

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE BILL NO. 202

BY SENATOR NEVERS

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

TOPS. Revises core curriculum requirements and the method of calculating the grade point average for TOPS awards. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(ii), (c)(ii), and (d)(ii), the introductory paragraph of (A)(1)(e), (f), and (g), and (C)(2)(e), and to enact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(h) relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to revise the core curriculum requirements and the method of calculating the grade point average required for program awards; to provide with respect to the method of approval of core curriculum course substitutions; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(ii), (c)(ii), and (d)(ii), the introductory paragraph of (A)(1)(e), (f), and (g), and (C)(2)(e) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(h) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

- A. * * *
- (1) * * *
- (b) * * *

(ii)(aa) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, the

1 minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph
2 shall be calculated by using only the grades obtained by the student in completing
3 the core curriculum requirements established by this Section.

4 (bb) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, the
5 calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item
6 (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in
7 Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate courses, which
8 may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point average that exceeds
9 4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of
10 "A", four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "B", three quality
11 points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two quality points shall be
12 assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points shall be assigned to a
13 letter grade of "F".

14 (c) * * *

15 (ii)(aa) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, the
16 minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph
17 shall be calculated by using only the grades obtained by the student in completing
18 the core curriculum requirements established by this Section.

19 (bb) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, the
20 calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item
21 (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in
22 Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate courses, which
23 may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point average that exceeds
24 4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of
25 "A", four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "B", three quality
26 points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two quality points shall be
27 assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points shall be assigned to a
28 letter grade of "F".

29 * * *

1 (d) * * *

2 (ii)(aa) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, the
3 minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph
4 shall be calculated by using only the grades obtained by the student in completing
5 the core curriculum requirements established by this Section.

6 **(bb) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, the**
7 **calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item**
8 **(i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in**
9 **Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate courses, which**
10 **may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point average that exceeds**
11 **4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of**
12 **"A", four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "B", three quality**
13 **points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two quality points shall be**
14 **assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points shall be assigned to a**
15 **letter grade of "F".**

16 (e) ~~Except as otherwise provided by this Section and through the 2006-2007~~
17 ~~school year, has successfully completed at least sixteen and one-half units of high~~
18 ~~school course work, which constitutes a core curriculum, and meets standards for~~
19 ~~admission to the desired college or university. Except as otherwise provided by this~~
20 ~~Section and beginning with the 2007-2008 school year through the 2012-2013 school~~
21 ~~year, meets standards for admission to the desired college or university and has~~
22 ~~successfully completed at least seventeen and one-half units of high school course~~
23 ~~work as permitted by this Subparagraph, which constitutes a core curriculum. Except~~
24 ~~as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with the 2013-2014 school year~~
25 ~~and thereafter through the 2016-2017 school year, meets the standards for~~
26 ~~admissions to the desired college or university and has successfully completed at~~
27 ~~least nineteen units of high school course work as permitted by this Subparagraph,~~
28 ~~which constitutes a core curriculum. For students qualifying under Subparagraph~~
29 ~~(A)(1)(c) of this Section, the core curriculum requirements of this Subparagraph~~

1 shall become effective beginning with the high school graduating class of the year
 2 1998, except that the core curriculum requirement for a Performance Award shall be
 3 waived for any student graduating during the 1997-1998 school year who is certified
 4 as having graduated within the top five percent of his graduating class at a Louisiana
 5 public high school or nonpublic high school which is approved by the State Board
 6 of Elementary and Secondary Education. Except as otherwise provided by this
 7 Section, the core curriculum shall be defined as follows:

8 * * *

9 (f) Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with the
 10 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, meets the standards for admissions to the
 11 desired college or university and has successfully completed a core curriculum
 12 which consists of nineteen units of high school course work as follows:

13 (i) English - Four Units

14 (aa) English I.

15 (bb) English II.

16 (cc) One unit chosen from the following: English III, AP English
 17 Language Arts and Composition, or English III IB (Language A or Literature
 18 and Performance).

19 (dd) One unit chosen from the following: English IV, AP English
 20 Literature and Composition, or English IV IB (Language A or Literature and
 21 Performance).

22 (ii) Mathematics - Four Units

23 (aa) Algebra I (one unit), Geometry (one unit), and Algebra II (one unit).
 24 Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated
 25 Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra
 26 II sequence.

