



Joint BESE/BOR Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Page

1. Opening

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Roll Call

2. Approval of the Minutes

2.1 December 11, 2024

3 - 11

[BOR BESE Joint Meeting Meeting Minutes Dec 2024.pdf](#)

3. Items for Consideration

3.1 Consideration of an update report regarding course additions to the TOPS University Core Requirements

12 - 31

[Additions to TOPS University Course Requirements.pdf](#)



[2025 8 TOPS Weighted GPA Grid.pdf](#)

[2024 12 TOPS University Course Requirements.pdf](#)

3.2 Consideration of an update report regarding Act 347 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session (TOPS Excellence)

3.3 Consideration of an update report regarding the Tri-Agency Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative

3.4 Consideration of an update report regarding the Task Force on Career Alignment

3.5	Consideration of Extension Academy Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy in City of Baker Schools	32 - 34
	Louisiana Extension Academy Programs BESE BoR Joint.pdf 	
	06.2025 Joint BESE-BoR Helix Letters.pdf 	

4.	Appendix	35 - 56
	August 2025 Joint BESE BOR Meeting (1).pdf 	

JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS
AND
BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

MINUTES

In accordance with the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article VIII, Section 5(D), a joint meeting of the Board of Regents (BOR) and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 by Misti Cordell, Chair, Board of Regents.

The rolls were called and quorums established for the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Board of Regents

Present

Ms. Misti Cordell, Chair
Ms. Terrie P. Sterling, Vice Chair
Mr. Darren Mire, Secretary
Mr. Christian Creed
Mr. Blake David
Ms. Stephanie Finley
Mr. Robert Levy
Mr. Philip May, Jr.
Mr. Wilbert Pryor
Dr. K. Samer Shamieh
Mr. Gary Solomon
Mr. Collis Temple III
Ms. Judy Williams-Brown

Absent

Mr. David Aubrey
Ms. Kennedy Orr
Mr. Felix Weill

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Present

Mr. Ronnie Morris, President
Ms. Stacey Melerine, Vice President
Mr. Kevin Berken, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Conrad Appel
Mr. Preston Castille
Ms. Simone Champagne
Dr. Sharon Clark
Mr. Lance Harris
Mr. Paul Hollis
Ms. Sandy Holloway

Absent

Dr. Judy Armstrong

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Cordell asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

APPROVAL OF BESE/BOR MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2024

On motion of Regent Collis Temple III, seconded by Ms. Sandy Holloway, the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the joint meeting of the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education held on June 12, 2024.

2024 KEVIN P. REILLY, SR. LOUISIANA EDUCATION QUALITY TRUST FUND (LEQTF) REPORT

Chair Cordell introduced Amy Matthews, Chief Investment Officer and Assistant State Treasurer, who provided an overview of the Kevin P. Reilly, Sr. Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF) and its subfunds, also known as the 8(g) Fund or Board of Regents Support Fund. Established in 1986, the Fund began with a \$540 million deposit in 1987 and has since grown to a market value of \$1.6 billion in 2024, distributing approximately \$1.95 billion to enhance education statewide. The Fund is comprised of a Permanent Fund, which grows the principal, and a Support Fund, which provides direct educational funding distributed by BESE for K-12 and BOR for higher education. As of 2024, the Board of Regents and BESE have each received around \$975 million in total, including \$17.7 million each this year.

Ms. Matthews reported strong investment performance in 2024, with the Trust Fund earning a 9.25% return, outperforming its benchmark of 8.55%. This success is attributed to its diversified portfolio, which includes 35.5% equities and 64.5% fixed income investments. However, she raised concerns about the sharp decline in royalty income from oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf—once averaging \$18 million annually but now \$2.45 million due to reduced drilling activity. Despite these challenges, the LEQTF has provided over \$3.08 billion in educational benefits since its inception, reflecting strong financial stewardship.

In response to questions, Ms. Matthews clarified that teacher-related payments mentioned earlier referred to retirement fund contributions, not salaries. She noted that while the asset allocation of 65% fixed income and 35% equity is set in the Constitution, further breakdowns are determined by policy. A recent attempt to pass a Constitutional amendment raising the equity cap was denied by the voters. Regarding the potential for increased revenue through expansion of Louisiana's Outer Continental Shelf, she said there is currently no new information but committed to consulting with the Office of Natural Resources Revenue for updates. Chair Cordell thanked Ms. Matthews for her presentation.

LOUISIANA PROSPERS MASTER PLAN YEAR 5 UPDATE

Chair Cordell introduced Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, who reviewed the Board of Regents' Master Plan goal to increase Louisiana's postsecondary attainment rate for adults aged 25–64 to 60% by 2030. Louisiana has reached a record-high 51%, with notable gains among younger adults and credentials aligning with high-demand fields such as business, STEM, healthcare, and applied technology. Dr. Denley emphasized that while increasing the number of earned credentials is essential, ensuring their economic value is equally important, as 85% of recent graduates are employed in 3- to 5-star jobs, according to the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Dr. Denley stated that recent job market data showed 68% of Louisiana's job postings in the past year required more than a high school diploma, while only 51% of adults currently meet that threshold. He stressed that this initiative is a collaborative effort involving state agencies, economic development organizations, and employers to align educational offerings with workforce needs, emphasizing the continued commitment the BOR has to this collaborative

work. Dr. Denley added that the impact of higher education is significant as an individual with a postsecondary credential can earn nearly \$1 million more over their lifetime, is more likely to be employed, and is less likely to live in poverty or be incarcerated.

Dr. Denley stated that the current progress toward the Master Plan goal is substantial, with over 23,000 additional individuals obtaining credentials since 2021. He noted that to reach the 2030 target, Louisiana must graduate the equivalent of two more Superdome-sized groups of people. The economic growth associated with this effort is immense as it can add approximately \$200 billion in lifetime earnings and generate broader benefits to the state's economy and public services. Strategies to achieve this goal include recognizing all types of credentials (not just degrees), increasing college-going rates, and improving student success. Initiatives such as dual enrollment, targeted student outreach, and the M.J. Foster Promise Program (which supports adult learners) have contributed to rising enrollment and completion rates. He added the example that the M.J. Foster Program has already helped 3,000 students, with many completers seeing a \$20,000 increase in family income.

Dr. Denley noted that the BOR has reformed math and English education through corequisite models, which dramatically improved student success rates. Work-based learning programs and the Meauxmentum Framework support students in applying their education in real-world settings, while reverse transfer and universal transfer pathways ensure that students receive credit for their coursework regardless of institution. He stated that these efforts were designed to increase educational attainment holistically, ensuring credentials are both meaningful and aligned with Louisiana's economic needs.

Regent Pryor emphasized the importance of publicizing the major achievement of 51% of working-age adults in Louisiana now holding a postsecondary credential, which marks

significant progress for the state. He also highlighted interest in expanding the “admissions notification program,” which helps students, especially those from families without college experience, through the college-going process. Dr. Denley noted that the program, initially piloted in a few parishes, had expanded to 13 and is now set to reach 20 parishes, thanks to Lumina Foundation support. The goal is to make the program statewide, which requires moving the system to a proper platform and securing funding. He emphasized that the BOR is working with local organizations to build a college access network and to gather student feedback to refine communication. Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana State Superintendent of Education, added that BESE is launching a major effort to revise K-12 math and English standards, ensuring vertical alignment with higher education. He added that the BOR will have direct involvement in these workgroups, helping shape the future of Louisiana’s education pipeline.

Chair Cordell thanked Dr. Denley for his presentation and emphasized the importance of the collaborative work of the two Boards.

LASTEM 2024 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Chair Cordell introduced Dr. Clint Coleman, Program Administrator for Regents LASTEM and Cybersecurity Initiatives, who highlighted the Louisiana STEM Advisory Council’s (LASTEM’s) major accomplishments in 2024. Established in 2017, LASTEM coordinates statewide STEM initiatives through a network of nine Regional STEM Centers. Over the past year, more than 50,000 students engaged in hands-on STEM activities, while over 1,300 teachers received training in computer science and engineering. Notable successes included the NASA Astro Camp program, which reached over 10,000 students, and the annual LASTEM Summit, which saw record attendance and gained national attention. Innovative programs such

as STEM initiatives for incarcerated fathers and aerospace-focused partnerships further broadened LASTEM's impact. Looking ahead, Dr. Coleman shared plans to expand computer science education and workplace learning opportunities to better prepare Louisiana's future STEM workforce.

