

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 520

BY SENATOR REESE

CURRICULA. Provides for the Louisiana Jump Start Modernization Act. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart A-4 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
3 of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:189.1 through 189.21, and to repeal R.S. 183.1
4 through 184, relative to high school career option; to provide for a high-quality K-12
5 career and technical education pathway system; to provide for; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Subpart A-4 of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised
9 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:189.1 through 189.32 is hereby enacted to read as
10 follows:

11 **SUBPART A-4 LOUISIANA JUMP START MODERNIZATION ACT**

12 **§189.1. Legislative findings; purpose**

13 **A. Legislative Findings.**

14 **The legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:**

15 **(1) Career and technical education is foundational to Louisiana's**
16 **workforce development, economic competitiveness, and educational goals, and**
17 **a coherent, high-quality career and technical education system is essential to**

1 connecting Louisiana students to priority careers and to meeting regional and
2 statewide employer demand.

3 (2) Louisiana's long-term economic competitiveness depends on a system
4 that is responsive to labor market demand, supported by cross-agency
5 coordination, and grounded in transparent outcome data.

6 (3) Louisiana's students, families, and employers are best served by a
7 Jump Start program grounded in strong governance accountability, rigorous
8 program quality standards, public data reporting, and durable industry
9 alignment mechanisms, and this Act establishes the statutory framework
10 necessary to ensure the program delivers lasting, measurable value across
11 administrations and budget cycles.

12 B. Statement of Purpose.

13 The purposes of this Subpart are to accomplish all of the following:

14 (1) To establish a coherent, high-quality K–12 career and technical
15 education pathway system organized around a clearly defined framework.

16 (2) To strengthen the governance, quality, and accountability of the
17 Jump Start program by creating an independent Louisiana Career and
18 Technical Education Oversight Council with defined composition, authority,
19 and funding; establishing mandatory cross-agency coordination among the
20 Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and
21 the Board of Regents; ensuring that approved pathways lead to viable, high-
22 wage, high-demand occupations; and mandating transparent public data
23 reporting.

24 (3) To ensure that every Louisiana student has access to - and can
25 complete - rigorous career and technical education by establishing
26 differentiated provisions, guaranteeing postsecondary articulation credit
27 opportunities for Career Diploma completers, and providing that no student's
28 geographic location shall determine the quality or availability of career and
29 technical education pathways available to that student.

30 C. Program Designation; Short Title.

1 (1) The career and technical education program established by this
2 Subpart shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Jump Start Career
3 Diploma Program."

4 (2) This Subpart may be cited as the "Louisiana Jump Start
5 Modernization Act."

6 (3) Nothing in this Subpart shall be construed to alter the program
7 designation established in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, or to limit the
8 authority of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)
9 to develop program materials, adopt administrative rules, and communicate
10 with the public regarding this Subpart using the program name established
11 herein. Any rules, bulletins, or guidance documents adopted by the State Board
12 pursuant to this Subpart shall reference the program by its statutory
13 designation.

14 §189.2. Definitions

15 As used in this Subpart, the following terms shall have the following
16 meanings.

17 (1) "Career and technical education" or "CTE" This term shall be
18 interpreted consistent with, and shall not be construed more narrowly than, the
19 definition established in the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education
20 Act of 2006, as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 2302(5).

21 (2) "Career diploma" A secondary school diploma issued by the State
22 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to a student who has
23 successfully completed all requirements of an approved Louisiana Jump Start
24 career pathway under this Subpart. A Career Diploma shall be recognized by
25 all Louisiana public postsecondary education institutions as equivalent to a
26 regular standard diploma pursuant to §189.5 of this Subpart.

27 (3) "Career coach" or "qualified career coach" A person who is not a
28 licensed school counselor but who is authorized by a public school governing
29 authority to provide individualized student career planning and advising
30 services consistent with R.S. 17:2926 and the requirements of this Subpart, and

1 who meets the qualifications established by the Louisiana Department of
2 Education pursuant to §183.8© of this Subpart. Nothing in this definition shall
3 be construed to authorize a career coach to perform duties reserved by law to
4 a licensed school counselor, except as specifically provided by this Subpart.

5 (4) "CTE concentrator" A secondary student who has completed at least
6 two credits in a single approved career and technical education pathway under
7 this Subpart. For purposes of federal reporting under the Carl D. Perkins
8 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 2301 et
9 seq., this definition shall be interpreted to align with the federal CTE
10 concentrator definition in a manner that preserves Louisiana's compliance with
11 all applicable Perkins V reporting requirements.

12 (5) "CTE completer" A secondary student who has satisfied all
13 requirements of an approved career and technical education pathway under
14 this Subpart, including the nine-credit Jump Start course sequence established
15 in §183.10©, and who has earned at least one industry-based credential as
16 required for Career Diploma completion. The term includes both students who
17 earn a Career Diploma and students who complete all pathway requirements
18 but do not elect to receive a Career Diploma.

19 (6) "Career major program" A structured sequence of academic core
20 and career and technical education courses constituting the curriculum of an
21 authorized K–12 CTE pathway through which a student satisfies the
22 requirements for a Louisiana Career Diploma.

23 (7) "Enhanced wage record" or "EWR" A quarterly wage record
24 submitted by an employer to the Louisiana Workforce Commission that
25 includes, in addition to the elements required for standard unemployment
26 insurance wage reporting under Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, the
27 following job-level data elements for each employee during the reporting
28 period: (a) occupation code consistent with the Standard Occupational
29 Classification (SOC) system; (b) total hours worked; © primary work location;

1 (d) hourly wage equivalent; and (e) job start and end dates. Enhanced wage
2 record data shall serve as the primary wage and employment outcome tracking
3 mechanism for career and technical education pathway completers under
4 §183.20 of this Subpart.

5 (8) "Individual Career and Academic Plan" or "ICAP" Longitudinal
6 career development and academic planning document required for each student
7 under §183.7 of this Subpart that identifies the student's career interests,
8 academic strengths, and preliminary career pathway goals. An ICAP shall be
9 initiated no later than the beginning of grade seven, reviewed and updated
10 annually through grade twelve, and aligned with the student's Individual
11 Graduation Plan developed and maintained pursuant to R.S. 17:2925. The
12 ICAP shall serve as the primary planning instrument connecting the K–12
13 career awareness and exploration framework to approved Jump Start pathway
14 selection and enrollment, as established in §183.7 of this Subpart.

15 (9) "Individual Graduation Plan" or "IGP" The individualized plan
16 required for each student pursuant to R.S. 17:2925 that sets forth the student's
17 selected course of study, chosen diploma pathway, and postsecondary goals. The
18 IGP shall be aligned with the student's Individual Career and Academic Plan
19 as provided in §183.7 of this Subpart, shall be developed, reviewed annually,
20 and revised with the assistance of a school counselor or career coach as
21 provided in R.S. 17:2925, and shall, for a student pursuing a Career Diploma
22 under this Subpart, identify the approved Jump Start pathway selected by the
23 student.

24 (10) "Individualized Education Program" or "IEP" Written educational
25 plan required for each eligible student with a disability under the Individuals
26 with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., and as the term
27 applies to students with exceptionalities as defined in R.S. 17:1942. For purposes
28 of this Subpart, an IEP shall be coordinated with the student's Individual
29 Career and Academic Plan and Individual Graduation Plan to ensure

1 meaningful access to appropriate career and technical education pathways
2 consistent with the student's educational goals and all applicable requirements
3 under IDEA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g,
4 and R.S. 44:1 et seq.

5 (11) "Industry-based credential" or "IBC" An independent, third-party
6 credential that: (a) reflects a specific set of competencies related to a particular
7 industry sector or occupation; (b) is recognized and accepted by employers in
8 the relevant labor market as evidence of workplace readiness; © is portable
9 across employers and geographic areas; (d) provides a valid and reliable
10 measure of an individual's technical knowledge and skills; and (e) takes the
11 form of a certification, certificate, or occupational license. For purposes of this
12 Subpart, an industry-based credential must be: (I) approved by the Louisiana
13 Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065; or (ii) otherwise
14 designated by the Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council
15 established in §183.3, consistent with the credential tier classification
16 framework established in §183.12 of this Subpart.

17 (12) "K-12 CTE pathway" or "pathway" An approved, structured
18 sequence of courses, work-based learning experiences, and industry-based
19 credentials organized around a defined career field within a recognized career
20 cluster and authorized by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
21 Education following a recommendation by the Louisiana Career and Technical
22 Education Oversight Council. The term includes both statewide pathways and
23 regional pathways as defined in this Section, and shall not be construed to
24 include any sequence of courses that does not satisfy the minimum standards
25 established in §183.10.

26 (13) "Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council" or
27 "Council" An independent statutory body separate and distinct from the State
28 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and from the Louisiana
29 Department of Education, with authority to provide independent oversight of

1 Louisiana's career and technical education system, to establish and maintain a
2 shared performance framework binding on the Louisiana Department of
3 Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the Board of Regents, and
4 the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and to ensure
5 alignment between authorized pathways and regional and statewide workforce
6 demands.

7 (14) "Louisiana Workforce Commission" or "LWC" State agency
8 established pursuant to R.S. 23:2061 et seq. that administers Louisiana's
9 workforce development programs, unemployment insurance system, and labor
10 market information services. The LWC shall serve as a data and coordination
11 partner for career and technical education outcome tracking and industry
12 alignment review under §183.20 and §183.21 of this Subpart.

13 (15) "Local education agency" or "LEA" A public board of education
14 or other public authority legally constituted within Louisiana for the
15 administrative control and direction of, or to perform a service function for,
16 public elementary or secondary schools in a city, parish, or other local public
17 school district, consistent with the definition established in R.S. 17:1942. The
18 term includes each city, parish, and other local public school board responsible
19 for implementing a career and technical education program under this Subpart,
20 and each local school system participating in a regional team pursuant to
21 §183.9.

22 (16) "Priority occupation" An occupation that meets the minimum
23 statutory wage threshold and projected growth rate standard established in
24 §183.4 of this Subpart, is rated four or five stars in the Louisiana Workforce
25 Commission's official statewide occupational forecast (or its equivalent
26 successor) pursuant to R.S. 23:76, and that has been formally designated by the
27 Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council, based on current
28 and projected regional or statewide labor market demand data from the
29 Louisiana Workforce Commission, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as a priority

1 occupation for career and technical education pathway development and public
2 investment. A priority occupation designation is distinct from the viable
3 occupation standard in Subsection (U) of this Section in that it reflects an
4 affirmative policy designation for pathway development, not the minimum
5 threshold for pathway authorization. The Council may apply more rigorous
6 wage threshold and growth rate standards for priority occupation designation
7 that exceed the minimums required for viable occupation status under
8 §183.4(D)(5) of this Subpart.

9 (17) "Regional pathway" A K–12 CTE pathway developed by a regional
10 team and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
11 for delivery within a defined geographic region of the state, which may be
12 tailored to address regionally specific labor market demands, local industry
13 partner capacity, and regional workforce priorities within that region. A
14 regional pathway shall satisfy all minimum pathway authorization
15 requirements established in §183.13 of this Subpart and shall adhere to the
16 same academic requirements as statewide pathways to enable students to
17 continue postsecondary education following high school graduation.

18 (18) "Regional team" A multi-agency, multi-sector body consisting of
19 local education agencies, one or more public postsecondary education
20 institutions with priority consideration given to technical and community
21 colleges, and business, industry, and workforce development representatives
22 that is responsible for jointly developing, proposing, and overseeing career and
23 technical education pathway delivery within a defined geographic region of the
24 state, as further described in §183.9(F) of this Subpart. A regional team shall
25 include representatives sufficient to ensure that proposed pathways reflect
26 documented regional labor market demand.

27 (19) "Rural local education agency" or "rural LEA" A local education
28 agency that meets the population density, school enrollment, and geographic
29 criteria established in §183.14 of this Subpart and that is therefore eligible for:

1 (a) differentiated pathway authorization thresholds that account for limited
2 local industry partner pools and small student enrollment sizes; (b) inter-
3 district consortium pathway authorization allowing multiple rural LEAs to
4 jointly develop and deliver a single pathway; and © rural-specific program
5 delivery provisions established in §183.14.

6 (20) "Statewide pathway" A K–12 CTE pathway approved by the State
7 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for delivery statewide, anchored
8 to one or more industry-based credentials approved by the Louisiana
9 Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065, and meeting all
10 pathway authorization requirements established in §183.13 of this Subpart. A
11 statewide pathway shall be subject to the biennial industry priority review
12 conducted by the Council pursuant to §183.4.

13 (21) "Viable occupation" An occupation that meets the minimum
14 statutory wage threshold and minimum projected growth rate standard. The
15 viable occupation standard constitutes the minimum authorization floor for
16 pathway approval and is distinct from a priority occupation designation under
17 Subsection (P) of this Section.

18 (22) "Work-based learning" means a structured, supervised learning
19 activity that integrates classroom instruction with employer-directed workplace
20 experience through progressively intensive levels of engagement, organized as
21 a tiered quality continuum as established in §183.11 of this Subpart. The term
22 includes both school-supervised and employer-supervised placements as
23 categorized in §183.11.

24 §189.3 Career and technical education oversight council; establishment;
25 governance; authority

26 A. Council Established; Name; Status

27 (1) There is hereby created a body politic and corporate, constituting a
28 public corporation and instrumentality of the state within the executive branch
29 of state government, to be known as the "Louisiana Career and Technical

1 Education Oversight Council," hereinafter referred to as 'the Council.' The
2 Council shall be an independent statutory body, separate and distinct from the
3 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and from the Louisiana
4 Department of Education, with authority limited to the powers expressly
5 granted by this Subpart.

6 (2) The Council is not an agency of, component of, or advisory body to
7 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Council shall not
8 be subject to the direction, supervision, or control of the State Board of
9 Elementary and Secondary Education in the performance of its statutory duties
10 under this Subpart except as expressly provided herein.

11 (3) The Council shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11
12 et seq., the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq., and the Code of
13 Governmental Ethics, R.S. 42:1101 et seq., as applicable to its operations.

14 **B. Membership Composition; Minimum Requirements**

15 (1) The Council shall consist of fifteen members as follows:

16 (a) Seven voting members representing industry sectors designated as
17 priority industries pursuant to §183.4 of this Subpart, appointed by the
18 governor. No more than two of the seven industry members shall represent the
19 same priority industry sector. Each such member shall be a current owner,
20 officer, or senior employee of a Louisiana-domiciled business.

21 (b) Three voting members representing presidents or senior staff of
22 statewide business or industry associations headquartered in Louisiana,
23 appointed by the governor.

24 © One voting member with demonstrated expertise in labor market data
25 analysis, workforce economics, and/or career and technical education policy
26 research, who is not currently employed by any Louisiana state agency,
27 appointed by the governor.

28 (d) The state Superintendent of Education, who shall serve as a
29 nonvoting member.

1 (e) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission ("Louisiana
2 Works"), who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

3 (f) The commissioner of Higher Education, who shall serve as a
4 nonvoting member.

5 (g) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College
6 System, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

7 (2) The nonvoting members described in Subparagraphs (B)(1)(d),
8 (B)(1)(e), and (B)(1)(f) of this Section shall not be counted in determining
9 whether a quorum exists. Nonvoting members may participate fully in Council
10 deliberations and shall have access to all Council records and documents.

11 (3) No voting member of the Council shall simultaneously hold an elected
12 or appointed state government position or serve as a current employee of the
13 Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the
14 Board of Regents, or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
15 during the member's term on the Council.

16 C. Appointment Process; Appointing Authorities

17 (1) All voting members of the Council described in Subparagraphs
18 (B)(1)(a) through (B)(1)(c) of this Section shall be appointed by the governor.

19 (2) The governor shall make initial appointments to all voting member
20 positions not later than ninety days after the effective date of this Subpart.

21 (3) If the governor fails to make an initial appointment within the period
22 specified in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the chair of the House Committee
23 on Education and the chair of the Senate Committee on Education shall jointly
24 request that the governor make the appointment within thirty additional days.

25 D. Terms of Office; Staggered Terms

26 (1) Voting members of the Council shall serve terms of four years each,
27 except as provided for initial staggered terms under Paragraph (2) of this
28 Subsection.

29 (2) To establish staggered terms, of the ten voting members initially

1 appointed to the Council:

2 (a) Five members, as designated by the governor at the time of
3 appointment, shall serve initial terms of two years; and

4 (b) Five members, as designated by the governor at the time of
5 appointment, shall serve initial terms of four years.

6 (3) Upon expiration of the initial terms established under Paragraph
7 (2)(a) of this Subsection, all subsequent terms shall be four years.

8 (4) No voting member shall serve more than two consecutive full terms
9 on the Council. A partial term served to fill a vacancy as provided in §183.3(E)
10 shall not be counted as a full term for purposes of this Paragraph. A member
11 who has served two consecutive full terms may be reappointed after an interval
12 of one full term.

13 (5) A voting member whose term has expired shall continue to serve in
14 a holdover capacity until a successor is duly appointed, not to exceed one
15 hundred eighty days.

16 E. Removal Provisions; Vacancies

17 (1) A voting member of the Council may be removed by the original
18 appointing authority for cause, including but not limited to malfeasance in
19 office, neglect of duty, incompetence, conviction of a felony, or conduct
20 unbecoming the office. Before removal, the appointing authority shall provide
21 the member with written notice stating the specific grounds for removal and
22 afford the member an opportunity to respond in writing within fifteen calendar
23 days.

24 (2) A vacancy on the Council shall occur upon the death, resignation,
25 removal for cause, or loss of eligibility of a voting member. A member shall lose
26 eligibility if the member no longer satisfies the qualification requirements
27 applicable to the member's category of appointment under Subsection B of this
28 Section.