27 (bb) One credit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math
 28 Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math
 29 Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math

1 **Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics**
2 **or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.**

3 **(iii) Science - Four Units**

4 **(aa) Biology I.**

5 **(bb) Chemistry I.**

6 **(cc) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental**
7 **Science; Physical Science; AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry II; AP**
8 **Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B,**
9 **or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C:**
10 **Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; AP Biology or IB**
11 **Biology II.**

12 **(iv) Social Studies - Four Units**

13 **(aa) One unit chosen from the following: U.S. History, AP US History or**
14 **IB US History.**

15 **(bb) One-half unit chosen from the following: Government, AP US**
16 **Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics:**
17 **United States.**

18 **(cc) One-half unit chosen from the following: Economics, AP**
19 **Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics.**

20 **(dd) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization**
21 **European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human**
22 **Geography or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World**
23 **History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics.**

24 **(v) Foreign Language - Two Units**

25 **Two units in the same language, which may also include the following:**
26 **AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP**
27 **German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese**
28 **Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French**
29 **IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.**

1 **(vi) Art - One unit**
 2 **One unit chosen from the following: Performance course in Music,**
 3 **Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented**
 4 **Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; AP Art**
 5 **History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art:**
 6 **Drawing; AP Music Theory, Film Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB;**
 7 **Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; or Theatre I IB.**

8 ~~(f)~~ **(g)** Has no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations
 9 and, if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated
 10 from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under
 11 honorable conditions.

12 ~~(g)~~ **(h)** Students funded through the Louisiana minimum foundation program
 13 and who are attending any high school in an adjoining state pursuant to an agreement
 14 in effect as of June 4, 1994, between the parish school system and the local
 15 governing authority of the school in the adjoining state, shall be considered as having
 16 graduated from a state-approved nonpublic high school for the purpose of qualifying
 17 under Subparagraphs (A)(1)(b), (c), and (d).

18 * * *

19 C. * * *

20 (2) Except as otherwise provided by this Paragraph, the administering agency
 21 by rule shall provide for:

22 * * *

23 (e) Guidelines and procedures by which the administering agency, **subject**
 24 **to prior approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,**
 25 may update the course name and establish course equivalencies for any course
 26 included in the definition of core curriculum provided by this Section. The
 27 guidelines and procedures shall include but not be limited to a requirement that any
 28 change in a course name and the establishment of any course equivalency be done
 29 by rule adopted by the administering agency ~~and a requirement that prior to issuing~~

- (b) Chemistry (one unit).
 - (c) Two units from the following: Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, Physics for Technology, or Agriscience I and II (both for one unit).
- (4) Social Studies - Four Units
- (a) American History (one unit).
 - (b) Two units from the following: World History, Western Civilization, World Geography, or History of Religion.
 - (c) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit, nonpublic).
- (5) Foreign Language - Two Units
Two units in a single language.
- (6) Art - One Unit
One unit from the following: Fine Arts Survey (one unit or substitute one unit of a performance course in music, dance, or theater; or substitute one unit of a visual art course; or substitute one unit of a studio art course).

Proposed law retains the TOPS core curriculum defined in present law through the 2016-2017 school year but provides that beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, an otherwise eligible student must successfully complete 19 units of high school credit from the courses contained in the TOPS core curriculum as follows:

- (1) English - Four Units
- (a) English I.
 - (b) English II.
 - (c) One unit chosen from the following: English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or English III IB (Language A or Literature and Performance).
 - (d) One unit chosen from the following: English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or English IV IB (Language A or Literature and Performance).
- (2) Mathematics - Four Units
- (a) Algebra I (one unit), Geometry (one unit), and Algebra II (one unit). Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.
 - (b) One credit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.
- (3) Science - Four Units
- (a) Biology I.
 - (b) Chemistry I.
 - (c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; AP Biology or IB Biology II.
- (4) Social Studies - Four Units
- (a) One unit chosen from the following: U.S. History, AP US History or IB US History.

- (b) One-half unit chosen from the following: Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States.
 - (c) One-half unit chosen from the following: Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics.
 - (d) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization European History or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics.
- (5) Foreign Language - Two Units
Two units in the same language, which may also include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.
- (6) Art - One unit
One unit chosen from the following: Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory, Film Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; or Theatre I IB.

Present law requires the administering agency for TOPS to establish guidelines and procedures by which to update the course name and establish course equivalencies for any course included in the TOPS core curriculum. Provides that such guidelines and procedures include a requirement that such changes be done by rule, and additionally requires the administering agency to consult with and seek written comments and recommendations from the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Board of Regents (BoR) prior to issuing a notice of intent to consider any such rule.

Proposed law deletes the requirement for consultation with, and solicitation of written comments and recommendations from, BESE and the BoR and instead requires that the administering agency obtain approval from BESE prior to updating course names or establishing course equivalencies for any course included in the TOPS core curriculum. Retains the requirement that changes in course names and course equivalencies be done by rule.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(ii), (c)(ii), and (d)(ii), (A)(1)(e)(intro para), (f), and (g), and (C)(2)(e); adds R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(h))