limited to:

17 (a) Employment by state agencies, state departments, political
18 subdivisions, and other state entities that require a high school diploma or
19 equivalent as a minimum qualification.

20 (b) Eligibility for admission to Louisiana public postsecondary education
21 institutions under the circumstances provided in Subsection C of this Section.

22 (c) Eligibility for state financial aid programs that require a high school
23 diploma as a qualifying criterion.

24 C. Postsecondary nonrestriction.

25 (1) A Career Diploma issued to a student pursuant to this Subpart shall
26 not limit a graduate's right to pursue postsecondary education for which the
27 graduate is otherwise eligible.

28 (2) All Louisiana public postsecondary institutions shall recognize the
29 Louisiana Career Diploma as equivalent to a standard diploma.

1 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require any
2 postsecondary institution to admit a graduate who does not otherwise meet the
3 institution's published admissions standards.

4 (4) The Board of Regents shall, not later than one year after the effective
5 date of this Subpart and annually thereafter, certify to the legislature and to the
6 Louisiana Jump Start Collaborative that no Louisiana public postsecondary
7 institution under its jurisdiction has adopted or maintained a policy inconsistent
8 with Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

9 §189.6. K-12 Jump Start pathway framework

10 A. Four-stage framework established.

11 (1) There is hereby established within the Louisiana Jump Start Career
12 Diploma Program a four-stage developmental framework for K-12 career and
13 technical education, to be known as the "Louisiana K-12 Jump Start Pathway
14 Framework", which shall constitute the organizing structure for all career
15 awareness, exploration, concentration, and completion activities within the
16 Jump Start program. The four stages of the framework are designated as Stage
17 I Career Awareness, grades kindergarten through six; Stage II Career
18 Exploration, grades seven through eight; Stage III Career Concentration,
19 grades nine through ten; and Stage IV Career Completion, grades eleven
20 through twelve, as further described in Subsections B through E of this Section.

21 (2) The purpose of the four-stage framework is to ensure that student
22 participation in the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program is the result
23 of a longitudinal, developmentally appropriate progression beginning in
24 elementary school. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
25 shall incorporate the framework into all administrative rules and bulletins
26 governing the Jump Start program.

27 (3) All stage-level activities and requirements under this Section shall be
28 designed to support Louisiana's compliance with all applicable reporting and
29 performance obligations under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical

1 Education Act of 2006, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.

2 (4) The Louisiana Jump Start Collaborative shall, in conducting the
3 shared performance framework review required under R.S. 17:189.3, include
4 in its assessment findings on stage-level implementation in the annual joint
5 performance report required under R.S. 17:189.3.

6 B. Stage I: Career awareness grades kindergarten through six.

7 (1) Stage I shall encompass grades kindergarten through six and shall be
8 designed to build foundational career awareness in students through age-
9 appropriate, structured activities that introduce students to the concept of
10 careers, connect academic learning to workplace applications, and provide
11 exposure to the range of career clusters and industry sectors reflected in the
12 Statewide Priority Industry List established pursuant to R.S. 17:189.4.

13 (2) Stage I activities shall be incorporated into the instructional program
14 for all students in grades kindergarten through six in public schools statewide.
15 Each local education agency shall ensure that Stage I activities are provided to
16 all students at each applicable grade level during each school year.

17 (3) Stage I activities may include but are not limited to the following:

18 (a) Career awareness lessons integrated into core academic subjects.

19 (b) Guest presentations or virtual career exploration experiences
20 featuring individuals working in priority industry sectors.

21 (c) School-wide career fairs, career field days, or similar structured
22 career activities.

23 (d) Age-appropriate exposure to the relationship between educational
24 choices and career pathways.

25 (e) Introduction to career interest and aptitude inventory tools adapted
26 for elementary grade levels.

27 (4) The state Department of Education, in consultation with the
28 Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges, shall make available to each
29 local education agency resources identifying age-appropriate activities aligned

1 with the priority industry sectors designated pursuant to R.S. 17:189.4.

2 C. Stage II: Career exploration grades seven through eight.

3 (1) Stage II shall encompass grades seven and eight and shall be designed
4 to deepen student career exploration through structured activities that connect
5 student career interests to specific industries, identified pathways, and
6 associated educational options. Stage II shall provide each student with the
7 foundational experience and information necessary to make an informed
8 pathway selection decision and to develop an Individual Career and Academic
9 Plan (ICAP) consistent with R.S. 17:189.7.

10 (2) Stage II activities shall be incorporated into the instructional and
11 advisory program for all students in grades seven and eight in public schools
12 statewide. Each local education agency shall ensure that Stage II activities are
13 provided to all students at each applicable grade level during each school year.

14 (3) Stage II activities shall include but not be limited to the following:

15 (a) Formal career interest and aptitude assessment activities conducted
16 with each student not later than the end of grade seven and reviewed with each
17 student not later than the end of grade eight.

18 (b) Information provided to each student and the student's parent or
19 legal guardian regarding available Jump Start pathways along with
20 corresponding occupational outcomes and credential requirements associated
21 with each pathway.

22 (c) Initiation of each student's ICAP consistent with the requirements of
23 R.S. 17:189.7.

24 (d)(i) At least one work-based learning activity at Level 1 under the
25 tiered work-based learning quality continuum established in R.S. 17:189.11 per
26 school year in each of grades seven and eight that provides students with first-
27 hand exposure to occupations within one or more priority industry sectors.

28 (ii) Activities shall be provided with the involvement of school-based
29 administrators, support staff, and local education agency administration.

1 **D. Stage III: Career concentration grades nine through ten.**

2 **(1) Stage III shall encompass grades nine and ten and shall be designed**
3 **to transition students from career exploration to focused career concentration**
4 **for students who are seeking a Career Diploma.**

5 **(2) During Stage III, each student who has elected to pursue a Career**
6 **Diploma shall:**

7 **(a) With the assistance of a school counselor or career coach, finalize the**
8 **student's Individual Graduation Plan pursuant to R.S. 17:2925 designating the**
9 **Jump Start pathway as the student's chosen program of study.**

10 **(b)(i) Participate in at least one work-based learning activity at Level 2**
11 **or above under the tiered work-based learning quality continuum established**
12 **in R.S. 17:189.11.**

13 **(ii) Activities shall be provided with the involvement of school-based**
14 **administrators, support staff, and local education agency administration.**

15 **(3) Nothing in this Subsection shall limit the ability of a student, who has**
16 **not selected a Jump Start pathway in grades nine and ten, or relocated to a new**
17 **school or local education agency that does not offer an already selected Jump**
18 **Start pathway, to elect a Jump Start pathway in grade eleven or twelve,**
19 **consistent with the student's ability to complete all pathway requirements**
20 **before graduation.**

21 **E. Stage IV: Career completion grades eleven through twelve.**

22 **(1) Stage IV shall encompass grades eleven and twelve and shall be**
23 **designed to support each Jump Start pathway student in completing the**
24 **requirements for a Career Diploma, including the nine-credit Jump Start**
25 **course sequence, the required work-based learning activities, and the**
26 **attainment of an industry-based credential.**

27 **(2) During Stage IV, each student pursuing a Career Diploma shall:**

28 **(a) Complete the remaining credits of the nine credit Jump Start course**
29 **sequence required for Career Diploma completion under R.S. 17:189.10.**

1 **(b)(i) Participate in at least one work-based learning activity at Level 3**
2 **or above under the tiered work-based learning quality continuum established**
3 **in R.S. 17:189.11 for the student's designated pathway.**

4 **(ii) Activities shall be provided with the involvement of school-based**
5 **administrators, support staff, and local education agency administration.**

6 **(c) Prepare for and attempt to attain one or more credentials where**
7 **identified within an approved Jump Start pathway as established pursuant to**
8 **R.S. 17:189.12.**

9 **(3) Nothing in this Subsection shall limit the ability of a student, who has**
10 **relocated to a new school or local education agency that does not offer an**
11 **already selected Jump Start pathway, to elect a Jump Start pathway in grade**
12 **eleven or twelve, consistent with the student's ability to complete all pathway**
13 **requirements before graduation.**

14 **§189.7. Individual career and academic plans; graduation plans**

15 **A. Individual career and academic plan requirement, grade seven**
16 **initiation.**

17 **(1) Each student enrolled in a Louisiana public school shall have an**
18 **Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP), as defined in R.S. 17:189.2(8),**
19 **initiated not later than the beginning of grade seven. The ICAP shall serve as**
20 **the primary longitudinal career planning instrument connecting a student's**
21 **activities under Stage II of the Louisiana K-12 Jump Start Pathway Framework**
22 **established in R.S. 17:189.6 to the student's selection of an approved K-12 Jump**
23 **Start pathway.**

24 **(2) An ICAP shall be initiated with the active involvement of the student,**
25 **the student's parent or legal guardian, and a school counselor or career coach**
26 **as provided in R.S. 17:189.8 and consistent with Subsection D of this Section.**

27 **B. Annual review and update.**

28 **(1) Each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan shall be**
29 **reviewed and updated annually throughout grades seven through twelve. The**

1 annual review shall occur in connection with the scheduling of courses for the
2 following academic year and shall be completed not later than sixty calendar
3 days before the end of the applicable academic year.

4 (2) The annual review shall be conducted with the involvement of the
5 student, the student's parent or legal guardian, and a school counselor or career
6 coach as provided in Subsection D of this Section. The annual review shall
7 address the following:

8 (a) Whether the student's identified career interests and pathway goals
9 remain current or require updating.

10 (b) Whether the student's course selections for the upcoming academic
11 year align with the student's pathway goals and graduation requirements.

12 (c) Students and parents shall have the opportunity to select Course
13 Choice offerings to meet course scheduling requirements.

14 (d) Whether the student's ICAP needs revision to reflect changes.

15 (3) The school counselor or career coach shall document each annual
16 review including the date on which the review occurred consistent with the
17 documentation requirements of Subsection D of this Section and the reporting
18 requirements of R.S. 17:189.8.

19 C. Connection to Authorized Jump Start Pathways.

20 (1) Each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan shall identify,
21 beginning not later than the end of grade eight, one or more Jump Start
22 pathways that align with the student's stated career interests and/or aptitude
23 assessment results. The identification of pathways in the ICAP shall not
24 constitute a student's enrollment in a pathway or a binding commitment to a
25 specific pathway but shall serve as the basis for future pathway selection.

26 (2) The state Department of Education shall make publicly available to
27 each local education agency a current list of approved Jump Start pathways,
28 including the required course sequence in a format suitable for use and
29 discussion during ICAP development and review activities with students and

1 their parents or legal guardians pursuant to R.S. 17:189.6.

2 (3) In all ICAP development and review activities, school counselors or
3 career coaches shall present to students and their parents or legal guardians
4 with available Jump Start pathways along with corresponding occupational
5 outcomes and credential requirements associated with each pathway.

6 D. Counselor involvement; documentation requirement.

7 (1) Each Individual Career and Academic Plan shall be developed,
8 annually reviewed, and revised with the active involvement of a school
9 counselor or career coach.

10 (2) A school counselor or career coach shall meet individually with each
11 student and their parents or legal guardians. Such individual meetings may
12 occur in person or virtually and shall include discussion of the student's career
13 interests, academic progress, Jump Start pathway options, and any
14 recommended revisions to the student's ICAP.

15 (3) The school counselor or career coach shall document the meeting to
16 include the following:

17 (a) Date of meeting.

18 (b) School counselor's or career coach's name.

19 (c) Name of student served.

20 (d) Names of parents or legal guardians in attendance.

21 (e) Any revisions made to the student's ICAP.

22 Such documentation shall be maintained as part of each student's
23 educational record consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy
24 Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and R.S. 44:1 et seq.

25 E. Parent or legal guardian notification and approval.

26 (1) A student's parent or legal guardian shall be notified of and provided
27 an opportunity to participate in the initiation of the student's Individual Career
28 and Academic Plan and in each required annual review throughout grades
29 seven through twelve.

1 (2) Prior to formally revising a student's ICAP, the assigned school
2 counselor or career coach shall communicate with the student's parents or legal
3 guardians, in person or virtually, the rationale for any proposed revisions and
4 any potential impact on the student's graduation requirements and
5 postsecondary education goals. Any revision that changes the student's
6 identified pathway or postsecondary goals shall be approved by signature or in
7 writing by the student's parents or legal guardians.

8 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require parental
9 approval for an annual review that makes no substantive change to the
10 student's identified pathway or postsecondary goals, provided the parent or
11 legal guardian received notice of the review and an opportunity to participate.