1 **(3) A vacancy shall be filled by the original appointing authority for the**
2 **remainder of the unexpired term. The appointing authority shall make a**
3 **vacancy appointment within sixty days of the date the vacancy occurs.**

4 **(4) A vacancy shall not impair the authority of the remaining members**
5 **to exercise the powers of the Council, provided a quorum as defined in**
6 **Subsection F of this Section is maintained.**

7 **F. Quorum Requirements**

8 **(1) A majority of the voting members currently serving on the Council,**
9 **excluding vacant positions, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of**
10 **business.**

11 **(2) If quorum is not obtained, the Council may not take formal action or**
12 **vote.**

13 **G. Officers; Chair; Vice-Chair; Terms; Duties**

14 **(1) The voting members of the Council shall annually elect from among**
15 **themselves a chair and a vice-chair at the first meeting of each calendar year.**
16 **An officer may not serve more than two consecutive annual terms in the same**
17 **office on the Council.**

18 **(2) The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council, execute official**
19 **correspondence and documents on behalf of the Council as authorized by the**
20 **Council, serve as the primary spokesperson for the Council in official**
21 **communications, and perform all other duties assigned to the chair by the**
22 **Council.**

23 **(3) In the absence or incapacity of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform**
24 **all duties of the chair.**

25 **(4) The Council may, by majority vote, elect such additional officers**
26 **from among its voting members as it deems necessary for the efficient conduct**
27 **of its business. The Council may not create an officer position that exercises**
28 **independent authority not expressly granted by this Subpart.**

1 **H. Meeting Requirements; Frequency; Public Access; Record-Keeping**

2 **(1) The Council shall meet not fewer than four times per calendar year.**

3 **Additional meetings may be convened by the chair upon the chair's own**
4 **initiative or upon receipt of a written request signed by not fewer than six**
5 **voting members of the Council.**

6 **(2) All meetings of the Council shall be open to the public and conducted**
7 **in compliance with R.S. 42:11 et seq. (Open Meetings Law). Written notice of**
8 **each regular meeting shall be provided not fewer than five business days in**
9 **advance through the publicly accessible website maintained pursuant to**
10 **Paragraph (3) of this Subsection. Emergency meetings shall be convened only**
11 **in compliance with R.S. 42:19.**

12 **(3) The Council shall maintain comprehensive written minutes of each**
13 **meeting. Minutes shall record all items on the agenda, all votes taken, the name**
14 **and position of each member voting for and against any motion, each member's**
15 **abstention if applicable, and any member's timely submitted written dissent.**
16 **Minutes shall be posted on a publicly accessible website maintained by the**
17 **Louisiana Department of Education pursuant to Subsection M of this Section**
18 **not later than fifteen business days after the meeting to which they relate.**
19 **Minutes shall be subject to approval by the Council at the subsequent meeting.**

20 **(4) All records of the Council, including meeting minutes, official**
21 **correspondence, written recommendations to the State Board of Elementary**
22 **and Secondary Education, and agency responses, shall constitute public records**
23 **subject to R.S. 44:1 et seq.**

24 **I. Council Duties and Responsibilities**

25 **The Council shall have the following duties and responsibilities:**

26 **(1) To review each of the following categories of proposed decisions and**
27 **to issue written recommendations to the State Board of Elementary and**
28 **Secondary Education thereon, prior to and as a condition of Board action, in the**
29 **manner and within the timeframes established in Subsection K of this Section:**

1 (a) Authorization of any new statewide or regional Jump Start career
2 and technical education pathway pursuant to §183.9 of this Subpart.

3 (b) Significant modification of any currently authorized statewide or
4 regional pathway, defined as any change to the required industry-based
5 credential or credential tier, the required CTE course sequence, or the work-
6 based learning tier requirement.

7 © Sunset, discontinuation, or deauthorization of any currently
8 authorized statewide or regional pathway pursuant to §183.13 of this Subpart.

9 (d) Reclassification of any industry-based credential from one tier to
10 another under the approved credential tier list established pursuant to §183.12
11 of this Subpart, including elevation to a higher tier, demotion to a lower tier, or
12 removal from the approved list.

13 (e) Adoption or significant revision of the statewide standards applicable
14 to all Jump Start pathway authorization proposals under §183.9 of this Subpart.

15 (2) To establish and maintain, in consultation with the Louisiana
16 Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the Board of
17 Regents, and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System a shared
18 performance framework for the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma
19 Program. The shared performance framework shall be binding on each named
20 agency for purposes of annual reporting to the Council, shall be reviewed and
21 updated by the Council not less than every two years, and shall include at
22 minimum:

23 (a) Student CTE pathway completion rates, disaggregated by race,
24 income, disability status, and geographic region.

25 (b) Industry-based credential attainment rates, disaggregated by
26 credential tier established under §183.12 of this Subpart.

27 © Post-graduation employment rates and median wages for Career
28 Diploma holders, measured at one year and three years after graduation using
29 enhanced wage record data as defined in §183.2 of this Subpart.

1 (d) Postsecondary continuation rates for Career Diploma holders at
2 Louisiana public postsecondary institutions.

3 (e) Advanced work-based learning participation rates, defined as Level
4 3 or above under §183.11 of this Subpart.

5 (f) Pathway-level return on investment metrics consistent with Act 187
6 of the 2021 Regular Session (R.S. 17:3138.13) and as further established in
7 §183.20 of this Subpart.

8 (3) To implement and maintain the shared performance framework
9 established pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection in a manner that is
10 consistent and coordinated with any existing or future legislation addressing K-12
11 or workforce education data collection, performance metrics, accountability
12 reporting, or data transparency, including but not limited to Act 187 of the 2021
13 Regular Session (R.S. 17:3138.13) and any successor or other legislation. In
14 conducting each biennial review and update of the shared performance
15 framework required under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the Council shall
16 assess the framework's consistency with any such legislation enacted or amended
17 since the prior review and shall revise the framework as necessary to avoid
18 duplication, ensure compatibility, and leverage data resources and reporting
19 obligations established by such legislation.

20 (4) To review and issue written recommendations to the State Board of
21 Elementary and Secondary Education on the designation, reclassification,
22 elevation, demotion, or removal of credentials from the approved industry-
23 based credential tier list pursuant to §183.12 of this Subpart.

24 (5) To coordinate with the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council
25 pursuant to R.S. 23:2065 regarding alignment of priority industries and
26 industry-based credential approvals, and to report to the legislature annually
27 on the status of that coordination.

28 (6) To prepare and publish an annual joint performance report on Jump
29 Start program outcomes, prepared in coordination with the Louisiana

1 Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Board
2 of Regents, submitted to the legislature and posted publicly not later than
3 December 1 of each year. The annual joint report shall present data measured
4 under the shared performance framework established pursuant to Paragraph
5 (2) of this Subsection.

6 (7) To adopt bylaws, internal operating procedures, and conflict-of-
7 interest policies governing the Council's operations, consistent with this Subpart
8 and applicable law. The Council shall review and reaffirm or revise its bylaws
9 not less than every four years.

10 (8) To prepare and transmit a self-evaluation report to the legislature in
11 advance of each sunset review conducted pursuant to Subsection N of this
12 Section, as specified in that Subsection.

13 J. Council Authority; Scope and Limits

14 (1) The authority of the Council is limited to the powers expressly
15 granted by this Subpart. No provision of this Subpart shall be construed to
16 expand the Council's authority beyond those expressly granted powers, nor
17 shall this Subpart be construed to limit the rulemaking authority of the State
18 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education under R.S. 17:7, except as
19 expressly provided in Subsection K of this Section.

20 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Subpart, the Council
21 shall not:

22 (a) Promulgate rules within the meaning of the Administrative
23 Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

24 (b) Make final decisions on pathway authorization, reauthorization,
25 modification, or deauthorization, which authority is reserved to the State Board
26 of Elementary and Secondary Education subject to the recommendation
27 requirements of Subsection K of this Section.

28 © Direct, supervise, or control the day-to-day administrative operations
29 of the Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce

1 Commission, the Board of Regents, or the Louisiana Community and Technical
2 College System.

3 (d) Compel the reallocation of budgeted funds or personnel within any
4 agency. The Council's authority over the shared performance framework is
5 limited to setting metrics, requiring reporting, and making recommendations.

6 (3) Nothing in this Subpart shall be construed to alter the authority of
7 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education under R.S. 17:7,
8 including its authority to promulgate bulletins and administrative rules
9 governing K-12 education, except to the extent that Subsection K of this Section
10 imposes a procedural prerequisite of receiving a Council recommendation
11 before the Board acts on the enumerated decision categories.

12 (4) The Council's written recommendations issued pursuant to
13 Subsection K of this Section are advisory in legal character; they create a
14 procedural prerequisite to BESE action on specified decisions and impose
15 transparency obligations when BESE departs from such recommendations, but
16 they do not in themselves constitute final agency action and shall not be subject
17 to judicial review as final orders.

18 K. BESE-Council Jurisdictional Boundary; Decision-Making Hierarchy

19 (1) Council Recommendation Required Before BESE Acts.

20 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Subpart or of R.S. 17:7, the State
21 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not take formal action on
22 any of the following categories of decisions without first receiving a written
23 recommendation from the Council pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this
24 Subsection:

25 (a) Authorization of any new statewide or regional Jump Start career
26 and technical education pathway pursuant to §183.9 of this Subpart.

27 (b) Significant modification of any currently authorized statewide or
28 regional pathway, defined for purposes of this Subsection as any change to one
29 or more of the following elements of an authorized pathway: (I) the required

1 industry-based credential or credential tier; (ii) the required CTE course
2 sequence; or (iii) the work-based learning tier requirement.

3 © Sunset, discontinuation, or deauthorization of any currently
4 authorized statewide or regional pathway pursuant to §183.13 of this Subpart.

5 (d) Reclassification of any industry-based credential from one tier to
6 another under the approved credential tier list established pursuant to §183.12
7 of this Subpart, including elevation to a higher tier, demotion to a lower tier, or
8 removal from the approved list.

9 (e) Adoption or significant revision of the statewide standards applicable
10 to all Jump Start pathway authorization proposals under §183.9 of this Subpart.

11 (2) Recommendation Process and Timeline. When the State Board of
12 Elementary and Secondary Education proposes to take action on a decision
13 enumerated in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the following process shall
14 govern:

15 (a) The Louisiana Department of Education shall transmit to the
16 Council, not fewer than sixty calendar days before the Board's scheduled action
17 date, a written notice of the proposed decision, a complete description of the
18 proposed action, and all supporting documentation material to the decision.

19 (b) The Council shall issue its written recommendation not fewer than
20 thirty calendar days before the Board's scheduled action date. The written
21 recommendation shall include:

22 (I) The Council's specific recommendation, stated as a recommendation
23 to approve, approve with conditions, deny, or defer the proposed action.

24 (ii) The Council's written findings supporting the recommendation.

25 (iii) The vote count, including the number voting in favor, against, and
26 abstaining.

27 (iv) Any dissenting views submitted by individual voting members.

28 © If the Council fails to issue a written recommendation within the time
29 period specified in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, the State Board of

1 Elementary and Secondary Education may proceed with the proposed action
2 without a Council recommendation. The Board's action record shall document
3 that the Council did not issue a timely recommendation and shall state the date
4 the documentation package was transmitted to the Council under
5 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

6 (3) BESE Override of Council Recommendation; Written Findings
7 Requirement. If the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education takes
8 action contrary to a written recommendation issued by the Council pursuant to
9 Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the following requirements shall apply:

10 (a) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt,
11 at the same meeting at which the Board takes the action that departs from the
12 Council's recommendation, written findings of the Board stating specifically.

13 (I) The Council's recommendation and the basis stated in the Council's
14 written findings.

15 (ii) The Board's reasons for departing from the Council's
16 recommendation.

17 (iii) The specific factual and policy basis for the Board's action.

18 (b) If the Council's recommendation that is being overridden was
19 unanimous meaning every voting member who cast a vote on the
20 recommendation voted in the same direction, with no opposing votes cast, the
21 Board's written findings required under Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph
22 shall include a specific explanation of why each finding or rationale stated by
23 the Council was rejected or determined to be outweighed by other
24 considerations.

25 © The written findings required by this Paragraph shall be:

26 (I) Filed with the clerk of the House of Representatives and the secretary
27 of the Senate not later than five business days after adoption.

28 (ii) Transmitted to the chair of the House Committee on Education and
29 the chair of the Senate Committee on Education not later than five business

1 days after adoption.

2 (iii) Posted on the publicly accessible website of the Louisiana
3 Department of Education not later than ten business days after adoption.

4 (4) Scope of this Subsection. Nothing in this Subsection shall be
5 construed to require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
6 to follow a Council recommendation or to limit the Board's final rulemaking
7 authority under R.S. 17:7. The Council recommendation process required by
8 this Subsection is a procedural prerequisite to final Board action on the
9 enumerated decision categories, not a limitation on the Board's substantive
10 authority. Compliance with this Subsection does not itself constitute compliance
11 with any other requirement of law applicable to the Board's rulemaking or
12 decision-making processes.

13 L. Louisiana Workforce Investment Council; WIOA Non-Duplication;
14 Formal Coordination Protocol

15 (1) The Council established under this Section shall be a body separate
16 and distinct from the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council established
17 pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 3111 and R.S. 23:2042 et seq. The Council is not a
18 component, subcommittee, advisory body, or subsidiary entity of the Louisiana
19 Workforce Investment Council. Nothing in this Subpart shall be construed to
20 nest the Council within, or to subordinate the Council to, the Louisiana
21 Workforce Investment Council, and nothing in this Subpart shall be construed
22 to alter the authority of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council under 29
23 U.S.C. § 3111 or R.S. 23:2042 et seq.

24 (2) The respective authorities of the Council and the Louisiana
25 Workforce Investment Council are declared to be non-overlapping as follows:

26 (a) The Council shall exercise authority exclusively within the domain of
27 K-12 career and technical education pathway recommendations, the shared
28 CTE performance framework, industry-based credential tier recommendations,
29 and such other matters as are expressly assigned to the Council under this

1 Subpart. The Council shall have no authority over WIOA-funded programs,
2 adult workforce development programs, or any matter within the exclusive
3 statutory mandate of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council under 29
4 U.S.C. § 3111 or R.S. 23:2042 et seq.

5 (b) The Louisiana Workforce Investment Council shall retain all
6 authority assigned to it under 29 U.S.C. § 3111 and R.S. 23:2042 et seq.,
7 including authority over the state's WIOA formula funding, the state workforce
8 development system, adult education and employment services, and all cross-
9 agency coordination functions required under federal WIOA law. The
10 Louisiana Workforce Investment Council shall have no authority to direct,
11 review, approve, or disapprove recommendations made by the Council
12 pursuant to this Subpart.

13 © In any instance where a question arises as to whether a particular
14 function falls within the domain of the Council or the Louisiana Workforce
15 Investment Council, the question shall be resolved in favor of the body to which
16 the function is more specifically assigned by statute. If the assignment is
17 genuinely ambiguous, the matter shall be referred jointly to the House
18 Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, and the House
19 and Senate committees with jurisdiction over workforce development for
20 legislative resolution.

21 (3) Formal Coordination Protocol. Notwithstanding Paragraph (2) of this
22 Subsection, the Council and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council shall
23 engage in formal annual coordination on workforce alignment matters as
24 follows:

25 (a) The chair of the Council and the chair of the Louisiana Workforce
26 Investment Council shall meet not fewer than once per year to exchange
27 information on labor market data, projected workforce demand in priority
28 industries, and any proposed changes to Jump Start priority industries or
29 WIOA priority sectors that may affect alignment between the two bodies.

1 **(b) The Council shall transmit to the Louisiana Workforce Investment**
2 **Council, not later than sixty calendar days after each annual coordination**
3 **meeting, a written summary of Council pathway recommendations and**
4 **credential tier recommendations that affect occupations or industry sectors**
5 **within the workforce development mandate of the WIOA Board.**

6 **© The Louisiana Workforce Investment Council may transmit to the**
7 **Council, at any time, written comments on proposed Council recommendations**
8 **that relate to occupations or industry sectors within the Board's WIOA**
9 **mandate. The Council shall consider such comments in its deliberations but**
10 **shall not be required to defer to or adopt them.**

11 **(d) Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to require the Council**
12 **or the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council to defer to the other body's**
13 **decisions, or to grant either body veto authority over the other body's official**
14 **actions.**

15 **(4) Liaison Coordination. The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce**
16 **Commission, who serves as a nonvoting member of the Council under**
17 **Subparagraph (B)(1)(e) of this Section, shall serve as the primary coordination**
18 **liaison between the Council and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council**
19 **and shall report to the Council not less than annually on WIOA-related**
20 **workforce development priorities and data relevant to pathway alignment.**

21 **(5) WIOA Performance Accountability Firewall. The shared**
22 **performance framework established under Paragraph (I)(2) of this Section**
23 **governs exclusively the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program and K-**
24 **12 career and technical education programs within the Council's statutory**
25 **mandate. Nothing in this Subpart shall be construed to alter, supersede, or**
26 **conflict with the performance accountability system applicable to WIOA-**
27 **funded programs administered by the Louisiana Workforce Commission under**
28 **29 U.S.C. § 3141 and 20 C.F.R. Part 677.**

29 **M. Funding Authorization; Administrative Support**

1 (1) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the state
2 general fund such sums as may be necessary for the Council to carry out its
3 duties and responsibilities under this Subpart. The Council's funding
4 authorization shall be a continuing authorization subject to annual legislative
5 appropriation.

6 (2) Voting members of the Council shall serve without compensation.
7 Each voting member shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary and
8 reasonable travel expenses and per diem incurred in the performance of official
9 Council duties, at the rates established by law for state officials and employees.

10 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education shall provide administrative
11 and staff support to the Council, including staff resources necessary for
12 maintaining minutes and records, coordinating meeting logistics, operating the
13 publicly accessible website on which Council documents are posted pursuant to
14 Subsection H of this Section, and preparing reports as required under this
15 Subpart. The obligation of the Louisiana Department of Education to provide
16 administrative support shall not be construed to create any supervisory or
17 directive authority of the Department over the Council's deliberations, official
18 positions, or recommendations.

19 (4) The Council may accept and expend grants, gifts, and other funds
20 from non-state sources to support its operations, subject to applicable state law
21 governing receipt of gifts and donations by state entities and the conflict-of-
22 interest provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics, R.S. 42:1101 et seq. No
23 funds from any entity subject to the Council's review or recommendations may
24 be accepted by the Council.

25 N. Sunset Review Cycle; Periodic Reauthorization of the Council

26 (1) The Council shall be subject to legislative sunset review not later than
27 six years after the effective date of this Subpart and every six years thereafter.
28 Review shall be conducted in accordance with applicable legislative procedures
29 for review of executive branch entities.

1 (2) Not later than one year before the expiration of each six-year review
2 period, the Council shall prepare and transmit to the House Committee on
3 Education and the Senate Committee on Education a comprehensive self-
4 evaluation report addressing:

5 (a) A complete account of the Council's compliance with all duties and
6 responsibilities assigned under this Subpart, including a record of all meetings
7 held, quorum status, and attendance by voting members.

8 (b) A full accounting of all pathway authorization, reauthorization,
9 modification, and sunset recommendations made by the Council during the
10 review period, including the outcome of each recommendation and, for each
11 recommendation overridden by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
12 Education, the Board's written findings and the Council's assessment of
13 subsequent outcomes.

14 © An assessment of the effectiveness of the BESE-Council
15 recommendation process established under Subsection K of this Section;

16 (d) An assessment of the effectiveness of the non-duplication and
17 coordination protocol with the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council
18 established under Subsection L of this Section;

19 (e) The Council's assessment of the shared performance framework
20 established under Paragraph (I)(2) of this Section, including agency compliance
21 with reporting obligations and the adequacy of performance metrics; and

22 (f) Any recommendations for statutory amendments to update the
23 Council's composition, authority, operational procedures, or relationship to
24 other state entities.

25 (3) Continuation of the Council beyond each six-year review period shall
26 require affirmative legislative reauthorization. Expiration of the Council's
27 reauthorization, whether through inaction or legislative action, shall not affect
28 the validity of any pathway authorization, reauthorization, or credential tier
29 designation that became final before the effective date of the Council's

1 expiration. Upon expiration, the shared performance framework obligations
2 established under Paragraph (D)(2) of this Section shall transfer to the Louisiana
3 Department of Education until the legislature provides alternative governance.