BESE President Ronnie Morris emphasized the importance of relevance in education and praised LASTEM for aligning with broader goals of modernizing the high school experience. He expressed concern about the sustainability of funding and asked Dr. Coleman to address future financial needs. In response, Dr. Coleman acknowledged funding challenges but noted active efforts to secure support through national grants and initiatives like LSU A&M's FUEL Pro STEM. He also addressed a question related to credential demand, stating that LASTEM is expanding its focus to include applied fields such as business logistics and health. The program is working to align hands-on STEM experiences with credential pathways, ensuring that students gain both practical skills and workforce-ready qualifications.

Chair Cordell thanked Dr. Coleman for his presentation and for sharing this information.

UPDATES REGARDING LOUISIANA DUAL ENROLLMENT

Chair Cordell introduced Dr. Ernise Singleton, Assistant Superintendent of Career and College Readiness, and reintroduced Dr. Denley to provide an update on dual enrollment in Louisiana. Dr. Denley reported record participation in 2023, with 41,000 students enrolled, representing a third consecutive year of double-digit growth across regions and demographics, particularly among African American students. He credited this growth to policy changes, teacher credentialing expansion, and outreach via LADualEnrollment.com. Dr. Singleton reviewed funding sources available to support dual enrollment in K–12, including the MFP, Title

V (for low-income and rural students), Title IV (which can also cover AP, IB, and dual enrollment exam fees), Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA), Career Development Funds, Carl Perkins, and TOPS Tech Early Start.

Addressing concerns about funding gaps, Dr. Denley acknowledged that SCA funds often fall short of covering dual enrollment tuition, which varies by institution. While the Board of Regents cannot set tuition rates, it is working with college CFOs to develop a more uniform pricing model alongside making a fiscal request to the Legislature. Mr. Castille emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration between BESE and the BOR to bridge gaps between K–12 and higher education, praising recent efforts around dual enrollment and industry credential pathways.

Discussion shifted to challenges in expanding access to dual enrollment, especially in rural areas. Regent Pryor raised concerns about older youth in the juvenile justice system and called for vocational education programs to support reintegration. Dr. Brumley clarified that the LDOE and BESE do not oversee education for students served by the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ), which handles that responsibility. Regents Solomon and Aubrey highlighted administrative burdens and instructor shortages, urging standardization of MOUs and innovative staffing solutions. Dr. Denley noted ongoing efforts to streamline processes through a statewide portal, while Dr. Brumley described a pilot program using virtual instruction to address rural staffing gaps. He reiterated the need for strong teacher recruitment strategies and building connections between students and families.

Finally, Regent Aubrey and other speakers stressed that current funding levels are insufficient for maintaining quality in dual enrollment. They urged greater legislative support, better incentives, and clearer communication about the program's return on investment. BESE

President Morris highlighted the significant shortage of engineers and skilled workers in Louisiana, leading to unfilled jobs being outsourced overseas, and emphasized that the state's investment in education is a direct investment in its economic future.

Chair Cordell thanked everyone for their engagement, highlighting that this meeting is where ideas for improvement are generated, driving action to benefit the state and its students.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Brumley, along with Commissioner Reed, expressed strong commitment to collaborate in achieving the workforce development aimed at creating high-quality, high-wage jobs in Louisiana. He emphasized the ongoing coordination with other economic development and career training agencies. Commissioner Reed expressed deep gratitude for the ongoing opportunity to work in Louisiana alongside dedicated partners, staff, and boards focused on advancing the state. She highlighted the challenging mission to break the link between a student's background and family income and their chances of success, ensuring geography does not determine destiny. Commissioner Reed acknowledged the great responsibility the two agencies share to create increased opportunities, and she expressed appreciation for everyone's commitment to this important work.

OTHER BUSINESS

Regent Sterling requested that an update on the progress, outcomes, and implementation of the third grade reading initiative be provided for further discussion at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

The Joint Meeting of the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

DRAFT

Agenda Item 3.1

Report regarding Course Additions to the TOPS University Core Requirements

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To support alignment of the TOPS University Diploma with eligibility requirements for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) scholarship, school districts submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) two formal requests to expand course offerings within the Foreign Language and Social Science categories of the TOPS Core Curriculum.

Requested Additions to the TOPS Core Curriculum:

- **Foreign Language Category**
Inclusion of the following language courses:
Tagalog I, II, III, IV
Turkish I, II, III, IV
Urdu I, II, III, IV
West Germanic Languages (Dutch) I, II, III, IV

- **Social Science Category**
Psychology IB

As per standard BOR and LDOE practice, BOR staff shared these proposed additions with chief academic officers (CAOs) from all public postsecondary institutions. Each institution's faculty body reviewed and approved the proposals on its behalf.

Recommendation for Approval:

BOR and LDOE staff request that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and Board of Regents (BOR) approve the above-listed courses for inclusion in the TOPS and BOR Core. Specifically, for students entering grade 9 in the 2025–2026 school year and graduating in 2028–2029 or later, the following courses shall be eligible for fulfilling TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors, and Excellence Award requirements:

- **Foreign Language Options:**
Tagalog I–IV, Turkish I–IV, Urdu I–IV, and West Germanic Languages (Dutch) I–IV
- **Social Science Option:**
Psychology IB

Dual Enrollment/Matrix Options for TOPS Core

(for increased weights when calculating TOPS GPA for incoming freshman beginning Fall 2014)

ENGLISH = 4 Units	Advanced Placement	International Baccalaureate	Cambridge International (Honors)	Gifted & Talented	Honors	Dual Enrollment	
ENGLISH I – 1 unit							
ENGLISH II – 1 unit							
1 Unit from the following:							
ENGLISH III – 1 unit	AP English Language and Composition	IB Literature IB Language & Literature IB Literature and Performance	English Language Part 1: Cambridge AICE - AS Level Literature in English Part 1: Cambridge AICE - AS Level	English III	English III	CENL 1013 CENL 1023 CENL 2153 CENL 2163 CENL 2173	English Composition I English Composition II American Literature I American Literature II Major American Writers
1 Unit from the following:							
ENGLISH IV – 1 unit	AP English Literature and Composition	IB Literature IB Language & Literature IB Literature & Performance	English Language Part 2: Cambridge AICE - AS Level Literature in English Part 2: Cambridge AICE - AS Level	English IV	English IV	CENL 1013 CENL 1023 CENL 2103 CENL 2113 CENL 2123 CENL 2203 CENL 2213 CENL 2223 CENL 2303 CENL 2323 CENL 2313 CENL 2403	English Composition I English Composition II British Literature I British Literature II Major British Writers World Literature I World Literature II Major World Writers Introduction to Fiction Introduction to Literature Intro to Poetry and/or Drama Intro to African American Literature

Dual Enrollment/Matrix Options for TOPS Core

(for increased weights when calculating TOPS GPA for incoming freshman beginning Fall 2014)

Math = 4 Units	Advanced Placement	International Baccalaureate	Cambridge International (Honors)	Gifted & Talented	Honors	Dual Enrollment	
ALGEBRA I – 1 unit	* Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III, including the Cambridge Integrated Mathematics sequence, may be substituted for the Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.						
GEOMETRY – 1 unit							
ALGEBRA II – 1 unit							
1 Unit from the following:							
ALGEBRA III						CMAT 1213	College Algebra
ADV MATH- PRE CALC		IB Math Studies (Math Methods)				CMAT 1223	Trigonometry
PRE- CALCULUS	AP Pre-Calculus	IB Math Studies (Math Methods)	Math 1 (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE - AS Level	Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus	CMAT 1233 CMAT 1213 & 1223	Algebra & Trigonometry
ADV MATH - FUNCTIONS & STATISTICS						CMAT 1303	Introductory Statistics
PROB & STATISTICS	AP Statistics		Math 1 (Probability and Statistics): Cambridge AICE		Probability & Statistics	CMAT 1303	Introductory Statistics
CALCULUS	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC	IB Mathematics SL IB Mathematics HL	Math 2 (Part 1): Cambridge AICE - A Level Math 2 (Part 2): Cambridge AICE - A Level	Calculus I Calculus II	Calculus	CMAT 2103 CMAT 2113-5 CMAT 2123-5 CMAT 2113 CMAT 2116	Applied Calculus Calculus I Calculus II Differential Calculus I Integral Calculus I
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A	AP Computer Science A						