12 (4) Each local education agency shall establish a formal communications
13 procedure for parental or guardian notification and for ICAP approval under
14 this Subsection.

15 F. Coordination with individual graduation plans.

16 (1) The state Department of Education shall assess the overlap of the
17 state requirement of the Individual Graduation Plan under R.S. 17:2925 for
18 students pursuing a Career Diploma and already engaged in an Individual
19 Career and Academic Plan. The assessment and recommendations shall be
20 submitted to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to
21 the chair of the House Committee on Education and the chair of the Senate
22 Committee on Education for consideration to administrative rules and statute
23 changes.

24 G. Student change of Jump Start Pathway; flexibility; parental approval.

25 (1) A student's Individual Career and Academic Plan shall be flexible
26 enough to permit a student to change their identified Jump Start pathway or
27 career goal during grades seven through twelve, consistent with Subsection E
28 of this Section.

29 (2) A school counselor or career coach shall not deny a student the

1 opportunity to change their Jump Start pathway designation in the student's
2 ICAP solely on the basis that the student has already enrolled in or begun a
3 course sequence associated with a different Jump Start pathway, but shall
4 advise the student and the student's parents or legal guardians of any course
5 and credit implications and graduation requirement implications of the
6 proposed change prior to formally approving the revision.

7 (3) A student who changes their Jump Start pathway designation after
8 beginning the nine credit Jump Start course sequence shall not be penalized in
9 the student's ICAP for credits already earned in the prior pathway, except as
10 necessary to ensure that the student meets the graduation requirements.

11 §189.8. Career counseling and career coaching standards

12 A. Minimum counselor-to-student ratio for Jump Start Pathway and
13 ICAP advising.

14 (1) Each local education agency shall ensure that school counselors
15 providing Jump Start pathway advising under this Subpart maintain an
16 advising caseload that allows them to fulfill the Individual Career and
17 Academic Plan requirements of R.S. 17:189.7 for every enrolled student in
18 grades seven through twelve.

19 (2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall, not
20 later than one year after the effective date of this Subpart, adopt administrative
21 rules establishing:

22 (a) A maximum caseload ratio for school counselors providing ICAP
23 advising to students in grades seven through twelve.

24 (b) A method by which combined caseloads of school counselors and
25 career coaches at a school may be aggregated to determine compliance with the
26 maximum ratio.

27 (c) A reporting requirement by which each local education agency
28 annually certifies to the state Department of Education, the school counselor
29 and career coach staffing levels at each school and whether the advising

1 caseload ratio for each school complies with the maximum ratio established
2 under this Subsection.

3 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require any local
4 education agency to employ a school counselor if the local education agency
5 meets advising requirements.

6 B. ICAP and Jump Start pathway-specific counselor training
7 requirements.

8 (1) Each school counselor assigned Jump Start pathway advising
9 responsibilities, including Individual Career and Academic Plan development
10 and review under R.S.17:189.7, shall complete career and technical education-
11 specific training as described in this Subsection within eighteen months of the
12 effective date of this Subpart, or within eighteen months of initial assignment
13 to ICAP or Jump Start pathway advising responsibilities, whichever is later.

14 (2) Counselor training shall include, at a minimum, the following:

15 (a) An overview of the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program,
16 including the four-stage developmental framework established in R.S. 17:189.6,
17 the pathway authorization and approval process under R.S. 17:189.9 and R.S.
18 17:189.13, the work-based learning quality standards under R.S. 17:189.11 and
19 the tiered credential system under R.S. 17:189.12.

20 (b) Applied training in labor market data interpretation, including how
21 to use Louisiana Workforce Commission occupational forecasting data and the
22 priority occupation framework established in R.S. 17:189.4, to support student
23 pathway selection decisionmaking.

24 (c) Applied training in ICAP development, review, and documentation
25 under R.S. 17:189.7.

26 (d) Training on the postsecondary articulation agreements established
27 pursuant to R.S. 17:189.15 and on how to communicate postsecondary credit
28 transfer opportunities to students and their parents or legal guardians.

29 (e) An overview of the Course Choice Program.

1 **(3) The Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges, in consultation**
2 **with the state Department of Education, shall publish a list of qualified training**
3 **curriculum vendors for local education agencies and school counselors. The**
4 **training curriculum shall be:**

5 **(a) Procured by the local education agency and provided at no cost to**
6 **school counselors employed by that local education agency.**

7 **(b) Available in online, hybrid, and in-person formats to accommodate**
8 **the professional development needs of school counselors.**

9 **(4) Each local education agency shall provide assurance annually to the**
10 **state Department of Education on the number of school counselors who**
11 **completed the training required by this Subsection.**

12 **C. Career Coach Authorization; ICAP and Jump Start Pathway-Specific**
13 **Training Requirements.**

14 **(1) Each local education agency may provide for Individual Career and**
15 **Academic Plan services required under R.S. 17:189.7 through the use of school**
16 **counselors, career coaches, or a combination of school counselors and career**
17 **coaches, subject to the limitations and requirements of this Section.**

18 **(2) A career coach authorized pursuant to this Subsection may perform**
19 **the following functions under this Subpart:**

20 **(a) Develop, review, and revise ICAPs with students and their parents or**
21 **legal guardians pursuant to R.S. 17:189.7.**

22 **(b) Provide career exploration, career awareness, and Jump Start**
23 **pathway advising services to students in grades seven through twelve.**

24 **(d) Participate in the Stage II and Stage III activities established in R.S.**
25 **17:189.6.**

26 **(3) An authorized career coach shall not:**

27 **(a) Perform any duty that is by law reserved exclusively to a licensed**
28 **school counselor, except as expressly authorized by this Subpart.**

29 **(b) Provide mental health counseling, crisis counseling, or any other**

1 clinical counseling service.

2 (c) Satisfy any statutory or administrative requirement that specifically
3 mandates a licensed school counselor, without explicit authorization or another
4 applicable law to satisfy the requirement.

5 (4) To be authorized as a career coach under this Subpart, a person shall
6 meet the qualification standards established in Paragraph (5) of this Subsection.
7 A local education agency shall not authorize any person as a career coach for
8 purposes of this Subpart unless the person has been determined to meet the
9 qualification standards established under Paragraph (5) of this Subsection or
10 has received explicit permission from the state Department of Education or its
11 designee.

12 (5) Career coach training shall include, at a minimum, the following:

13 (a) An overview of the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program,
14 including the four-stage developmental framework established in R.S. 17:189.6,
15 the pathway authorization and approval process under R.S. 17:189.9 and R.S.
16 17:189.13, the work-based learning quality standards under R.S. 17:189.11, and
17 the tiered credential system under R.S. 17:189.12.

18 (b) Applied training in labor market data interpretation, including how
19 to use Louisiana Workforce Commission occupational forecasting data and the
20 priority occupation framework established in R.S. 17:189.4, to support student
21 pathway selection decisionmaking.

22 (c) Applied training in ICAP development, review, and documentation
23 under R.S. 17:189.7, including training on the coordination of ICAPs with
24 Individual Graduation Plans under R.S. 17:2925.

25 (d) Training on the postsecondary articulation agreements established
26 pursuant to R.S. 17:189.15 and on how to communicate postsecondary credit
27 transfer opportunities to students and their parents or legal guardians.

28 (e) An overview of the Course Choice Program.

29 (f) Such other qualifications as deemed necessary to ensure that career

1 coaches can provide high-quality, accurate career and pathway advising.

2 (6) The state Department of Education shall publish a list of qualified
3 training curriculum vendors for local education agencies and career coaches.

4 The training curriculum shall be:

5 (a) Procured by the local education agency and provided at no cost to
6 school counselors employed by that local education agency.

7 (b) Available in online, hybrid, and in-person formats to accommodate
8 the professional development needs of career coaches.

9 D. Regional consortia for school counselor and career coach training.

10 (1) Two or more local education agencies may form a regional
11 consortium for the purpose of jointly contracting training curriculum vendors,
12 sharing career coach personnel, or coordinating the delivery of services across
13 multiple local education agencies in a region. A regional consortium formed
14 pursuant to this Subsection may operate through an intergovernmental
15 agreement consistent with R.S. 33:1324 or such other legal mechanism as
16 permitted.

17 (2) A regional consortium formed pursuant to this Subsection shall
18 ensure that each participating local education agency satisfies the ICAP
19 development and review requirements of R.S. 17:189.7 for all enrolled students
20 in grades seven through twelve.

21 (3) A regional consortium formed pursuant to this Subsection may take
22 advantage of group purchasing, regional contracting, and other economies of
23 scale to reduce the cost of services consistent with applicable state procurement
24 law.

25 E. Reporting requirements; counseling activity documentation.

26 (1) Each local education agency shall provide annually to the state
27 Department of Education documentation on the following information for the
28 prior academic year:

29 (a) The number of school counselors and career coaches employed or

1 contracted by the LEA who provided Jump Start pathway and ICAP advising
2 services, disaggregated by school.

3 (b) The number of students in grades seven through twelve who received
4 an ICAP initiation, review, or update meeting with a school counselor or career
5 coach for the prior academic year, disaggregated by school and grade level.

6 (c) Any schools that were not able to meet the ICAP maintenance
7 obligation pursuant to R.S. 17:189.7, including the number of students without
8 a current ICAP.

9 (2) The state Department of Education shall make available on its
10 publicly accessible website, not later than December first of each year, a
11 summary of Jump Start pathway and ICAP advising services reports submitted
12 by all local education agencies for the prior academic year.

13 §189.9. Jump Start pathway structure; designation; components; regional
14 teams

15 A. Pathway framework established.

16 (1) There is hereby established within the Louisiana Jump Start Career
17 Diploma Program "Louisiana K-12 Jump Start Pathway Authorization
18 Framework", through which Jump Start pathways shall be proposed, reviewed,
19 authorized, and reauthorized. All K-12 Jump Start pathways shall operate
20 within the framework.

21 (2) All K-12 Jump Start pathways authorized under this Subpart shall
22 be designated as either statewide pathways or regional pathways, and shall
23 satisfy the minimum pathway components established in Subsection E of this
24 Section and the authorization criteria established in R.S. 17:189.13.

25 (3) No local education agency shall offer or deliver a Jump Start pathway
26 for purposes of awarding a Career Diploma unless that pathway has been
27 authorized.

28 (4) The Louisiana K-12 Jump Start Pathway Authorization Framework
29 shall be administered by the collaborative consistent with the jurisdictional

1 boundaries established in R.S. 17:189.3.

2 B. Statewide pathways; requirements.

3 (1) A statewide pathway shall be available for delivery by any local
4 education agency in Louisiana that satisfies the conditions of Jump Start
5 pathway authorization established in R.S. 17:189.13.

6 (2) To be eligible for designation as a statewide Jump Start pathway, a
7 proposed pathway shall:

8 (a) Be aligned to one or more occupations within an industry sector
9 included on the Statewide Priority Industry List established pursuant to R.S.
10 17:189.4.

11 (b) Be anchored to one or more credentials approved by the Louisiana
12 Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065 or R.S. 17:189.12.

13 (c) Include a structured nine-credit Jump Start course sequence meeting
14 the requirements of R.S. 17:189.10.

15 (d) Incorporate a work-based learning component meeting the minimum
16 tier and quality standards established in R.S. 17:189.11.

17 (e) Demonstrate alignment with documented statewide employer demand
18 for the occupations served by the Jump Start pathway, using the data sources
19 specified in R.S. 17:189.4.

20 (f) Satisfy all required Jump Start pathway components established in
21 Subsection E of this Section.

22 (3) The state Department of Education shall maintain and publish a
23 current list of all authorized statewide Jump Start pathways, including the
24 industry sector, credentials, and occupational outcomes associated with each
25 pathway, updated within thirty calendar days of any pathway authorization,
26 modification, reauthorization, or deauthorization.

27 C. Regional pathways; requirements.

28 (1) A regional pathway, as defined in R.S. 17:189.2(18), shall be
29 developed by a regional team as described in Subsection F of this Section and

1 shall be available for delivery only within a local or regional workforce
2 development designated area.

3 (2) To be eligible for designation as a regional Jump Start pathway, a
4 proposed pathway shall:

5 (a) Be aligned to one or more occupations within an industry sector
6 included on the applicable Regional Priority Industry List established pursuant
7 to R.S. 17:189.4.

8 (b) Be anchored to one or more industry-based credentials approved by
9 the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065 or R.S.
10 17:189.12.

11 (c) Include a structured nine-credit Jump Start course sequence meeting
12 the requirements of R.S. 17:189.10.