4 §189.4. Industry sector prioritization; priority occupation determination

5 A. Statewide Priority Industry List; Establishment and Maintenance;
6 Priority Industry Alignment Process

7 (1) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council
8 ("the Council"), established pursuant to §183.3 of this Subpart, shall establish,
9 maintain, and update a Statewide Priority Industry List ("the Priority List")
10 identifying the industry sectors in Louisiana designated as priority industries
11 for purposes of K–12 career and technical education pathway development
12 under this Subpart, industry-based credential tier classification pursuant to
13 §183.12, and Council composition pursuant to §183.3(B)(1)(a).

14 (2) The comprehensive process established by this Section for
15 designating, reviewing, and updating the Priority List and Regional Priority
16 Industry Lists including the data-driven determination process of Subsection
17 B, the wage threshold standard of Subsection C, the wage growth rate standard
18 of Subsection D, the biennial review of Subsection E, and the regional list
19 process of Subsection F—is hereby formalized as the "Priority Industry
20 Alignment Process." The Priority Industry Alignment Process shall constitute
21 the authoritative mechanism through which the Louisiana Jump Start Career
22 Diploma Program maintains alignment with regional and statewide workforce
23 demand.

24 (3) The initial Priority List shall be established by the Council not later
25 than one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after the effective date of this
26 Subpart, following the data-driven process specified in Subsection B of this
27 Section, and shall be published on the publicly accessible website maintained
28 pursuant to §183.3(H)(3) of this Subpart.

29 (4) The Priority List shall include all industry sectors meeting each of the

1 following criteria:

2 (a) The industry sector contains one or more occupations rated four or
3 five stars in the Louisiana Workforce Commission's ("Louisiana Works") most
4 current official statewide occupational forecast, as approved by the Louisiana
5 Workforce Investment Council and its Occupational Forecasting Conference
6 ("OFC") (or its equivalent successor) pursuant to R.S. 23:76.

7 (b) The industry sector contains one or more occupations qualifying as
8 a priority occupation as defined in §183.2(P) of this Subpart.

9 © The industry sector contains one or more occupations meeting the
10 viable occupation wage threshold and minimum wage growth rate standards
11 established in Subsections C and D of this Section.

12 (5) No K–12 career and technical education pathway shall be authorized
13 under this Subpart unless the pathway is aligned to an occupation within an
14 industry sector included on the Priority List or, for regional pathways, the
15 applicable Regional Priority Industry List established under Subsection F of
16 this Section. Inclusion of an industry sector on the Priority List shall not
17 constitute pathway authorization; all pathways must separately satisfy the
18 requirements of §183.9 of this Subpart.

19 (6) The Priority List shall be organized by industry sector, with each
20 listed sector accompanied by: (a) the occupations within the sector qualifying
21 as priority occupations under §183.2(P); (b) the most recent OFC star rating for
22 each qualifying occupation; © the entry-level wage data for each qualifying
23 occupation and its relationship to the wage threshold standard under
24 Subsection C; and (d) the projected wage growth rate for each qualifying
25 occupation and its relationship to the wage growth rate standard under
26 Subsection D. The Council shall update this reference information as part of
27 each Biennial Priority Review conducted under Subsection E of this Section.

28 B. Data-Driven Determination Process; Required Data Sources

29 (1) All Council determinations under this Section—including designation

1 of priority industries, setting and updating of wage standards, and conduct of
2 Biennial Priority Reviews under Subsection E—shall be based on documented
3 analysis of current, publicly available labor market and wage data from the
4 sources specified in this Subsection.

5 (2) The following are required primary data sources for all Priority List
6 determinations and viable occupation assessments under this Section:

7 (a) The most current official statewide and regional occupational
8 employment and wage forecasts published by the Louisiana Workforce
9 Commission pursuant to R.S. 23:76, and approved by the Louisiana Workforce
10 Investment Council through its Occupational Forecasting Conference, including
11 all demand forecasts, wage data, and occupational star ratings (or its equivalent
12 successor) produced by that process.

13 (b) The official list of industry-based credentials approved by the
14 Louisiana Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065, and the
15 occupational classifications and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)
16 codes to which each approved credential is linked.

17 © Louisiana Workforce Commission occupational employment statistics
18 and wage data disaggregated by industry sector, occupational group, and
19 workforce development region.

20 (d) Louisiana Workforce Commission enhanced wage record data as
21 defined in §183.2(G) of this Subpart, to the extent available from prior Career
22 Diploma cohorts, which shall serve as outcome-based validation data for
23 occupations within which Career Diploma graduates have achieved
24 employment.

25 (3) The following are required supplementary data sources, to be used
26 when primary sources are unavailable, have not yet been updated, or require
27 supplementation for regional determinations:

28 (a) United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment
29 and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program data for Louisiana, where state-level data

1 is unavailable or not yet updated for the relevant occupation or industry sector.

2 (b) United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections
3 program national or regional data, for occupational wage growth rate
4 validation where Louisiana-specific projections have not yet been issued under
5 R.S. 23:76;

6 © Regional labor market data published by the Louisiana Workforce
7 Commission for each workforce development region of the state, including data
8 maintained by or in coordination with local workforce development boards
9 operating pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 3122 and R.S. 23:2061 et seq., which shall be
10 the primary supplementary source for Regional Priority Industry List
11 determinations under Subsection F.

12 (d) Documented employer demand data submitted by industry partners
13 and regional teams pursuant to §183.9 of this Subpart, which may supplement
14 but shall not substitute for quantitative labor market data from the sources
15 listed in Paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Subsection.

16 (4) In making Priority List determinations, the Council shall coordinate
17 with the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Louisiana Workforce
18 Investment Council in the manner prescribed by §183.3(I)(5) and §183.3(L) of
19 this Subpart to obtain the most current data available. The Council shall not be
20 required to await publication of a full Occupational Forecasting Conference
21 cycle before taking action under this Section, provided the Council documents
22 the data sources and their effective dates in the written records required under
23 Paragraph (5) of this Subsection.

24 (5) The Council shall maintain a written record of all data sources, data
25 vintages, and analytical methodologies applied in each Priority List
26 determination, Biennial Priority Review, and wage standard revision. Such
27 records shall constitute public records subject to R.S. 44:1 et seq. and shall be
28 available on the publicly accessible website maintained pursuant to §183.3(H)(3)
29 of this Subpart.

1 C. Wage Threshold Standard for Viable Occupation; Statutory
2 Minimum

3 (1) For purposes of this Subpart, the minimum statutory wage threshold
4 for a viable occupation, as that term is defined in §183.2(U) of this Subpart,
5 shall be an annualized entry-level wage equivalent to not less than one hundred
6 percent (100%) of the most recently published statewide median annual wage
7 for all occupations in Louisiana, as calculated from the official occupational
8 wage data most recently published by the Louisiana Workforce Commission
9 pursuant to R.S. 23:76.

10 (2) For purposes of applying the wage threshold standard under
11 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the Council shall determine the annualized
12 entry-level wage of an occupation by reference to the entry wage level for that
13 occupation as reported in the Louisiana Workforce Commission's official
14 occupational wage data published pursuant to R.S. 23:76. Where the Louisiana
15 Workforce Commission's published data does not include a separately reported
16 entry wage for an occupation, the Council shall use the tenth (10th) percentile
17 wage for that occupation as reported in the United States Bureau of Labor
18 Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics program for Louisiana
19 as the entry-level wage proxy, subject to update at the next OFC publication
20 cycle.

21 (3) Upon request by the Council, the Louisiana Workforce Commission
22 shall provide the Council, not later than thirty (30) calendar days after the
23 request, the most current statewide median annual wage figure for all
24 occupations in Louisiana as calculated from the official occupational wage data
25 most recently published pursuant to R.S. 23:76. The Council shall use the figure
26 provided by the Louisiana Workforce Commission as the authoritative basis for
27 all viable occupation wage threshold determinations.

28 (4) The Council may, by a vote of not fewer than seven of the ten voting
29 members then serving on the Council, establish a wage threshold standard for

1 a specific industry sector that is higher than the statewide minimum established
2 in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, where the Council finds by documented
3 analysis that occupations within that sector consistently command entry wages
4 significantly above the statewide median and that a sector-specific floor above
5 the minimum is necessary to ensure that pathways within that sector lead to
6 high-wage outcomes consistent with the standards applied by the Louisiana
7 Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065. Any sector-specific
8 standard established pursuant to this Paragraph shall be documented in writing
9 and posted publicly pursuant to Subsection B(5) of this Section.

10 (5) The wage threshold standard under this Subsection is an independent
11 statutory floor, separate from and not satisfied by, the Louisiana Workforce
12 Investment Council's industry-based credential approval standards under R.S.
13 23:2065. Both the IBC approval standard under R.S. 23:2065 and the viable
14 occupation wage threshold must be independently satisfied before a pathway
15 may be authorized under §183.9.

16 (6) The Council shall review the wage threshold standard as part of each
17 Biennial Priority Review conducted pursuant to Subsection E of this Section,
18 applying the most current statewide median annual wage data published by the
19 Louisiana Workforce Commission. The Council shall not lower the wage
20 threshold standard below the statewide median annual wage for all occupations
21 as determined under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection without prior legislative
22 authorization.

23 D. Minimum Wage Growth Rate Standard

24 (1) For purposes of this Subpart, the minimum projected wage growth
25 rate standard for a viable occupation, as that term is defined in §183.2(U) of this
26 Subpart, shall require a projected annual wage growth rate of not less than two
27 percent (2%) per year over the five-year period immediately following the date
28 of the Council's occupational assessment. This projected rate shall be derived
29 from:

1 (a) The most current official occupational wage forecast published by the
2 Louisiana Workforce Commission under R.S. 23:76, where such forecast
3 includes a five-year projected wage trajectory for the relevant occupation.

4 (b) Where a Louisiana-specific five-year wage growth projection for the
5 occupation is not available from the source specified in Subparagraph (a) of this
6 Paragraph, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment
7 Projections program national or regional data for the relevant Standard
8 Occupational Classification (SOC) code, which the Council may use as a
9 substitute pending the next Occupational Forecasting Conference publication
10 cycle.

11 (2) The minimum wage growth rate standard established in Paragraph
12 (1) of this Subsection shall be applied independently of, and shall not be offset
13 by, an occupation's projected employment growth rate, projected number of job
14 openings, or composite demand rating under the Louisiana Workforce
15 Investment Council's Occupational Forecasting Conference star rating system.

16 (3) Where the Council determines that an occupation's wage growth
17 projection satisfies the standard in Paragraph (1) on the basis of substitute data
18 under Subparagraph (1)(b) of this Subsection, the Council shall document that
19 determination in accordance with Subsection B(5) of this Section and shall
20 review and revalidate the determination at the next available Occupational
21 Forecasting Conference publication cycle.

22 (4) The Council shall review and, if necessary, update the minimum wage
23 growth rate standard as part of each Biennial Priority Review conducted
24 pursuant to Subsection E of this Section, taking into account updated
25 projections from the Louisiana Workforce Commission and material changes
26 in the economic outlook for Louisiana's labor market. Any revision to the wage
27 growth rate standard shall require a vote of not fewer than seven of the ten
28 voting members then serving on the Council and shall be documented in
29 Council minutes and in the Priority Review Report required under Subsection

1 **E(4) of this Section.**

2 **(5) The wage growth rate standard and wage threshold standard under**
3 **Subsection C are the minimum standards an occupation must meet to qualify**
4 **as a viable occupation under §183.2(U) and as the basis of an authorized**
5 **pathway under §183.9. These standards do not limit the Council's authority to**
6 **establish more rigorous standards for the designation of a priority occupation**
7 **under §183.2(P) of this Subpart.**

8 **E. Biennial Industry-Level Priority Review; Distinct from Five-Year**
9 **Pathway Cycle**

10 **(1) The Council shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Statewide**
11 **Priority Industry List established under Subsection A of this Section ("Biennial**
12 **Priority Review") not less frequently than once every two years. The first**
13 **Biennial Priority Review shall be completed not later than twenty-four (24)**
14 **months after the initial Priority List is established pursuant to Subsection A(3)**
15 **of this Section. Subsequent Biennial Priority Reviews shall be completed not**
16 **later than twenty-four (24) months after the completion of the preceding review.**

17 **(2) The Biennial Priority Review is a distinct and independent process**
18 **from the five-year pathway reauthorization cycle established in §183.13 of this**
19 **Subpart. Neither process satisfies nor substitutes for the other.**

20 **(3) Each Biennial Priority Review shall include all of the following:**

21 **(a) A reassessment of all industry sectors currently on the Priority List**
22 **using updated data from the sources specified in Subsection B of this Section,**
23 **to confirm that each listed sector continues to satisfy the criteria established in**
24 **Subsection A(4).**

25 **(b) An assessment of whether any industry sectors not currently on the**
26 **Priority List have come to satisfy the criteria in Subsection A(4) based on**
27 **updated data.**

28 **© A review of whether the wage threshold standard established in**
29 **Subsection C should be revised in light of the most current statewide median**

1 annual wage data published by the Louisiana Workforce Commission, with
2 documentation of the current data figure applied.

3 (d) A review of whether the minimum wage growth rate standard
4 established in Subsection D should be revised in light of updated occupational
5 wage growth projections from the Louisiana Workforce Commission or the
6 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

7 (e) An assessment of the coordination outcomes under §183.3(L) of this
8 Subpart during the preceding two-year period, including a review of any
9 changes made by the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council to its
10 occupational star ratings or approved industry-based credential list since the
11 preceding Biennial Priority Review that may affect Priority List composition.

12 (f) A review of Regional Priority Industry Lists submitted or updated
13 under Subsection F of this Section during the preceding two-year period, to
14 confirm consistency with the Statewide Priority Industry List and the standards
15 of this Section.

16 (4) Following each Biennial Priority Review, the Council shall:

17 (a) Issue a written Priority Review Report summarizing all findings, data
18 sources, and determinations made under Paragraph (3) of this Subsection,
19 including any additions to, removals from, or modifications of the Priority List
20 and any revisions to the wage threshold or growth rate standards.

21 (b) Post the Priority Review Report on the publicly accessible website
22 maintained pursuant to §183.3(H)(3) of this Subpart, not later than thirty (30)
23 calendar days following the Council meeting at which the review was completed.

24 © Notify in writing the Louisiana Department of Education, the
25 Louisiana Workforce Commission, each local education agency, and each
26 regional team of any additions to, removals from, or modifications to the
27 Priority List, including the effective date of such changes and the data basis for
28 each change.

29 (d) Transmit the Priority Review Report to the chair of the House

1 Committee on Education and the chair of the Senate Committee on Education,
2 consistent with the Council's annual reporting obligations under §183.3(D)(6) of
3 this Subpart.

4 (5) Where the Council's Biennial Priority Review results in the removal
5 of an industry sector from the Priority List, career and technical education
6 pathways aligned to occupations within that sector that were authorized before
7 the removal shall not be automatically deauthorized. Such pathways shall
8 remain authorized until their next scheduled reauthorization review under
9 §183.13 of this Subpart, at which time the Council shall evaluate whether
10 reauthorization is appropriate given the sector's removal from the Priority List.
11 The Council shall notify affected LEAs and regional teams of the sector's
12 removal from the Priority List, and the anticipated implications for pathway
13 reauthorization, promptly following the Biennial Priority Review.

14 (6) The Biennial Priority Review shall be conducted in coordination with
15 the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council pursuant to the formal
16 coordination protocol established in §183.3(L)(3) of this Subpart. Not fewer
17 than thirty (30) calendar days before finalizing the Priority Review Report, the
18 Council shall transmit a draft of the report to the Louisiana Workforce
19 Investment Council and shall consider any timely written comments received
20 from the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council before issuing the final
21 report. Nothing herein requires the Council to adopt such comments or delay
22 finalization beyond the schedule required by this Subsection.

23 F. Regional Priority Industry Lists

24 (1) In addition to the Statewide Priority Industry List established under
25 Subsection A of this Section, each regional team established pursuant to §183.9
26 of this Subpart shall develop, and the Council shall review and approve, a
27 Regional Priority Industry List ("Regional List") identifying the priority
28 industry sectors of the workforce development region served by that regional
29 team. Regional Lists shall reflect the specific labor market conditions of the

1 relevant workforce development region as defined by the Louisiana Workforce
2 Commission in coordination with local workforce development boards pursuant
3 to R.S. 23:2061 et seq. and 29 U.S.C. § 3122.

4 (2) Each Regional List shall be consistent with the Statewide Priority
5 Industry List and shall comply with all of the following:

6 (a) Each Regional List shall include all industry sectors on the Statewide
7 Priority Industry List that have a documented employment base within the
8 relevant workforce development region, as evidenced by Louisiana Workforce
9 Commission regional labor market data.

10 (b) A Regional List may include additional industry sectors not on the
11 Statewide Priority Industry List if those sectors satisfy all of the following:

12 (I) The sector contains one or more occupations rated four or five stars
13 in the Louisiana Workforce Commission's official regional occupational
14 forecast for the relevant workforce development region, as published pursuant
15 to R.S. 23:76.

16 (ii) The sector independently satisfies the viable occupation wage
17 threshold standard of Subsection C and the minimum wage growth rate
18 standard of Subsection D, assessed on the basis of regional wage data published
19 by the Louisiana Workforce Commission for the relevant workforce
20 development region.

21 (iii) The regional team submits to the Council documented evidence of
22 current employer demand within the region for at least one occupation within
23 that sector, including written statements of support from no fewer than two
24 employers with operations in the workforce development region.

25 © The basis for each inclusion on the Regional List, including the data
26 source and data vintage, shall be documented by the regional team and
27 submitted to the Council as part of the Regional List proposal required under
28 Paragraph (3) of this Subsection.

29 (3) Regional Lists shall be developed and approved through the following

1 process:

2 (a) Each regional team shall develop a proposed Regional List in
3 consultation with the local workforce development board or boards operating
4 within the relevant workforce development region pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 3122,
5 drawing on the regional labor market data specified in Subsection B(3)© of this
6 Section. The regional team shall document its consultation with local workforce
7 development boards in the submission required under Subparagraph (b) of this
8 Paragraph.

9 (b) The regional team shall submit its proposed Regional List to the
10 Council, accompanied by: (i) all supporting regional labor market data; (ii)
11 documentation of local workforce development board consultation; and (iii)
12 where sectors not on the Statewide Priority Industry List are proposed for
13 regional inclusion, the employer demand documentation required under
14 Subparagraph (2)(b)(iii) of this Subsection.

15 © The Council shall review the proposed Regional List applying the
16 criteria of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection and shall approve, approve with
17 modifications, or return the proposed list to the regional team with written
18 findings within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt. A Regional List approved
19 under this Subparagraph shall take effect upon Council approval and shall be
20 published on the publicly accessible website maintained pursuant to
21 §183.3(H)(3) of this Subpart.

22 (4) Regional Lists shall be updated by the regional team within six (6)
23 months following the Council's completion of each Biennial Priority Review
24 under Subsection E of this Section. A regional team may propose an interim
25 update to its Regional List at any time, prior to the conclusion of a Biennial
26 Priority Review cycle, if documented changes in regional labor market
27 conditions published by the Louisiana Workforce Commission or reported by
28 local workforce development boards warrant a revision. Interim updates shall
29 be submitted to and approved by the Council following the process in

1 Paragraph (3) of this Subsection.

2 (5) No regional pathway shall be authorized under this Subpart for an
3 occupation within an industry sector that is not included on the applicable
4 Regional Priority Industry List for the workforce development region in which
5 the pathway would be delivered. Alignment with a Regional List is a necessary
6 but not sufficient condition for regional pathway authorization; all regional
7 pathways must separately satisfy the full requirements of §183.9 of this
8 Subpart.

