

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 202** SLS 13RS 126
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action: **w/ HSE FLOOR AMD**
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 28, 2013 2:38 PM	Author: NEVERS
Dept./Agy.: Office of Student Financial Assistance	Analyst: Charley Rome
Subject: Revises TOPS GPA Calculations and Core Courses	

TOPS REF SEE FISC NOTE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Revises core curriculum requirements and the method of calculating the grade point average for TOPS awards. (gov sig)

The proposed legislation adds a requirement that the TOPS core GPA calculation use a 5 point scale for International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and gifted classes instead of converted to a 4 point scale beginning with high school graduates during the 2017-2018 Academic Year who would not be eligible for a TOPS payment until the 2018-2019 Academic Year. The proposed legislation also changes the TOPS core curriculum requirements deleting courses, adding courses, and providing more flexibility in courses that students can complete to become eligible for TOPS awards. Students graduating from high school in the 2017-2018 academic year would be required to meet the proposed core curriculum requirements, and those students would not be eligible for a TOPS payment until the 2018-2019 Academic Year. The proposed legislation removes a requirement that the Office of Student Financial Assistance consult with, and solicit written comments and recommendations from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) prior to updating course names and equivalencies and instead requires BESE approval prior to such changes. Effective upon governor's signature.

EXPENDITURES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The bill's provisions related to TOPS GPA calculations will not impact TOPS award expenditures until FY 19. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) estimates that few students would be affected with an insignificant cost increase due to the bill's provisions allowing calculation of the TOPS core GPA based on a 5 point scale for International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and gifted courses. However, the increase in expenditures for TOPS awards in FY19 and thereafter may be considerable if there is a significant increase in the number of students qualifying for an award or stipend than anticipated by LOSFA.

The provisions in the proposed legislation related to TOPS core curriculum requirements will not have a significant impact on TOPS expenditures. Students graduating from high school in the 2017-2018 academic year would be required to meet the proposed core curriculum requirements, and those students would not be eligible for a TOPS payment until the 2018-2019 Academic Year which is outside the 5-year window of this fiscal note. Furthermore, the proposed changes will not result in any additional students becoming eligible for a TOPS award since the changes do not lower the eligibility standards in effect at this time. Since sufficient time is allowed before the core curriculum change is required, it is estimated that students will be able to adjust their courses to now qualify under the proposed requirements and that there will be no reduction in TOPS eligibles. The small percentages of current eligible students that have used the deleted courses to qualify for a TOPS award suggests that the transition to the new requirements will not have a major impact on a student's ability to meet the core curriculum requirements.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

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| <u>Senate</u> | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H} | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F) >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S} | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H} | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S} | |

Evan Brasseaux
Evan Brasseaux
Staff Director