Dual Enrollment/Matrix Options for TOPS Core

(for increased weights when calculating TOPS GPA for incoming freshman beginning Fall 2014)

Science = 4 Units	Advanced Placement	International Baccalaureate	Cambridge International (Honors)	Gifted & Talented	Honors	Dual Enrollment	
BIOLOGY I – 1 unit						CBIO 1013 CBIO 1033	General Biology I Gen Biology I (Sci Majors)
CHEMISTRY I – 1 unit				Chemistry I	Chemistry I	CCEM 1013 CCEM 1103 CCEM 1123	General Chemistry Survey I Chemistry I Chemistry I (Sci Majors)
2 Units from the following:							
BIOLOGY II OR HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY	AP Biology	IB Biology I IB Biology II	Biology II: Cambridge AICE - AS Level	Biology II	Biology II	CBIO 1013 CBIO 1033 CBIO 1023 CBIO 1043 CBIO 2213 CBIO 2214 CBIO 2223 CBIO 2224 CBIO 2103	General Biology I Gen Biology I (Sci Majors) General Biology II Gen Biology II (Sci Majors) Human Anatomy & Physiology I Human Anatomy & Physiology I (Lec/Lab) Human Anatomy & Physiology II Human Anatomy & Physiology II (Lec/Lab) Microbiology
EARTH SCIENCE						CGEO 1103 CGEO 1113	Physical Geology Historical Geology
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	AP Environmental Science	IB Environmental Systems		Environmental Science	Environmental Science	CEVS 1103	Environmental Science
PHYSICAL SCIENCE						CPHY 1023	Physical Science
CHEMISTRY II	AP Chemistry	IB Chemistry I IB Chemistry II	Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE - AS Level	Chemistry II	Chemistry II	CCEM 1003 CCEM 1013 CCEM 1103 CCEM 1123 CCEM 1113 CCEM 1133 CCEM 2213	General, Organic & Biochemistry General Chemistry Survey I Chemistry I Chemistry I (Sci Majors) Chemistry II Chemistry II (Sci Majors) Organic Chemistry
PHYSICS I	AP Physics I: Algebra Based	IB Physics I IB Physics II	Physics II: Cambridge AICE - AS Level	Physics	Physics	CPHY 2113 CPHY 2114 CPHY 2133	Physics I (Algebra/Trig Based) Physics I (Lec & Lab) Physics I (Calculus Based)
AGRISCIENCE I & II¹							
COMPUTER SCIENCE A	AP Computer Science A						

Completion of both courses is required for 1 unit of credit.

Dual Enrollment/Matrix Options for TOPS Core

(for increased weights when calculating TOPS GPA for incoming freshman beginning Fall 2014)

Social Studies = 4 Units	Advanced Placement	International Baccalaureate	Cambridge International (Honors)	Gifted & Talented	Honors	Dual Enrollment	
US HISTORY – 1 unit	AP U.S. History	IB History of the Americas I		U.S. History	U.S. History	CHIS 2013 CHIS 2023	American History I American History II
1 Unit from the following:							
US GOVT or CIVICS	AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States			Government	Government	CPOL 2013 CPOL 2113 CPOL 2213	Intro to American Government Intro to State & Local Government Intro to Comparative Government
ECONOMICS	AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	IB Economics		Economics		ECON 2113 CECN 2213 CECN 2223	Economic Principles Macroeconomics Microeconomics
2 Units from the following:							
WESTERN CIVILIZATION						CHIS 1013 CHIS 1023	Western Civilization I Western Civilization II
EUROPEAN HISTORY	AP European History		History (European): Cambridge AICE - AS Level	European History			
WORLD GEOGRAPHY	AP Human Geography	IB Geography	Geography: Cambridge AICE - AS Level	World/Human Geography		CGRG 2113	World Regional Geography
WORLD HISTORY	AP World History	IB History of the Americas II	History (International): Cambridge AICE - AS Level		World History	CHIS 1113 CHIS 1123	World Civilization I World Civilization II
HIST OF RELIGION						CPHL 2213	World Religions
ECONOMICS	AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics	IB Economics	Economics: Cambridge AICE - AS Level	Economics		ECON 2113 CECN 2213 CECN 2223	Economic Principles Macroeconomics Microeconomics
PSYCHOLOGY ²	AP Psychology	IB Psychology				CPSY 2013	Intro to Psychology
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY ³						CHIS 2103	African American History

Dual Enrollment/Matrix Options for TOPS Core

(for increased weights when calculating TOPS GPA for incoming freshman beginning Fall 2014)

Foreign Language = 2 Units, same language	Advanced Placement	International Baccalaureate	Cambridge International (Honors)	Gifted & Talented	Honors	Dual Enrollment	
ARABIC		IB Language ab initio: Arabic IB Language B: Arabic	Arabic: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)			CARB 1013 or 1014 CARB 1023 or 1024	Elem Arabic I Elem Arabic II
FRENCH	AP French Language & Culture	IB Language ab initio: French IB Language B: French IB French IV IB French V	French: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)	French III French IV		CFRN 1013 or 1014 CFRN 1023 or 1024 CFRN 2013 or 2014 CFRN 2023	Elem French I Elem French II Intermediate French I Intermediate French II
GERMAN	AP German Lang & Culture	IB Language ab initio: German IB Language B: German	German: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)	German III German IV		CGRM 1013 or 1014 CGRM 1023 or 1024 CGRM 2013 CGRM 2023	Elem German I Elem German II Intermediate German I Intermediate German II
LATIN	AP Latin	IB Classical Language		Latin III Latin IV		CLTN 1013 or 1014 CLTN 1023 or 1024 CLTN 2013 CLTN 2023	Elem Latin I Elem Latin II Intermediate Latin I Intermediate Latin II
SPANISH	AP Spanish Lang & Culture	IB Language ab initio: Spanish IB Language B: Spanish IB Spanish IV IB Spanish V	Spanish: Cambridge AICE AS (Honors) or Spanish Literature: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)	Spanish III Spanish IV		CSPN 1013 or 1014 CSPN 1023 or 1024 CSPN 2013 or 2014 CSPN 2023	Elem Spanish I Elem Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I Intermediate Spanish II
CHINESE	AP Chinese Lang & Culture	IB Language ab initio: Chinese IB Language B: Chinese	Chinese: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)	Chinese III Chinese IV			
ITALIAN	AP Italian Lang & Culture	IB Language ab initio: Italian IB Language B: Italian		Italian III Italian IV			
JAPANESE	AP Japanese Lang & Culture	IB Language ab initio: Japanese IB Language B: Japanese	Japanese: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)	Japanese III Japanese IV			
TAGALOG							
TURKISH							
URDU							
WEST GERMANIC LANGUAGE (DUTCH)							
Indigenous Language							
COMPUTER SCIENCE⁴	AP Computer Science A						

⁴ Fall grade 9 entry 2023-2024 graduating in 2026-2027 and thereafter.

