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BOARD OF REGENTS

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AGENDA
STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 26, 2018 • 11:05 a.m.
Claiborne Building
Louisiana Purchase Room
1201 North Third Street, First Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. Scholarship and Grant Final Rules
 - B. Chafee Educational Training and Voucher Program Rulemaking
 - C. Approval of TOPS Exceptions
 - D. Approval of TOPS Exceptions to Deadline for Filing a FAFSA
- IV. Update on Implementation of Hazing Prevention Laws and Policies
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: T. Jay Seale III, Chair, Jacqueline Wyatt, Vice Chair, Claudia Adley
Marty Chabert, Richard Lipsey, Charles McDonald, Wilbert Pryor, Collis Temple III

**Consent Agenda
Agenda Item III.A.**

The Board of Regents authorize publication of the final rule to amend Sections 509, 703, 803, and 2113 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to implement Act 671 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and to add course equivalents to the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards core curriculum and to the TOPS Tech Core Curriculum.

BACKGROUND:

At its June 20, 2018, meeting, the Louisiana Board of Regents authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to effect the below-described rule changes. The Notice of Intent was published in the Louisiana Register on July 20, 2018. The text of the rule changes is reflected on the attached excerpts from the Louisiana Register.

No comments have been received.

This Rulemaking implements the following changes as a result of Act 671 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature:

- Provides that students are not required to earn credit for both AP Physics I and AP Physics II in order to receive credit towards the TOPS core curriculum science requirement.
- Adds Physics to the TOPS Tech core curriculum.
- Provides that a student may first qualify for a TOPS Award on a test taken after the national ACT test date in April of the year of high school graduation if the student was prevented from taking the test on or before that test due to circumstances beyond his control and which was attributable to the administration of the test. Students must earn a qualifying score no later than August 1 of the year of high school graduation. No penalty will be assessed the students under the provisions of this part.
- Provides that the Board of Regents is responsible for establishing course equivalencies for any course included in the definition of core curriculum and that it must consult with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in establishing such equivalents.

This rulemaking implements the following changes to the TOPS OPH core curriculum:

- Digital Image and Motion Graphics, Digital Storytelling, Engineering Design and Development, and Sound Design as equivalents to Art;
- Environmental Awareness as an equivalent to Environmental Science;
- Physical Geography as an equivalent to World Geography
- Statistical Reasoning as an equivalent to Probability and Statistics;
- Principles of Engineering as an equivalent to Physical Science.

This rulemaking also adds Transition to College Math and Statistical Reasoning as equivalents to any of the second and third math choices in the TOPS Tech core curriculum.

This rulemaking also provides that dual enrollment Physical Geography is a course that will be graded on a 5.0 scale for purposes of calculating a student TOPS grade point average.

**Consent Agenda
Agenda Item III.B.**

The Board of Regents adopt rulemaking to amend the Chafee Educational Training and Voucher Program administrative rules to implement new federal guidelines in emergency rules, authorize the Executive Director of LOSFA to publish notice of the emergency rules, and authorize the Executive Director to publish notice of intent to make these rules permanent.

BACKGROUND:

In the fall semester of 2010, LOSFA began making payments to postsecondary institutions on behalf of students who qualified to receive the Chafee Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The Chafee ETV Program provides up to \$5,000 per academic year to students who are or were in the foster care system.

DCFS notified LOSFA on August 23, 2018, that changes to this program were made at the federal level and requested that the administrative rules be amended to comply with those changes, as follows:

- Decrease the minimum age of eligibility to 14 from 16;
- Increase the maximum age of eligibility to 26 from 23, provided that the student has been enrolled in postsecondary education and is making satisfactory academic progress in their program of study;
- Limit eligibility to a maximum of 5 years, whether or not those years are consecutive;
- Provide that youth who exit the foster care system through legal guardianship, adoption, aging out of the system, or other reasons may qualify.

DCFS has reviewed the attached rulemaking, and has advised that it provides all necessary amendments at this time.

Consent Agenda Agenda Item III.C.

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.

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 his immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution."

Three requests for exception were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of September 6, 2018. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

Consent Agenda Agenda Item III.D.

Requests for exception to the TOPS regulatory provision that requires a student to file the FAFSA no later than 120 days after the July 1 following the one year anniversary of student's high school graduation.

BACKGROUND:

The TOPS statute requires that a student apply for a TOPS award and that the Board provide a deadline for filing the application. The Board's rules require a student to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the TOPS On-Line Application no later than the July 1 following the one year anniversary of the student's graduation from high school to receive the full TOPS award. The student can file up to 120 days following this deadline, but the student's award will be reduced by two semesters.

The Board's rules do not provide for an exception to the FAFSA deadline, but the Board has allowed a student

to file the FAFSA late under extremely limited circumstances when the student was able to demonstrate that it was not possible to file timely due to circumstances totally outside the student's control.

Two requests for exception were reviewed by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of September 6, 2018, and after discussion, the LOSFA Advisory Board determined that the students had presented facts and documentation that justify the granting of an exception, and it recommends approval of the students' requests.