9 (6) The Council shall maintain on its publicly accessible website a
10 current, consolidated reference document presenting the Statewide Priority
11 Industry List and each approved Regional Priority Industry List in a format
12 accessible to the public, updated within thirty (30) calendar days of any
13 modification to either list. The reference document shall also identify, for each
14 industry sector on each list, the applicable wage data, OFC star rating, and the
15 date of the most recent Council determination regarding that sector.

16 §189.5. Louisiana career diploma; equal status

17 A. Career Diploma.

18 (1) There is hereby established within the Louisiana Jump Start Career
19 Diploma Program a credential to be known as the "Louisiana Career Diploma,"
20 which shall be issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
21 Education to any student who successfully completes all requirements of an
22 approved Louisiana Jump Start career and technical education pathway under
23 this Subpart, as defined in §183.2(L) of this Subpart.

24 (2) All provisions of this Subpart shall be administered to support and
25 accurately measure Career Diploma attainment.

26 (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
27 establish and maintain, in administrative rules adopted consistent with R.S.
28 17:7, all requirements for the award of the Louisiana Career Diploma,
29 consistent with the standards established in this Subpart.

30 B. Equal Status with Standard Diploma.

1 **(1) A Louisiana Career Diploma issued pursuant to this Subpart shall**
2 **be equal in status to a standard diploma for all purposes under Louisiana law.**
3 **No state law, rule, policy, or administrative instrument shall treat a Career**
4 **Diploma as lesser standing than a standard diploma.**

5 **(2) For purposes of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, "all purposes**
6 **under Louisiana law" includes but is not limited to:**

7 **(a) Employment by state agencies, state departments, political**
8 **subdivisions, and other state entities that require a high school diploma or**
9 **equivalent as a minimum qualification.**

10 **(b) Eligibility for admission to Louisiana public postsecondary**
11 **education institutions under the circumstances provided in Subsection C of this**
12 **Section.**

13 **© Eligibility for state financial aid programs that require a high school**
14 **diploma as a qualifying criterion.**

15 **(3) BESE shall designate the Career Diploma in a manner that conveys**
16 **a full and equal diploma.**

17 **C. Postsecondary Non-Restriction.**

18 **(1) A Career Diploma issued to a student pursuant to this Subpart shall**
19 **not limit a graduate's right to pursue postsecondary education for which the**
20 **graduate is otherwise eligible.**

21 **(2) All Louisiana public postsecondary institutions shall recognize the**
22 **Louisiana Career Diploma as equivalent to a standard diploma.**

23 **(3) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require any**
24 **postsecondary institution to admit a graduate who does not otherwise meet the**
25 **institution's published admissions standards.**

26 **(4) The Board of Regents shall, not later than one year after the effective**
27 **date of this Subpart and annually thereafter, certify to the legislature and to the**
28 **Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council established**
29 **pursuant to §183.3 that no Louisiana public postsecondary institution under its**

1 jurisdiction has adopted or maintained a policy inconsistent with Paragraph (2)
2 of this Subsection. Upon identifying a noncompliant institution, the Board of
3 Regents shall specify in its certification the institution, the nature of the
4 noncompliance, and the corrective action taken or planned.

5 §189.6. K-12 pathway architecture; four-stage developmental framework

6 A. Four-Stage Framework Established in Statute.

7 (1) There is hereby established within the Louisiana Jump Start Career
8 Diploma Program a four-stage developmental framework for K–12 career and
9 technical education, to be known as the "Louisiana K–12 CTE Pathway
10 Framework," which shall constitute the organizing structure for all career
11 awareness, exploration, concentration, and completion activities within the
12 Jump Start program. The four stages of the framework are designated as Stage
13 I (Career Awareness, Grades K–6), Stage II (Career Exploration, Grades 7–8),
14 Stage III (Career Concentration, Grades 9–10), and Stage IV (Career
15 Completion, Grades 11–12), as further described in Subsections B through E of
16 this Section.

17 (2) The purpose of the four-stage framework is to ensure that student
18 participation in the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program is the result
19 of a longitudinal, developmentally appropriate progression beginning in
20 elementary school. The Louisiana Department of Education shall incorporate
21 the four-stage framework into all administrative rules, bulletins, and program
22 guidance governing the Jump Start program.

23 (3) The four-stage framework established by this Section is a state-
24 designed structural architecture for the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma
25 Program. In developing and implementing all stage-level activities and
26 requirements under this Section, the Louisiana Department of Education shall
27 ensure that activities and requirements at each stage are designed to support
28 Louisiana's compliance with all applicable reporting and performance
29 obligations under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of

1 2006, as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 2301 et seq.

2 (4) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council
3 established pursuant to §183.3 of this Subpart shall, in conducting the shared
4 performance framework review required under §183.3(I)(2), include in its
5 assessment the extent to which each stage of the framework is being
6 implemented consistently by local education agencies across the state, and shall
7 include findings on stage-level implementation in the annual joint performance
8 report required under §183.3(I)(6).

9 B. Stage I — Career Awareness (Grades K–6).

10 (1) Stage I of the four-stage framework shall encompass grades
11 kindergarten through six and shall be designed to build foundational career
12 awareness in students through age-appropriate, structured activities that
13 introduce students to the concept of careers, connect academic learning to
14 workplace applications, and provide exposure to the range of career clusters
15 and industry sectors reflected in the Statewide Priority Industry List established
16 pursuant to §183.4 of this Subpart.

17 (2) Stage I activities shall be incorporated into the instructional program
18 for all students in grades kindergarten through six in public schools statewide.
19 Each local education agency shall ensure that Stage I activities are provided to
20 all students at each applicable grade level during each school year.

21 (3) Stage I activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

22 (a) Career awareness lessons integrated into core academic subjects.

23 (b) Guest presentations or virtual career exploration experiences
24 featuring individuals working in priority industry sectors.

25 © School-wide career fairs, career field days, or similar structured
26 career activities.

27 (d) Age-appropriate exposure to the relationship between educational
28 choices and career pathways.

29 (e) Introduction to career interest and aptitude inventory tools adapted

1 for elementary grade levels.

2 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education shall develop and make
3 available to each local education agency a Stage I activity resource guide
4 identifying age-appropriate activities for each grade level, identifying which
5 activities align with the priority industry sectors designated pursuant to §183.4
6 of this Subpart, and providing guidance to classroom teachers on integrating
7 Stage I activities into the core curriculum. The Department shall update the
8 Stage I activity resource guide not less than every three years.

9 C. Stage II — Career Exploration (Grades 7–8).

10 (1) Stage II of the four-stage framework shall encompass grades seven
11 and eight and shall be designed to deepen student career exploration through
12 structured activities that connect student career interests to specific career
13 clusters, identified pathways, and associated educational options. Stage II shall
14 provide each student with the foundational experience and information
15 necessary to make an informed pathway selection decision and to develop an
16 Individual Career and Academic Plan consistent with §183.7 of this Subpart.

17 (2) Stage II activities shall be incorporated into the instructional and
18 advisory program for all students in grades seven and eight in public schools
19 statewide. Each local education agency shall ensure that Stage II activities are
20 provided to all students at each applicable grade level during each school year.

21 (3) Stage II shall include, at minimum, all of the following:

22 (a) Formal career interest and aptitude assessment activities conducted
23 with each student not later than the end of grade seven and reviewed with each
24 student not later than the end of grade eight.

25 (b) Information provided to each student and the student's parent or
26 legal guardian regarding available Jump Start career and technical education
27 pathways and the corresponding occupational outcomes, industry-based
28 credentials, and postsecondary opportunities associated with each pathway.

29 © Initiation of each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan

1 consistent with the requirements of §183.7(A) of this Subpart.

2 (d) At least one direct career exploration activity per school year in each
3 of grades seven and eight that provides students with first-hand exposure to
4 occupations within one or more priority industry sectors, which may include job
5 shadowing, employer site visits, career mentoring sessions, or equivalent
6 structured activities.

7 (4) Stage II activities shall be provided with the involvement of a school
8 counselor or career coach as provided in §183.8 of this Subpart and shall be
9 coordinated with the development of each student's Individual Career and
10 Academic Plan under §183.7 and the student's Individual Graduation Plan
11 under R.S. 17:2925.

12 D. Stage III — Career Concentration (Grades 9–10).

13 (1) Stage III of the four-stage framework shall encompass grades nine
14 and ten and shall be designed to transition students from career exploration to
15 focussed career concentration by supporting each student in selecting and
16 enrolling in an approved Jump Start career and technical education pathway
17 and beginning the required course sequence for a Career Diploma.

18 (2) During Stage III, each student who has elected to pursue a Career
19 Diploma shall:

20 (a) Select an approved Jump Start career and technical education
21 pathway that aligns with the student's Individual Career and Academic Plan
22 developed pursuant to §183.7 of this Subpart.

23 (b) Enroll in and begin the nine-credit Jump Start course sequence
24 required for Career Diploma completion, as established in §183.10 of this
25 Subpart.

26 © With the assistance of a school counselor or career coach, finalize the
27 student's Individual Graduation Plan under R.S. 17:2925 designating the Jump
28 Start pathway as the student's chosen program of study.

29 (d) Participate in at least one work-based learning activity at Level 2 or

1 above under the tiered work-based learning quality continuum established in
2 §183.11 of this Subpart.

3 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall limit the ability of a student who has
4 not selected a Jump Start pathway in grades nine and ten to elect a Jump Start
5 pathway in grade eleven or twelve, consistent with the student's ability to
6 complete all pathway requirements before graduation, subject to local
7 education agency scheduling and the pathway change procedures established
8 in §183.7(G) of this Subpart.

9 E. Stage IV — Career Completion (Grades 11–12).

10 (1) Stage IV of the four-stage framework shall encompass grades eleven
11 and twelve and shall be designed to support each Jump Start pathway student
12 in completing the full requirements for a Career Diploma, including the nine-
13 credit Jump Start course sequence, the required work-based learning activities,
14 and the attainment of the required industry-based credential.

15 (2) During Stage IV, each student pursuing a Career Diploma shall:

16 (a) Complete the remaining credits of the nine-credit Jump Start course
17 sequence required for Career Diploma completion under §183.10 of this
18 Subpart.

19 (b) Achieve the required work-based learning level under §183.11 of this
20 Subpart for the student's designated pathway.

21 © Prepare for and attempt to attain the industry-based credential
22 required for the student's approved pathway as established pursuant to §183.12
23 of this Subpart.

24 (d) Satisfy all remaining academic requirements for graduation as
25 identified in the student's Individual Graduation Plan under R.S. 17:2925.

26 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education, in coordination with the
27 Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council, shall develop
28 and maintain standard Stage IV support resources for local education agencies
29 to deploy during grades eleven and twelve, including career and credential

1 preparation resources, direct employer engagement opportunities, and
2 postsecondary transition planning activities consistent with the articulation
3 agreements required by §183.15 of this Subpart.

4 §189.7. Individual career and academic plans; graduation plans

5 A. ICAP Requirement; Grade 7 Initiation.

6 (1) Each student enrolled in a Louisiana public school shall have an
7 Individual Career and Academic Plan, as defined in §183.2(H) of this Subpart,
8 initiated not later than the beginning of grade seven. The Individual Career and
9 Academic Plan shall serve as the primary longitudinal career planning
10 instrument connecting a student's career exploration activities under Stage II
11 of the four-stage framework established in §183.6 of this Subpart to the
12 student's selection of an approved Jump Start career and technical education
13 pathway.

14 (2) The Individual Career and Academic Plan shall be initiated with the
15 active involvement of the student, the student's parent or legal guardian, and
16 a school counselor or career coach as provided in §183.8 of this Subpart and
17 consistent with Subsection D of this Section.

18 (3) Each local education agency shall ensure that a current, accurate
19 Individual Career and Academic Plan exists for each enrolled student in grades
20 seven through twelve. A local education agency's failure to maintain Individual
21 Career and Academic Plans for enrolled students shall be documented in the
22 annual counselling activity report required under §183.8(F) of this Subpart and
23 shall be considered by the Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight
24 Council and the Louisiana Department of Education in evaluating the LEA's
25 compliance with pathway authorization conditions under §183.8(H) of this
26 Subpart.

27 B. Annual Review and Update.

28 (1) Each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan shall be
29 reviewed and updated annually throughout grades seven through twelve. The

1 annual review shall occur in connection with the scheduling of courses for the
2 following academic year and shall be completed not later than sixty calendar
3 days before the end of the applicable academic year.

4 (2) The annual review shall be conducted with the involvement of the
5 student, the student's parent or legal guardian, and a school counselor or career
6 coach as provided in Subsection D of this Section. The school counselor or
7 career coach shall ensure that each annual review addresses all of the following:

8 (a) Whether the student's identified career interests and pathway goals
9 remain current or require updating.

10 (b) Whether the student's course selections for the upcoming academic
11 year are aligned with the student's pathway goals and graduation requirements.

12 © Whether the student's ICAP needs to be revised to reflect changes in
13 the student's academic record, career interests, or available pathways.

14 (3) The school counselor or career coach shall document each annual
15 review, the date on which the review occurred, and the date on which the
16 student's parent or legal guardian was notified of the review, consistent with the
17 documentation requirements of Subsection D of this Section and the reporting
18 requirements of §183.8(F).

19 C. Connection to Approved CTE Pathways.

20 (1) Each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan shall identify,
21 beginning not later than the end of grade eight, one or more approved Jump
22 Start career and technical education pathways that align with the student's
23 stated career interests and aptitude assessment results. The identification of
24 pathways in the ICAP shall not constitute enrollment in a pathway or a binding
25 commitment to a specific pathway, but shall serve as the basis for pathway
26 selection and Individual Graduation Plan development under Subsection F of
27 this Section.

28 (2) The Louisiana Department of Education shall provide to each local
29 education agency a current list of approved Jump Start career and technical

1 education pathways, including the required course sequence, industry-based
2 credentials, and occupational outcomes for each pathway, in a format suitable
3 for use during ICAP development and review activities with students and their
4 families.

5 (3) In all ICAP development and review activities, school counselor and
6 career coaches shall present students with labor market information relevant
7 to the student's identified career interests, including information regarding the
8 priority occupations and wage outcomes associated with each pathway being
9 considered, consistent with the Louisiana Workforce Commission occupational
10 forecasting data referenced in §183.2(P) and §183.4 of this Subpart.

11 D. Counselor Involvement; Documentation Requirement.

12 (1) Each Individual Career and Academic Plan shall be developed,
13 annually reviewed, and revised with the active involvement of a school
14 counselor licensed pursuant to Louisiana law or a career coach who meets the
15 qualification standards established by the Louisiana Department of Education
16 pursuant to §183.8© of this Subpart.

17 (2) A school counselor or qualified career coach shall meet individually
18 with each student in connection with ICAP initiation and each required annual
19 review. Such individual meetings shall occur in person or virtually and shall
20 include discussion of the student's career interests, academic progress, pathway
21 options, and any planned revisions to the ICAP.

22 (3) A school counselor or qualified career coach shall not delegate the
23 individual student meeting required under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection to
24 an uncredentialed paraprofessional or to an automated system. Career coaches
25 who do not hold a school counselor license shall perform only those ICAP-
26 related functions expressly authorized by this Subpart and by the qualification
27 standards established under §183.8©.

28 (4) The school counselor or career coach responsible for each ICAP
29 development or review meeting shall document: (a) the date of the meeting; (b)

1 the school counselor's or career coach's name and credential; © the student
2 served; (d) the content of the review; and (e) any revisions made to the ICAP.
3 Such documentation shall be maintained as part of each student's educational
4 record consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
5 (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and R.S. 44:1 et seq.

6 E. Parent or Legal Guardian Notification and Approval.

7 (1) A student's parent or legal guardian shall be notified of and provided
8 an opportunity to participate in the initiation of the student's Individual Career
9 and Academic Plan and in each required annual review throughout grades
10 seven through twelve.

11 (2) Prior to revising a student's Individual Career and Academic Plan
12 in a manner that changes the student's identified pathway or postsecondary
13 goals, the school counselor or career coach shall communicate with the student's
14 parent or legal guardian, either in person or virtually, to explain the proposed
15 revisions and any potential impact on the student's graduation requirements
16 and postsecondary education goals. Any revision that changes the student's
17 identified pathway or postsecondary goals shall be approved in writing by the
18 student's parent or legal guardian.

19 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require parental
20 approval for an annual review that makes no substantive change to the
21 student's identified pathway or postsecondary goals, provided the parent or
22 legal guardian received notice of the review and an opportunity to participate.

23 (4) Each local education agency shall establish a written procedure for
24 parental notification and approval under this Subsection and shall ensure that
25 the procedure is communicated to parents and legal guardians of all students
26 in grades seven through twelve at the beginning of each school year.

27 F. Coordination with Individual Graduation Plans; R.S. 17:2925.

28 (1) Each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan shall be aligned
29 with the student's Individual Graduation Plan required pursuant to R.S.

1 17:2925. For a student pursuing a Career Diploma under this Subpart, the
2 student's Individual Graduation Plan shall identify the approved Jump Start
3 career and technical education pathway selected by the student, consistent with
4 §183.2(I) of this Subpart.

5 (2) The school counselor or career coach responsible for a student's
6 Individual Graduation Plan development and review under R.S. 17:2925 shall
7 also be responsible for ensuring that the student's Individual Career and
8 Academic Plan and Individual Graduation Plan are aligned and mutually
9 consistent. Any update to a student's Individual Graduation Plan that affects
10 the student's pathway selection or postsecondary goals shall also be reflected in
11 a corresponding update to the student's Individual Career and Academic Plan,
12 subject to the parental approval requirements of Subsection E of this Section.

13 (3) The Individual Graduation Plan required under R.S. 17:2925 shall
14 be signed by the student, the student's parent or legal guardian, and the school
15 counselor or career coach, following each annual review. The school counselor
16 or career coach involved in a student's ICAP and IGP process shall follow the
17 procedures established in Subsection G of this Section and in R.S. 17:2925
18 concurrently when a student changes program of study.

19 (4) In the event of any conflict between the requirements of this Section
20 and the requirements of R.S. 17:2925, the requirements of this Section shall
21 govern with respect to students enrolled in or pursuing an approved Jump Start
22 career and technical education pathway. Nothing in this Paragraph shall be
23 construed to limit the obligations of local education agencies and school
24 counselor under R.S. 17:2925 with respect to students not pursuing a Jump
25 Start pathway.

26 G. Student Change of Program of Study; Flexibility; Parent Approval.

27 (1) A student's Individual Career and Academic Plan shall be flexible
28 enough to permit the student to change the student's identified pathway or
29 career goal during grades seven through twelve, consistent with Subsection E

1 of this Section, and any such change shall be reflected in the student's
2 Individual Graduation Plan under R.S. 17:2925 within sixty calendar days of
3 the ICAP revision.