13 (d) Incorporate a work-based learning component meeting the minimum
14 tier and quality standards established in R.S. 17:189.11.

15 (e) Demonstrate alignment with documented regional employer demand
16 for the occupations served by the Jump Start pathway.

17 (f) Satisfy all required Jump Start pathway components established in
18 Subsection E of this Section.

19 (3) A regional Jump Start pathway shall adhere to the same academic
20 credit requirements as statewide pathways, consistent with R.S. 17:189.10.

21 (4) The collaborative shall not recommend authorization of a regional
22 pathway for an occupation within an industry sector that is not included on the
23 applicable Regional Priority Industry List for the local or regional workforce
24 development region in which the pathway would be delivered, consistent with
25 R.S. 17:189.4.

26 (5) The state Department of Education shall maintain and publish a
27 current list of all authorized regional Jump Start pathways, including the
28 industry sector, credentials, and occupational outcomes associated with each
29 pathway, updated within thirty calendar days of any pathway authorization,

1 modification, reauthorization, or deauthorization.

2 D. Pathway tiers; designation criteria.

3 (1) The collaborative shall establish and maintain a tiered designation
4 system for authorized Jump Start pathways, assigning each pathway to tiers
5 based on industry alignment, credential value, and postsecondary and
6 occupational outcomes.

7 (2) The collaborative shall assign each authorized pathway a tier
8 designation at the time of initial authorization and shall reassess tier designation
9 at each reauthorization under R.S. 17:189.13 and at any time when changes in
10 credential tier status under R.S. 17:189.12 occur that affect the pathway's tier
11 eligibility.

12 E. Required pathway components minimum elements.

13 (1) Each K-12 Jump Start pathway authorized under this Subpart,
14 whether statewide or regional, shall at a minimum include all of the following
15 components:

16 (a) A structured, sequential career and technical education course of
17 study organized around a defined career field within a recognized career
18 cluster, consisting of not fewer than nine credits as required by R.S. 17:189.10.

19 (b) A work-based learning component meeting the minimum tier and
20 quality standards established in R.S. 17:189.11.

21 (c) One or more credentials pursuant to R.S. 17:189.12 that are aligned
22 to the occupational outcomes of the pathway.

23 (d) A documented connection to one or more priority occupations, as
24 defined in R.S. 17:189.2(17) , in an industry sector on the Statewide Priority
25 Industry List or a Regional Priority Industry List, consistent with the
26 requirements of R.S. 17:189.4.

27 (e) An articulation agreement with at least one Louisiana public
28 postsecondary institution, with priority given to Louisiana community and
29 technical colleges, specifying the credit transfer terms applicable to students

1 who complete the pathway, consistent with the requirements of R.S. 17:189.15.

2 (f) A career counseling and career coaching plan satisfying the
3 requirements of R.S. 17:189.8, as incorporated into the local education agency's
4 pupil progression plan pursuant to R.S. 17:189.8(G).

5 (2) No Jump Start pathway shall be authorized or reauthorized unless
6 all components in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection are documented in the
7 pathway authorization proposal under R.S. 17:189.13 and are maintained
8 throughout the pathway's authorization period.

9 (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall, by
10 rule adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.,
11 establish additional minimum standards for each required pathway component
12 where necessary to ensure consistent Jump Start pathway quality across the
13 state. Any such additional pathway standards shall not be less rigorous than the
14 standards established by this Section and by R.S. 17:189.10 through R.S.
15 17:189.15.

16 F. Regional team structure; composition; responsibilities.

17 (1) The collaborative, in consultation with Louisiana Works, Louisiana
18 Economic Development, and the Board of Regents, shall establish regional
19 areas. Each region of Louisiana shall have a regional team responsible for
20 regional Jump Start pathway development and oversight as provided in this
21 Subsection.

22 (2) Each regional team shall be led or facilitated by an institution that
23 falls under Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges and shall be
24 composed of, at minimum, all of the following members:

25 (a) Representatives of not fewer than two local education agencies
26 operating within the workforce development region.

27 (b) A representative from not fewer than one Louisiana public
28 postsecondary institution operating within or adjacent to the workforce
29 development region.

1 (c) Not fewer than three representatives from business and industry
2 operating within the workforce development region, of which at least two shall
3 be representatives of businesses in priority industry sectors designated pursuant
4 to R.S. 17:189.4 for the region.

5 (3) Each regional team shall:

6 (a) Develop and submit to the collaborative a proposed Regional Priority
7 Industry List and update that list as required by R.S. 17:189.4.

8 (b) Identify regional workforce development needs and propose regional
9 Jump Start pathways for authorization under R.S. 17:189.13 that are aligned
10 to the region's documented labor market demand.

11 (c) Coordinate with local education agencies within the region to support
12 the development, delivery, and continuous improvement of authorized regional
13 Jump Start pathways.

14 (d) Recruit and establish employer partnerships for work-based learning
15 placements consistent with R.S. 17:189.11.

16 (e) Participate in mid-cycle Jump Start pathway reviews as required.

17 (f) Prepare and submit to the collaborative an annual regional report
18 documenting regional Jump Start pathway data, consistent with data elements
19 required by R.S. 17:189.18.

20 (4) The Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges shall establish
21 regional team operational procedures for:

22 (a) The selection and rotation of regional team members.

23 (b) Regional team decisionmaking, proposal submissions, and reporting
24 obligations.

25 G. Partnering authority; cross-district enrollment; program sharing.

26 (1) A local education agency that does not have sufficient capacity to
27 independently deliver an authorized Jump Start pathway may fulfill its
28 obligations through one or more of the following arrangements:

29 (a) A formal partnership with one or more other local education agencies

1 within a workforce development region to jointly deliver a Jump Start pathway,
2 as authorized by applicable Louisiana law governing cooperative endeavors and
3 intergovernmental agreements.

4 (b) A partnership with a Louisiana community and technical college,
5 consistent with R.S. 17:189.17.

6 (2) Any partnering arrangement under this Subsection shall be
7 memorialized in a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and
8 submitted to the collaborative as part of any pathway authorization or
9 reauthorization proposal under R.S. 17:189.13.

10 (3) No student shall be assessed a fee for participation in a Jump Start
11 pathway offered through a partnering arrangement under this Subsection. All
12 pathway-related costs incurred in connection with a partnering arrangement
13 shall be funded through available local, state, and federal career and technical
14 education funds, or other lawfully available appropriations.

15 (4) A local education agency that participates in a partnering
16 arrangement under this Subsection remains responsible for ensuring that the
17 enrolled students receive ICAP services required under R.S. 17:189.7 and R.S.
18 17:189.8, regardless of the site at which instruction is delivered.

19 §189.10. Career Major Program; general requirements

20 A. Career Major Program.

21 (1) Each authorized K-12 Jump Start pathway under this Subpart shall
22 include a Career Major Program that constitutes the core academic and
23 technical coursework sequence through which a student pursues a Career
24 Diploma and the nine-credit Jump Start career and technical education course
25 sequence established in Subsection C of this Section.

26 (2) A Career Major Program shall be developed in alignment with the
27 career cluster and occupational focus of an authorized Jump Start pathway and
28 shall reflect the credential standards required for pathway completion.

29 (3) The collaborative, or its designee, shall maintain Career Major

1 Program frameworks for each authorized statewide Jump Start pathway. For
2 regional Jump Start pathways, a regional team shall submit a Career Major
3 Program proposal as part of its pathway authorization submission under R.S.
4 17:189.13.

5 (4) Each Career Major Program framework shall identify:

6 (a) Required academic core courses and credit hours.

7 (b) Required career and technical education course sequence and credit
8 hours.

9 (c) Assessment requirements under Subsection D of this Section.

10 (d) Required credential or credentials.

11 (e) Work-based learning requirements applicable to the pathway.

12 (f) Any dual enrollment or early postsecondary access opportunities
13 available within the pathway under Subsection G of this Section.

14 B. Academic core credit requirements.

15 (1) Students pursuing a Career Diploma through an authorized Jump
16 Start pathway shall satisfy the academic core credit requirements established
17 by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to R.S.
18 17:7 and this Subpart. Academic core credit requirements for Career Diploma
19 students shall be equivalent in rigor and content coverage to those required for
20 a standard diploma.

21 (2) Nothing in this Subsection shall preclude the State Board of
22 Elementary and Secondary Education from establishing equivalent but
23 differentiated elective course options for students pursuing a Career Diploma
24 that replace nonrequired elective courses in the standard diploma track,
25 provided that the differentiated options are aligned to the student's ICAP and
26 Career Major Program.

27 (3) Academic core credits earned through approved dual enrollment
28 courses pursuant to Subsection G of this Section shall count toward the
29 academic core credit requirements of this Subsection, consistent with R.S.

1 17:2930 and the provisions of R.S. 17:189.15.

2 C. Career and technical education course sequence; Jump Start credits.

3 (1) To earn a Career Diploma, a student shall complete a structured
4 career and technical education course sequence within an authorized Jump
5 Start pathway, consisting of not fewer than nine credits, hereinafter "the
6 nine-credit Jump Start course sequence". The nine-credit Jump Start course
7 sequence shall be composed of courses that are:

8 (a) Organized sequentially to build progressively on technical knowledge
9 and skills from introductory through advanced levels of pathway-specific
10 competencies.

11 (b) Aligned to the standards required for a credential or credentials
12 associated with a pathway.

13 (c) Delivered by instructors who meet the qualification standards
14 established under R.S. 17:189.17.

15 (d) Approved by the collaborative as part of the Career Major Program
16 framework for the pathway pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

17 (2) Of the nine required Jump Start credits, not fewer than two credits
18 shall be earned through courses that include a work-based learning component
19 at or above Level 3 of the tiered quality continuum established in R.S.
20 17:189.11.

21 (3) Any credit earned through examination or dual enrollment course
22 aligned to the Jump Start pathway may count toward the nine-credit Jump
23 Start course sequence as part of the Career Major Program framework and
24 consistent with the early postsecondary access provisions of Subsection G of this
25 Section and R.S. 17:2930.

26 D. Assessment requirements.

27 (1) Students pursuing a Career Diploma shall, during the course of the
28 nine-credit Jump Start course sequence, complete all assessments required as
29 a condition of the credential or credentials associated with a Jump Start

1 pathway.

2 (2) Credential assessment results shall be reported as part of the
3 collaborative's annual report, disaggregated by pathway, local education
4 agency, and other categories specified in R.S. 17:189.18.

5 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall limit the authority of the State Board
6 of Elementary and Secondary Education to require state-administered
7 assessments for students pursuing a Career Diploma.

8 E. Career major program access criteria.

9 (1) Each local education agency operating an authorized Jump Start
10 pathway shall ensure that the Career Major Program courses associated with
11 the pathway are accessible to all students who have selected the pathway as part
12 of their ICAP process.

13 (2) No admission criteria for a Career Major Program shall be developed
14 unless the collaborative determines, upon documented evidence, that such
15 criteria are necessary for a specific pathway due to technical prerequisite
16 knowledge or by applicable occupational licensing requirements. Any such
17 performance-based access criteria shall be included in the Jump Start pathway
18 authorization proposal submitted under R.S. 17:189.13.

19 (3) Enrollment management procedures may be developed by a local
20 education agency for a Career Major Program where the number of students
21 seeking enrollment exceeds program capacity. Procedures shall ensure that
22 students and their parents or legal guardians receive ICAP counseling and
23 alternative Jump Start pathway options if they are unable to enroll in their
24 first-choice Jump Start pathway consistent with R.S. 17:189.8.

25 (4) Students with disabilities shall have access to Career Major Programs
26 consistent with their Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and applicable
27 federal and state special education laws.

28 F. Local education agency curriculum submission and approval.

29 (1) A local education agency shall not offer a Career Major Program

1 curriculum that has not been approved by the collaborative. Any material
2 modification to an approved Career Major Program curriculum shall require
3 resubmission. A modification is material if it changes:

4 (a) One or more courses in the nine-credit Jump Start course sequence.

5 (b) The required credential or credential tier.

6 (c) The work-based learning component.

7 (2) Each local education agency shall communicate annually to the
8 parents or legal guardians of a student enrolled in, or considering enrollment
9 in, an authorized Jump Start pathway. This communication shall be
10 incorporated into the notification obligations of R.S. 17:189.7 and shall occur
11 not later than thirty calendar days before a course selection period for the
12 upcoming academic year.

