2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 372

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA: Provides relative to computer science as a high school graduation requirement

1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5025.7(introductory paragraph) and 5026(F)(introductory

3   paragraph) and to repeal Section 6(A) and (D) of Act No. 211 of the 2024 Regular

4   Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, relative to curricula; to provide relative to

5   Computer Science as a required high school course; to provide for alignment with

6   the core curriculum requirements for qualifications for TOPS awards; to provide for

7   applicability; and to provide for related matters.

8   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9   Section 1.   R.S. 17:5025.7(introductory paragraph) and 5026(F)(introductory

10   paragraph) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11   §5025.7. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance, and

12   Honors Awards; students graduating ~~in the~~ 2027-2028 ~~school year~~ through

13   2029-2030 school years

14   To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant

15   to this Chapter, a student who graduated during or after the 2027-2028 school year

16   but not later than the 2029-2030 school year shall have successfully completed a core

17   curriculum which consists of twenty units of high school course work as follows:

18   *   *   *

19   §5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

20   *   *   *

1   F. For a student graduating during or after the 2027-2028 school year but

2   prior to the 2030-2031 school year to be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant

3   to this Chapter, the student shall have successfully completed the core curriculum

4   requirements of R.S. 17:5025 or the core curriculum defined as follows:

5   *   *   *

6   Section 2. Section 6.(A) and (D) of Act No. 211 of the 2024 Regular Session of the

7   Legislature of Louisiana are hereby repealed in their entirety.

8   Section 3. The provisions of R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f) as amended by

9   Section 2 of Act No. 211 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana shall

10   apply as follows:

11   (A) R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b) and (c), relative to the authorization that computer

12   science may count as math and science credits for a high school career major, shall apply to

13   students who enter the ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter.

14   (B) R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(f), relative to the requirement that one of the nine Jump

15   Start courses required for a high school career major be computer science unless computer

16   science is taken to fulfill a math or science credit, shall apply to students who enter the ninth

17   grade during the 2027-2028 school year and thereafter.

18   Section 4. The provisions of R.S. 17:280.3(A), as enacted by Section 4 of Act No.

19   211 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, shall be implemented as

20   follows:

21   (A) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1), relative to the requirement that each public high school

22   provide computer science instruction to its students, shall initially be implemented beginning

23   with the 2026-2027 school year.

24   (B) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1), relative to the requirement that each public high school

25   student successfully complete a one-credit computer science course to qualify for high

26   school graduation, shall apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2027-2028

27   school year and thereafter.

28   (C) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(2) shall initially be implemented beginning with the 2026-

29   2027 school year.

1   (D) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(3)) shall initially be implemented beginning with the 2027-

2   2028 school year.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute
part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 372 Engrossed   2025 Regular Session   Hughes

Abstract: Provides relative to computer science as a requirement for high school
graduation.

Relative to the requirement of completion of a one unit Computer Science course for:

(1)   Graduation from a public high school, including charter schools. Present law applies
to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2026-2027 school year and
thereafter. Proposed law (R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1)) changes this requirement to apply
to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2027-2028 school year and
thereafter.

(2)   A high school career diploma. Present law requires a student to complete one
mathematics elective course, one science elective course, and nine credits in Jump
Start courses to be eligible for a career diploma. Further requires that one of these
11 credits be Computer Science for students who enter the ninth grade during the
2025-2026 school year and thereafter. Proposed law (R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(f))
changes this requirement to apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the
2027-2028 school year and thereafter.

(3)   A TOPS award. Present law (R.S. 17:5025) requires a student to complete one
mathematics elective course, two science elective courses, and two units in either
Foreign Language or Computer Science to be eligible for a TOPS award. Further
requires that one of these five credits be Computer Science for students graduating
in the 2028-2029 school year and thereafter. Proposed law changes this requirement
to apply to students who graduate during the 2030-2031 school year and thereafter.

(4)   A TOPS-Tech award. Present law (R.S. 17:5026(A)) requires a student to complete
one mathematics elective course, one science elective course, and nine credits in
Jump Start courses to be eligible for a TOPS-Tech award. Further requires that one
of these 11 credits be Computer Science for students graduating in the 2028-2029
school year and thereafter. Proposed law changes this requirement to apply to
students who graduate during the 2030-2031 school year and thereafter.

Present law requires each public school, including charter schools, to provide instruction in
computer science as follows:

(1)   Elementary school: prior to the 2027-2028 school year.

(2)   Middle school: prior to the 2026-2027 school year.

(3)   High school: prior to the 2026-2027 school year.

Proposed law (R.S. 17:280.3) changes the timing of this requirement to the beginning of such school years.

(Amends R.S. 17:5025.7(intro. para.) and 5026(F)(intro. para); Repeals Section 6(A) and (D) of Act No. 211 of the 2024 R.S.)

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.