4 (2) A school counselor or career coach shall not deny a student the
5 opportunity to change a pathway designation in the student's ICAP solely on the
6 basis that the student has already enrolled in or begun a course sequence
7 associated with a different pathway, but shall advise the student and the
8 student's parent or legal guardian of the credit implications and graduation
9 requirement implications of the proposed change before approving the revision.

10 (3) A student who changes a pathway designation after beginning the
11 nine-credit Jump Start course sequence shall not be penalized in the student's
12 Individual Graduation Plan or ICAP for credits already earned in the prior
13 pathway, except as necessary to ensure that the student meets the graduation
14 requirements for the newly selected pathway or program of study.

15 (4) The local education agency shall maintain a record of each student
16 pathway change, including: (a) the date of the change; (b) the prior and new
17 pathway designations; © documentation of parental approval; and (d) the name
18 of the school counselor or career coach who processed the change. Such records
19 shall be maintained as part of the student's educational record consistent with
20 FERPA, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and R.S. 44:1 et seq.

21 §189.8. Career counseling and career coaching standards

22 A. Minimum Counselor-to-Student Ratio; CTE Advising.

23 (1) Each local education agency shall ensure that school counselor and
24 career coaches providing career and technical education advising under this
25 Subpart maintain an advising caseload that allows them to fulfill the Individual
26 Career and Academic Plan requirements of §183.7 of this Subpart for every
27 enrolled student in grades seven through twelve.

28 (2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall, not
29 later than one year after the effective date of this Subpart, adopt administrative

1 rules establishing:

2 (a) A maximum caseload ratio for school counselor and career coaches
3 providing career and technical education advising to students in grades seven
4 through twelve for purposes of ICAP development and review under §183.7.

5 (b) A method by which combined caseloads of school counselor and
6 career coaches at a school may be aggregated to determine compliance with the
7 maximum ratio.

8 © A reporting requirement by which each local education agency
9 annually certifies to the Louisiana Department of Education the school
10 counselor and career coach staffing levels at each school and whether the
11 advising caseload ratio for each school complies with the maximum ratio
12 established under this Subsection.

13 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require any local
14 education agency to employ a school counselor if the LEA meets the advising
15 requirements of this Subpart through qualified career coaches consistent with
16 Subsection C of this Section, provided that career coaches do not perform duties
17 reserved by law to a licensed school counselor.

18 B. CTE-Specific Counselor Training Requirements.

19 (1) Each school counselor assigned career and technical education
20 advising responsibilities, including ICAP development and review under §183.7
21 of this Subpart, shall complete CTE-specific training as described in this
22 Subsection within eighteen months of the effective date of this Subpart, or
23 within eighteen months of initial assignment to CTE advising responsibilities,
24 whichever is later.

25 (2) CTE-specific counselor training shall include, at minimum, all of the
26 following:

27 (a) An overview of the Louisiana Jump Start Career Diploma Program,
28 including the four-stage developmental framework established in §183.6, the
29 pathway authorization and approval process under §183.9 and §183.13, the

1 tiered industry-based credential system under §183.12, and the work-based
2 learning quality standards under §183.11.

3 (b) Applied training in labor market data interpretation, including how
4 to use Louisiana Workforce Commission occupational forecasting data and the
5 priority occupation framework established in §183.4, to support student
6 pathway selection decision-making.

7 © Applied training in Individual Career and Academic Plan
8 development, review, and documentation under §183.7 of this Subpart,
9 including training on the coordination of ICAPs with Individual Graduation
10 Plans under R.S. 17:2925.

11 (d) Training on the postsecondary articulation agreements established
12 pursuant to §183.15 of this Subpart and on how to communicate postsecondary
13 credit transfer opportunities to students and families.

14 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education shall develop and make
15 available to all local education agencies and school counselor a training
16 curriculum meeting the requirements of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. The
17 training curriculum shall be:

18 (a) Developed in coordination with the Louisiana School Counselor
19 Association and with postsecondary institutions and workforce development
20 agencies as appropriate.

21 (b) Offered at no cost to school counselor employed by local education
22 agencies.

23 © Available in online, hybrid, and in-person formats to accommodate
24 the professional development needs of school counselor across the state.

25 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education shall annually report to the
26 Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council on the number
27 of school counselor who have completed the training required by this
28 Subsection, disaggregated by local education agency. The Oversight Council
29 shall include an assessment of counselor training compliance in the annual joint

1 performance report required under §183.3(I)(6) of this Subpart.

2 C. Career Coach Authorization; Use as Alternative or Supplement to
3 School Counselor.

4 (1) Each public school governing authority may provide for the
5 individualized student career planning and advising services required by this
6 Subpart through the use of school counselor, career coaches, or a combination
7 of school counselor and career coaches, subject to the limitations and
8 requirements of this Section.

9 (2) A career coach authorized pursuant to this Subsection may perform
10 the following functions under this Subpart:

11 (a) Develop, review, and revise Individual Career and Academic Plans
12 with students and their parents or legal guardians pursuant to §183.7 of this
13 Subpart.

14 (b) Assist in the development and review of Individual Graduation Plans
15 under R.S. 17:2925, in coordination with a licensed school counselor to the
16 extent required by that statute.

17 © Provide career exploration, career awareness, and pathway advising
18 services to students in grades seven through twelve.

19 (d) Participate in the Stage II and Stage III activities established in
20 §183.6© and §183.6(D) of this Subpart.

21 (3) A career coach shall not:

22 (a) Perform any duty that is by law reserved exclusively to a licensed
23 school counselor, except as expressly authorized by this Subpart.

24 (b) Provide mental health counselling, crisis counselling, or any other
25 clinical counselling service.

26 © Satisfy any statutory or administrative requirement that specifically
27 mandates a licensed school counselor, without explicit authorization by this
28 Subpart or other applicable law for a career coach to satisfy that requirement.

29 (4) To be authorized as a career coach under this Subpart, a person shall

1 meet the qualification standards established by the Louisiana Department of
2 Education pursuant to Paragraph (5) of this Subsection. A public school
3 governing authority shall not authorize any person as a career coach for
4 purposes of this Subpart unless the person has been determined to meet the
5 qualification standards established under Paragraph (5) of this Subsection or
6 has been contracted from a vendor on the Approved Career Coaching Vendor
7 List maintained pursuant to Subsection D of this Section.

8 (5) The Louisiana Department of Education shall establish and maintain
9 qualification standards for career coaches authorized under this Subpart. Such
10 standards shall require, at minimum, that a career coach demonstrate:

11 (a) Knowledge of Louisiana's Jump Start career and technical education
12 pathway system, including the pathway authorization process, the four-stage
13 framework established in §183.6, the tiered industry-based credential system
14 under §183.12, and the labor market data systems used for pathway
15 development under §183.4.

16 (b) Experience in career advising, workforce development, human
17 resources, or a directly related professional field.

18 © Completion of the career-coach-specific training developed by the
19 Louisiana Department of Education pursuant to this Subsection before the
20 career coach begins providing career advising services under this Subpart.

21 (d) Such other qualifications as the Department determines are
22 necessary to ensure that career coaches can provide high-quality, accurate
23 career and pathway advising to students and their families.

24 (6) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit a local
25 education agency from employing or contracting with career coaches in
26 addition to meeting all school counselor staffing and caseload requirements, or
27 to create a right in any individual to be authorized or employed as a career
28 coach.

29 D. State Department of Education; Approved Career Coaching Vendor

1 List.

2 (1) The Louisiana Department of Education shall publish and maintain
3 on its publicly accessible website a list of approved career coaching vendors
4 from which public school governing authorities may select career coaches for
5 purposes of this Subpart. The list shall be designated as the "Approved Career
6 Coaching Vendor List."

7 (2) To be placed on the Approved Career Coaching Vendor List, a
8 vendor shall demonstrate to the Louisiana Department of Education that:

9 (a) The vendor's career coaches meet the qualification standards
10 established pursuant to Subsection C(5) of this Section.

11 (b) The vendor has in place a documented quality assurance process for
12 supervising career coaches and ensuring consistent, accurate delivery of career
13 advising services.

14 © The vendor agrees to comply with all applicable state and federal
15 privacy laws governing student educational records, including FERPA, 20
16 U.S.C. § 1232g, and R.S. 44:1 et seq.

17 (d) The vendor agrees to provide documentation of each career coach's
18 credentials to the contracting local education agency upon request.

19 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education shall review the Approved
20 Career Coaching Vendor List at least annually and shall remove any vendor
21 that no longer satisfies the requirements of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection or
22 that has demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the quality or legal
23 standards required under this Subpart.

24 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education shall publish the initial
25 Approved Career Coaching Vendor List required by this Subsection not later
26 than January 1, 2027.

27 (5) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to limit a public school
28 governing authority's use of school counselor or its ability to directly employ
29 career coaches who meet the qualification standards established under

1 Subsection C(5) of this Section without use of a contracted vendor.

2 E. Regional Consortia for Career Coach Contracting.

3 (1) Two or more public school governing authorities may form a
4 regional consortium for the purpose of jointly contracting with career coaches
5 or career coaching vendors, sharing career coach personnel, or coordinating the
6 delivery of career coaching services across multiple local education agency
7 jurisdictions. A regional consortium formed pursuant to this Subsection may
8 operate through an intergovernmental agreement consistent with R.S. 33:1324
9 or such other legal mechanism as applicable law permits.

10 (2) A regional consortium formed pursuant to this Subsection shall
11 ensure that each participating local education agency satisfies the ICAP
12 development and review requirements of §183.7 of this Subpart for all enrolled
13 students in grades seven through twelve within that LEA's schools,
14 notwithstanding the consortium structure.

15 (3) A regional consortium formed pursuant to this Subsection may take
16 advantage of group purchasing, regional contracting, and other economies of
17 scale to reduce the cost of career coaching services for participating local
18 education agencies, consistent with applicable state procurement law.

19 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education shall develop and make
20 available to local education agencies model intergovernmental agreement
21 language for regional consortia formed under this Subsection, not later than one
22 year after the effective date of this Subpart.

23 F. Reporting Requirements; Counselling Activity Documentation.

24 (1) Each local education agency shall submit to the Louisiana
25 Department of Education an annual counselling activity report documenting the
26 following information for the prior academic year:

27 (a) The number of school counselor and career coaches employed or
28 contracted by the LEA who provided career and technical education advising
29 services under this Subpart, disaggregated by school.

1 **(b) The number of students in grades seven through twelve who received**
2 **an ICAP initiation, review, or update meeting with a school counselor or career**
3 **coach, disaggregated by school and grade level.**

4 **© Whether the advising caseload ratio at each school within the LEA**
5 **complied with the maximum ratio established by the State Board of Elementary**
6 **and Secondary Education under Subsection A(2) of this Section during the prior**
7 **academic year.**

8 **(d) The number of school counselor employed by the LEA who**
9 **completed the CTE-specific training required under Subsection B of this**
10 **Section, disaggregated by school.**

11 **(e) Any schools within the LEA at which the ICAP maintenance**
12 **obligation of §183.7(A)(3) was not fully met, including the number of students**
13 **without a current ICAP at each such school and the LEA's remediation plan.**

14 **(2) The Louisiana Department of Education shall publish on its publicly**
15 **accessible website, not later than December 1 of each year, a summary of the**
16 **annual counselling activity reports submitted by all local education agencies**
17 **under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection for the prior academic year. The**
18 **summary shall be disaggregated by local education agency and shall identify**
19 **any LEA that the Department determines to be materially out of compliance**
20 **with the ICAP or counselling requirements of this Subpart.**

21 **(3) The Louisiana Department of Education shall also annually publish**
22 **on its website a list of public school governing authorities that did not spend**
23 **more than ninety-five percent of the career development fund dollars**
24 **appropriated for the previous state fiscal year, to support public transparency**
25 **in the deployment of career development resources at the local level.**

26 **G. Pupil Progression Plan; Career Coaching Description.**

27 **(1) Each public school governing authority shall include in its pupil**
28 **progression plan, developed pursuant to R.S. 17:24.4, a description of the**
29 **governing authority's plan to provide career coaching and career advising**

1 services to each student in grades seven through twelve, consistent with the
2 requirements of this Subpart and §183.7 of this Subpart.

3 (2) The career coaching description required under Paragraph (1) of
4 this Subsection shall address, at minimum:

5 (a) The roles and qualifications of school counselor and career coaches
6 who will provide ICAP development and review services to enrolled students.

7 (b) The schedule and process for annual ICAP reviews consistent with
8 the requirements of §183.7(B) of this Subpart.

9 © Whether the governing authority intends to use a career coaching
10 vendor from the Approved Career Coaching Vendor List maintained under
11 Subsection D of this Section, and if so, the name of the vendor.

12 (d) Whether the governing authority participates in a regional
13 consortium under Subsection E of this Section.

14 (e) The governing authority's plan for achieving and maintaining
15 compliance with the caseload ratio requirements of Subsection A of this Section.

16 (3) The career coaching description required by this Section shall be
17 updated annually as part of the pupil progression plan review process and shall
18 be made publicly available on the governing authority's website.

19 H. Condition of Pathway Authorization.

20 (1) Compliance with the career counselling and career coaching
21 standards established by this Section, and with the Individual Career and
22 Academic Plan requirements of §183.7 of this Subpart, is hereby declared a
23 condition of pathway authorization for each local education agency that
24 operates or participates in an approved Jump Start career and technical
25 education pathway under this Subpart.

26 (2) In evaluating any application for pathway authorization or
27 reauthorization pursuant to §183.13 of this Subpart, the Louisiana Career and
28 Technical Education Oversight Council shall consider whether the applying
29 local education agency has demonstrated, through the most recent annual

1 counselling activity report required under Subsection F of this Section, that the
2 LEA is maintaining the ICAP and counselling standards required by this
3 Section and §183.7 of this Subpart.

4 (3) If the Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council
5 finds that a local education agency operating an authorized pathway is
6 materially and persistently out of compliance with the requirements of this
7 Section or §183.7, the Council shall include that finding in its written
8 recommendation to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
9 regarding the next pathway authorization, modification, or reauthorization
10 decision for that LEA, and shall recommend conditions, corrective action
11 requirements, or other measures as appropriate.

12 (4) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require the automatic
13 revocation or suspension of a pathway authorization based solely on a finding
14 of counselling or coaching noncompliance. The appropriate remedial response
15 shall be determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
16 on the basis of the Council's written recommendation and findings, taking into
17 account the nature, severity, and duration of the noncompliance and the
18 potential impact on enrolled students.

19 §189.9. Career and technical education pathway structure; designation;
20 regional teams

21 A. Pathway framework established.

22 (1) There is hereby established within the Louisiana Jump Start Career
23 Diploma Program "Louisiana K–12 CTE Pathway Authorization Framework,"
24 through which career and technical education pathways shall be proposed,
25 designated, reviewed, and reauthorized for delivery in Louisiana public schools.
26 All K–12 CTE pathways Career Diploma completion shall operate within the
27 Framework.

28 (2) All K–12 CTE pathways authorized under this Subpart shall be
29 designated as either statewide pathways or regional pathways, as defined in

1 §183.2(T) and §183.2(Q) of this Subpart, and shall satisfy the minimum
2 pathway components established in Subsection E of this Section and the
3 authorization criteria established in §183.13 of this Subpart.

4 (3) No local education agency shall offer or deliver a career and
5 technical education pathway as a Jump Start pathway for purposes of Career
6 Diploma completion unless that pathway has been authorized by the State
7 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education following the process
8 established in §183.13 of this Subpart and upon a written recommendation by
9 the Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council.

10 (4) The Louisiana K–12 CTE Pathway Authorization Framework shall
11 be administered by the Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight
12 Council, in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Education and the
13 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, consistent with the
14 jurisdictional boundaries established in §183.3(K) of this Subpart.

15 B. Statewide Pathways; Requirements.

16 (1) A statewide pathway, as defined in §183.2(T) of this Subpart,
17 shall be available for delivery by any local education agency in Louisiana that
18 satisfies the conditions of pathway authorization established in §183.13© of this
19 Subpart for that pathway.

20 (2) To be eligible for designation as a statewide pathway, a proposed
21 pathway shall:

22 (a) Be aligned to one or more occupations within an industry sector
23 included on the Statewide Priority Industry List established pursuant to
24 §183.4(A) of this Subpart.

25 (b) Be anchored to one or more industry-based credentials approved
26 by the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065
27 or designated by the Council pursuant to §183.12 of this Subpart.

28 © Include a structured nine-credit Jump Start course sequence
29 meeting the requirements of §183.10© of this Subpart.

1 (d) Incorporate a work-based learning component meeting the
2 minimum tier and quality standards established in §183.11(B) of this
3 Subpart.(e) Demonstrate alignment with documented statewide employer
4 demand for the occupations served by the pathway, using the data sources
5 specified in §183.4(B) of this Subpart.

6 (f) Satisfy all required pathway components established in
7 Subsection E of this Section.

8 (3) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight
9 Council shall maintain and publish, on the publicly accessible website
10 maintained pursuant to §183.3(H)(3) of this Subpart, a current list of all
11 authorized statewide pathways, including the industry sector, required
12 credentials, and occupational outcomes associated with each pathway,
13 updated within thirty calendar days of any authorization, modification, or
14 deauthorization.

15 C. Regional pathways; requirements.

16 (1) A regional pathway, as defined in §183.2(Q) of this Subpart, shall
17 be developed by a regional team as described in Subsection F of this Section
18 and shall be available for delivery only within the workforce development
19 region or regions for which the pathway has been authorized by the State
20 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

21 (2) To be eligible for designation as a regional pathway, a proposed
22 pathway shall:

23 (a) Be aligned to one or more occupations within an industry sector
24 included on the applicable Regional Priority Industry List established
25 pursuant to §183.4(F) of this Subpart.

26 (b) Be anchored to one or more industry-based credentials approved
27 by the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065
28 or designated by the Council pursuant to §183.12 of this Subpart.

29 © Include a structured nine-credit Jump Start course sequence

1 meeting the requirements of §183.10© of this Subpart.

2 (d) Incorporate a work-based learning component meeting the
3 minimum tier and quality standards established in §183.11(B) of this
4 Subpart.

5 (e) Demonstrate alignment with documented regional employer
6 demand for the occupations served by the pathway, as evidenced by: (i) data
7 from the Louisiana Workforce Commission's regional occupational
8 employment and wage forecasts published pursuant to R.S. 23:76; and (ii)
9 written statements of support from not fewer than two employers with
10 operations within the applicable workforce development region.

11 (f) Satisfy all required pathway components established in
12 Subsection E of this Section

13 (3) A regional pathway shall adhere to the same academic credit
14 requirements as statewide pathways, consistent with §183.10(B) of this
15 Subpart and the postsecondary non-restriction provisions of §183.5© of this
16 Subpart.

17 (4) The Council shall not authorize a regional pathway for an
18 occupation within an industry sector that is not included on the applicable
19 Regional Priority Industry List for the workforce development region in
20 which the pathway would be delivered, consistent with §183.4(F)(5) of this
21 Subpart.

22 D. Pathway tiers; designation criteria.

23 (1) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight
24 Council shall establish and maintain a tiered designation system for
25 authorized pathways, assigning each pathway to one of three tiers based on
26 industry alignment, credential value, and postsecondary and workforce
27 outcomes.