13 G. Dual enrollment; early postsecondary access.

14 (1) Students enrolled in an authorized Jump Start pathway are
15 encouraged to pursue early postsecondary credit opportunities through courses
16 that include accelerated credit such as Advanced Placement (AP) and
17 International Baccalaureate (IB), credit by examination such as College-Level
18 Examination Program (CLEP), and Fast Forward dual enrollment
19 opportunities in postsecondary courses aligned to their pathway, consistent with
20 R.S. 17:2930 and the postsecondary articulation agreements required under
21 R.S. 17:189.15.

22 (2) Each Career Major Program framework developed pursuant to
23 Subsection A of this Section shall identify, where available, approved early
24 postsecondary credit opportunities that:

25 (a) Are aligned to the standards of the Jump Start pathway.

26 (b) Count toward the nine-credit Jump Start course sequence.

27 (c) For dual enrollment courses, are offered through a Louisiana public
28 postsecondary institution that has executed an articulation agreement with the
29 local education agency or regional team pursuant to R.S. 17:189.15.

1 (3) No student enrolled in a local education agency shall be charged
2 tuition or fees for dual enrollment course approved as part of a Career Major
3 Program framework, to the extent permitted by applicable state law governing
4 funds for career development and dual enrollment programs.

5 H. Students with exceptionalities; alternative graduation pathway.

6 Nothing in this Section shall be construed to preclude a student with an
7 exceptionality, as defined in R.S. 17:1942, from accessing, enrolling in, or
8 receiving a Career Diploma through an authorized K-12 Jump Start pathway.
9 Each local education agency shall ensure that the Career Major Program
10 requirements of this Section are implemented in a manner consistent with each
11 eligible student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), applicable
12 provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1401 et
13 seq., and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794.

14 §189.11. Work-based learning; quality standards and tiered requirements

15 A. Work-based learning quality continuum; four-level tiered framework.

16 (1) There is hereby established the "Louisiana Jump Start Work-Based
17 Learning Quality Continuum". The continuum shall consist of four levels
18 organized from least to most intensive as set forth in Paragraphs (2) through (5)
19 of this Subsection. All work-based learning activities for Jump Start pathway
20 purposes shall be classified at one of the four continuum levels.

21 (2) Level 1: Career awareness activities. Level 1 of the continuum
22 includes structured career awareness experiences that introduce students to
23 occupational roles and workplace environments without a direct employer-
24 supervised placement component.

25 (a) Level 1 activities include, but are not limited to:

26 (i) Employer-in-classroom presentations.

27 (ii) Virtual career tours.

28 (iii) Career fairs with organized student interaction with industry
29 representatives.

1 (iv) Informational classroom-based activities connecting academic
2 content to career contexts within a priority industry sector.

3 (b) Level 1 activities qualify under Stage I and Stage II of the four-stage
4 framework established in R.S. 17:189.6 ; but, Level 1 activities do not satisfy the
5 minimum work-based learning requirement for Jump Start credit under
6 Subsection B of this Section.

7 (3) Level 2: Career exploration activities. Level 2 of the continuum
8 includes structured employer engagement activities that provide students with
9 direct, supervised observation of workplace operations and occupational roles.

10 (a) Level 2 activities include but are not limited to:

11 (i) Job shadowing experiences.

12 (ii) Employer site visits organized for career exploration purposes.

13 (iii) Structured career mentoring sessions in which a student works
14 individually with an industry professional to explore career options and
15 workplace expectations.

16 (b) Level 2 activities must not be less than four hours in duration, must
17 include a structured reflection component, and must be documented by the
18 supervising school counselor, career coach, or CTE instructor consistent with
19 Subsection D of this Section.

20 (4) Level 3: Project-based, school-based enterprises, and cooperative
21 education experiences. Level 3 of the continuum includes structured learning
22 experiences in which students apply pathway-specific technical knowledge and
23 skills in an employer-led context.

24 (a) Level 3 activities include but are not limited to:

25 (i) Project-based learning experiences conducted in partnership with an
26 employer.

27 (ii) Supervised cooperative education placements with an employer not
28 in a priority industry sector.

29 (iii) School-based enterprise programs with documented employer

1 advisory involvement.

2 (b) Level 3 activities must include a documented employer partnership
3 consistent with Subsection C of this Section and a student performance
4 evaluation by the employer or employer representative, and must be supervised
5 by a qualified CTE instructor or other authorized professional.

6 (c) Completion of a Level 3 activity must not be fewer than the required
7 hours set by the state Department of Education for the activity.

8 (d) To the extent permitted under applicable local, state, and federal laws
9 and available funds, students shall be compensated during the duration of their
10 Level 3 activities.

11 (5) Level 4: Youth apprenticeship and internship programs. Level 4 of
12 the continuum includes extended structured employer-supervised work
13 experiences that provide students with direct on-the-job training based on
14 pathway-specific technical knowledge and skills.

15 (a) Level 4 activities align to rules and requirements set forth by
16 Louisiana Works for Youth Apprenticeships and the State Board of Elementary
17 and Secondary Education for Internships.

18 **B. Employer partnership requirements.**

19 (1) Each local education agency operating an authorized Jump Start
20 pathway shall maintain documented employer partnerships sufficient to provide
21 Level 3 or above work-based learning placements for all students enrolled in the
22 pathway at Stage III or Stage IV of the four-stage framework established in R.S.
23 17:189.6.

24 (2) A documented employer partnership for purposes of this Section
25 shall consist of a written agreement between the local education agency and the
26 employer that specifies:

27 (a) The nature of the work-based learning activities to be provided,
28 including the WBL tier level under Subsection A of this Section.

29 (b) The number of students the employer will accept for WBL

1 placements during the applicable school year.

2 (c) The employer's responsibilities for student supervision, performance
3 evaluation, and documentation.

4 (d) The local education agency's responsibilities for student supervision,
5 performance evaluation, and documentation.

6 (e) The agreed compensation arrangement, if applicable, including
7 compliance with local, state, and federal laws governing student work
8 arrangements.

9 (f) The process for the local education agency to conduct site visits
10 consistent with Subsection D of this Section.

11 (3) An employer participating in a WBL partnership under this Section
12 shall designate a qualified workplace supervisor for each student placed with
13 the employer. The workplace supervisor shall be responsible for:

14 (a) Providing day-to-day supervision and technical guidance to the
15 student.

16 (b) Completing the student performance evaluation required under
17 Subsection D of this Section.

18 (c) Communicating with the local education agency regarding student
19 progress and placement conditions.

20 (4) Regional teams shall facilitate employer partnership development for
21 regional pathways within their workforce development region, consistent with
22 R.S. 17:189.9, and shall maintain a current directory of employers within the
23 region who have executed or expressed interest in executing WBL partnership
24 agreements.

25 C. Documentation, quality assurance, and site oversight.

26 (1) Each local education agency shall maintain documentation of all
27 work-based learning activities conducted for purposes of satisfying Jump Start
28 pathway requirements. Such documentation shall be maintained as part of the
29 student's educational record consistent with FERPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and R.S.

1 **44:1 et seq., and shall include:**

2 **(a) The WBL tier level of the activity.**

3 **(b) The employer partner's name and contact information.**

4 **(c) The start and end dates of the WBL activity.**

5 **(d) The total hours completed by the student for the WBL activity.**

6 **(e) The employer's written performance evaluation of the student for**
7 **Level 3 and Level 4 WBL activities.**

8 **(f) The supervising CTE instructor's or other authorized professional's**
9 **assessment of the student's work-based learning engagement and experience.**

10 **(2) Each local education agency shall conduct at least one oversight site**
11 **visit per academic year to each employer partner providing Level 3 and Level**
12 **4 WBL placements. The site visit shall be conducted by a qualified CTE**
13 **instructor or other authorized professional, and shall:**

14 **(a) Confirm that the employer is fulfilling the obligations specified in the**
15 **employer partnership agreement under Subsection B of this Section.**

16 **(b) Confirm that student placement conditions comply with applicable**
17 **state and federal health, safety, and labor laws.**

18 **(c) Document any concerns or deficiencies observed and the corrective**
19 **action taken or planned.**

20 **(d) Obtain the employer's completed performance evaluation of each**
21 **student placed with the employer.**

22 **(3) Data reporting obligations for work-based learning activities**
23 **including student participation and completion rates by WBL tier level;**
24 **employer partnership counts; and oversight site visit records, shall be governed**
25 **by R.S. 17:189.18.**

26 **§189.12. Credentials; tiered classification system; accountability interation**

27 **A. Credential authority and integration.**

28 **(1) The review, approval, and tier classification of credentials shall be**
29 **governed by the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council in coordination with**

1 the Board of Regents, and the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges,
2 agencies representing industry-based credentials, postsecondary credentials,
3 and professional licenses.

4 (2) The Louisiana Workforce Investment Council shall maintain and
5 publish a current online registry of all credentials designated for use in
6 authorized Jump Start pathways under this Subpart, organized by credential
7 name, issuing body, and tier classification under Subsection B of this Section.
8 The online registry shall be updated within thirty calendar days of any addition,
9 modification, or removal of a credential.

10 B. Tiered credential classification system.

11 The system shall classify all approved or designated credentials in tiers
12 reflecting the degree to which the credential is associated with priority
13 occupations under R.S. 17:189.2(17) and occupational outcomes in Louisiana's
14 workforce.

15 C. Credential review.

16 (1) The collaborative, or its designee, shall conduct a review of each
17 credential included on the registry maintained under Subsection A of this
18 Section as part of each Biennial Priority Review under R.S. 17:189.4 and at any
19 time the collaborative receives information that a credential may no longer
20 satisfy the classification criteria applicable to its current tier designation or the
21 credential may be misplaced in a tier.

22 (2) Upon documented analysis, the collaborative may recommend to the
23 Louisiana Workforce Investment Council the reclassification of a credential to
24 a different tier or remove a credential from the registry.

25 §189.13. Jump Start pathway authorization; review and reauthorization

26 A. Application process for Jump Start pathway authorization.

27 (1) A local education agency or regional team seeking to establish an
28 authorized Jump Start pathway shall submit a proposal to the collaborative.
29 Following the proposal review, the collaborative shall submit a written

1 recommendation to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
2 regarding authorization.

3 (2) A Jump Start pathway authorization proposal shall include, at
4 minimum, all of the following:

5 (a) A description of the proposed pathway, including the career cluster,
6 occupational focus, and workforce development region or regions for which
7 authorization is sought.

8 (b) Documentation of alignment between the proposed pathway and the
9 applicable Statewide Priority Industry List or Regional Priority Industry List
10 under R.S. 17:189.4, including the data sources on which the alignment
11 determination is based.

12 (c) A wage analysis documenting the expected wage premium associated
13 with the credential.

14 (d) The Career Major Program framework required under R.S.
15 17:189.10, including the nine-credit Jump Start course sequence and academic
16 core credit requirements.

17 (e) Documentation of the credential or credentials required for pathway
18 completion, including the tier classification of each credential under R.S.
19 17:189.12, if applicable.

20 (f) A work-based learning plan describing the employer partnership
21 structure, the required tier level, and documentation and oversight procedures
22 consistent with R.S. 17:189.11.

23 (g) Evidence of the postsecondary articulation agreement required under
24 R.S. 17:189.15, or a documented timeline for where an agreement has not yet
25 been finalized at the time of proposal submission.

26 (h) Identification of the pathway tier designation sought under R.S.
27 17:189.9.

28 (i) A counseling and career coaching plan describing how the LEA will
29 satisfy the ICAP and advising requirements of R.S. 17:189.7 and R.S. 17:189.8.

1 (j) For regional pathways, a copy of any partnering agreement under
2 R.S. 17:189.9 and documentation from the regional team supporting the
3 proposal.

4 (k) Such additional information as the collaborative may require.

5 (3) The collaborative shall publish and maintain a pathway authorization
6 proposal form updated not less than annually.

7 B. Jump Start pathway authorization criteria.

8 (1) The collaborative shall recommend authorization of a proposed Jump
9 Start pathway to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education upon
10 concluding the proposal satisfies all of the following:

11 (a) The pathway is aligned to an occupation within an industry sector on
12 the applicable Priority Industry List, consistent with the requirements of R.S.
13 17:189.4.

14 (b) The pathway includes all required pathway components established
15 in R.S. 17:189.9.

16 (c) The Career Major Program curriculum meets the standards of R.S.
17 17:189.10.

18 (d) The work-based learning component meets the standards of R.S.
19 17:189.11.

20 (e) The required credential satisfies the threshold of R.S. 17:189.12.

21 (f) The postsecondary articulation agreement required by R.S. 17:189.15
22 has been executed or a documented timeline has been approved.

