

SB99

Senator Fields

An expansion in 2018 to include the July ACT testing date would have equated to 8 additional TOPS Tech program awards and an increase of 4 TOPS Opportunity awards



TOPS Edits and Updates

Responding to current student needs and situations

THE GOAL

This bill responds to the request of the Taylor Opportunity Program Scholarships (TOPS) Task Force to provide an annual report of issues relative to TOPS which would require legislative action to address. The bill will allow for an ACT deadline extension in light of COVID-19 delays and add the July ACT testing date for TOPS eligibility. It will also make technical changes, as well as changes that protect students from being penalized due to circumstances beyond their control, including in certain homeschooling situations.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Specifically, the bill seeks to address the following:

- providing for an ACT deadline extension for 2021 graduates due to COVID-19 (granted previously to 2020 graduates)
- making a technical change to comply with federal regulations regarding accrediting agencies (language will change from “regional accrediting agency” to “institutional accrediting agency”)
- allowing a July ACT testing date after high school graduation to be a qualifying score for TOPS eligibility with a one semester penalty
- providing to allow for exceptions to the TOPS requirement that students begin homeschooling before 11th grade to the TOPS requirement that students begin homeschooling before 11th grade.



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