Dual Enrollment/Matrix Options for TOPS Core

(for increased weights when calculating TOPS GPA for incoming freshman beginning Fall 2014)

Computer Coding as a Foreign Language ⁵							
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Art = 1 Unit	Advanced Placement	International Baccalaureate	Cambridge International (Honors)	Gifted & Talented	Honors	Dual Enrollment	
MUSIC (Performance)		IB Music		Talented Music I, II, III, IV Small Voice Ensemble II Choir: Intermediate Choir: Advanced Orchestra: Intermediate Orchestra: Advanced			
FINE ARTS SURVEY	AP Music Theory					CART 1013 CART 1023 CDNC 1013 CMUS 1013	Exploring the Arts Introduction to Visual Arts Dance Appreciation Music Appreciation
ART	AP Art History AP Studio Art: 2-D Design AP Studio Art: 3-D Design AP Studio Art: Drawing	IB Visual Arts		Art History Talented Visual Arts I Talented Visual Arts II Talented Visual Arts III Talented Visual Arts IV		CART 2103 CART 2113 CART 1113 CART 2203	Art History I Art History II Art Structure/2-D Design Beginning Drawing
THEATRE (Performance)		IB Film Study IB Theatre IB Dance		Introduction to Film Studies Talented Theater I, II, III, IV		CTHE 2103 CTHE 2113 CTHE 1013	Acting I Acting II Introduction to Theatre

TOPS UNIVERSITY

(College Diploma) Course Requirements For Incoming Freshmen Beginning Fall 2014

English				
4 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
1 Unit	120331	✓		English I
	120617	✓		English Language Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE
	120619	✓		English Literature Part 1: Cambridge IGCSE
1 Unit	120332	✓		English II
	120618	✓		English Language Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE
	120620	✓		English Literature Part 2: Cambridge IGCSE
1 Unit	120333	✓		English III
	120329		✓	English III: Gifted
	120341		✓	English III: Honors
	120325		✓	English III: AP English Language and Composition
	120403		✓	English III: IB Literature
	120327		✓	English III: IB Language & Literature
	120404		✓	English III: IB Literature & Performance
	120601		✓	English III: DE - CENL 1013 English Composition I
	120602		✓	English III: DE - CENL 1023 English Composition II
	120603		✓	English III: DE - CENL 2153 American Literature I
	120604		✓	English III: DE - CENL 2163 American Literature II
	120605		✓	English III: DE - CENL 2173 Major American Writers
	120621		✓	English Language Part 1: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	120623		✓	Literature in English Part 1: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
1 Unit	120334	✓		English IV
	120330		✓	English IV: Gifted
	120342		✓	English IV: Honors
	120326		✓	English IV: AP English Literature and Composition
	120405		✓	English IV: IB Literature
	120328		✓	English IV: IB Language & Literature
	120406		✓	English IV: IB Literature & Performance
	120622		✓	English Language Part 2: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	120624		✓	Literature in English Part 2: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	120606		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 1013 English Composition I
	120607		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 1023 English Composition II
	120608		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2103 British Literature I
	120609		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2113 British Literature II
	120610		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2123 Major British Writers
	120611		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2203 World Literature I
	120612		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2213 World Literature II
	120613		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2223 Major World Writers
	120614		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2303 Introduction to Fiction
	120615		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2323 Introduction to Literature
	120616		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2313 Introduction to Poetry and/or Drama
	120625		✓	English IV: DE - CENL 2403 Introduction to African American Literature

Mathematics

4 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
1 Unit	160321	✓		Algebra
1 Unit	160323	✓		Geometry
1 Unit	160322	✓		Algebra II
Note: Integrated mathematics I, II, and III, including the Cambridge IGCSE integrated mathematics sequence, may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.				
1 Unit	160375	✓		Algebra III
	160508		✓	Additional Math - Cambridge IGCSE
	160500		✓	Algebra III: DE - CMAT 1213 College Algebra
	160347	✓		Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics
	160349	✓		Probability and Statistics
	165031	✓		Statistical Reasoning
	160367		✓	Probability and Statistics: Honors
	160352		✓	Probability and Statistics: AP Statistics
	160509		✓	Math 1 (Probability and Statistics): Cambridge AICE (Honors)
	160356		✓	Probability and Statistics: DE- CMAT 1303 Introductory Statistics
	160346	✓		Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus
	160501		✓	Adv Math-Pre Calc: DE- CMAT 1223 Trigonometry
	160348	✓		Pre-Calculus
	160372		✓	Pre-Calculus: Gifted
	160366		✓	Pre-Calculus: Honors
	160329		✓	Pre-Calculus: AP Pre-Calculus
	160365		✓	Pre-Calculus: IB Math Studies I
	160369		✓	Pre-Calculus: IB Math Studies II
	160502		✓	Pre-Calculus: DE - CMAT 1233 or (CMAT 1213 & 1223) Algebra and Trigonometry
	160510		✓	Math 1 (Pure Math): Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	160326	✓		Calculus
	160368		✓	Calculus: Honors
	160357		✓	Calculus I: Gifted
	160358		✓	Calculus II: Gifted
	160511		✓	Math 2 Part 1: Cambridge AICE - A Level (Honors)
	160512		✓	Math 2 Part 2: Cambridge AICE - A Level (Honors)
	160327		✓	Calculus: AP Calculus AB
	160328		✓	Calculus: AP Calculus BC
	160359		✓	Calculus: IB Mathematics SL I
	160370		✓	Calculus: IB Mathematics SL II
	160360		✓	Calculus: IB Mathematics HL I
	160371		✓	Calculus: IB Mathematics HL II
	160504		✓	Calculus: DE - CMAT 2103 Applied Calculus
	160498		✓	Calculus: DE - CMAT 2113 Differential Calculus I
	160499		✓	Calculus: DE - CMAT 2116 Integral Calculus I
	160506		✓	Calculus: DE - CMAT 2113-5 Calculus I
	160507		✓	Calculus: DE - CMAT 2123-5 Calculus II
	160355		✓	Calculus: IB Further Mathematics
	061175		✓	AP Computer Science A ¹

¹ AP Computer Science A shall be used as either an elective, a math, or foreign language credit.

Science

4 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
1 Unit	150301	✓		Biology I
	150321		✓	Biology I: DE - CBIO 1013 General Biology I
	150322		✓	Biology I: DE - CBIO 1033 General Biology I (Sci Majors)
1 Unit	150401	✓		Chemistry I
	150400		✓	Chemistry I: Honors
	150412		✓	Chemistry I: Gifted
	150413		✓	Chemistry I: DE - CCEM 1013 General Chemistry Survey I
	150414		✓	Chemistry I: DE - CCEM 1103 Chemistry I
	150415		✓	Chemistry I: DE - CCEM 1123 Chemistry I (Sci Majors)
2 Units from the following.				
No more than one course from each unit grouping will count towards the two unit requirement.				
1 Unit	150302	✓		Biology II
	150327		✓	Biology II: Gifted
	150307		✓	Biology II: AP Biology
	150305		✓	Biology II: IB Biology I
	150308		✓	Biology II: IB Biology II
	149993		✓	Biology II: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	150323		✓	Biology II: DE - CBIO 1013 General Biology I
	150324		✓	Biology II: DE - CBIO 1033 General Biology I (Sci Majors)
	150325		✓	Biology II: DE - CBIO 1023 General Biology II
	150326		✓	Biology II: DE - CBIO 1043 General Biology II (Sci Majors)
	150303		✓	Biology II: Honors
	150334	✓		Human Anatomy & Physiology
	150330		✓	Anatomy: DE - CBIO 2213 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
	150331		✓	Anatomy: DE - CBIO 2214 Human Anatomy & Physiology I (Lec/Lab)
	150332		✓	Anatomy: DE - CBIO 2223 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
	150333		✓	Anatomy: DE - CBIO 2224 Human Anatomy & Physiology II (Lec/Lab)
	149995		✓	Microbiology: DE- BIOL 2102 - General Microbiology
1 Unit	150402	✓		Chemistry II
	150416		✓	Chemistry II: Gifted
	150410		✓	Chemistry II: AP Chemistry
	150423		✓	Chemistry II: IB Chemistry I
	150411		✓	Chemistry II: IB Chemistry II
	150425		✓	Chemistry II: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	150417		✓	Chemistry II: DE - CCEM 1003 General, Organic and Biochemistry
	150418		✓	Chemistry II: DE - CCEM 1013 General Chemistry Survey I
	150419		✓	Chemistry II: DE - CCEM 1103 Chemistry I
	150420		✓	Chemistry II: DE - CCEM 1123 Chemistry I (Sci Majors)
	150421		✓	Chemistry II: DE - CCEM 1113 Chemistry II
	150422		✓	Chemistry II: DE - CCEM 1133 Chemistry II (Sci Majors)
	150424		✓	Chemistry II: Honors
	150505		✓	Organic Chemistry: DE - CCEM 2213 - Organic Chemistry I
1 Unit	150901	✓		Earth Science
	150909		✓	Earth Science: DE - CGEO 1103 Physical Geology
	150910		✓	Earth Science: DE - CGEO 1113 Historical Geology
1 Unit	150310	✓		Environmental Science
	312093	✓		Environmental Awareness
	150328		✓	Environmental Science: Honors
	150913		✓	Environmental Science: Gifted
	150914		✓	Environmental Science: DE - CEVS 1103 Environmental Science
1 Unit	150311		✓	Environmental Science: AP Environmental Science
	150312		✓	Environmental Science: IB Environmental Systems
1 Unit	150802	✓		Physical Science
	150915		✓	Physical Science: DE - CPHY 1023 Physical Science I
	110810	✓		Principles of Engineering
	110864	✓		(LSU Partnership) Principles of Engineering
	080109	✓		PLTW Principles of Engineering