28 (2) The pathway tier designations shall be as follows:

29 (a) Tier 1 pathways (Provisional Designation) pathways aligned to

1 viable occupations, as defined in §183.2(U) of this Subpart, that satisfy the
2 minimum authorization requirements of §183.13(B) of this Subpart. A local
3 education agency or regional team seeking reauthorization of a pathway
4 that remains at Tier 1 designation shall include in its reauthorization
5 proposal under §183.13 of this Subpart a written Tier 2 Advancement Plan
6 specifying:

7 (I) The credential tier upgrade, employer partnership development,
8 or other pathway enhancements required to achieve Tier 2 designation.

9 (ii) Measurable interim milestones for those enhancements.

10 (iii) A target date for achieving Tier 2 designation not later than the
11 midpoint of the next five-year authorization cycle. The Council shall assess
12 the adequacy of any Tier 2 Advancement Plan in its written reauthorization
13 recommendation to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
14 Education.

15 (b) Tier 2 pathways are pathways aligned to priority occupations, as
16 defined in §183.2(P) of this Subpart, that:

17 (I) Are anchored to one or more Tier 2 industry-based credentials as
18 established in §183.12(B) of this Subpart.

19 (ii) Include a documented postsecondary articulation agreement
20 meeting the requirements of §183.15 of this Subpart.

21 © Tier 3 pathways are pathways that, in addition to meeting all
22 requirements for Tier 2 designation, are:

23 (I) Anchored to one or more Tier 3 industry-based credentials as
24 established in §183.12(B) of this Subpart.

25 (ii) Include a TOPS Tech Early Start provider arrangement as
26 required by §183.16(A) of this Subpart.

27 (iii) Demonstrate, based on the most recent Act 187 return on
28 investment data required under §183.20 of this Subpart, that a majority of
29 pathway completers are employed in the relevant occupation within twelve

1 months of graduation at wages meeting or exceeding the priority occupation
2 wage standard. (3) The Council shall assign each authorized pathway
3 a tier designation at the time of initial authorization and shall reassess tier
4 designation at each reauthorization under §183.13 of this Subpart and at
5 any time when changes in credential tier status under §183.12 occur that
6 affect the pathway's tier eligibility.

7 (4) The tier designation of each authorized pathway shall be
8 published on the publicly accessible website maintained by the Council
9 pursuant to §183.3(H)(3) of this Subpart and shall be updated within thirty
10 calendar days of any change in tier designation. Pathway tier designation
11 shall be used in accountability system calculations as provided in §183.5(D)
12 of this Subpart and in the public reporting required under §183.19 of this
13 Subpart, and shall inform the Council's recommendations regarding
14 pathway authorization, reauthorization, and modification under §183.13.

15 E. Required pathway components; minimum statutory elements.

16 (1) Each K–12 CTE pathway authorized under this Subpart,
17 whether statewide or regional, shall at a minimum include all of the
18 following components:

19 (a) A structured, sequential course of study organized around a
20 defined career field within a recognized career cluster, consisting of not
21 fewer than nine credits as required by §183.10© of this Subpart, designed
22 to provide students with both the technical competencies and academic
23 foundations necessary for career readiness and postsecondary success.

24 (b) A work-based learning component meeting the minimum tier
25 and quality standards established in §183.11 of this Subpart.

26 © One or more industry-based credentials approved or designated
27 pursuant to §183.12 of this Subpart that are aligned to the occupational
28 outcomes of the pathway.

29 (d) A documented connection to one or more priority occupations,

1 as defined in §183.2(P) of this Subpart, in an industry sector on the
2 Statewide Priority Industry List or applicable Regional Priority Industry
3 List, consistent with the requirements of §183.4 of this Subpart; provided
4 that, for pathways seeking initial authorization under a provisional Tier 1
5 designation pursuant to §183.9(D)(2)(a) of this Subpart, a documented
6 connection to one or more viable occupations, as defined in §183.2(U) of this
7 Subpart, within such a sector shall satisfy this requirement for the initial
8 authorization period only, subject to the Tier 2 Advancement Plan
9 obligation applicable at reauthorization.

10 (e) An articulation agreement with at least one Louisiana public
11 postsecondary institution, with priority given to technical and community
12 colleges, specifying the credit transfer terms applicable to students who
13 complete the pathway, consistent with the requirements of §183.15 of this
14 Subpart.

15 (f) A career counselling and career coaching plan satisfying the
16 requirements of §183.8 of this Subpart, as incorporated into the local
17 education agency's pupil progression plan pursuant to §183.8(G) of this
18 Subpart.

19 (2) No pathway shall be authorized or reauthorized unless all
20 components in Paragraph (1) are documented in the pathway authorization
21 proposal under §183.13(A) of this Subpart and are maintained throughout
22 the pathway's authorization period per §183.13© of this Subpart.

23 (3) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight
24 Council shall, by rule adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure
25 Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., establish additional minimum standards for each
26 required pathway component where necessary to ensure consistent pathway
27 quality across the state. Any such additional standards shall not be less
28 rigorous than the standards established by this Section and by §§183.10
29 through 183.15 of this Subpart.

1 **F. Regional team structure; composition; responsibilities.**

2 **(1) Each workforce development region of Louisiana, as defined by**
3 **the Louisiana Workforce Commission in coordination with local workforce**
4 **development boards pursuant to R.S. 23:2061 et seq. and 29 U.S.C. § 3122,**
5 **shall have a regional team responsible for regional pathway development**
6 **and oversight as provided in this Subsection.**

7 **(2) Each regional team shall be composed of, at minimum, all of the**
8 **following members:**

9 **(a) Representatives of not fewer than two local education agencies**
10 **operating within the workforce development region.**

11 **(b) A representative from not fewer than one Louisiana public**
12 **postsecondary institution, with priority consideration given to technical**
13 **colleges and community colleges operating within or adjacent to the**
14 **workforce development region.**

15 **© Not fewer than three representatives from business, industry, or**
16 **workforce development entities operating within the workforce development**
17 **region, of which at least two shall be representatives of businesses in priority**
18 **industry sectors designated pursuant to §183.4 of this Subpart for the**
19 **region.**

20 **(d) A representative from the local workforce development board or**
21 **boards operating within the workforce development region pursuant to R.S.**
22 **23:2061 et seq. and 29 U.S.C. § 3122.**

23 **(3) Each regional team shall:**

24 **(a) Develop and submit to the Council a proposed Regional Priority**
25 **Industry List for the workforce development region, and update that list as**
26 **required by §183.4(F)(4) of this Subpart.**

27 **(b) Identify regional workforce development needs and propose**
28 **regional pathways for authorization under §183.13 of this Subpart that are**
29 **aligned to the region's documented labor market demand.**

1 © Coordinate with local education agencies within the region to
2 support the development, delivery, and continuous improvement of
3 authorized regional pathways.

4 (d) Recruit and establish documented employer partnerships for
5 work-based learning placements consistent with §183.11© of this Subpart.

6 (e) Submit to the Council any employer demand documentation
7 required for regional pathway authorization or reauthorization under
8 §183.13 of this Subpart and §183.4(F)(2)(b)(iii) of this Subpart.

9 (f) Participate in mid-cycle pathway reviews triggered under
10 §183.13(E) of this Subpart for regional pathways within the team's
11 jurisdiction.

12 (g) Prepare and submit to the Council an annual regional CTE
13 update report documenting regional pathway enrollment, completion, and
14 employment outcomes for the prior academic year, consistent with the data
15 elements required by §183.19 of this Subpart.

16 (4) The Council shall establish, by rule adopted pursuant to the
17 Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., operational and
18 governance standards for regional teams, including procedures for: (a) the
19 selection and rotation of regional team members; (b) regional team decision-
20 making and reporting obligations; © regional team pathway proposal
21 submission; and (d) Council feedback to and coordination with regional
22 teams.

23 (5) The Louisiana Department of Education shall provide
24 operational support and technical assistance to regional teams, including
25 access to statewide labor market data, pathway curriculum resources, and
26 professional development opportunities for regional team members, not less
27 than once per year.

28 G. Partnering Authority; cross-district enrollment; program sharing.

29 (1) A local education agency that does not have sufficient capacity to

1 independently deliver an authorized career and technical education pathway
2 may fulfill its pathway delivery obligations through one or more of the
3 following partnering arrangements:

4 (a) A formal partnership with one or more other local education
5 agencies to jointly deliver a pathway, as authorized by applicable Louisiana
6 law governing cooperative endeavors and intergovernmental agreements,
7 including R.S. 33:1324.

8 (b) A partnership with a Louisiana vocational or technical institution,
9 consistent with §183.17 of this Subpart.

10 © Participation in a regional team pathway arrangement under
11 which the pathway is delivered on a collaborative basis across multiple local
12 education agencies within the workforce development region.

13 (2) Any partnering arrangement under this Subsection shall be
14 memorialized in a written agreement that:

15 (a) Identifies each participating local education agency and any
16 other institutional partner.

17 (b) Specifies the responsibilities of each partner for curriculum
18 delivery, work-based learning coordination, instructor staffing,
19 credentialing support, and student advising.

20 © Addresses the process for cross-district student enrollment,
21 including any transportation arrangements necessary to enable students to
22 access the pathway at a delivery site outside their home district.

23 (d) Is submitted to and approved by the Council as part of any
24 pathway authorization or reauthorization proposal under §183.13 of this
25 Subpart when the partnership is a material component of the pathway's
26 delivery model.

27 (3) No student enrolled in a Louisiana public school shall be assessed
28 a fee for participation in a career and technical education pathway offered
29 through a partnering arrangement under this Subsection. All pathway-

1 related costs incurred by a local education agency in connection with a
2 partnering arrangement shall be funded through career development funds,
3 available state and federal CTE funds, or other lawfully available
4 appropriations, consistent with §183.17(D) of this Subpart.

5 (4) A local education agency that participates in a partnering
6 arrangement under this Subsection remains responsible for ensuring that
7 enrolled students receive the ICAP development and review services
8 required under §183.7 and §183.8 of this Subpart, regardless of the site at
9 which pathway instruction is delivered.

10 §189.10. Career major program; curriculum graduation requirement

11 A. Career Major Program; General Requirements.

12 (1) Each authorized K–12 CTE pathway under this Subpart shall
13 include a Career Major Program that constitutes the core academic and
14 technical coursework sequence through which a student pursues a Louisiana
15 Career Diploma as established in Subsection B of this Section and the nine-
16 credit Jump Start CTE course sequence established in Subsection C of this
17 Section.

18 (2) A Career Major Program shall be developed in alignment with
19 the career cluster and occupational focus of the authorized pathway and
20 shall reflect the competency standards recognized by the applicable
21 industry-based credential or credentials required for pathway completion
22 under §183.12 of this Subpart.

23 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education shall, in coordination
24 with the Council, develop and maintain Career Major Program frameworks
25 for each authorized statewide pathway. For regional pathways, the regional
26 team shall develop a Career Major Program proposal as part of the
27 pathway authorization submission under §183.13(A) of this Subpart, subject
28 to Council review and approval.

29 (4) Each Career Major Program framework shall identify: (a) the

1 required academic core courses and credit hours; (b) the required CTE
2 course sequence and credit hours; © the assessment requirements under
3 Subsection D of this Section; (d) the required industry-based credential or
4 credentials; (e) the work-based learning requirements applicable to the
5 pathway; and (f) any dual enrollment or early postsecondary access
6 opportunities available within the pathway under Subsection G of this
7 Section.

8 B. Academic Core Credit Requirements.

9 (1) Students pursuing a Career Diploma through an authorized
10 K–12 CTE pathway shall satisfy the academic core credit requirements
11 established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
12 pursuant to R.S. 17:7 and this Subpart. Academic core credit requirements
13 for Career Diploma students shall be substantively equivalent in rigor and
14 content coverage to those required for a standard diploma.

15 (2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
16 not adopt or maintain academic core credit requirements for Career
17 Diploma students that, taken as a whole, are less rigorous than the
18 requirements for a standard diploma. Nothing in this Subsection shall
19 preclude the Board from establishing differentiated elective course options
20 for students pursuing a Career Diploma that replace non-required elective
21 courses in the standard diploma track, provided that the differentiated
22 options are aligned to the student's career pathway and are approved by the
23 Council.

24 (3) Academic core credits earned through approved dual enrollment
25 courses pursuant to Subsection G of this Section shall count toward the
26 academic core credit requirements of this Subsection, consistent with R.S.
27 17:2930 and the dual enrollment coordination provisions of §183.21(I) of this
28 Subpart.

29 C. CTE Course Sequence; Jump Start Credits (Nine Credits).

1 (1) To earn a Career Diploma, a student shall complete a structured
2 CTE course sequence within an authorized K–12 CTE pathway, consisting
3 of not fewer than nine credits (hereinafter "the nine-credit Jump Start
4 sequence"). The nine-credit Jump Start sequence shall be composed of
5 courses that are:

6 (a) Organized sequentially to build progressively on technical
7 knowledge and skills from introductory through advanced levels of
8 pathway-specific competency.

9 (b) Aligned to the competency standards required for the industry-
10 based credential or credentials associated with the pathway.

11 © Delivered by instructors who meet the qualification standards
12 established under §183.18(B) of this Subpart.

13 (d) Approved as part of the Career Major Program framework for
14 the pathway pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

15 (2) Of the nine required Jump Start credits, not fewer than two
16 credits shall be earned through courses that include a work-based learning
17 component at or above Level 3 of the tiered quality continuum established
18 in §183.11(A) of this Subpart.

19 (3) Credit earned through dual enrollment in a postsecondary course
20 aligned to the pathway may count toward the nine-credit Jump Start
21 sequence, subject to Council approval as part of the Career Major Program
22 framework and consistent with the dual enrollment provisions of Subsection
23 G of this Section and R.S. 17:2930.

24 (4) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, on the
25 written recommendation of the Council, may establish pathway-specific
26 modifications to the nine-credit Jump Start sequence structure for pathways
27 in specialized technical sectors, provided that any such modification
28 maintains a minimum of nine credits and does not reduce the work-based
29 learning integration requirement of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

1 **D. Assessment Requirements.**

2 **(1) Each student pursuing a Career Diploma shall, during the course**
3 **of the nine-credit Jump Start sequence, complete all assessments required**
4 **as a condition of the industry-based credential or credentials associated with**
5 **the student's authorized pathway.**

6 **(2) The Louisiana Department of Education shall ensure that Career**
7 **Diploma students are provided access to the assessments required under**
8 **Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, including access to assessment preparation**
9 **resources and, where applicable, assessment fee waivers or assistance for**
10 **students demonstrating financial need.**

11 **(3) Industry-based credential assessment results shall be reported as**
12 **part of the annual public Jump Start data report required under §183.19(A)**
13 **of this Subpart, disaggregated by pathway, local education agency, and the**
14 **equity categories specified in §183.19© of this Subpart.**

15 **(4) Nothing in this Subsection shall limit the authority of the State**
16 **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to require additional state-**
17 **administered assessments for students enrolled in career and technical**
18 **education coursework, provided that no additional assessment requirement**
19 **shall serve as a basis for denying a student a Career Diploma if the student**
20 **has met all pathway requirements established under this Section.**

21 **E. Career Major Program Admission Criteria.**

22 **(1) Each local education agency operating an authorized K–12 CTE**
23 **pathway shall ensure that the Career Major Program associated with the**
24 **pathway is accessible to all students who have satisfied the Stage III**
25 **requirements of §183.6(D) of this Subpart and who have selected the**
26 **pathway through the Individual Career and Academic Plan process under**
27 **§183.7 of this Subpart.**

28 **(2) No local education agency shall establish admission criteria for**
29 **a Career Major Program that are based on prior academic performance,**

1 grade point average, or standardized test scores, unless the Council
2 determines, upon documented evidence, that such criteria are necessary for
3 a specific pathway due to technical prerequisite knowledge required by the
4 industry-based credential assessment or by applicable occupational licensing
5 requirements. Any such performance-based admission criteria shall be
6 included in the pathway authorization proposal submitted under §183.13(A)
7 of this Subpart and are subject to Council approval.

8 (3) A local education agency may establish application and
9 enrollment management procedures for a Career Major Program where the
10 number of students seeking enrollment exceeds program capacity. Such
11 procedures shall: (a) be documented in writing and made publicly available;
12 (b) not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, disability, English learner
13 status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable state or federal
14 law; and © include a waitlist process that ensures students unable to enroll
15 in their first-choice pathway receive counselling and alternative pathway
16 options consistent with §183.8 of this Subpart.

17 (4) Students with disabilities shall have access to Career Major
18 Programs consistent with their Individualized Education Programs under
19 §183.2(J) of this Subpart, applicable federal and state special education law,
20 and the alternative graduation pathway provisions of Subsection H of this
21 Section.

22 F. Local Board Curriculum Submission and Approval.

23 (1) Each local education agency that operates or proposes to operate
24 an authorized K–12 CTE pathway shall submit the Career Major Program
25 curriculum for the pathway, including the nine-credit Jump Start course
26 sequence, to the Louisiana Department of Education for review and
27 approval as part of the pathway authorization process under §183.13(A) of
28 this Subpart. The Department shall review submitted curricula for
29 alignment with the Career Major Program framework for the pathway and

1 with the competency standards required by the applicable industry-based
2 credential.

3 (2) A local education agency shall not deliver a Career Major
4 Program curriculum that has not been approved pursuant to Paragraph (1)
5 of this Subsection. Any material modification to an approved Career Major
6 Program curriculum shall require resubmission to the Louisiana
7 Department of Education for review and approval before implementation.
8 A modification is material if it changes: (a) one or more courses in the nine-
9 credit Jump Start sequence; (b) the required industry-based credential or
10 credential tier; or © the structure of the work-based learning component.

11 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education shall review and act on
12 each curriculum submission not later than sixty calendar days after receipt
13 of a complete submission. If the department does not act within sixty
14 calendar days, the submission shall be deemed approved, subject to Council
15 notification. The department shall notify the Council of each approved
16 curriculum and of any curriculum submission that raises concerns
17 regarding alignment with the Career Major Program framework or Council
18 standards.

19 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education shall publish on its
20 publicly accessible website, updated not less than annually, a list of
21 approved Career Major Program curricula for each authorized statewide
22 pathway, organized by pathway and local education agency, available to
23 students, families, and the public for the purpose of comparing program
24 offerings across local education agencies.

25 (5) Each local education agency shall annually communicate to the
26 parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in or considering
27 enrollment in an authorized Jump Start pathway a written description of
28 the curriculum requirements of that pathway, including the required course
29 sequence, work-based learning requirements, and associated industry-based

1 credentials. This communication shall be incorporated into the parental
2 notification obligations of §183.7(E)(4) of this Subpart and shall occur not
3 later than thirty calendar days before the course selection period for the
4 upcoming academic year.

5 G. Dual Enrollment; Early Postsecondary Access.

6 (1) Students enrolled in an authorized K–12 CTE pathway are
7 encouraged to pursue dual enrollment opportunities in postsecondary
8 courses aligned to their pathway, consistent with R.S. 17:2930 and the
9 postsecondary articulation agreements required under §183.15 of this
10 Subpart.

