

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

***Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)  
Bulletin***

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DISTRIBUTION:	College, University and LAICU Chancellors, Financial Aid Offices, Business Offices, Registrars and Auditors; Louisiana Legislators, Officials and the Congressional Delegation; Higher Education Board; Libraries; Commission Members; Technical College Campus Deans and Student Personnel Services Officers
TOPICS:	Notice of Changes to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)

To assure that your *Rules* remain current, please record this document on your Bulletin index and retain it with your manual.

The purpose of this bulletin is to outline changes to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS).

**TOPS Application Deadline Change**

Effective Date: 2010 Graduating Class

On September 15, 2010, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission amended Section 505 of the Scholarship and Grant Program rules to modify the TOPS application deadline. Effective with the 2010 high school graduating class, students who file their TOPS application on or before July 1 following the one year anniversary of high school graduation, (July 1, 2011 for 2010 graduates), will receive their TOPS award beginning with their first semester, quarter or term of full time enrollment in an eligible Louisiana college. The TOPS payment will not be made until the application is received, the student has been determined eligible for a TOPS award and has enrolled in an eligible Louisiana college and an eligible college has billed LOSFA.

See the Emergency Rule at [http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/policy4\\_SG11123E.pdf](http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/policy4_SG11123E.pdf)

The Emergency Rules that implement the following acts can be seen at

[http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/policy4\\_SG10120E.pdf](http://www.osfa.state.la.us/MainSitePDFs/policy4_SG10120E.pdf)

**Act 201 - TOPS**

**Increase of National Guard Stipends**

Effective date: June 14, 2010

Beginning with the 2010-11 academic year, the amount to be awarded for the cost of books and instructional materials for National Guard members will increase from \$150 per semester to \$300 per semester and National Guard stipends will increase from \$200 to \$400 per semester for the Performance Award and from \$400 to \$800 per semester for the Honors Award. TOPS Tech eligible students will also be provided the book and instructional materials allowance.

**Act 724 - TOPS**

**TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors at Proprietary and Cosmetology Schools**

Effective date: June 29, 2010

Beginning with the 2010-11 academic year, students awarded the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors awards may use their award to attend approved proprietary and cosmetology schools.

**ACT 758 – TOPS**

**Changes to TOPS Core Curriculum**

Effective date: 2014 Graduating Class

Beginning with 2014 high school graduates, the TOPS core curriculum will require completion of 19 units. The ½ unit computer science and additional unit of math or science will be deleted and one unit of each of advanced math, advanced science and social studies will be added.

**Act 647 – TOPS Tech**

**WorkKeys Silver Level Score for TOPS TECH Eligibility**

Effective date: July 1, 2010

Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system may be used as an alternative to the requirement to earn a composite score of 17 on the ACT.