23 (g) The proposing local education agency or regional team has
24 demonstrated, through a recently submitted annual counseling activity report
25 under R.S. 17:189.8, that the counseling and career coaching infrastructure is
26 appropriate.

27 (h) The wage premium analysis submitted under Subsection A of this
28 Section documents a positive expected wage premium associated with the
29 identified pathway credential.

1 (2) The collaborative shall transmit its written recommendation,
2 including the appropriate tier for a credential and whether Louisiana Works
3 deems the credential to be of high value, to the State Board of Elementary and
4 Secondary Education not later than sixty calendar days after receipt of a
5 complete pathway authorization proposal.

6 (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall act
7 on the collaborative's written recommendation not later than sixty calendar
8 days after receipt. If the board does not act within sixty calendar days of
9 receipt, the collaborative's recommendation shall be deemed approved.

10 C. Jump Start pathway authorization conditions.

11 (1) Each Jump Start pathway authorization issued under this Section
12 shall be subject to the following conditions, which must be satisfied at the time
13 of authorization and maintained throughout the pathway's authorization
14 period:

15 (a) The pathway remains aligned to an occupation within an industry
16 sector on the applicable Priority Industry List, consistent with R.S. 17:189.4.

17 (b) The pathway's credential remains approved or designated under R.S.
18 17:189.12.

19 (c) The Career Major Program curriculum and nine-credit Jump Start
20 course sequence remain materially consistent with the approved curriculum
21 submitted under R.S. 17:189.10.

22 (d) The work-based learning component provides Level 3 or Level 4
23 placements for enrolled students, consistent with R.S. 17:189.11.

24 (e) The postsecondary articulation agreement under R.S. 17:189.15
25 remains in effect.

26 (f) The local education agency maintains the counseling and career
27 coaching standards required by R.S. 17:189.8 for students enrolled in the
28 pathway.

29 (g) The local education agency annually reports pathway data consistent

1 with the requirements of R.S. 17:189.18.

2 (2) Any change to an authorized pathway that affects a condition listed
3 in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be reported by the local education
4 agency or regional team in writing to the collaborative within thirty calendar
5 days of the change.

6 D. Five-year Jump Start pathway authorization cycle.

7 (1) Each authorized Jump Start pathway shall be subject to a
8 reauthorization review not less frequently than once every five years from the
9 date of initial authorization or most recent reauthorization, as applicable. No
10 pathway shall continue to operate as an authorized Jump Start pathway beyond
11 the five-year authorization period without reauthorization.

12 (2) The collaborative shall maintain and publish a schedule of upcoming
13 pathway reauthorization reviews, updated not less than annually, identifying
14 each authorized pathway, the date of initial authorization or last
15 reauthorization, and the next scheduled reauthorization date.

16 (3) If the collaborative's reauthorization review process for a Jump Start
17 pathway is not completed before the expiration of the pathway's five-year
18 authorization period, the pathway's authorization shall be extended on a
19 holdover basis for not more than one academic year while the reauthorization
20 review is completed.

21 (4) The five-year pathway authorization cycle is distinct from and
22 independent of the biennial priority review under R.S. 17:189.4; neither satisfies
23 nor substitutes for the other.

24 E. Jump Start pathway mid-cycle review triggers.

25 (1) An authorized Jump Start pathway shall be subject to a mid-cycle
26 review upon the occurrence of any of the following triggering events:

27 (a) The Louisiana Jump Start Collaborative removes from the Statewide
28 Priority Industry List or applicable Regional Priority Industry List the industry
29 sector to which the pathway is aligned.

1 **(b) The required credential for the pathway is reclassified or removed**
2 **in a manner that affects the pathway's tier compliance.**

3 **(c) The collaborative identifies that a pathway's credential attainment**
4 **rate has fallen below fifty percent for two consecutive academic years.**

5 **(d) The postsecondary articulation agreement required for the pathway**
6 **under R.S. 17:189.15 expires or is terminated without replacement.**

7 **(e) The collaborative, by a vote of not fewer than two thirds voting**
8 **members, determines that material changes in regional or statewide labor**
9 **market conditions warrant an earlier review.**

10 **(2) Upon the occurrence of a triggering event under Paragraph (1) of this**
11 **Subsection, the collaborative shall:**

12 **(a) Notify the affected local education agency or regional team of a mid-**
13 **cycle review.**

14 **(b) Complete the mid-cycle review within ninety calendar days of**
15 **notification.**

16 **(c) Transmit a written recommendation to the State Board of**
17 **Elementary and Secondary Education regarding continuation, modification, or**
18 **conclusion of the pathway's authorization.**

19 **F. Pathway modification; suspension; sunset provisions.**

20 **(1) A local education agency operating an authorized Jump Start**
21 **pathway may propose a material modification to the pathway by submitting a**
22 **pathway modification proposal to the collaborative. A modification is material**
23 **if it affects any of the authorization conditions established in Subsection C of**
24 **this Section.**

25 **(a) Nonmaterial changes may be implemented by a local education**
26 **agency or regional team with notification to the collaborative.**

27 **(2) The collaborative may recommend suspension of a Jump Start**
28 **pathway's authorization when the local education agency or regional team has**
29 **failed to maintain one or more authorization conditions under Subsection C of**

1 this Section and has not remediated the deficiency or a mid-cycle review under
2 Subsection E of this Section and identifies conditions that present an immediate
3 risk to enrolled students.

4 (3) Suspension of a Jump Start pathway's authorization may not take
5 effect until the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has acted
6 on the collaborative's suspension recommendation.

7 (4) A Jump Start pathway whose authorization has been suspended shall
8 not enroll new students in the pathway during the suspension period. Students
9 already enrolled in a suspended pathway shall be permitted to complete the
10 pathway if the suspension is expected to be resolved before the students'
11 expected graduation date or offered alternative pathway options by the local
12 education agency if the suspension cannot be resolved within a timeframe that
13 allows the student to complete the pathway before graduation.

14 (5) A Jump Start pathway that has been discontinued, or whose
15 authorization has not been renewed, shall be formally sunset. The local
16 education agency or regional team shall give enrolled students not less than one
17 full academic year's advance notice of a planned sunset and shall identify
18 alternative pathway options for affected students.

19 **§189.14. Rural LEA access; differentiated provisions and thresholds**

20 **A. Rural LEA classification.**

21 (1) For purposes of this Subpart, a local education agency shall be
22 classified as a "rural local education agency" upon meeting one or more of the
23 following criteria:

24 (a) The local education agency is located in a parish where the
25 population density, as determined from the most recently published federal
26 decennial census data, is fewer than one hundred persons per square mile.

27 (b) The local education agency's total public K-12 student enrollment,
28 as reported in the most recently published annual enrollment data of the state
29 Department of Education, is fewer than four thousand students.

1 (c) The local education agency's primary service area has been classified
2 as a rural locale under the National Center for Education Statistics, NCES,
3 locale classification framework maintained by the United States Department of
4 Education, specifically as Locale Code 41 Rural Fringe, 42 Rural Distant, or 43
5 Rural Remote, under the most recently published NCES locale classification
6 data.

7 (2) In addition to the criteria established in Paragraph (1) of this
8 Subsection, the collaborative may, upon written request by a local education
9 agency, certify it as a rural local education agency for purposes of this Section
10 upon finding the local education agency faces structural access barriers
11 established by the collaborative.

12 (3) The collaborative shall review and reconfirm rural LEA
13 classifications under this Section not less frequently than once every five years,
14 coordinated with the five-year pathway reauthorization cycle under R.S.
15 17:189.13. A local education agency that no longer meets any criterion in
16 Paragraph (1) of the Subsection or any basis for certification under Paragraph
17 (2) of this Subsection shall be transitioned to standard pathway authorization
18 requirements.

19 **B. Differentiated pathway authorization thresholds for rural LEAs.**

20 (1) Notwithstanding R.S. 17:189.9 and R.S. 17:189.13, a rural local
21 education agency classified under Subsection A of this Section shall be subject
22 to differentiated thresholds established by the collaborative.

23 (2) A rural local education agency whose Jump Start pathway has been
24 authorized under this Section shall submit to the collaborative an annual rural
25 pathway progress report not later than December first of each year, covering
26 the immediately preceding academic year and containing:

27 (a) Current enrollment in the authorized pathway, disaggregated by
28 grade level.

29 (b) The current status of all employer partnerships, including new

1 employer partnerships established during the reporting year and any employer
2 partnerships discontinued.

3 (c) The tier level of work-based learning placements provided to enrolled
4 students during the reporting year, and documentation of progress toward the
5 WBL minimum tier level required by R.S. 17:189.11, where a Work-Based
6 Learning Development Plan is in effect.

7 (d) Any material changes to pathway delivery that may affect compliance
8 with the pathway authorization conditions of R.S. 17:189.13.

9 (e) Any transportation challenges experienced during the reporting year
10 and steps the local education agency has taken or plans to take to address them,
11 consistent with the transportation access plan required under Subsection D of
12 this Section.

13 C. Consortium pathway authorization; small districts.

14 (1) Two or more rural local education agencies classified under
15 Subsection A of this Section may jointly submit a Jump Start pathway
16 authorization proposal as a consortium. A consortium established under this
17 Subsection shall be treated as a single proposing party for purposes of the R.S.
18 17:189.13 pathway authorization process.

19 (2) A consortium Jump Start pathway proposal shall include, in addition
20 to all elements required under R.S. 17:189.13, the following:

21 (a) The identity of each participating rural local education agency and
22 the designation of one participating local education agency as lead, which shall
23 serve as the primary administrative party responsible for all communications
24 with the collaborative, for enrollment coordination across participating local
25 education agencies.

26 (b) A signed consortium agreement executed by the authorized
27 representative of each participating local education agency, specifying:

28 (i) The responsibilities of each participating local education agency for
29 curriculum delivery, instructor staffing, work-based learning coordination,

1 credentialing support, and student advising and ICAP services under R.S.
2 17:189.7 and R.S. 17:189.8.

3 (ii) The site or sites at which Jump Start pathway instruction will be
4 delivered, and the transportation arrangements each participating local
5 education agency will use to ensure enrolled students have access to each
6 delivery site, consistent with the requirements of Subsection D of this Section.

7 (iii) A plan for shared allocation of pathway enrollment capacity among
8 participating local education agencies, including enrollment targets and
9 procedures for addressing over- or under-enrollment at any participating local
10 education agency.

11 (iv) The process for admitting additional rural LEAs to the consortium,
12 consistent with Paragraph (5) of this Subsection.

13 (v) Dispute resolution procedures for inter-LEA disagreements arising
14 from the consortium's delivery of the authorized pathway.

15 (c) Documentation of the combined total K-12 student enrollment of all
16 participating local education agencies, which shall constitute the enrollment
17 basis for all collaborative assessments of pathway viability for the consortium.

18 (d) Where applicable, documentation of any existing partnering
19 arrangements under R.S. 17:189.9 on which the consortium intends to rely for
20 pathway delivery, together with a description of how those arrangements are
21 incorporated into the consortium's delivery model.

22 (3) For purposes of Jump Start pathway authorization, reauthorization,
23 and all related assessments under R.S. 17:189.13, the combined student
24 enrollment of all participating local education agencies shall be aggregated and
25 treated as a single local education agency enrollment figure. The employer-
26 demand documentation thresholds applicable under Subsection B of this Section
27 shall apply to the consortium as a whole.

28 (4) The lead LEA is primarily responsible for compliance with R.S.
29 17:189.13 authorization conditions.

1 **(5) A local education agency that is not classified as a rural local**
2 **education agency under Subsection A of this Section but operates in a**
3 **geographic area contiguous to the service area of one or more participating**
4 **rural local education agencies in a consortium may petition the collaborative for**
5 **inclusion in the consortium upon demonstrating that the local education agency**
6 **faces documented access barriers comparable to those qualifying rural local**
7 **education agencies. The collaborative may approve inclusion upon a written**
8 **finding that the applying local education agency's participation would**
9 **strengthen the consortium's ability to deliver a pathway consistent with the**
10 **standards of this Subpart and that inclusion does not circumvent the rural**
11 **access purpose of this Section.**

12 **D. Transportation support requirements.**

13 **(1) A local education agency delivering a Jump Start pathway at a site**
14 **outside enrolled students' school of attendance, whether independently or**
15 **through a consortium, shall ensure enrolled students have meaningful access to**
16 **transportation to and from the instructional site. Transportation provided**
17 **under this Section shall comply with all applicable Louisiana laws governing the**
18 **transportation of public school students.**

19 **(2) Each rural LEA that delivers, or proposes to deliver, a pathway at a**
20 **shared or off-campus site shall include in its pathway authorization proposal,**
21 **under R.S. 17:189.13, a Transportation Access Plan specifying:**

22 **(a) Each delivery site at which pathway instruction will be conducted and**
23 **the estimated distance from the home school of each participating local**
24 **education agency's students.**

25 **(b) The estimated number of students for whom transportation will be**
26 **necessary.**

27 **(c) The mechanism or mechanisms through which the local education**
28 **agency will provide or facilitate student access to each instruction site, which**
29 **may include:**

1 (i) Physical arrangements including school bus and third-party shuttle
2 bus.