11 (2) Each Career Major Program framework developed pursuant to
12 Subsection A of this Section shall identify, where available, approved dual
13 enrollment courses that: (a) are aligned to the competency standards of the
14 pathway; (b) count toward the nine-credit Jump Start sequence under
15 Subsection C(3) of this Section; and © are offered through a Louisiana
16 public postsecondary institution that has executed an articulation agreement
17 with the applicable local education agency or regional team pursuant to
18 §183.15 of this Subpart.

19 (3) No student enrolled in a Louisiana public school shall be charged
20 tuition or fees for dual enrollment in a postsecondary course approved as
21 part of a Career Major Program framework under this Section, to the
22 extent permitted by applicable state law governing career development
23 funds and dual enrollment programs.

24 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education shall, in coordination
25 with the Board of Regents, annually report to the Council on dual
26 enrollment participation rates disaggregated by pathway, local education
27 agency, and the equity categories required under §183.19© of this Subpart.

28 H. Students with Exceptionalities; Alternative Graduation Pathway.

29 (1) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to preclude a student

1 with an exceptionality, as defined in R.S. 17:1942, from accessing, enrolling
2 in, or receiving a Career Diploma through an authorized K-12 CTE
3 pathway. Each local education agency shall ensure that the Career Major
4 Program requirements of this Section are implemented in a manner
5 consistent with each eligible student's Individualized Education Program
6 under §183.2(J) of this Subpart, applicable provisions of the Individuals
7 with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1401 et seq., and Section 504 of
8 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794.

9 (2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
10 establish, in coordination with the Council, an alternative graduation
11 pathway option for students with exceptionalities who are pursuing a Career
12 Diploma, which may permit modifications to individual course requirements
13 within the nine-credit Jump Start sequence where required by a student's
14 IEP, provided that:

15 (a) The modifications do not reduce the total credit requirement
16 below nine credits or eliminate the work-based learning integration
17 requirement of Subsection C(2) of this Section, unless the student's IEP
18 specifically identifies a different credit or work-based learning structure
19 that is appropriate to the student's educational needs.

20 (b) The modifications are documented in the student's IEP and
21 approved by the student's IEP team.

22 © The pathway retains sufficient alignment to the occupational
23 competency standards of the associated industry-based credential to provide
24 the student with a meaningful career preparation experience.

25 (3) A student with an exceptionality who completes an alternative
26 graduation pathway under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection shall receive a
27 Career Diploma to the extent the student satisfies all requirements of the
28 alternative pathway as documented in the student's IEP. The Career
29 Diploma issued to such a student shall carry the same equal status provided

1 under §183.5(B) of this Subpart.

2 (4) Promotion and graduation determinations for students pursuing
3 a Career Diploma through an alternative graduation pathway under this
4 Subsection shall be governed by the student's IEP, applicable state special
5 education law under R.S. 17:1942 et seq., applicable federal law under
6 IDEA, and the alternative pathway requirements established under
7 Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. Standard promotion benchmarks and
8 graduation requirements applicable to students not on an alternative
9 graduation pathway shall not be applied to such a student in a manner
10 inconsistent with the student's IEP.

11 §189.11. Works based learning; quality standards and tiered requirements

12 A. Work-based learning quality continuum; five-level tiered
13 framework.

14 (1) There is hereby established the "Louisiana Jump Start Work-
15 Based Learning Quality Continuum." The Continuum shall consist of four
16 levels organized from least to most intensive as set forth in Paragraphs (2)
17 through (5). All work-based learning activities for Jump Start pathway
18 purposes shall be classified at one of the four Continuum levels.

19 (2) Level 1 Career Awareness Activities. Level 1 of the Continuum
20 includes structured career awareness experiences that introduce students to
21 occupational roles and workplace environments without a direct employer-
22 supervised placement component. Level 1 activities include, but are not
23 limited to: (a) employer-in-classroom presentations; (b) virtual career tours;
24 © career fairs with organized student interaction with industry
25 representatives; and (d) informational classroom-based activities connecting
26 academic content to career contexts within a priority industry sector. Level
27 1 activities qualify for credit under Stage I and Stage II of the four-stage
28 framework established in §183.6 of this Subpart but do not satisfy the
29 minimum work-based learning requirement for Jump Start credit under

1 Subsection B of this Section.

2 (3) Level 2 Career Exploration Activities. Level 2 of the Continuum
3 includes structured employer engagement activities that provide students
4 with direct, supervised observation of workplace operations and
5 occupational roles. Level 2 activities include, but are not limited to: (a) job
6 shadowing experiences;

7 (b) employer site visits organized for career exploration purposes;
8 and © structured career mentoring sessions in which a student works
9 individually with an industry professional to explore career options and
10 workplace expectations. Level 2 activities must be not less than four hours in
11 duration, must include a structured reflection component, and must be
12 documented by the supervising school counselor, career coach, or CTE
13 instructor consistent with Subsection D of this Section.

14 (4) Level 3 — Project-Based and Internship Experiences. Level 3 of
15 the Continuum includes structured learning experiences in which students
16 apply pathway-specific technical knowledge in an employer-connected
17 context. Level 3 activities include, but are not limited to: (a) project-based
18 learning experiences conducted in partnership with an employer in which
19 students complete a defined deliverable with direct feedback from employer
20 representatives; (b) supervised internship or externship placements of not
21 fewer than sixty hours with an employer in a priority industry sector; and
22 © school-based enterprise programs that operate as a simulated business
23 environment with documented employer advisory involvement. Level 3
24 activities must include a documented employer partnership consistent with
25 Subsection C of this Section, must include student performance evaluation
26 by the employer or employer representative, and must be supervised by a
27 qualified CTE instructor.

28 (5) Level 4 — Pre-Apprenticeship and Student Learner Programs.
29 Level 4 of the Continuum includes structured employer-supervised work

1 experiences that provide students with direct on-the-job training in
2 pathway-specific technical skills, with compensation where applicable under
3 state and federal labor law. Level 4 activities include, but are not limited to:
4 (a) pre-apprenticeship programs; and (b) student learner programs as
5 defined under applicable state and federal youth employment and education
6 statutes. Level 4 activities must involve not fewer than one hundred fifty
7 hours of employer-supervised training, must include a written training plan
8 specifying the technical competencies to be developed, and must comply with
9 all applicable state and federal labor laws governing student learners and
10 youth employment.

11 **B. Minimum Level for Jump Start Credit Satisfaction.**

12 (1) Work-based learning at Level 3 or above of the Continuum
13 established in Subsection A of this Section shall be required for purposes of
14 satisfying the work-based learning integration requirement of §183.10(C)(2)
15 of this Subpart. No work-based learning activity classified below Level 3 on
16 the Continuum shall count toward the work-based learning requirement
17 embedded in the nine-credit Jump Start sequence.

18 (2) For purposes of pathway authorization under §183.13 of this
19 Subpart, each pathway shall specify in its authorization proposal the
20 minimum WBL level required of students completing the pathway. The
21 minimum level for any authorized pathway shall be Level 3. The Council
22 shall verify compliance with this minimum standard as part of each pathway
23 authorization and reauthorization review.

24 (3) Pathways that require Level 4 work-based learning for
25 completion shall receive enhanced recognition in pathway tier determination
26 under §183.9(D) of this Subpart and in the accountability system consistent
27 with §183.5(D) of this Subpart.

28 (4) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to prohibit a
29 student from participating in WBL activities at any level of the Continuum

1 at any stage of the four-stage framework established in §183.6 of this
2 Subpart; this Subsection governs only the minimum WBL level required to
3 satisfy the nine-credit Jump Start sequence requirement under
4 §183.10(C)(2).

5 C. Employer partnership requirements.

6 (1) Each local education agency operating an authorized K–12 CTE
7 pathway shall recruit and maintain documented employer partnerships
8 sufficient to provide Level 3 or above work-based learning placements for
9 all students enrolled in the pathway who are in Stage III or Stage IV of the
10 four-stage framework established in §183.6 of this Subpart.

11 (2) A documented employer partnership for purposes of this Section
12 shall consist of a written agreement between the local education agency and
13 the employer that specifies:

14 (a) The nature of the work-based learning activities to be provided,
15 including the WBL tier level under Subsection A of this Section.

16 (b) The number of students the employer will accept for WBL
17 placements during the applicable school year.

18 © The employer's responsibilities for student supervision,
19 performance evaluation, and documentation.

20 (d) The agreed compensation arrangement, if any, including
21 compliance with applicable state and federal labor law governing student
22 work arrangements.

23 (e) The process for the local education agency to conduct site
24 oversight visits consistent with Subsection D of this Section.

25 (3) An employer participating in a WBL partnership under this
26 Section shall designate a qualified workplace supervisor for each student
27 placed with the employer. The workplace supervisor shall be responsible
28 for: (a) providing day-to-day supervision and technical guidance to the
29 student; (b) completing the student performance evaluation required under

1 Subsection D(2)(d) of this Section; and © communicating with the local
2 education agency regarding student progress and placement conditions.

3 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education shall develop and make
4 publicly available model employer partnership agreement templates for
5 each WBL tier level and shall provide technical assistance to local education
6 agencies and regional teams in recruiting and maintaining employer
7 partnerships. Model templates shall be updated at least every three years.

8 (5) Regional teams shall facilitate employer partnership development
9 for regional pathways within their workforce development region, consistent
10 with §183.9(F)(3)(d) of this Subpart, and shall maintain a current directory
11 of employers within the region who have executed or expressed interest in
12 executing WBL partnership agreements for pathway students.

13 D. Documentation, Quality Assurance, and Site Oversight.

14 (1) Each local education agency shall maintain documentation of all
15 work-based learning activities conducted for purposes of satisfying Jump
16 Start pathway requirements, organized by student, by pathway, and by
17 WBL tier level. Such documentation shall be maintained as part of the
18 student's educational record consistent with FERPA, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and
19 R.S. 44:1 et seq., and shall include:

20 (a) The WBL tier level classification of the activity.

21 (b) The employer partner's name and contact information.

22 © The start and end dates of the WBL placement or activity.

23 (d) The total hours completed by the student, for Level 3 and Level
24 4 activities.

25 (e) The employer's written performance evaluation of the student,
26 for Level 3 and Level 4 activities.

27 (f) The supervising CTE instructor's or career coach's assessment
28 of the student's work-based learning experience.

29 (2) Each local education agency shall conduct at least one site

1 oversight visit per academic year to each employer partner providing Level
2 3 and Level 4 WBL placements. The site oversight visit shall be conducted
3 by a qualified CTE instructor or school administrator and shall:

4 (a) Confirm that the employer is fulfilling the obligations specified
5 in the employer partnership agreement under Subsection C(2) of this
6 Section.

7 (b) Confirm that student placement conditions comply with
8 applicable state and federal health, safety, and labor laws.

9 © Document any concerns or deficiencies observed and the corrective
10 action taken or planned.

11 (d) Obtain the employer's completed performance evaluation of each
12 student placed with the employer during the school year.

13 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education shall conduct periodic
14 monitoring of local education agency compliance with the documentation
15 and site oversight requirements of this Section, including as part of any
16 general CTE program review, and shall include findings on WBL quality
17 assurance in any monitoring reports provided to the Council consistent with
18 §183.3(I) of this Subpart.

19 (4) Data reporting obligations for work-based learning participation,
20 including participation rates by WBL tier level, employer partnership
21 counts, and site oversight records, shall be governed by §183.19 of this
22 Subpart. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to create separate data
23 reporting obligations duplicative of those established in §183.19.

24 §189.12. Industry-based credentials; tiered credential value
25 system; accountability integration

26 A. IBC Approval Authority; Workforce Investment Council
27 Coordination.

28 (1) The approval and tier classification of industry-based credentials
29 for use in Louisiana's K–12 CTE pathway system shall be governed by this

1 Section in coordination with the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council's
2 credential approval authority under R.S. 23:2065.

3 (2) An industry-based credential is eligible for use in an authorized
4 K–12 CTE pathway under this Subpart only if the credential:

5 (a) Has been approved by the Louisiana Workforce Investment
6 Council pursuant to R.S. 23:2065.

7 (b) Has been designated by the Louisiana Career and Technical
8 Education Oversight Council.

9 (3) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight
10 Council shall coordinate with the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council
11 pursuant to the formal coordination protocol established in §183.3(L) of this
12 Subpart to ensure that credential approval determinations under R.S.
13 23:2065 are aligned with the tier classification framework established in
14 Subsection B of this Section and with the occupation wage standards of
15 §183.4© and §183.4(D) of this Subpart.

16 (4) The Council shall maintain and publish on its publicly accessible
17 website a current registry of all industry-based credentials approved or
18 designated for use in authorized pathways under this Subpart, organized by
19 credential name, issuing body, associated pathway, and tier classification
20 under Subsection B of this Section. The registry shall be updated within
21 thirty calendar days of any addition, modification, or removal of a
22 credential.

23 **B. Tiered Credential Value System; Established in Statute.**

24 (1) There is hereby established a tiered credential value system for
25 industry-based credentials used in authorized K–12 CTE pathways under
26 this Subpart. The tiered system shall classify all approved or designated
27 credentials at one of three tiers — Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 — reflecting the
28 degree to which the credential is associated with high-demand, high-wage
29 occupational outcomes in Louisiana's labor market.

1 **(2) Tier 1 credentials are industry-based credentials that are: (a)**
2 **approved by the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council pursuant to R.S.**
3 **23:2065 or designated by the Council under Subsection A(2)(b) of this**
4 **Section; (b) linked to an occupation qualifying as a viable occupation as**
5 **defined in §183.2(U) of this Subpart, meeting the wage threshold standard**
6 **of §183.4© and the minimum wage growth rate standard of §183.4(D); and**
7 **© recognized by employers in the relevant industry sector as evidence of**
8 **entry-level workplace readiness. A Tier 1 credential satisfies the minimum**
9 **IBC requirement for Career Diploma completion but does not**
10 **independently qualify a pathway for Tier 2 or Tier 3 pathway designation**
11 **under §183.9(D) of this Subpart.**

12 **(3) Tier 2 credentials are industry-based credentials that, in addition**
13 **to meeting all criteria for Tier 1 classification, satisfy all of the following:**

14 **(a) The credential is linked to an occupation qualifying as a priority**
15 **occupation as defined in §183.2(P) of this Subpart, rated four or five stars**
16 **in the Louisiana Workforce Commission's official occupational forecast (or**
17 **its equivalent successor) pursuant to R.S. 23:76.**

18 **(b) The credential is recognized by employers across multiple**
19 **Louisiana workforce development regions as evidence of journeyman-level**
20 **or advanced competency in the credential's occupational domain.**

21 **© The Council, upon documented analysis, determines that**
22 **attainment of the credential is associated with a wage premium above the**
23 **median wage for workers in the credential's occupational domain who do**
24 **not hold the credential, based on Louisiana Workforce Commission**
25 **enhanced wage record data or comparable wage data where available.**

26 **(4) Tier 3 credentials are industry-based credentials that, in addition**
27 **to meeting all criteria for Tier 2 classification, satisfy all of the following:**

28 **(a) The credential is a nationally or internationally recognized**
29 **certification, occupational license, or equivalent credential that carries**

1 portability across states and is recognized by employers outside of Louisiana
2 as evidence of occupational competency.

3 (b) Attainment of the credential is associated with entry-level wages
4 meeting or exceeding the priority occupation wage standard for the relevant
5 occupation as documented in the Council's most recent biennial priority
6 review findings under §183.4(E) of this Subpart.

7 © The Council determines, upon documented analysis using
8 Louisiana Workforce Commission enhanced wage record data, that Career
9 Diploma graduates who attained the credential within three years of
10 graduation achieved median wages meeting or exceeding the priority
11 occupation wage standard for the credential's occupational domain.

12 (5) A credential is eligible for any tier classification only if it is linked
13 to an occupation meeting the viable occupation wage threshold standard of
14 §183.4© and the minimum wage growth rate standard of §183.4(D) of this
15 Subpart. No credential linked exclusively to an occupation that does not
16 meet both such standards shall be classified above Tier 1, and no credential
17 linked to an occupation that fails the minimum viable occupation standard
18 shall be eligible for use in an authorized pathway under this Subpart.

19 C. Minimum Statutory Thresholds.

20 (1) Each authorized K–12 CTE pathway shall require, as a condition
21 of Career Diploma completion, that a student attain not fewer than one
22 industry-based credential approved or designated for use in that pathway
23 under Subsection A of this Section.

24 (2) For pathways designated as Tier 2 under §183.9(D) of this
25 Subpart, at least one required credential shall be classified at Tier 2 or
26 above under Subsection B of this Section.

27 (3) For pathways designated as Tier 3 under §183.9(D) of this
28 Subpart, at least one required credential shall be classified at Tier 3 under
29 Subsection B of this Section.

1 **(4) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, on the**
2 **written recommendation of the Council, may establish pathway-specific**
3 **credential requirements that exceed the minimum thresholds of this**
4 **Subsection where the Council determines by documented analysis that a**
5 **higher credential threshold is necessary to ensure that pathway completers**
6 **are prepared for employment in occupations on the Priority List at wages**
7 **consistent with the viable occupation or priority occupation standards of**
8 **§183.4 of this Subpart.**

9 **(5) No pathway shall be authorized or reauthorized under §183.13**
10 **of this Subpart if the required credential for the pathway does not meet the**
11 **minimum applicable tier threshold for the pathway's tier designation under**
12 **§183.9(D). The Council shall verify credential tier compliance as part of**
13 **each pathway authorization and reauthorization review under §183.13.**

14 **D. Credential Review and Disqualification.**

15 **(1) The Council shall conduct a review of each credential included**
16 **on the registry maintained under Subsection A(4) of this Section as part of**
17 **each Biennial Priority Review under §183.4(E) of this Subpart and at any**
18 **time the Council receives information suggesting that a credential may no**
19 **longer satisfy the classification criteria applicable to its current tier**
20 **designation.**

21 **(2) A credential shall be subject to reclassification to a lower tier or**
22 **disqualification from the registry upon a Council finding, supported by**
23 **documented analysis, that:**

24 **(a) The credential is no longer linked to an occupation meeting the**
25 **viable occupation wage threshold standard of §183.4© or the minimum**
26 **wage growth rate standard of §183.4(D), in which case the credential shall**
27 **be disqualified from the registry and may no longer serve as the required**
28 **credential for any newly authorized pathway.**

29 **(b) The credential no longer satisfies the classification criteria for its**

1 current tier under Subsection B of this Section based on updated labor
2 market data, in which case the credential shall be reclassified to the
3 appropriate lower tier.

4 © The credential has been withdrawn, suspended, or materially
5 altered by the issuing body, rendering the Council's prior classification
6 determination invalid.

7 (3) When the Council determines that a credential should be
8 reclassified or disqualified under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the
9 Council shall:

10 (a) Notify in writing the Louisiana Department of Education, all
11 local education agencies operating pathways that include the affected
12 credential, and all affected regional teams within thirty calendar days of the
13 Council's determination.

14 (b) Specify in the notification the basis for the reclassification or
15 disqualification, the effective date, and the implications for pathway tier
16 designation under §183.9(D) of this Subpart.

