

# ACT No. 246

SENATE BILL NO. 259

BY SENATORS KOSTELKA, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVES ARMES, CARMODY, CHANEY, DIXON, DOWNS, HARDY, RICHARDSON, RITCHIE AND PATRICIA SMITH

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

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

## AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.1, 183.2, and 183.3, and to repeal R.S. 17:183.4, 183.6, 183.7, 183.8, and 183.9, relative to curricula; to provide relative to high school career option programs; to provide relative to career major programs; to provide relative to a career diploma; to provide relative to program, course, and curriculum approval; to provide for waivers; to provide relative to program participation eligibility criteria; to provide relative to individual graduation plans; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:183.1, 183.2, and 183.3 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

### §183.1. Purpose

A. The purpose of this Subpart is to create a career option in Louisiana's high schools which shall consist of an academic major comprised of college preparatory courses and a career major comprised of challenging academic courses and modern vocational studies.

**B. In addition to any other diplomas issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the board shall develop and adopt course and curriculum requirements for career major programs offered by city, parish, and other local public school boards in accordance with the provisions of this Subpart and shall issue a career diploma to any student who successfully**

1 completes the requirements established for each approved career major  
 2 program curriculum.

3 C.(1) It is the intention of the legislature that graduation from a Louisiana  
 4 public high school by a student with a career major shall in no way restrict the right  
 5 of a student who is otherwise eligible to enter into a Louisiana public ~~community~~  
 6 ~~college or~~ postsecondary education institution, ~~of public higher education and the~~  
 7 ~~curriculum that is developed for the career major shall be designed to accomplish~~  
 8 ~~this purpose.~~

9 (2) A career diploma issued by the State Board of Elementary and  
 10 Secondary Education shall be considered a regular standard diploma and shall  
 11 be recognized by all institutions under the management of the Louisiana  
 12 Community and Technical College System.

13 §183.2. Career option description

14 A. To prepare students for choosing a career option at the high school level,  
 15 in grades six through eight, teachers shall incorporate activities which expose  
 16 students to career and technical and academic fields of study ~~beginning in the 1997-~~  
 17 ~~1998 school year.~~ Such activities may include field trips, guest speakers, community  
 18 services, and other activities such as word processing, desktop production, computer-  
 19 assisted drafting and graphics, and other uses of technology. At least six activities  
 20 shall be conducted at each grade level during each school year. Each teacher of  
 21 grades six through eight shall maintain records of such activities.

22 B.(1) ~~Beginning in the 1998-1999 school year, by~~ By the end of the eighth  
 23 grade, each student shall develop, with the input of his family, a Five Year  
 24 Educational Individual Graduation Plan. Such a plan shall include a sequence of  
 25 courses which is consistent with the student's stated goals for one year after  
 26 graduation. Each student's Five Year Educational Individual Graduation Plan shall  
 27 be reviewed annually thereafter by the student, parents, and school advisor and  
 28 revised as needed.

29 (2) School guidance counselors or others designated by the school principal,  
 30 or both, shall be responsible for the completion of the Five Year ~~Educational~~

1           **Individual Graduation** Plan of each eighth grade student. The guidance counselors  
 2           and others shall counsel each student with regard to high school graduation  
 3           requirements and shall assist the student in developing his plan. The guidance  
 4           counselors and others shall forward such plans to the appropriate high schools where  
 5           such students shall attend.

6                       C. ~~During the ninth and tenth grades~~ **Throughout high school**, each student  
 7           shall pursue the rigorous ~~core~~ curriculum required for his chosen major by his school  
 8           ~~which shall include required course work as established~~ **as approved** by the State  
 9           Board of Elementary and Secondary Education ~~and appropriate elective courses.~~

10                      D. Students shall be able to change from one major to the other at the end of  
 11           any school year.

12           §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

13                      A.(1)**(a)** A career major shall provide a student with greater technical skill  
 14           and a strong academic core and shall be offered to each high school student **enrolled**  
 15           **in a city, parish, or other local public school system that offers a career major**  
 16           **program**. Such a major shall be linked to postsecondary options and shall prepare  
 17           students to pursue either a degree or certification from a postsecondary institution,  
 18           an industry-based training or certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or  
 19           immediate entrance into a career field. Such a major shall be primarily designed for  
 20           those students who are not initially college bound and shall provide them with  
 21           alternatives to immediate entrance into a four-year university or college after high  
 22           school graduation.

23                      **(b) Students pursuing a career major shall be afforded the opportunity**  
 24           **to dually enroll in a community or technical college or participate in a business**  
 25           **internship or work-study program, when such opportunities are available and**  
 26           **appropriate.**

27                      (2) ~~By the year 2006, each high school shall offer at least one career major~~  
 28           ~~program.~~ **(a) Each city, parish, and other local public school system shall develop**  
 29           **and offer one or more career major programs, subject to approval by the State**  
 30           **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. However, any such school**

1 system may be granted a waiver from this requirement by the State Board of  
2 Elementary and Secondary Education for good cause.

3 (b) Schools shall review majors offered each year and expand offerings as  
4 appropriate, including courses offered through articulation, dual enrollment,  
5 correspondence, and technological methods such as distance learning through the  
6 Internet and compressed video.

7 B.(1) Students in a career major program shall complete an academic core  
8 of courses and a career and technical sequence of courses.