3 (ii) Technology-aided or hybrid instruction arrangements, consistent
4 with R.S. 17:189.18, to supplement in-person delivery for pathway components
5 that can be effectively delivered remotely, thereby reducing required student
6 travel.

7 (d) The estimated annual cost of the transportation access mechanism
8 identified under Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph and the available funding
9 source or sources from which those costs will be funded.

10 (e) A written assurance that no enrolled student will be denied access to
11 the Jump Start pathway solely because of the student's inability to arrange
12 transportation to the instructional site.

13 (3) The failure of a rural local education agency to submit and maintain
14 its Transportation Access Plan required under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection,
15 or to implement the plan in a manner that ensures enrolled students are not
16 denied access to the Jump Start pathway, shall constitute a failure to maintain
17 pathway authorization conditions under R.S. 17:189.13.

18 E. Rural access monitoring.

19 (1) The collaborative shall monitor and publicly report on rural local
20 education agencies access to authorized Jump Start pathways as provided in
21 this Subsection, in coordination with its annual reporting obligations under R.S.
22 17:189.3 and the data requirements of R.S. 17:189.18.

23 (2) Nothing in this Section shall require a rural local education agency
24 to offer any specific Jump Start pathway or limit its authority to determine,
25 consistent with local governance responsibilities and the pathway authorization
26 requirements of this Subpart, which pathways, if any, to propose for
27 authorization.

28 §189.15. Postsecondary articulation and transfer credit agreements

29 A. Articulation agreement; condition of Jump Start pathway

1 authorization.

2 (1) As a condition of Jump Start pathway authorization under R.S.
3 17:189.13, each local education agency shall maintain at least one postsecondary
4 articulation agreement with at least one Louisiana public postsecondary
5 institution, with priority given to community and technical colleges. The
6 agreement shall be submitted as evidence of compliance in the Jump Start
7 pathway authorization proposal under R.S. 17:189.13. If an executed agreement
8 is not in place at the time of proposal submission, the local education agency
9 shall submit a compliance timeline under Subsection D of this Section.

10 (2) A postsecondary articulation agreement required under this
11 Subsection shall:

12 (a) Be signed by authorized representatives of all parties.

13 (b) Specify the Jump Start pathway or pathways to which the agreement
14 applies and the academic year from which the credit transfer terms are
15 effective.

16 (c) Set forth minimum credit transfer terms for qualifying Jump Start
17 pathway completers accepted at the institution, consistent with Subsection B of
18 this Section.

19 (d) Specify an effective period of not fewer than five years or the
20 pathway's authorization period under R.S. 17:189.13, whichever is longer,
21 subject to annual review under Subsection F of this Section.

22 (e) Include a process for resolving disputes between a qualifying student,
23 the local education agency, and the contracting institution regarding a student's
24 eligibility for credit transfer.

25 (3) A local education agency's failure to maintain an active
26 postsecondary articulation agreement satisfying the requirements of this Section
27 shall constitute a failure to maintain a Jump Start pathway in good standing
28 and shall trigger the mid-cycle review process under R.S. 17:189.13.

29 B. Minimum agreement terms; credit transfer standards.

1 **(1) A postsecondary articulation agreement required under Subsection**
2 **A of this Section shall, at a minimum, provide all of the following:**

3 **(a) A defined transfer pathway entitling students to postsecondary course**
4 **credit or equivalency recognition at the contracting postsecondary institution**
5 **in an aligned subject area.**

6 **(b) A minimum transfer value of three postsecondary credit hours, or**
7 **one postsecondary course equivalent, in the relevant subject area or**
8 **occupational domain, applied toward the student's program upon enrollment.**

9 **(c) The pathway completion requirements for credit transfer eligibility,**
10 **including completion of the approved nine-credit Jump Start course sequence**
11 **under R.S. 17:189.10, attainment of the required credential under R.S.**
12 **17:189.12, or both; eligibility conditions shall not conflict with R.S. 17:189.5.**

13 **(d) The procedure by which an eligible student shall document pathway**
14 **completion and request credit transfer evaluation by the contracting**
15 **postsecondary institution.**

16 **(e) An annual review process consistent with Subsection F of this Section.**

17 **(2) An articulation agreement required under this Section shall not:**

18 **(a) Condition credit transfer eligibility solely on a student's enrollment**
19 **in a specific program of study at the contracting postsecondary institution,**
20 **except to the extent the transferred credit is applicable only within a defined**
21 **postsecondary program aligned to the pathway.**

22 **(b) Require a student to repeat or retake coursework that is substantially**
23 **equivalent in content to the Jump Start pathway coursework for which the**
24 **credit transfer is sought.**

25 **(c) Include terms that, in practical effect, render credit transfer**
26 **inaccessible.**

27 **(3) Nothing in this Section prevents a postsecondary articulation**
28 **agreement from providing credit transfer terms more favorable than the**
29 **minimums required by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, including stacked**

1 credit applicable to multiple postsecondary programs, advanced-standing
2 placement, or equivalencies exceeding Subparagraph (1)(b) of this Subsection.

3 C. Board of Regents coordination; common course numbering
4 framework.

5 (1) The Board of Regents, in coordination with the collaborative, shall
6 develop a common course numbering framework for Jump Start pathway
7 courses that facilitates consistent transfer credit evaluation by Louisiana public
8 postsecondary institutions. The framework shall:

9 (a) Assign to each authorized Jump Start pathway, or to defined clusters
10 of pathway course sequences, a standardized course identifier that Louisiana
11 public postsecondary education institutions may use to assess transfer credit
12 eligibility consistent with their institutional articulation policies and with the
13 minimum agreement terms required by Subsection B of this Section.

14 (b) Be organized by career cluster and industry sector, consistent with
15 the Statewide Priority Industry List established under R.S. 17:189.4, and
16 updated to reflect additions to and removals from the Priority Industry List as
17 part of each Biennial Priority Review under R.S. 17:189.4.

18 (c) Serve as a shared reference system for all articulation agreements
19 executed under this Section and for the statewide articulation framework
20 developed under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

21 (2) The Board of Regents shall, not later than two years after the
22 effective date of this Subpart and in coordination with the Louisiana Jump Start
23 Collaborative, develop and publish a statewide articulation framework
24 establishing minimum transfer credit terms applicable to all Louisiana public
25 postsecondary education institutions for Jump Start pathway course sequences
26 identified in the common course numbering framework under Paragraph (1)
27 of this Subsection. The statewide articulation framework shall:

28 (a) Establish minimum credit transfer terms applicable to completers of
29 authorized Jump Start pathways aligned to each industry sector on the

1 **Statewide Priority Industry List.**

2 **(b) Identify the postsecondary degree programs, technical certificate**
3 **programs, and workforce certificate programs to which Jump Start pathway**
4 **course credit may be applied, consistent with the Board of Regents' program**
5 **approval and articulation authority under R.S. 17:3138 et seq.**

6 **(c) Be reviewed and updated by the Board of Regents, in coordination**
7 **with the collaborative, not less frequently than once every three academic years,**
8 **to reflect updates to the common course numbering framework and any**
9 **changes to the Statewide Priority Industry List.**

10 **D. Statutory timeline for establishment of articulation agreement.**

11 **(1) For Jump Start pathway proposals seeking initial authorization**
12 **under R.S. 17:189.13, the following requirements govern submission of the**
13 **articulation agreement:**

14 **(a) A proposal that has an executed postsecondary articulation**
15 **agreement meeting Subsection B of this Section at the time of proposal**
16 **submission under R.S. 17:189.13 shall submit the agreement with the**
17 **authorization proposal.**

18 **(b) A proposal that does not yet have a fully executed postsecondary**
19 **articulation agreement at the time of proposal submission shall, in lieu of an**
20 **executed agreement, submit a documented compliance timeline as part of the**
21 **proposal specifying:**

22 **(i) The name of each Louisiana public postsecondary institution with**
23 **which the local education agency has been or is actively engaged in negotiations**
24 **toward execution of an articulation agreement.**

25 **(ii) The credit transfer terms tentatively agreed upon or under active**
26 **discussion, to the extent determinable.**

27 **(iii) A date by which a fully executed articulation agreement will be**
28 **submitted to the Louisiana Jump Start Collaborative, which shall not be later**
29 **than eighteen months following the date on which the Jump Start pathway is**

1 authorized.

2 (2) An authorized Jump Start pathway operating under an approved
3 compliance timeline under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not be subject
4 to R.S. 17:189.13 authorization condition failure solely because no agreement
5 has yet been executed, provided the local education agency is actively pursuing
6 execution of the postsecondary articulation agreement and submits an
7 agreement to the collaborative by the timeline's specified date.

8 (3) A Jump Start pathway shall not receive reauthorization under R.S.
9 17:189.13, and shall not be approved or maintained at Tier 2 or Tier 3 pathway
10 designation under R.S. 17:189.9, unless a fully executed articulation agreement
11 is in place at the time of the pathway's reauthorization review.

12 E. Compliance mechanism; consequences of noncompliance.

13 (1) An authorized Jump Start pathway whose articulation agreement
14 expires or is terminated without simultaneous execution of a replacement
15 agreement shall undergo a mid-cycle review by the collaborative, or its
16 designee, under R.S. 17:189.13.

17 (2) An authorized Jump Start pathway that fails to maintain an active
18 articulation agreement for a continuous period exceeding twenty-four months
19 or without an approved compliance plan shall be subject to pathway suspension
20 under R.S. 17:189.13 until a compliant agreement is executed and submitted to
21 the collaborative.

22 (3) Nothing in this Section requires deauthorization of a Jump Start
23 pathway solely because a postsecondary institution failed to execute or maintain
24 a required agreement, where the local education agency has documented good-
25 faith efforts with at least two Louisiana public postsecondary institutions and
26 demonstrated that no geographically accessible institution has agreed. In such
27 circumstances, the collaborative may continue the pathway authorization with
28 a written finding of institutional noncooperation, reported to the Board of
29 Regents and legislature under this Section.

1 **F. Annual review and update of articulation agreements.**

2 **(1) Each postsecondary articulation agreement required under this**
3 **Section shall include a provision for annual review by all parties by June first**
4 **of each year to assess whether the agreement accurately reflects the pathway's**
5 **current curriculum, credentials, and postsecondary program alignments, and**
6 **whether modifications are needed to maintain compliance with Subsection B of**
7 **this Section.**

8 **(2) A local education agency operating an authorized pathway shall**
9 **notify the collaborative within thirty calendar days of any of the following**
10 **events:**

11 **(a) Execution of a new articulation agreement or renewal of an existing**
12 **agreement covering the authorized pathway.**

13 **(b) A material modification to the credit transfer terms of an existing**
14 **articulation agreement.**

15 **(c) Expiration of an articulation agreement without simultaneous**
16 **execution of a renewal or replacement agreement.**

17 **(d) Termination or cancellation of an existing articulation agreement**
18 **prior to its stated expiration date.**

19 **§189.16. Access to Jump Start pathways; partnering authority**

20 **A. All public high schools; access obligation.**

21 **(1) Each local education agency operating a public high school shall**
22 **provide each enrolled student access to career and technical education courses,**
23 **including authorized Jump Start pathways offered pursuant to this Subpart.**

24 **(2) Such access obligation includes:**

25 **(a) Ensure that at least one authorized Jump Start pathway is available**
26 **to students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in each public high school**
27 **operated by the local education agency, except as provided in Subsection C of**
28 **this Section.**

29 **(b) Inform enrolled students and their parents or legal guardians of**

1 available Jump Start pathway options during ICAP development, review, and
2 revision as required under R.S. 17:189.7.

3 (c) Ensure that the full nine-credit Jump Start course sequence required
4 for Career Diploma completion under R.S. 17:189.10 is accessible to students
5 enrolled in an authorized Jump Start pathway, either through direct course
6 delivery by the local education agency or through a partnering agreement
7 established under Subsection B of this Section.

