



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

SB178

SEN. FIELDS

A TOTAL OF
15,528
TOPS PROGRAM
STUDENT
EXCEPTIONS
WERE GRANTED
OUT OF THE
24,639
WHO WERE
ELIGIBLE TO
RECEIVE
AUTOMATIC
EXCEPTION
IN THE WAKE
OF HURRICANE
IDA AND/OR
DUE TO COVID.

TOPS/IDA EXECUTIVE ORDER CODIFICATION

THE GOAL

This bill will codify changes made via Executive Order to the TOPS program that protected students from being penalized due to circumstances beyond their control stemming from Hurricane Ida.

THE CHALLENGE

In the wake of a declared emergency there are often situations that prevent students from completing courses, taking required tests or otherwise that would negatively impact their TOPS program eligibility or status. The Governor issued executive orders following Hurricane Ida that allowed for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid to administer exceptions stemming from those situations. This bill will codify those Hurricane Ida-related exceptions only into law.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The bill seeks to codify into statutory law Gov. Edwards' Proclamation No. 183 ordering the waiver of certain initial and continuing TOPS eligibility necessitated by Hurricane Ida disruptions.