9 (2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the  
10 following:

11 (a) At least four English credits ~~in courses with content equal to that of~~  
12 ~~college preparatory English~~ , including English I, English II, and two additional  
13 courses comparable or identical to English courses offered by the Louisiana  
14 Technical College, as approved by the State Board of Elementary and  
15 Secondary Education.

16 (b) At least ~~three~~ four mathematics credits, ~~not fewer than two courses of~~  
17 ~~which have content equal to that of college preparatory mathematics~~ including  
18 Algebra I, Algebra I Part One and Algebra I Part Two, or an applied or hybrid  
19 Algebra course, and additional applied or hybrid mathematics courses  
20 comparable or identical to courses offered by the Louisiana Technical College  
21 as needed to fulfill the mathematics course requirements as approved by the  
22 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

23 (c) At least three science credits, ~~not fewer than two courses of which have~~  
24 ~~content equal to that of college preparatory science~~ including one unit of Biology  
25 and two additional courses selected from a list of science courses related to the  
26 student's chosen career major as approved by the State Board of Elementary  
27 and Secondary Education.

28 (d) At least three social studies credits, ~~not fewer than two courses of which~~  
29 ~~shall have content equal to that of college preparatory social studies~~ including one  
30 unit of American History and one additional course selected from a list of social

1 studies courses approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
 2 Education. Each student shall successfully complete a course in ~~free-enterprise~~  
 3 Free Enterprise, as provided in R.S. 17:274, and ~~civics~~ Civics, as provided in R.S.  
 4 17:274.1.

5 (e) At least two credits in ~~health~~ Health and ~~physical-education~~ Physical  
 6 Education.

7 (f) At least ~~six or more~~ seven credits ~~consisting of four credits in an area of~~  
 8 ~~concentration and two related credits, including one credit in a computer technology~~  
 9 ~~course~~ in career and technical education courses with end-of-course testing as  
 10 appropriate and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
 11 Education, including at least one-half credit in a career readiness course and  
 12 one credit in a computer applications course. Courses shall be selected to prepare  
 13 a student for postsecondary education or a career.

14 (g) Additional electives or career and technical education courses  
 15 required by the city, parish, or other local public school board as approved by  
 16 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

17 C. ~~Graduation requirements for the career major shall consist of~~  
 18 ~~requirements mandated by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education~~  
 19 ~~for all high school students, including all testing and course requirements and all~~  
 20 ~~provisions of R.S. 17:261 through 279.~~ Each city, parish, and other local public  
 21 school board seeking to establish a career major shall submit a proposed  
 22 curriculum to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for  
 23 approval. Such curriculum shall comply with the provisions of Subsection B of  
 24 this Section and the provisions of R.S. 17:261 through 280.

25 D.(1)A student who seeks to pursue a career major curriculum must  
 26 meet one of the following conditions:

27 (a) The student has fulfilled all of the requirements established by the  
 28 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the city, parish, or  
 29 other local public school system where the student is enrolled for promotion to  
 30 the ninth grade.

1           **(b)(i) The student is at least fifteen years of age, or will attain the age of**  
2           **fifteen during the next school year, scored at least at the approaching basic level**  
3           **on either the English/Language Arts or Mathematics component of the eighth**  
4           **grade Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test, and meets the objective**  
5           **criteria established by the pupil progression plan of the city, parish, or other**  
6           **local public school system where the student is enrolled to enter the ninth grade**  
7           **for the purpose of pursuing a career major curriculum.**

8           **(ii) Prior to entering the ninth grade, such student must complete a**  
9           **summer remediation program in the subject area of any component of the**  
10           **eighth grade Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test on which the**  
11           **student scored at the unsatisfactory level, as established by the State Board of**  
12           **Elementary and Secondary Education. Any such student who fails to**  
13           **satisfactorily complete a summer remediation program shall be required to**  
14           **complete any approved developmental course or courses, for credit, as may be**  
15           **deemed necessary to ensure that the student is prepared to undertake the**  
16           **coursework required for his chosen career major.**

17           **(iii) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall**  
18           **certify that the pupil progression plan established by each city, parish, or other**  
19           **local public school system that promotes a student to the ninth grade pursuant**  
20           **to this Subparagraph contains the following requirements:**

21           **(aa) Such student, at a minimum, must have achieved a cumulative grade**  
22           **point average of at least 1.5 on a 4.0 scale for coursework required for**  
23           **completion of the eighth grade.**

24           **(bb) Such student must have demonstrated acceptable attendance and**  
25           **behavior standards as determined by the State Board of Elementary and**  
26           **Secondary Education.**

27           **(cc) Such student must participate in a dropout prevention and**  
28           **mentoring program, developed in consultation with school guidance personnel,**  
29           **during his first year in high school, as approved by the State Board of**  
30           **Elementary and Secondary Education.**

1                    (2) Every student who seeks to pursue a career major must have the  
 2                    written permission of his parent or other legal guardian, after consultation with  
 3                    the school guidance counselor or other school administrator and a  
 4                    determination that participation in a career major curriculum and pursuit of  
 5                    a career diploma issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
 6                    Education is appropriate and in the best interest of the student.

7                    Section 2. R.S. 17:183.4, 183.6, 183.7, 183.8, and 183.9 are hereby repealed.

8                    Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 9                    signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 10                    by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 11                    vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 12                    effective on the day following such approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_