Science

4 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
1 Unit	010302	✓		Agriscience II ²
1 Unit	150000 or 150700	✓		Physics I
	150699		✓	Physics: Honors
	150705		✓	Physics: Gifted
	149997	✓		Physics I: Cambridge IGCSE
	150724		✓	Physics: AP Physics I - Algebra Based
	150703		✓	Physics: IB Physics I
1 Unit	150725		✓	Physics: AP Physics II - Algebra Based
	150794		✓	Physics: AP Physics C - Electricity and Magnetism
	150795		✓	Physics: AP Physics C - Mechanics
	150704		✓	Physics: IB Physics II
	149999		✓	Physics II: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	150726		✓	Physics: DE - CPHY 2113 Physics I (Algebra/Trig Based)
	150727		✓	Physics: DE - CPHY 2114 Physics I (Lecture and Lab)
	150728		✓	Physics: DE - CPHY 2133 Physics I (Calculus Based)

² Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II and is an elective course.

Social Studies

4 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
1 Unit	220403	✓		U.S. History
	220409		✓	U.S. History: Honors
	220406		✓	U.S. History: Gifted
	220404		✓	AP U.S. History
	220405		✓	IB History of the Americas I
	220407		✓	U.S. History: DE - CHIS 2013 American History I
	220408		✓	U.S. History: DE - CHIS 2023 American History II
1 Unit	220502	✓		American Government
	220505		✓	Government: Honors
	220513		✓	Government: Gifted
	220501	✓		Civics (1st semester)
	220504	✓		Civics (2nd semester)
	220604		✓	Government: AP Government and Politics: Comparative
	220503		✓	Government: AP Government and Politics: United States
	220514		✓	Government: DE - CPOL 2013 Introduction to American Govt
	220515		✓	Government: DE - CPOL 2113 Introduction to State & Local Govt
	220516		✓	Government: DE - CPOL 2213 Introduction to Comparative Govt
2 Units from the following: No more than one course from each unit grouping will count towards the two unit requirement.				
1 Unit	220402	✓		Western Civilization
	220446		✓	Western Civilization: DE - CHIS 1013 Western Civilization I
	220447		✓	Western Civilization: DE - CHIS1023 Western Civilization II
	220410	✓		European History
	220449		✓	European History: Gifted
	220412		✓	European History: AP European History
	220453		✓	History (European): Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
1 Unit	220300	✓		World Geography
	220315		✓	World/Human Geography: Gifted
	220310		✓	World Geography: AP Human Geography
	220311		✓	World Geography: IB Geography
	220453		✓	Geography: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	220312		✓	World Geography: DE - CGRG 2113 World Regional Geography or DE-CGRC 2213 Physical Geography
1 Unit	220401	✓		World History
	220400		✓	World History: Honors
	220413		✓	World History: AP World History
	220414		✓	World History: IB World History
	220411		✓	World History: IB History of the America II
	220450		✓	World History: DE - CHIS 1113 World Civilization I
	220451		✓	World History: DE - CHIS 1123 World Civilization II
	220454		✓	History (International) : Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
1 Unit	222009	✓		History of Religion
	222013		✓	History of Religion: DE - CPHL 2213 World Religions
1 Unit	220201	✓		Economics
	220606		✓	Economics: Gifted
	220603		✓	Economics: AP Macroeconomics
	220605		✓	Economics: AP Microeconomics
	220610		✓	Economics: IB Economics
	220517		✓	Economics: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	220202		✓	Economics: DE - CECN 2113 Economic Principles
	220608		✓	Economics: DE - CECN 2213 Macroeconomics
	220609		✓	Economics: DE - CECN 2223 Microeconomics
1 Unit	222004		✓	Psychology: AP Psychology
	225011		✓	Psychology: DE - CPSY 2013 Intro to Psychology ³

³For Fall 2022 graduates and thereafter.

Social Studies				
4 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
			✓	Psychology: IB Psychology
1 Unit	220512	✓		African-American History ⁴
	220511		✓	African-American History: DE – CHIS 2103 African American History ⁴

⁴ For Spring 2022 graduates and thereafter.

Foreign Language

2 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
2 Units	123501	✓		Arabic I
	123502	✓		Arabic II
	123503	✓		Arabic III
	123504	✓		Arabic IV
	123507		✓	Arabic: IB Language ab initio
	123508		✓	Arabic: IB Language B
	123505		✓	Arabic: DE - CARB 1013/1014 Elementary Arabic I
	123506		✓	Arabic: DE - CARB 1023/1024 Elementary Arabic II
2 Units	123511		✓	Arabic Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	121001	✓		French I
	121002	✓		French II
	121003	✓		French III
	121004	✓		French IV
	121009		✓	French III: Gifted
	121010		✓	French IV: Gifted
	121006		✓	French: AP French Language and Culture
	121007		✓	French: IB Language ab initio
	121008		✓	French: IB Language B
	120999		✓	French: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	121011		✓	French: DE - CFRN 1013/1014 Elementary French I
	121012		✓	French: DE - CFRN 1023/1024 Elementary French II
	121013		✓	French: DE - CFRN 2013/2014 Intermediate French I
	121014		✓	French: DE - CFRN 2023 Intermediate French II
2 Units	121101	✓		German I
	121102	✓		German II
	121103	✓		German III
	121104	✓		German IV
	121107		✓	German III: Gifted
	121108		✓	German IV: Gifted
	121106		✓	German: AP German Language and Culture
	121113		✓	German: IB Language ab initio
	121114		✓	German: IB Language B
	120115		✓	German: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	121109		✓	German: DE - CGRM 1013/1014 Elementary German I
	121110		✓	German: DE - CGRM 1023/1024 Elementary German II
	121111		✓	German: DE / CGRM 2013 Intermediate German I
	121112		✓	German: DE / CGRM 2023 Intermediate German II
2 Units	121601	✓		Latin I
	121602	✓		Latin II
	121603	✓		Latin III
	121604	✓		Latin IV
	121607		✓	Latin III: Gifted
	121608		✓	Latin IV: Gifted
	121606		✓	Latin: AP Latin
	121613		✓	Latin: IB Classical Language
	121609		✓	Latin: DE - CLTN 1013/1014 Elementary Latin I
	121610		✓	Latin: DE - CLTN 1023/1024 Elementary Latin II
	121611		✓	Latin: DE - CLTN 2013 Intermediate Latin I
	121612		✓	Latin: DE - CLTN 2023 Intermediate Latin II
2 Units	122501	✓		Spanish I
	122502	✓		Spanish II
	122503	✓		Spanish III
	122504	✓		Spanish IV
	122509		✓	Spanish III: Gifted
	122510		✓	Spanish IV: Gifted
	122506		✓	Spanish: AP Spanish Language and Culture

