

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 325

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRASS, BROUSSARD, CARLSON, CARVER,  
EDMONSTON, TERRY LANDRY, MARTINEZ, ST. BLANC, AND TAYLOR

TOPS: Revises initial academic eligibility requirements for a TOPS-Tech award

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:5024(D), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to revise  
3 academic initial eligibility criteria for a TOPS-Tech award; to provide for  
4 qualification based on the attainment of certain early college credits; to provide for  
5 applicability; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:5024(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §5024. Academic requirements

9 \* \* \*

10 D.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, a student who is  
11 otherwise eligible for a TOPS-Tech award pursuant to this Chapter shall qualify for  
12 the award if he meets at least two of the following requirements as determined by the  
13 administering agency:

14 (a) Attainment of a minimum grade point average on the core curriculum as  
15 provided in Subsection A of this Section.

16 (b) Attainment of a minimum ACT score as provided in Subsection B of this  
17 Section.

18 (c) Successful completion of either at least nine credit hours of early college  
19 credit, which may be attained through academic or technical dual enrollment courses,  
20 or equivalent validated skills and learning measures as approved by the Statewide  
21 Articulation and Transfer Council.

1                   (2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection are applicable to  
2                   students graduating from high school during or after the 2026-2027 academic year.

3                   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
7 effective on the day following such approval.

### 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 325 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Brass

**Abstract:** Expands eligibility criteria for a TOPS-Tech award to include the attainment of early college credit in high school through completion of dual enrollment courses or other approved skills and learning measures.

Present 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. 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 present law.
- (2) ACT score of at least 17 or silver on WorkKeys.

Proposed 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 requirements provided in present law and proposed law. Applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2026-2027 academic year.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:5024(D))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Change applicable students from those enrolling in college as first-time freshmen beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year to students graduating from high school during the 2026-2027 academic year and thereafter.