8 (3) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require a local education
9 agency to offer a Jump Start pathway in an industry sector not included on the
10 Statewide Priority Industry List or applicable Regional Priority Industry List
11 maintained pursuant to R.S. 17:189.4.

12 B. Partnering authority; agreements with other schools and institutions.

13 (1) If a local education agency cannot directly provide career and
14 technical education courses or an authorized Jump Start pathway, the local
15 education agency may enter into a written partnering agreement with one or
16 more of the following entities to provide such courses or pathway access to its
17 enrolled students:

18 (a) A separate local education agency in the state.

19 (b) A Louisiana public community or technical college.

20 (c) A nonprofit proprietary school approved by the State Board of
21 Elementary and Secondary Education.

22 (d) A Course Choice provider approved by the State Board of
23 Elementary and Secondary Education, consistent with R.S. 17:4002.1 et seq.

24 (2) A partnering agreement entered into under this Subsection shall:

25 (a) Be in writing and executed by authorized representatives of all
26 parties.

27 (b) Specify the career and technical education courses or Jump Start
28 pathways to which the agreement applies and the terms under which enrolled
29 students will access the agreed instruction.

1 (c) Address liability, transportation responsibilities, and any cost-sharing
2 arrangements between the parties.

3 (d) Be submitted to the collaborative as part of any Jump Start pathway
4 authorization proposal or reauthorization proposal under R.S. 17:189.13.

5 (3) A partnering agreement under this Subsection may support the
6 delivery of one or more components of an authorized Jump Start pathway, but
7 it shall not substitute for the local education agency's obligation to ensure that
8 enrolled students receive all required academic core courses, individual career
9 planning, and counseling services consistent with R.S. 17:189.8 and R.S.
10 17:189.10.

11 (4) When a local education agency enters into an arrangement to share
12 facilities, materials, equipment, or instructors with a Louisiana public
13 community or technical college:

14 (a) The local education agency shall be responsible for the cost of
15 transporting such students to the partnering institution.

16 (b) Other expenses and issues, including liability, involved in sharing
17 resources shall be the responsibility of the local education agency.

18 (5) A regional team formed pursuant to R.S. 17:189.9 shall coordinate
19 Jump Start pathway and course delivery across local education agency
20 boundaries and may establish cross-district enrollment agreements and
21 program-sharing arrangements consistent with R.S. 17:189.9 to support the
22 goals of this Section.

23 (6) For rural local education agencies classified under R.S. 17:189.14, the
24 partnering authority provided by this Subsection is subject to the provisions of
25 R.S. 17:189.14, including consortium pathway arrangements available to
26 multiple rural local education agencies under R.S. 17:189.14.

27 C. Mission-based waiver; the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
28 Education authority.

29 (1) If the approved mission or curriculum model of a public high school

1 does not align with providing career and technical education courses or an
 2 authorized Jump Start pathway, the governing authority of the school may
 3 request a waiver from the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
 4 of the access obligation established in Subsection A of this Section. Nothing in
 5 this Section shall be interpreted to supersede R.S. 17:4002.1 et seq.

6 (2) A waiver request submitted under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection
 7 shall:

8 (a) Describe the school's approved mission or curriculum model and the
 9 basis on which it does not align with providing career and technical education
 10 courses or authorized Jump Start pathways.

11 (b) Identify any alternative means through which students enrolled at the
 12 waiver-requesting school may access career and technical education courses
 13 consistent with Subsection A of this Section, including through partnering
 14 agreements under Subsection B of this Section.

15 (3) A waiver granted under this Subsection shall be reviewed by the State
 16 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education not less frequently than once
 17 every five years to assess whether the mission or curriculum basis for the waiver
 18 remains valid.

19 §189.17. Program delivery methods; instructor qualifications and professional
 20 development

21 A. Methods of program development and curriculum design options.

22 (1) To develop and implement a Career Major Program, a local
 23 education agency may use any of the following program development methods:

24 (a) System-wide development, in which the local education agency
 25 develops a uniform career major program across all schools under the agency's
 26 jurisdiction.

27 (b) Consortium development, in which the local education agency
 28 collaborates with one or more other local education agencies or a regional team
 29 formed pursuant to R.S. 17:189.9 to jointly develop and deliver a Career Major

1 **Program.**

2 **(2) The following curriculum design options are available for authorized**
3 **Career Major Programs:**

4 **(a) Block scheduling arrangements that allow a student to accumulate**
5 **Carnegie units in alignment with the nine-credit Jump Start course sequence**
6 **established in R.S. 17:189.10.**

7 **(b) Coordination of available elective credits into a coherent, sequenced**
8 **Career Major Program aligned with an authorized pathway.**

9 **(c) State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education-approved new**
10 **courses developed to meet the requirements of an authorized Jump Start**
11 **pathway.**

12 **(d) Sharing of facilities, materials, equipment, and instructors with**
13 **community and technical colleges consistent with R.S. 17:189.17.**

14 **(e) Organization and sequencing of new courses in accordance with the**
15 **appropriate Statewide Priority Industry List or Regional Priority List**
16 **established under R.S. 17:189.4.**

17 **(f) Arrangements for students to complete work-based learning activities**
18 **consistent with the work-based learning quality standards and tiered**
19 **requirements established in R.S. 17:189.11.**

20 **(3) Each local education agency shall submit proposed Career Major**
21 **Programs to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for**
22 **approval in accordance with R.S. 17:189.10.**

23 **B. Career and technical instructor qualifications.**

24 **(1) An instructor assigned to teach a career and technical education**
25 **course within an authorized Jump Start pathway shall meet at least one of the**
26 **following qualification standards:**

27 **(a) Hold a valid teaching certificate issued in accordance with state**
28 **standards for certification of school personnel, in the applicable career and**
29 **technical education subject area.**

1 **(b) Be in compliance with the reciprocal instructor certification policy**
2 **established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for**
3 **instructors who reside in other states but are employed by authorized providers**
4 **and satisfy applicable state certification requirements pursuant to state law.**

5 **(2) In addition to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the state Department**
6 **of Education, in consultation with the collaborative, shall, in coordination with**
7 **the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, establish or affirm**
8 **minimum industry-experience standards for instructors assigned to career and**
9 **technical education courses in Jump Start pathways aligned to priority**
10 **occupations under R.S. 17:189.4. Such standards shall:**

11 **(a) Require, at a minimum, that instructors assigned to designated Jump**
12 **Start pathway career and technical education courses hold, or demonstrate the**
13 **ability to obtain, the industry-based credentials required for student completion**
14 **of the applicable pathway under R.S. 17:189.12.**

15 **(b) Recognize demonstrated industry experience in the relevant career**
16 **field as a qualification pathway for alternative certification or provisional**
17 **authorization, consistent with alternative certification procedures established**
18 **by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.**

19 **(c) Be established not later than one hundred eighty calendar days**
20 **following the effective date of this Subpart and updated as necessary to reflect**
21 **changes in priority occupation requirements and industry-based credential**
22 **standards.**

23 **(4) A local education agency unable to identify a qualified instructor**
24 **under Paragraph (1) or (2) of this Subsection for a specific career and technical**
25 **education course within an authorized Jump Start pathway may, upon written**
26 **acknowledgment from the state Department of Education:**

27 **(a) Contract with an approved postsecondary institution, community**
28 **college, technical college, or other provider authorized under R.S. 17:189.17 to**
29 **deliver the affected course through a formal instructional partnership**

1 agreement.

2 (b) Deliver the affected course through technology-aided instruction
3 consistent with Subsection D of this Section.

4 C. Staff development and professional development standards.

5 (1) Each instructor assigned to teach a career and technical education
6 course within an authorized Jump Start pathway shall receive staff
7 development and in-service training addressing both the technical content of the
8 applicable career field and effective instructional strategies for career and
9 technical education course delivery, aligned with the Career Major Program
10 requirements.

11 (2) Any instructor assigned to teach a career and technical education
12 course who was not previously certified or trained in the applicable content area
13 shall receive appropriate staff development and in-service training before
14 assuming sole instructional responsibility for the course, or shall be supervised
15 by a qualified instructor until such training is completed.

16 (3) Local education agencies shall document professional development
17 activities completed by each instructor assigned to a career and technical
18 education course within an authorized pathway and shall make such records
19 available upon request as part of Jump Start pathway oversight under R.S.
20 17:189.3.

21 D. Alternative delivery; technology-aided instruction.

22 (1) An authorized Jump Start pathway course may be delivered through
23 technology-aided instruction, including virtual, online, or blended delivery
24 methods, in any of the following circumstances:

25 (a) A qualified instructor meeting the standards of Subsection B of this
26 Section is unavailable to provide direct instruction for the course.

27 (b) The local education agency determines that technology-aided
28 instruction represents the most practicable means of providing pathway access
29 to students in rural or geographically remote locations, consistent with the rural

1 access provisions of R.S. 17:189.14.

2 (c) Technology-aided instruction supplements and supports classroom
3 instruction, including through digital learning tools, simulations, or virtual
4 work-based learning components endorsed by the applicable regional team and
5 consistent with the work-based learning standards of R.S. 17:189.11.

6 (2) Technology-aided instruction alone shall not substitute for the work-
7 based learning experiences required under R.S. 17:189.11. For Jump Start
8 pathways delivered primarily or substantially through technology-aided
9 instruction, local education agencies shall maintain active employer
10 partnerships under R.S. 17:189.11 to ensure that students have access to
11 required work-based learning experiences at the minimum tier level required
12 by R.S. 17:189.11.

13 §189.18. Data collection; reporting; transparency

14 A. Annual public Jump Start data report; mandate and publication
15 deadline.

16 (1) The collaborative shall publish annually a comprehensive public
17 report hereby established as the "Jump Start Annual Data Report". The report
18 shall be publicly available not later than March first of each year, covering data
19 from the prior academic year.

20 (2) The collaborative shall transmit the Jump Start Annual Data Report
21 to each of the following recipients not later than the publication deadline
22 established in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection:

23 (a) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

24 (b) The chair of the House Committee on Education and the chair of the
25 Senate Committee on Education of the Louisiana Legislature.

26 (c) The governor.

27 (d) Member agencies of the collaborative.

28 (3) Each Jump Start Annual Data Report shall be published in a format
29 and at a level of detail sufficient to allow members of the public and

1 policymakers to assess the performance, quality, and workforce alignment of
2 Jump Start at the statewide, regional pathway, and local education agency
3 levels.

4 **B. Required data elements.**

5 **(1) Each Jump Start Annual Data Report shall include, at a minimum,**
6 **all of the following data elements and all pathway-level performance metrics**
7 **reported under this Subsection shall use the standardized metrics established**
8 **and updated by the collaborative pursuant to R.S. 17:189.3, ensuring**
9 **consistency between the internal shared performance framework and the public**
10 **report:**

11 **(a) The number of career and technical education concentrators, as**
12 **defined in R.S. 17:189.2, enrolled in each authorized Jump Start pathway,**
13 **disaggregated by pathway, industry sector, workforce development region,**
14 **student subgroup, and grade level.**

15 **(b) The number of career and technical education completers, as defined**
16 **in R.S. 17:189.2, including both those who earned a Career Diploma under R.S.**
17 **17:189.5 and those who completed all Jump Start pathway requirements**
18 **without electing a Career Diploma, disaggregated by pathway, industry sector,**
19 **workforce development region, student subgroup, and grade level.**

20 **(c) Credential attainment rates, including the percentage of career and**
21 **technical education concentrators and career and technical education**
22 **completers who earned at least one credential, disaggregated by Jump Start**
23 **pathway, credential name, credential tier as established under R.S. 17:189.12,**
24 **student subgroup, and grade level.**

25 **(d) Work-based learning participation rates, including the percentage**
26 **of career and technical education concentrators and career and technical**
27 **education completers participating in work-based learning activities and the**
28 **tier of participation consistent with the tiered work-based learning**
29 **requirements of R.S. 17:189.11 disaggregated by Jump Start pathway, industry**

1 sector, workforce development region, student subgroup, and grade level.

2 (e) Early postsecondary credit participation rates, including dual
3 enrollment participation rates, and articulated credit participation rates, each
4 reported by Jump Start pathway, consistent with the postsecondary articulation
5 framework of R.S. 17:189.15 disaggregated by Jump Start pathway, course,
6 workforce development region, student subgroup, and grade level.

7 (f) Post-graduation transitions and outcomes measured using enhanced
8 wage record data described under Subsection E of this Section and collected at
9 the intervals specified in Subsection D of this Section:

10 (i) Postsecondary enrollment rates for Career Diploma graduates within
11 four quarters of graduation, disaggregated by type of postsecondary institution
12 enrolled program and student subgroup.

