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

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

11:50 a.m.

Claiborne Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Louisiana Purchase Room  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of Final Rulemaking – Amends the LOSFA Advisory Board Bylaws to implement Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.\*
  - B. TOPS Exceptions – TOPS provision that requires students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.
  - C. 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

\* Act 393 – Open Meetings Laws

Committee Members: Wilbert D. Pryor, Chair; Christian C. Creed, Vice Chair; Misti S. Cordell; Robert W. Levy; Felix R. Weill; Samuel T. Gil (*Student Member*)

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

### **Consent Agenda: Approval of Final Rulemaking (LOSFA Advisory Board Bylaws to implement Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature)**

Publication of final rule to implement Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

#### **Background:**

At its August 23, 2023, meeting, the Board of Regents authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to effect the rule changes described below. The Notice of Intent was published in the Louisiana Register on September 20, 2023.\*

This rulemaking implements Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature as indicated below.

- Provides for the conduct of no more than one third of its annual meetings electronically, provided the following conditions are met:
  - Provide an anchor location from which the presiding officer must conduct the meeting;
  - Receive and acknowledge public comment during the meeting;
  - Ensure the identification of each person participating in the meeting;
  - Require a roll call vote for every motion;
- Ensures that all parts of the meeting, excluding executive sessions, can be seen and heard. In the event the meeting becomes unable to be seen or heard, the meeting must be recessed until such time as full audio and visual capabilities are restored. If restoration of capabilities is not possible within 2 hours, the meeting must be adjourned, and no further business may occur.

Members who have a disability that is recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may attend any or all meetings remotely, their presence will be counted toward a quorum, and they may participate in such meeting as if they are present.

\*Note that the ABLE Advisory Council and the LOSFA Advisory Board by-laws were combined for purposes of publication in the Louisiana Register.

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

**The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends that the Board of Regents authorize publication of the final rule.**

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

### **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.

Seventeen requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meetings on January 10, 2024, and February 21, 2024. 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.C.**

### **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.

Two 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 January 10, 2024, and February 21, 2024. 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.**