Foreign Language

2 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
	122507		✓	Spanish: IB Language ab initio
	122508		✓	Spanish: IB Language B
	122498		✓	Spanish: IB Spanish IV
	122499		✓	Spanish: IB Spanish V
	122600		✓	Spanish: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	122601		✓	Spanish Literature: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
	122511		✓	Spanish: DE - CSPN 1013/1014 Elementary Spanish I
	122512		✓	Spanish: DE - CSPN 1023/1024 Elementary Spanish II
	122513		✓	Spanish: DE - CSPN 2013/2014 Intermediate Spanish I
	122514		✓	Spanish: DE - CSPN 2023 Intermediate Spanish II
2 Units	123101	✓		Chinese I
	123102	✓		Chinese II
	123103	✓		Chinese III
	123104	✓		Chinese IV
	123108		✓	Chinese III: Gifted
	123109		✓	Chinese IV: Gifted
	123106		✓	Chinese: AP Chinese Language and Culture
	123110		✓	Chinese: IB Language ab initio
	123107		✓	Chinese: IB Language B
	123124		✓	Chinese: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
2 Units	121401	✓		Italian I
	121402	✓		Italian II
	121403	✓		Italian III
	121404	✓		Italian IV
	121407		✓	Italian III: Gifted
	121408		✓	Italian IV: Gifted
	121406		✓	Italian: AP Italian Language and Culture
	121409		✓	Italian: IB Language ab initio
	121410		✓	Italian: IB Language B
2 Units	121501	✓		Japanese I
	121502	✓		Japanese II
	121503	✓		Japanese III
	121504	✓		Japanese IV
	121506		✓	Japanese III: Gifted
	121507		✓	Japanese IV: Gifted
	121505		✓	Japanese: AP Japanese Language and Culture
	121508		✓	Japanese: IB Language ab initio
	121509		✓	Japanese: IB Language B
	121510		✓	Japanese: Cambridge AICE - AS (Honors)
2 Units	121200	✓		Hindi I
	121201	✓		Hindi II
	121202	✓		Hindi III
	121203	✓		Hindi IV
2 Units	121700	✓		Portuguese I
	121701	✓		Portuguese II
	121702	✓		Portuguese III
	121703	✓		Portuguese IV
2 Units	123520	✓		Vietnamese I
	123521	✓		Vietnamese II
	123522	✓		Vietnamese III
	123523	✓		Vietnamese IV
2 Units	123530	✓		Korean I
	123531	✓		Korean II
	123532	✓		Korean III
	123533	✓		Korean IV

Foreign Language

2 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
2 Units	122001	✓		Russian I
	122002	✓		Russian II
	122003	✓		Russian III
	122004	✓		Russian IV
2 Units	123301	✓		Hebrew I
	123302	✓		Hebrew II
	123303	✓		Hebrew III
	123304	✓		Hebrew IV
2 Units	123201	✓		Greek I
	123202	✓		Greek II
	123203	✓		Greek III
	123204	✓		Greek IV
2 Units	123456	✓		American Sign Language I
	123457	✓		American Sign Language II
2 Units	121150	✓		Indigenous Language I
	121151	✓		Indigenous Language II
2 Units	061175		✓	AP Computer Science A ⁵
	061102	✓		Computer Science ⁵
2 Units	121300	✓		Computer Coding as a Foreign Language I ⁶
	121301	✓		Computer Coding as a Foreign Language II ⁶
2 Units		✓		Tagalog I
		✓		Tagalog II
		✓		Tagalog III
		✓		Tagalog IV
2 Units		✓		Turkish I
		✓		Turkish II
		✓		Turkish III
		✓		Turkish IV
2 Units		✓		Urdu I
		✓		Urdu II
		✓		Urdu III
		✓		Urdu IV
2 Units		✓		West Germanic Languages (Dutch) I
		✓		West Germanic Languages (Dutch) II
		✓		West Germanic Languages (Dutch) III
		✓		West Germanic Languages (Dutch) IV

⁵ For Fall grade 9 entry 2023-2024 students graduating in 2026-2027 and thereafter. AP Computer Science A may be used as either an elective, a math, or foreign language credit.

⁶ For Fall grade 9 entry 2023-2024 graduating in 2026-2027 and thereafter. Computer Coding as a Foreign Language shall be aligned to a coding language approved by the Louisiana Workforce Commission to the Industry Based Certification State Focus List.

Art

1 Unit Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
1 Unit	030501	✓		Art I
	030502	✓		Art II
	030503	✓		Art III
	030504	✓		Art IV
	110560	✓		Art: Drafting
	030596		✓	Art History: Gifted
	030597		✓	Art: AP Art History
	030595		✓	Art History: DE - CART 2103 Art History I
	030594		✓	Art History: DE- CART 2113 Art History II
	030514		✓	Studio Art Design: Talented Visual Arts I
	030515		✓	Studio Art Design: Talented Visual Arts II
	030516		✓	Studio Art Design: Talented Visual Arts III
	030517		✓	Studio Art Design: Talented Visual Arts IV
	030520		✓	Studio Art Design: DE - CART 1113 Art Structure/2-D Design
	030521		✓	Studio Art Drawing: DE - CART 2203 Beginning Drawing
	030509		✓	Art: AP Studio Art: 2-D Design
	030508		✓	Art: AP Studio Art: 3-D Design
	030519		✓	Art: AP Studio Art: Drawing
	030522		✓	Art: IB Visual Arts
	030360	✓		Applied Music
	030300	✓		Beginning Band
	190110	✓		Marching Band
	030310	✓		Beginning Choir
	030353	✓		Sectional Rehearsal
	030361	✓		Studio Piano I
	030362	✓		Studio Piano II
	030363	✓		Studio Piano III
	030480	✓		Studio Strings I
	030481	✓		Studio Strings II
	030482	✓		Studio Strings III
	030301	✓		Intermediate Band
	030311	✓		Intermediate Choir
	030439		✓	Music: Talented Choir: Intermediate
	030302	✓		Advanced Band
	030312	✓		Advanced Choir
	030440		✓	Music: Talented Choir: Advanced
	030320	✓		Beginning Orchestra
	030321	✓		Intermediate Orchestra
	030459		✓	Music: Talented Orchestra: Intermediate
	030322	✓		Advanced Orchestra
	030460		✓	Music: Talented Orchestra: Advanced
	030313	✓		Small Voice Ensemble
	030449		✓	Music: Talented Small Voice Ensemble II
	030303	✓		Wind Ensemble
	030304	✓		Jazz Ensemble
	030352	✓		Guitar Class
	030350	✓		Piano Class
	030341	✓		Music Theory I
	030342	✓		Music Theory II
	030318	✓		Music and Media
	030319	✓		Music and Technology
	030371		✓	Music: Talented Music I
	030372		✓	Music: Talented Music II
	030373		✓	Music: Talented Music III

Art

1 Unit Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
	030374		✓	Music: Talented Music IV
	030365		✓	Music: IB Music I
	030366		✓	Music: IB Music II
	030332	✓		Fine Arts Survey
	030364		✓	Fine Arts Survey: AP Music Theory
	030590		✓	Fine Arts Survey: DE - CMUS 1013 Music Appreciation
	030591		✓	Fine Arts Survey: DE - CDNC 1013 Dance Appreciation
	030592		✓	Fine Arts Survey: DE - CART 1023 Introduction to Visual Arts
	030593		✓	Fine Arts Survey: DE - CART 1013 Exploring the Arts
	030600	✓		Dance I
	030621	✓		Dance II
	030631	✓		Dance III
	030641	✓		Dance IV
	030719		✓	Dance: IB Dance
	030700	✓		Theatre I
	030721	✓		Theatre II
	030731	✓		Theatre III
	030741	✓		Theatre IV
	030701	✓		Technical Theatre
	030702	✓		Theatre Design and Technology
	030710		✓	Theatre: Talented Theatre I
	030711		✓	Theatre: Talented Theatre II
	030712		✓	Theatre: Talented Theatre III
	030713		✓	Theatre: Talented Theatre IV
	030718		✓	Theatre: IB Theatre
	030709		✓	Theatre: Talented Introduction to Film Studies
	030706		✓	Theatre: IB Film Study I
	030707		✓	Theatre: IB Film Study II
	030708		✓	Theatre: IB Film Study III
	030715		✓	Theatre: DE - CTHE 2103 Acting I
	030716		✓	Theatre: DE - CTHE 2113 Acting II
	030717		✓	Theatre: DE - CTHE 1013 Introduction to Theatre
	030810	✓		Media Arts I
	030820	✓		Media Art II
	030830	✓		Media Arts III
	030840	✓		Media Arts IV
	312400	✓		Photography I
	312405	✓		Photography II
	312414	✓		Digital Photography
	040241	✓		Digital Storytelling (LSU Partnership)
	080020	✓		Sound Design (LSU Partnership)
	080021	✓		Digital Image and Motion Graphics (LSU Partnership)
	110860	✓		Engineering Design and Development
	110861	✓		Engineering Design and Development (LSU Partnership)
	051103	✓		Speech III ⁷
	051104	✓		Speech IV ⁷

⁷ Speech III and IV (1 Unit Combined).

