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# Agenda

## Statewide Programs

Wednesday, April 23, 2025  
11:40 AM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100  
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - A. Final Rulemaking Chafee ETV Awards – Implements provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 which provide that the Chafee ETV shall be awarded without regard to financial need
  - B. TOPS Home Study Exceptions – TOPS statutory provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year
  - C. TOPS and M.J. Foster Exceptions – TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year and to the M.J. Foster requirement that a student maintain continuous enrollment in school
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment

Committee Members: Wilbert D. Pryor, Chair; K. Samer Shamieh, M.D., Vice Chair; Phillip May Jr.; Christy Oliver Reeves; Terri P. Sterling; Kennedy M. Orr (Student Member)  
Staff: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

## **AGENDA ITEM III.A.**

### **Consent Agenda: Approval of Final Rulemaking – Chafee ETV**

Final Rulemaking to implement provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 which provide that the Chafee ETV shall be awarded without regard to financial need

#### **BACKGROUND**

At its December 11, 2024, 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 January 20, 2025.

No comments have been received.

This rulemaking implements guidance from the U.S. Department of Education stating that the Chafee ETV is not to be included as other financial assistance when determining a student's eligibility for federal financial aid. More recent clarification also indicates that a student may receive the full Chafee ETV award amount even if they have other sources of financial aid that meet their full cost of attendance.

Note that these changes only apply to the awarding of federal financial assistance. For purposes of awarding state financial aid programs, postsecondary institutions will still be required to include the Chafee ETV award amount in determining whether and how much aid a student may be eligible to receive.

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

**The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends that the Louisiana Board of Regents authorize the Executive Director of LOSFA to publish the final rule to make these rules permanent.**

## **AGENDA ITEM III.B.**

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

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

#### **BACKGROUND**

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 timeframe was beyond the student's control.

One request for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on March 13, 2025. The student has presented facts and documentation that the student believes justifies the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

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

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

### **AGENDA ITEM III.C.**

#### **Consent Agenda: TOPS and M.J. Foster Promise Program Exceptions**

Requests for exception to the TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year and to the M.J. Foster requirement that a student maintain continuous enrollment in school

#### **BACKGROUND**

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

Section 2207.A.5 of the M.J. Foster administrative rules provide that students must maintain continuous enrollment, unless granted an exception for cause in accordance with §2103 of the Scholarship and Grant administrative rules. The same exceptions that apply for TOPS students apply to all programs administered by LOSFA, including M.J. Foster.

Three requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on March 13, 2025. Three requests for exception to the M.J. Foster requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on March 13, 2025. 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 the requests for exception to the TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year and to the M.J. Foster requirement that a student maintain continuous enrollment in school.**