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**AGENDA**  
**STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

1:25 p.m.

Claiborne Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Thomas Jefferson Rooms A&B 1-136  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - A. TOPS Exceptions – TOPS provision that requires students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.
  - B. TOPS Home Study Exceptions – TOPS provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade.
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment

Committee Members: Darren G. Mire, Chair, Wilbert D. Pryor, Vice Chair, David J. Aubrey, Randy L. Ewing, Stephanie A. Finley, Felix R. Weill, Judy A. Williams-Brown

## **Agenda Item III.A.**

### **Consent Agenda: TOPS Exceptions**

Requests for exception to the TOPS provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.

#### **Background:**

Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules require TOPS recipients to continue to enroll in the fall and spring semesters of each academic year, to remain enrolled throughout the semester, and to earn the annual credit hours required by the end of the academic year. Section 2103.E authorizes the governing body to grant an exception to these requirements when the student/recipient has exceptional circumstances that are beyond their immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution.

Fourteen requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meetings on November 7, 2023. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

#### **LOSFA Advisory Board Recommendation**

**The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends approval of TOPS requests for exception as presented.**

## **Agenda Item III.B.**

### **Consent Agenda: TOPS Home Study Exceptions**

Requests for exception to the TOPS provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade.

The TOPS statute requires that a student begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year. Act 95 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature implemented a provision which allows the administering agency to grant exceptions to this requirement when a student provides documentation that the transfer to a home study program later than the statutorily provided time frame was beyond the student's control.

Three requests for an exception to the deadline to begin a home study program were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meetings on November 7, 2023. The students have presented facts and documentation that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

#### **LOSFA Advisory Board Recommendation**

**The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends approval of the requests for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year.**