Physical Education				
1.5 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
1 Unit	190105	✓		Physical Education I
	190100	✓		Adapted Physical Education I ⁸
	170001	✓		JROTC I ⁹
	170002	✓		JROTC II
	170003	✓		JROTC III
	170004	✓		JROTC IV
½ Unit	190106	✓		Physical Education II
	190097	✓		Adapted Physical Education II
	170001	✓		JROTC I
	170002	✓		JROTC II
	170003	✓		JROTC III
	170004	✓		JROTC IV
	190110	✓		Marching Band
	190113	✓		Extracurricular Sports
	190111	✓		Cheerleading
	190112	✓		Dance Team

Health Education				
.5 Units Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
½ Unit	190500	✓		Health Education
2 Units	170001	✓		JROTC I ⁹
	170002	✓		JROTC II

Electives ¹⁰				
2 Units ¹⁰ Required	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
2 Units	Electives			

Financial Literacy ¹¹				
1 Unit Required ¹¹	Course Code	TOPS		Course Title
		4 Point Scale	5 Point Scale	
1 Unit	160345	✓		Financial Literacy

TOPS University Diploma Minimum Course Requirements				
Total 24 Units				

⁸ Adapted physical education restricted to eligible special education student

⁹ In schools having approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) training, credits may, at the option of the local school board, be substituted for the required credits in physical education and JROTC I and II may be used to meet the health education requirement provided the following requirements are met. A minimum of 2000 minutes of instructional time shall be devoted to health education in JROTC I and in JROTC II. Students must take both JROTC I and JROTC II to meet the health education requirement. All of the standards and GLEs for health shall be covered in JROTC I and JROTC II. JROTC I and JROTC II shall include instruction in CPR, automated external defibrillators, and content relative to dating violence as required by state law

¹⁰ For Fall grade 9 entry 2024-2025 and thereafter, 2 electives are required. For grade 9 entry prior to 2024-2025, 3 electives are required.

¹¹ For Fall grade 9 entry 2024-2025 and thereafter, financial literacy is required. For grade 9 entry prior to 2024-2025, financial literacy is not required.



Louisiana Extension Academy Programs

Background Information

Under the authority of R.S. 17:151.1, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and the Board of Regents (BOR) released a request for applications for Louisiana Extension Academy programs beginning in September 2019. This legislation was adopted in response to the need for greater connection among high schools, colleges, and employers.

Extension Academy programs are designed to support students on track to graduate but not on track to participate in a high-value postsecondary college or training program that leads to an associate's degree, a registered pre-apprenticeship, or an advanced Industry-Based Credential (IBC).

Staff Summary

Extension academies specifically support students on track for high school graduation but not on track to participate in a high-value postsecondary college or training program: for example: 1) students graduating on a TOPS University diploma pathway who are not eligible for TOPS or 2) students graduating on a Jump Start TOPS Tech diploma who are not on track to earn an advanced credential and who are not eligible for TOPS Tech. Schools implementing these programs are authorized by BESE and the Board of Regents for three years.

Currently, three Extension Academy programs exist, one in Caddo Parish (approved 2025-2028), one in Orleans Parish (approved 2024–2027), and the Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy in Baton Rouge (approved 2025-2028).

Staff Analysis

The Louisiana Extension Academy programs accomplish the following:

- Provide a debt-free, accelerated, dual-enrollment college experience;
- Increase employment readiness through employer-driven work-based learning experiences;
- Ensure significant work toward Regents-recognized degrees or participation in registered apprenticeships; and
- Facilitate student success through postsecondary transitional coaching.

Seeking Approval

Helix Community Schools for Baker High School

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is to approve the Extension Academy school site for the 2025–2026 through 2027–2028 school years.



CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL SYSTEM

"Building Baker Forward"

July 9, 2025

J.T. Stroder
Superintendent

Subject: Approval of Extension Academy

Board Members

Linda B. Perkins
District 1

Alteen Profit
District 2

Joyce Burges
Vice-President
District 3

Monique Butler
President
District 4

Clara J. W. Joseph
District 5

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to officially approve the establishment and implementation of the Extension Academy for Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy, effective August 2025. This strategy aligns with our district's strategic goals to expand academic opportunities, provide flexible pathways for student success, and support students through the post-secondary transition.

The Extension Academy is designed to offer students who are on track to graduate, but do not currently qualify for low-cost, high-value, post-secondary credentials, to participate in a low-cost, post-secondary college or training program to attain a Regents-recognized associate degree, a registered pre-apprenticeship, or an advanced Industry Based Credential.

I believe that this academy will offer significant benefits to our scholars, including:

- Providing a debt-free, accelerated, dual enrollment college experience
- Preparing students for work, through employer driven work-based learning experiences, internships, or apprenticeships
- Ensuring the attainment of Regents-recognized associate degrees, registered apprenticeships, or an advanced Industry Based Credential; and
- Facilitating student success after graduation through post-secondary transitional coaching.

I recognize the importance of adapting to the evolving needs of our students and community and providing innovative programs that respond to those needs. The Extension Academy represents a significant step in that direction, and I commend the Helix team and staff who have contributed to its development.

Sincerely,


Monique Butler



CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL SYSTEM

"Building Baker Forward"

J.T. Stroder
Superintendent

July 9, 2025

Board Members

Linda B. Perkins
District 1

Alteen Profit
District 2

Joyce Burges
Vice President
District 3

Monique Butler
President
District 4

Clara J. W. Joseph
District 5

Subject: Approval of Extension Academy

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to officially approve the establishment and implementation of the Extension Academy for Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy, effective August 2025. This strategy aligns with our district's strategic goals to expand academic opportunities, provide flexible pathways for student success, and support students through the post- secondary transition.

The Extension Academy is designed to offer students who are on track to graduate, but do not currently qualify for low-cost, high-value, post-secondary credentials, to participate in a low-cost, post-secondary college or training program to attain a Regents-recognized associate degree, a registered pre-apprenticeship, or an advanced Industry Based Credential.

I believe that this academy will offer significant benefits to our scholars, including:

- Providing a debt-free, accelerated, dual enrollment college experience
- Preparing students for work, through employer driven work-based learning experiences, internships, or apprenticeships
- Ensuring the attainment of Regents-recognized associate degrees, registered apprenticeships, or an advanced Industry Based Credential; and
- Facilitating student success after graduation through post-secondary transitional coaching.

I recognize the importance of adapting to the evolving needs of our students and community and providing innovative programs that respond to those needs. The Extension Academy represents a significant step in that direction, and I commend the Helix team and staff who have contributed to its development.

Sincerely,

Monique Butler
Board President, City of Baker Schools

James T. Stroder
Superintendent of Schools

August 2025 BESE/Regents Joint Meeting

August 20, 2025



Agenda Item 1.1

Call to Order



Agenda Item 1.2

Roll Call



Agenda Item 2.1

Approval of BESE/BOR Minutes December 11, 2024



Agenda Item 3.1

Consideration of an Update Report Regarding Course Additions to the TOPS University Core Requirements



Agenda Item 3.1

Report Regarding Course Additions to the TOPS University Core Requirements

Requested Additions:

- **Foreign Language Category**

Inclusion of the following language courses:

- *Tagalog* I, II, III, IV
- *Turkish* I, II, III, IV
- *Urdu* I, II, III, IV
- *West Germanic Languages (Dutch)* I, II, III, IV

- **Social Science Category**

- *Psychology IB*



Recommendation

BOR and LDOE staff request that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Board (BESE) and the Board of Regents (BOR) review and approve the specified courses for inclusion in the TOPS and BOR Core. Specifically, for students entering grade 9 in the 2025–2026 academic year and graduating in 2028–2029 or later, the courses shall be eligible for meeting TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors or Excellence Award requirements.