13 (ii) Employment rates and median wages for Career Diploma graduates
14 within four quarters of graduation disaggregated by industry sector or
15 occupation and by subgroup.

16 (iii) Employment rates and median wages for Career Diploma graduates
17 at the second quarter after graduation disaggregated by industry sector or
18 occupation and by subgroup.

19 (g) A summary of career and technical education instructors,
20 disaggregated by local education agency, pathway, and workforce development
21 region, as required under R.S. 17:189.18.

22 (2) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to prevent the
23 collaborative from including additional data elements in the Jump Start Annual
24 Data Report beyond the minimum floor established in Paragraph (1) of this
25 Subsection, provided that all additional elements are consistent with the privacy
26 protections established in Subsection G of this Section.

27 C. Student subgroup disaggregation; statutory obligation.

28 (1) All data elements reported in the Jump Start Annual Data Report
29 under Subsection B of this Section shall be disaggregated, to the extent data are

1 available and the aggregate reporting thresholds established in Subsection G of
2 this Section permit, by all of the following student subgroup categories:

3 (a) Race or ethnicity.

4 (b) Gender.

5 (c) Economic disadvantage status.

6 (d) Rural or urban geographic classification of the student's enrolled
7 school, using the rural local education agency designation criteria established
8 in R.S. 17:189.14.

9 (e) Disability status, including students with disabilities receiving services
10 under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to the Individuals
11 with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.

12 (f) English learner status.

13 (2) The student disaggregation requirement established in this
14 Subsection is a standalone statutory obligation applicable to the Jump Start
15 Annual Data Report published under Subsection A of this Section. This
16 obligation is independent of, and supplementary to, any disaggregation
17 requirements applicable to the shared performance framework under R.S.
18 17:189.3.

19 D. Cross-agency data sharing agreement

20 (1) As put forth in R.S. 17:189.3, agency members of the Louisiana Jump
21 Start collaborative shall enter into a written, formal Memorandum of
22 Understanding that includes cross-agency data sharing for the purpose of
23 shared performance framework and the transmission of the Jump Start Annual
24 Data Report.

25 (2) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require the sharing
26 of individually identifiable student data with the public. All data made publicly
27 available in the Jump Start Annual Data Report shall be subject to the
28 aggregate reporting thresholds and privacy protections established in
29 Subsection G of this Section.

1 **E. Privacy protections; aggregate reporting requirements.**

2 **(1) All data published in the Jump Start Annual Data Report shall be**
3 **presented in aggregate form only. No individually identifiable student data shall**
4 **be disclosed in any public report published under this Section.**

5 **(2) For purposes of disaggregation required by Subsection C of this**
6 **Section and any other disaggregated data element included in the Jump Start**
7 **Annual Data Report, the collaborative shall apply aggregate reporting**
8 **thresholds to prevent the identification of individual students from publicly**
9 **reported data.**

10 **(3) The data privacy protections established in this Subsection shall be**
11 **consistent with and no less protective than the requirements of the Family**
12 **Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g (FERPA), and any**
13 **applicable Louisiana statutes governing the privacy of student records.**

14 **(4) Enhanced wage record data shall be subject to the confidentiality**
15 **protections applicable to Louisiana Works wage records under Title 23 of the**
16 **Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and shall not be used for any purpose other**
17 **than the production of the aggregate outcome data required by this Section.**

18 **§189.19. Applicability**

19 **The requirements of this Subpart shall not apply to any of the following:**

20 **(1) Any student who, as of the effective date of this Subpart, is enrolled**
21 **in a Career Major Program under the provisions of R.S. 17:183.1 through R.S.**
22 **17:183.5 as they existed prior to enactment of this Act shall be entitled to**
23 **complete that program and earn a Career Diploma under the requirements**
24 **applicable at the time of the student's initial enrollment in the career major**
25 **program.**

26 **(2) Each Jump Start pathway, Career Major Program, or credential-**
27 **bearing program that was authorized by the State Board of Elementary and**
28 **Secondary Education under R.S. 17:183.1 through R.S. 17:183.5 as of the**
29 **effective date of this Subpart shall continue in effect for a transitional period of**

1 not less than eighteen months following the effective date of this Subpart.

2 (3) An Individual Graduation Plan established for a student under R.S.
3 17:2925 prior to the effective date of this Subpart shall remain in effect and
4 shall be honored for purposes of that student's graduation requirements,
5 subject to the student's rights under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. Nothing
6 in this Subpart shall require a student to revise a prior Individual Graduation
7 Plan solely as a result of the enactment of this Act.

8 (4) No credential earned by a student under the provisions of R.S.
9 17:183.1 through R.S. 17:183.5 prior to the effective date of this Subpart shall
10 be invalidated, reclassified downward, or reduced in value for purposes of that
11 student's diploma requirements solely by reason of the enactment of this Act or
12 the credential tier framework established in R.S. 17:189.12.

13 §189.20. Severability clause

14 If any provision or item of this Act, or the application thereof, is held
15 invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications
16 of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision, item, or
17 application and to this end the provisions of this Act are hereby declared
18 severable.

19 Section 2. R.S. 17:183.1 through 183.5 are hereby repealed.

20 Section 3. The provisions of this Act shall be implemented in Phases as outlined:

21 Phase I: Shall be known as the "Foundation Phase" which shall take effect not later than
22 ninety calendar days following the effective date of this Act; and under this Phase the
23 Louisiana Workforce Investment Council within Louisiana Works shall establish the
24 administrative and staff support infrastructure required to support the collaborative
25 operations. Phase II: Shall be known as the "Initial Operational Readiness Phase" which
26 shall take effect not later than one hundred eighty calendar days following the effective date
27 of this Act; and under this Phase the Louisiana Jump Start collaborative shall hold its
28 organizational meeting and adopt operating procedures; the collaborative shall establish the
29 initial Statewide Priority Industry List; the agency members of the collaborative shall

1 execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and the State Board of Elementary and
 2 Secondary Education and the state Department of Education shall publish the initial
 3 approved career coaching vendor list. Phase III: Shall be known as the "Pathway
 4 Authorization Cycle Phase" which shall take effect not later than one year following the
 5 effective date of this Act; and under this phase the collaborative shall begin accepting
 6 pathway authorization proposals and each local education agency shall initiate the ICAP
 7 process for incoming seventh grade students beginning with the first academic year
 8 commencing after the effective date of this Act. Phase IV: Shall be known as the "Full
 9 Program Architecture Implementation Phase" which shall take effect not later than two years
 10 following the effective date of this Act; under this Phase the Board of Regents shall, in
 11 coordination with the collaborative, develop and publish the statewide articulation
 12 framework establishing minimum transfer credit terms; the collaborative shall complete the
 13 initial tier designation review for all Jump Start pathways authorized under the new
 14 framework; and regional teams shall submit updated Regional Priority Industry Lists
 15 following the collaborative's completion of the first Biennial Priority Review. Phase V: Shall
 16 be known as the "Steady-State Operation Phase" which shall take effect by the beginning of
 17 the fourth academic year following the effective date of this Act; under this Phase all
 18 authorized Jump Start pathways shall have been reviewed by the collaborative and shall have
 19 received a tier designation; the first cohort of students with ICAPs shall be completing their
 20 high school careers under the four-stage framework; and the annual Jump Start Data Report
 21 shall have been published for the third consecutive year.

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 524 Engrossed 2026 Regular Session Reese

Proposed law provides for the creation of the Louisiana Jump Start Modernization Act, which may be cited as the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program.

Proposed law provides for legislative findings and purposes.

Proposed law provides for definitions.

Proposed law provides for the creation of a membership collaborative to include: The secretary of Louisiana Works, or his designee; the state Superintendent of Education, or his designee; the commissioner of Higher Education, or his designee; the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges, or his designee; the chairman of the Workforce Investment Council, or his designee; and representatives of industry sectors designated as priority industries by the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council and presidents or senior staff representing statewide business or industry associations headquartered in Louisiana.

Proposed law provides for the collaborative to review proposed decisions and to issue written recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education prior to and as a condition of BESE's action.

Proposed law provides for the collaborative to establish, maintain, and update a statewide priority industry list identifying industry sectors in the state designated as priority industries for purposes of K-12 Jump Start pathway development and credential tier classification.

Proposed law establishes the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program which is to be known as the "Louisiana Career Diploma" which will be issued by BESE to any student who successfully completes all requirements of an approved Louisiana Jump Start pathway.

Proposed law provides for a four-stage developmental framework for K-12 career and technical education. The four stages are Stage I: Career Awareness (grades K-Six); Stage II: Career Exploration (grades Seven-Eight); Stage III: Career Concentration (grades Nine-10); and Stage IV: Career Completion (grades 11-12).

Proposed law requires each student to have an individual career and academic plan beginning in the seventh grade. This will serve as the primary longitudinal career planning instrument connecting a student's activities to the student's selection of an approved K-12 Jump Start pathway.

Proposed law provides for career counseling and career coaching standards.

Proposed law establishes pathway frameworks that must be maintained by the state Department of Education who must also publish a current list of all authorized Jump Start pathways.

Proposed law provides for pathway tiers the collaborative must establish and maintain for authorized Jump Start pathways, assigning each pathway to tiers based on industry alignment, credential value, and postsecondary and occupational outcomes.

Proposed law provides for a career major program in each authorized K-12 Jump Start pathway that constitutes the core academic and technical coursework sequence through which a student pursues a Career Diploma and the nine-credit Jump Start career and technical education course sequence.

Proposed law provides for a work-based learning quality continuum, consisting of four levels organized from least to most intensive.

Proposed law provides for the Jump Start pathway authorization application process which requires the LEA or regional team to submit a proposal to the collaborative seeking to establish an authorized Jump Start pathway. The authorization proposal mandates minimum requirements.

Proposed law provides that rural local education agencies access when they are officially classified as a rural education agency by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) The local education agency is located in a parish where the population density, as

determined from the most recently published federal decennial census data, is fewer than 100 persons per square mile.

- (2) The local education agency's total public K-12 student enrollment, as reported in the most recently published annual enrollment data of the state Department of Education, is fewer than 4,000 students.
- (3) The local education agency's primary service area has been classified as a rural locale under the National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, locale classification framework maintained by the United States Department of Education, specifically as Locale Code 41 Rural Fringe, 42 Rural Distant, or 43 Rural Remote, under the most recently published NCES locale classification data.

Proposed law provides as a condition of Jump Start pathway authorization each local education agency shall maintain at least one postsecondary articulation agreement with at least one Louisiana public postsecondary institution, with priority given to community and technical colleges. The agreement shall be submitted as evidence of compliance in the Jump Start pathway authorization proposal. If an executed agreement is not in place at time of proposal submission, the local education agency shall submit a compliance timeline under proposed law.

Proposed law requires each local education agency operating a public high school to provide each enrolled student access to career and technical education courses, including authorized Jump Start pathways offered pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides to develop and implement a Career Major Program, a local education agency can use the following program development methods:

- (1) System-wide development, in which the local education agency develops a uniform career major program across all schools under the agency's jurisdiction.
- (2) Consortium development, in which the local education agency collaborates with one or more other local education agencies or a regional team formed to jointly develop and deliver a Career Major Program.

Proposed law requires the Jump Start Annual Data Report to be publicly available by March first of each year covering data from the prior academic year.

Proposed law does not apply to the following:

- (1) Any student who, as of the effective date of this Subpart, is enrolled in a Career Major Program under the provisions of present law (R.S. 17:183.1-R.S. 17:183.5) shall be entitled to complete that program and earn a Career Diploma under the requirements applicable at the time of the student's initial enrollment in the career major program.
- (2) Each Jump Start pathway, Career Major Program, or credential-bearing program that was authorized by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education under present law (R.S. 17:183.1-R.S. 17:183.5) shall continue in effect for a transitional period of not less than 18 months following the effective date of proposed law.
- (3) An Individual Graduation Plan established for a student under present law (R.S. 17:2925) shall remain in effect and shall be honored for purposes of that student's graduation requirements, subject to the student's rights under proposed law. Nothing in proposed law must require a student to revise a prior Individual Graduation Plan solely as a result of the enactment of proposed law.
- (4) No credential earned by a student under present law (R.S. 17:183.1-R.S. 17:183.5)

shall be invalidated, reclassified downward, or reduced in value for purposes of that student's diploma requirements solely by reason of the enactment of proposed law or the credential tier framework established in proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 17:189.1-189.20; repeals R.S. 17:183.1-183.5)