

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 794 (HB 325)

2026 Regular Session

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Existing law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a merit scholarship program for students who meet certain academic criteria in high school and other requirements. Prior law required full-time enrollment for all students. New law authorizes TOPS awards for part-time students in certain circumstances.

Existing law provides for four award levels, including TOPS-Tech, for which academic initial eligibility criteria include both of the following:

- (1) GPA of at least 2.5 on the specific TOPS-Tech high school core curriculum provided in existing law.
- (2) ACT score of at least 17 or silver on WorkKeys.

New law adds a third academic criterion: at least nine credit hours of early college credit attained through dual enrollment courses or equivalent validated skills and learning measures as approved by the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council. Provides that a student qualifies for a TOPS-Tech award if he meets at least two of the three criteria. New law is applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2026-2027 academic year.

Existing law establishes criteria for continued receipt of TOPS-Tech awards. New law provides that, beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, these criteria also apply to part-time students.

New law restricts funding for TOPS-Tech awards for part-time students to remaining funding appropriated for full-time TOPS awards.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 8, 2026).

(Amends R.S. 17:5001 and 5042; Adds R.S. 17:5024(D) and 5065(E))