Agenda Item 3.2

**Consideration of an Update Report Regarding Act 347
of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session (TOPS
Excellence)**



Agenda Item 3.2

Informational Report on Act 347 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session (TOPS Excellence)

- The **Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)** is the Louisiana state scholarship program designed to provide financial assistance to eligible students attending approved Louisiana postsecondary institutions.
- TOPS includes multiple award levels – Tech, Opportunity, Performance, Honors, and **now Excellence** – offering tiered benefits based on a student's academic performance.



Agenda Item 3.2

Informational Report on Act 347 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session (TOPS Excellence)

Award Type	ACT Score Requirement*	Core GPA Requirement
Tech	≥ 17	2.50
Opportunity	≥ 20	2.50
Performance	≥ 23	3.25
Honors	≥ 27	3.50
Excellence	≥ 31	3.50

**or other identified equivalent exam*

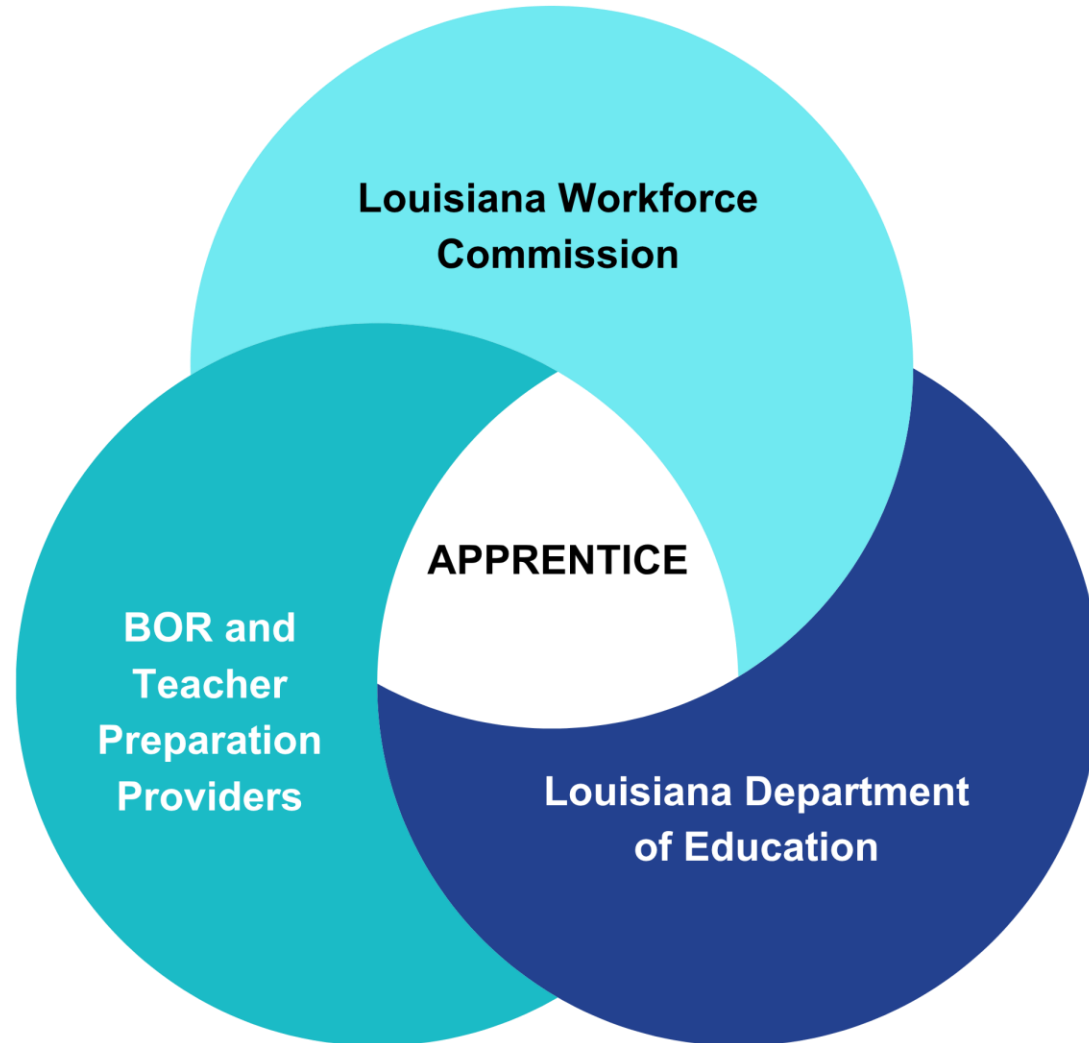


Agenda Item 3.3

Consideration of an Update Report Regarding the Tri-Agency Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative



Tri-Agency Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative



Understanding Teacher Apprenticeships

Residents currently follow this model through a four-year Teacher Preparation Program (TPP):

Year	Course Load	Financial Responsibility
Year 1	Students attend TPP within a general classroom setting. Some time may be spent in observation/support of other K-12 classrooms.	Student pays tuition while attending classes.
Year 2	Student attends TPP within a general classroom setting. Some time may be spent in observation/support of other K-12 classrooms.	Student pays tuition while attending classes.
Year 3	Student attends TPP within a general classroom setting. Some time may be spent in observation/support of other K-12 classrooms.	Student pays tuition while attending classes.
Year 4	Student is a Resident in a K-12 setting aligned to their desired certification.	Student pays tuition during their residency.

** Currently Residents receive a small stipend.*



Understanding Teacher Apprenticeships

The proposed Apprenticeship Model:

Period of Training	Potential Apprentice Pay	Percent of Certified Rate
Year 1 of Apprenticeship (Year 4 of Undergraduate Program)	\$20,339	43% of a Fully Certified Teacher. No less than a Paraeducator.
Year 2 of Apprenticeship (Year 1 of Full Employment)	\$47,300	100% of Certified Rate



Why Registered Teacher Apprenticeships?

Desired outcomes for a Teacher Apprentice compared to a Teacher Resident:

- Lower cost to obtain certification
- Access to pay and benefits while an apprentice
- Stronger ties to the system/school due to a more significant onboarding process and potentially guaranteed employment.



Desired Outcomes for Teacher Preparation Program Provider

- Access to new funding sources to support current and future aspiring teachers and teacher apprentices
- Increased enrollment
- Wider pool of potential teachers from which to draw
- Improved outcomes for graduates
- Increased enrollment in courses/content aligned with more difficult staff positions
- Can be used to fill existing gaps in paraeducator vacancies
- Increased retention due to employment contracts and positive experiences



Agenda Item 3.4

Consideration of an Update Report Regarding the Task Force on Career Alignment



Agenda Item 3.4

Informational Report on the Task Force on Career Alignment

The purposes of the Task Force on Career Alignment are to:

- **Develop a statewide strategy for education-to-career counseling** to better connect students in public postsecondary institutions with Louisiana-based job opportunities and reduce graduate out-migration.
- **Align higher education programs with workforce needs** by strengthening partnerships between institutions, employers, and state agencies, integrating employer feedback, and expanding access to internships and apprenticeships.
- **Enhance graduate retention and career readiness** through the implementation of best practices, accountability frameworks, and the effective use of existing state and private resources for career counseling initiatives.
- Superintendent Cade Brumley is included on the Task Force to promote K-12 alignment.



Agenda Item 3.4

Informational Report on the Task Force on Career Alignment

The Task Force will work to achieve its goals by:



Expanding work-based learning opportunities and improving career coaching in Louisiana



Developing accountability measures



Convening to develop detailed recommendations

Agenda Item 3.5

Consideration of Extension Academy, City of Baker Schools



Recommendation

BOR and LDOE staff request that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Board (BESE) and the Board of Regents (BOR) approve the Extension Academy school site (Helix Community Schools for Baker High School) for the 2025–2026 through 2027–2028 school years.



Closing Remarks

- Dr. Cade Brumley, State Superintendent
Louisiana Department of Education
- Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for
Strategic Planning and Student Success
Louisiana Board of Regents

