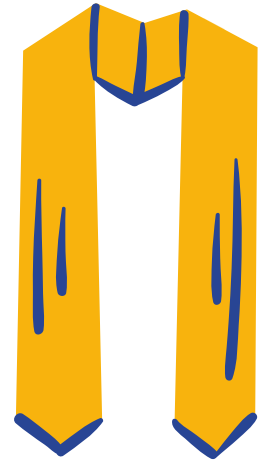




TOPS COVID-19 IMPACT



SB 481 - SENATOR FIELDS

THE GOAL

Among its numerous provisions regarding students impacted by COVID-19, this bill seeks to codify into statutory law JBE Proclamation No. 41 § 7 B-C ordering the waiver of certain initial and continuing TOPS eligibility criteria necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE CHALLENGE

The TOPS Award provides assistance to over 54,000 Louisiana students each year. Governor Edwards signed Proclamation No. 41 to ensure high school seniors and current postsecondary students are able to meet requirements to be eligible for TOPS, for the 2019-2020 academic year.

THE FACTS



The bill seeks to address the following regarding TOPS for the 2019-2020 academic year:

- Provides that students can have until September 30 to receive a qualifying ACT score for TOPS, without penalty.
- Suspends the home study student timeline for TOPS eligibility, to address the move to remote learning.
- Waives nine JumpStart TOPS Tech credits, if waived by the school, to remain TOPS eligible.
- Suspends the continuing eligibility requirements for the 2019-2020 academic year, due to COVID-19.