17 © Allow a transition period of not fewer than one full academic year
18 before a disqualification takes effect with respect to students already
19 enrolled in a pathway for which the disqualified credential is currently
20 required, to avoid disruption to enrolled students' Career Diploma
21 eligibility.

22 (4) Where a credential reclassification results in a pathway's
23 required credential no longer meeting the tier threshold applicable to the
24 pathway's tier designation under §183.9(D) of this Subpart, the pathway
25 shall be subject to a mandatory mid-cycle review under §183.13(E) of this
26 Subpart, and the Council shall evaluate whether the pathway's tier
27 designation should be revised or conditions imposed on the pathway's
28 continued authorization.

29 §189.13. Pathway authorization; review; reauthorization

1 **A. Application Process for Pathway Authorization.**

2 **(1) A local education agency, regional team, or other proposing party**
3 **authorized under this Subpart seeking to establish an authorized K–12 CTE**
4 **pathway shall submit a pathway authorization proposal to the Louisiana Career**
5 **and Technical Education Oversight Council. The Council shall review the**
6 **proposal and transmit a written recommendation to the State Board of**
7 **Elementary and Secondary Education regarding authorization.**

8 **(2) A pathway authorization proposal shall include, at minimum, all**
9 **of the following:**

10 **(a) A description of the proposed pathway, including the career**
11 **cluster, occupational focus, and workforce development region or regions**
12 **for which authorization is sought.**

13 **(b) Documentation of alignment between the proposed pathway and**
14 **the applicable Statewide Priority Industry List or Regional Priority**
15 **Industry List under §183.4 of this Subpart, including the data sources and**
16 **data vintages on which the alignment determination is based.**

17 **© A wage premium analysis using Louisiana Workforce Commission**
18 **wage data documenting the expected wage premium associated with the**
19 **credential required by the pathway above the median wage for workers**
20 **without the credential in the relevant occupational domain.**

21 **(d) The Career Major Program framework required under**
22 **§183.10(A) of this Subpart, including the nine-credit Jump Start course**
23 **sequence and academic core credit requirements.**

24 **(e) Documentation of the industry-based credential or credentials**
25 **required for pathway completion, including the tier classification of each**
26 **credential under §183.12(B) of this Subpart.**

27 **(f) A work-based learning plan describing the employer partnership**
28 **structure, the WBL tier level required, and the documentation and oversight**
29 **procedures consistent with §183.11 of this Subpart.**

1 (g) Evidence of the articulation agreement required under §183.15
2 of this Subpart, or a documented timeline for its execution where the
3 agreement has not yet been finalized at the time of proposal submission.

4 (h) Identification of the pathway tier designation sought under
5 §183.9(D) of this Subpart, with supporting documentation demonstrating
6 that all tier criteria are satisfied.

7 (I) A career counselling and coaching plan describing how the LEA
8 will satisfy the ICAP and advising requirements of §183.7 and §183.8 of this
9 Subpart for students enrolled in the proposed pathway.

10 (j) For regional pathways, a copy of any partnering agreement under
11 §183.9(G) of this Subpart and documentation from the regional team
12 supporting the proposal.

13 (k) Such additional information as the Council may require by rule
14 adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

15 (3) The Council shall publish and maintain on its publicly accessible
16 website a pathway authorization proposal form, checklist, and instructions,
17 updated not less than annually. The Council shall not require information
18 in the pathway authorization process beyond what is specified in Paragraph
19 (2) of this Subsection and Council rules adopted consistent with
20 Subparagraph (2)(k) of this Subsection.

21 **B. Authorization Criteria; Minimum Standards.**

22 (1) The Council shall recommend authorization of a proposed K–12
23 CTE pathway to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
24 only upon finding that the proposal satisfies all of the following:

25 (a) The proposed pathway is aligned to an occupation within an
26 industry sector on the applicable Priority Industry List, consistent with
27 the requirements of §183.4 of this Subpart.

28 (b) The proposed pathway includes all minimum required
29 pathway components established in §183.9(E) of this Subpart.

1 © The Career Major Program curriculum meets the credit,
2 sequence, and assessment requirements of §183.10 of this Subpart.

3 (d) The work-based learning component meets the minimum
4 level and quality standards of §183.11 of this Subpart;

5 (e) The required industry-based credential satisfies the
6 applicable tier threshold under §183.12© of this Subpart.

7 (f) The articulation agreement required by §183.15 of this
8 Subpart has been executed or a compliance timeline has been approved
9 by the Council as provided in §183.15(D) of this Subpart.

10 (g) The proposing LEA or regional team has demonstrated,
11 through the most recent annual counselling activity report under
12 §183.8(F) of this Subpart or through other documented evidence, that
13 the LEA or participating LEAs maintain the counselling and career
14 coaching infrastructure required by §183.8 of this Subpart.

15 (h) The wage premium analysis submitted under Subsection
16 A(2)© of this Section documents a positive expected wage premium
17 associated with the required credential.

18 (2) The Council shall issue its written recommendation to the
19 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education not later than sixty
20 calendar days after the Council's receipt of a complete pathway
21 authorization proposal. If the Council requests additional information
22 from the proposing party, the sixty-day period shall be tolled from the
23 date of the request until complete information is received.

24 (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
25 shall act on the Council's written recommendation not later than sixty
26 calendar days after receipt. If the Board does not act within sixty
27 calendar days of receipt, the Council's recommendation shall be deemed
28 approved, and the pathway shall be authorized consistent with the
29 Council's recommendation.

1 **(4) The Council shall transmit written notification of all pathway**
2 **authorization decisions to the Louisiana Department of Education, the**
3 **proposing local education agency or regional team, and any affected**
4 **employer partners within fifteen calendar days of the Board's action or**
5 **deemed approval.**

6 **C. Pathway Authorization Conditions; Required at Approval**
7 **and Maintained Throughout.**

8 **(1) Each pathway authorization issued under this Section shall**
9 **be subject to the following conditions, which must be satisfied at the time**
10 **of authorization and maintained throughout the pathway's authorization**
11 **period:**

12 **(a) The pathway remains aligned to an occupation within an**
13 **industry sector on the applicable Priority Industry List, consistent with**
14 **§183.4 of this Subpart.**

15 **(b) The pathway's required industry-based credential remains**
16 **approved or designated under §183.12(A) of this Subpart and classified**
17 **at the tier level required for the pathway's tier designation.**

18 **© The Career Major Program curriculum and nine-credit Jump**
19 **Start course sequence remain materially consistent with the approved**
20 **curriculum submitted under §183.10(F) of this Subpart.**

21 **(d) The work-based learning component continues to provide**
22 **Level 3 or above placements for enrolled students, consistent with**
23 **§183.11 of this Subpart.**

24 **(e) The articulation agreement required under §183.15 of this**
25 **Subpart remains in effect.**

26 **(f) The local education agency maintains the counselling and**
27 **career coaching standards required by §183.8 of this Subpart for**
28 **students enrolled in the pathway.**

29 **(g) The local education agency annually reports pathway data**

1 consistent with the requirements of §183.19 of this Subpart.

2 (2) Any change to a pathway that affects a condition listed in
3 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be reported in writing to the
4 Council within thirty calendar days of the change. The Council shall
5 determine whether the change requires a pathway modification review
6 under Subsection G of this Section, a mandatory mid-cycle review under
7 Subsection E, or is minor enough to be approved administratively
8 without formal review.

9 (3) A local education agency's failure to maintain the
10 authorization conditions of this Subsection shall be subject to the
11 consequences established in Subsection H of this Section.

12 D. Five-Year Pathway Authorization Cycle.

13 (1) Each authorized K–12 CTE pathway shall be subject to a
14 comprehensive reauthorization review not less frequently than once
15 every five years from the date of initial authorization or most recent
16 reauthorization, as applicable. No pathway shall continue to operate as
17 an authorized Jump Start pathway beyond the five-year authorization
18 period without Council review and State Board of Elementary and
19 Secondary Education reauthorization, except as provided in Paragraph
20 (3) of this Subsection.

21 (2) The Council shall maintain and publish on its publicly
22 accessible website a schedule of upcoming pathway reauthorization
23 reviews, updated not less than annually, identifying each authorized
24 pathway, the date of initial authorization or last reauthorization, and the
25 next scheduled reauthorization date.

26 (3) If the Council's reauthorization review process for a pathway
27 is not completed before the expiration of the pathway's five-year
28 authorization period due to administrative delay not attributable to the
29 proposing party, the pathway's authorization shall be extended on a

1 holdover basis for not more than one academic year while the
2 reauthorization review is completed. The Council shall document the
3 basis for any holdover extension in Council records and shall notify the
4 affected LEA and the Louisiana Department of Education.

5 (4) The five-year pathway authorization cycle is distinct from
6 and independent of the biennial priority review under §183.4(E) of this
7 Subpart; neither satisfies nor substitutes for the other. Continued
8 authorization of pathways aligned to sectors removed from the Priority
9 List is governed by §183.4(E)(5).

10 E. Mandatory Mid-Cycle Review Triggers.

11 (1) A pathway shall be subject to a mandatory mid-cycle review
12 before the expiration of its five-year authorization period upon the
13 occurrence of any of the following triggering events:

14 (a) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight
15 Council, following a Biennial Priority Review under §183.4(E) of this
16 Subpart, removes from the Statewide Priority Industry List or
17 applicable Regional Priority Industry List the industry sector to which
18 the pathway is aligned.

19 (b) The required credential for the pathway is reclassified or
20 disqualified in is Subpart in a manner that affects the pathway's tier
21 compliance under §183.9(B) or §183.12© of this Subpart.

22 © The Louisiana Department of Education, through program
23 monitoring activities or annual data review, identifies that a pathway's
24 credential attainment rate has fallen below fifty percent (50%) for two
25 consecutive academic years.

26 (d) The Act 187 return on investment report required under
27 §183.20 of this Subpart identifies a pathway as having a negative or
28 insufficient return on investment for two consecutive reporting cycles.

29 (e) The articulation agreement required for the pathway under

1 §183.15 of this Subpart expires or is terminated without replacement.

2 (f) A local education agency operating the pathway fails to
3 implement a corrective action plan imposed under Subsection H of this
4 Section within the timeframe specified by the Council.

5 (g) The Council, by a vote of not fewer than seven of the ten
6 voting members then serving, determines that material changes in
7 regional or statewide labor market conditions since the last
8 authorization or reauthorization of the pathway warrant an earlier
9 review.

10 (2) Upon the occurrence of a triggering event under Paragraph
11 (1) of this Subsection, the Council shall:

12 (a) Notify the affected local education agency or regional team of
13 the triggering event and the initiation of a mid-cycle review within
14 fifteen calendar days.

15 (b) complete the mid-cycle review within ninety calendar days of
16 notification.

17 © transmit a written recommendation to the State Board of
18 Elementary and Secondary Education regarding continuation,
19 modification, suspension, or revocation of the pathway's authorization.

20 (3) A mid-cycle review shall apply the same authorization
21 criteria as a full reauthorization review under Subsection B of this
22 Section, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
23 shall act on the Council's recommendation within sixty calendar days of
24 receipt.

25 F. Reauthorization Standards; Required Consideration of Act
26 187 ROI Findings.

27 (1) In conducting each five-year pathway reauthorization review
28 under Subsection D and each mid-cycle review under Subsection E, the
29 Council shall evaluate the pathway against all of the following

1 reauthorization standards:

2 (a) Continued satisfaction of all minimum authorization criteria
3 established in Subsection B of this Section.

4 (b) Maintenance of all pathway authorization conditions
5 established in Subsection C of this Section throughout the prior
6 authorization period.

7 © Credential attainment performance: a credential attainment
8 rate of not less than sixty percent (60%) for CTE completers of the
9 pathway, averaged over the most recent three academic years for which
10 data are available.

11 (d) Pathway alignment performance:

12 (I) For all pathways, documented evidence that the occupations
13 served by the pathway continue to appear on the applicable Priority
14 Industry List.

15 (ii) for Tier 2 and Tier 3 pathways, documented evidence that the
16 occupations served continue to satisfy the priority occupation standard
17 established in §183.2(P) of this Subpart, including the four-or-five-star
18 OFC rating (or its equivalent successor) and high-wage outcome
19 requirements applicable to priority occupations.

20 (iii) for Tier 1 provisional pathways, documented evidence that
21 the occupations served continue to satisfy, at minimum, the viable
22 occupation standards of §183.4© and §183.4(D) of this Subpart, together
23 with the Tier 2 Advancement Plan required by §183.9(D)(2)(a) of this
24 Subpart.

25 (e) The Act 187 return on investment analysis required under
26 §183.20 of this Subpart for the pathway, including the Council's formal
27 recommendation under §183.20(D) of this Subpart regarding whether
28 the pathway's economic return justifies continued authorization at its
29 current tier designation.

1 (f) Post-graduation employment and wage outcomes for pathway
2 completers as reported in the annual Jump Start data report under
3 §183.19 of this Subpart, including one-year and three-year post-
4 graduation wage outcomes compared to the viable occupation and
5 priority occupation wage standards of §183.4 of this Subpart.

6 (2) The Council shall incorporate the findings of the most
7 recently available Act 187 return on investment report produced under
8 §183.20 of this Subpart into its written reauthorization recommendation.
9 The Council's recommendation shall specifically address: (a) whether
10 the pathway's ROI findings meet the minimum performance thresholds
11 established under §183.20(F) of this Subpart; and (b) what, if any,
12 conditions, modifications, or reauthorization limitations the Council
13 recommends based on ROI findings.

14 (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
15 shall, in acting on a Council reauthorization recommendation that is
16 based in whole or in part on Act 187 ROI findings, provide a written
17 public response as required by §183.20(E) of this Subpart, addressing
18 the Board's findings and the basis for its reauthorization decision.

19 (4) The Council may recommend conditional reauthorization of
20 a pathway that does not fully satisfy the reauthorization standards of
21 this Subsection where: (a) the pathway's performance deficiencies are
22 isolated and subject to a specific, time-limited corrective action plan;
23 and (b) the Council determines that discontinuation of the pathway
24 would cause material harm to enrolled students or to a regional
25 workforce development need that cannot be timely addressed through
26 an alternative authorized pathway.

27 G. Pathway Modification; Suspension; Sunset Provisions.

28 (1) A local education agency operating an authorized pathway
29 may propose a material modification to the pathway by submitting a

1 pathway modification proposal to the Council. A modification is
2 material if it would affect any of the authorization conditions established
3 in Subsection C(1) of this Section. Non-material administrative changes
4 may be implemented with written notification to the Council without
5 formal proposal submission.

6 (2) The Council shall review a pathway modification proposal
7 and issue a written recommendation to the State Board of Elementary
8 and Secondary Education within forty-five calendar days of receipt of
9 a complete proposal. The Board shall act on the recommendation within
10 thirty calendar days of receipt. A material modification shall not be
11 implemented before Board approval.

12 (3) The Council may recommend suspension of a pathway's
13 authorization where: (a) the local education agency has failed to
14 maintain one or more authorization conditions under Subsection C of
15 this Section and has not remediated the deficiency within sixty calendar
16 days of Council notification; or (b) a mid-cycle review under Subsection
17 E identifies conditions that present an immediate risk to enrolled
18 students or that render continued pathway operation inconsistent with
19 this Subpart.

20 (4) Suspension of a pathway's authorization shall not take effect
21 until the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has acted
22 on the Council's suspension recommendation, except where the Council
23 makes a specific written finding that immediate suspension is necessary
24 to prevent immediate harm to enrolled students.

25 (5) A pathway whose authorization has been suspended shall not
26 enroll new students in the pathway during the suspension period.
27 Students already enrolled in a suspended pathway shall be: (a) permitted
28 to complete the pathway if the suspension is expected to be resolved
29 before the student's expected graduation date; or (b) offered alternative

1 pathway options by the local education agency, with the assistance of a
2 school counselor or career coach, if the suspension cannot be resolved
3 within a timeframe that allows the student to complete the pathway
4 before graduation.

5 (6) A pathway that has been discontinued by the authorizing
6 LEA or regional team, or whose authorization has not been renewed
7 following a reauthorization review, shall be formally sunset by written
8 notification to the Council and the Louisiana Department of Education.
9 The LEA or regional team shall give enrolled students not less than one
10 full academic year's advance notice of a planned sunset and shall, in
11 coordination with the Council and the Department, identify alternative
12 pathway options for affected students.

13 H. Failure to Maintain Authorization Conditions; Consequences.

14 (1) If the Louisiana Department of Education, through program
15 monitoring, annual data review, or annual counselling activity reporting
16 under §183.8(F) of this Subpart, identifies that a local education agency
17 operating an authorized pathway has failed to maintain one or more of
18 the authorization conditions established in Subsection C of this Section,
19 the Department shall notify the Council in writing within thirty calendar
20 days of identifying the deficiency.

21 (2) Upon receipt of notice of a deficiency under Paragraph (1) of
22 this Subsection, or upon independent identification of an authorization
23 condition deficiency, the Council shall:

24 (a) Notify the affected local education agency in writing of the
25 identified deficiency and the specific authorization condition or
26 conditions that have not been maintained.

27 (b) Afford the local education agency not fewer than sixty
28 calendar days to respond to the notification and to submit a corrective
29 action plan.

1 © Review the local education agency's response and corrective
2 action plan, and either:

3 (I) Approve the plan and establish a monitoring schedule.

4 (ii) Determine that the deficiency is sufficiently serious to warrant
5 a mandatory mid-cycle review under Subsection E of this Section.

6 (3) Where a corrective action plan has been approved under
7 Paragraph (2)(c)(I) of this Subsection, the Council shall monitor the
8 local education agency's progress against the plan at intervals specified
9 in the monitoring schedule. If the local education agency fails to
10 implement the corrective action plan within the agreed timeframe, the
11 Council shall initiate a mandatory mid-cycle review under Subsection E
12 of this Section.

13 (4) The consequences available to the State Board of Elementary
14 and Secondary Education upon Council recommendation following a
15 finding of persistent or serious failure to maintain authorization
16 conditions shall include:

17 (a) Imposition of conditions on continued pathway authorization,
18 including additional reporting obligations, an enhanced monitoring
19 schedule, or requirements to obtain Council pre-approval for specified
20 pathway decisions.

21 (b) Pathway modification required by the Board as a condition
22 of continued authorization.

23 © Suspension of the pathway's authorization pursuant to
24 Subsection G(3) of this Section.

25 (d) Non-renewal of the pathway's authorization at the next
26 scheduled reauthorization review.

27 (5) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to limit the
28 authority of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,
29 consistent with its general authority under R.S. 17:7, to take any other

1 lawful action with respect to a local education agency's conduct of a CTE
2 pathway program, provided that such action is not inconsistent with the
3 provisions of this Subpart.

4 I. New Pathway Proposal Requirements; Process and Timeline.

5 (1) A local education agency or regional team that seeks to propose a
6 new K–12 CTE pathway — whether as a statewide or regional pathway — shall
7 initiate the pathway authorization process by submitting a notice of intent to the
8 Council not less than one hundred eighty calendar days before the desired
9 implementation date of the pathway. The notice of intent shall include:

10 (a) A description of the proposed pathway, including the career cluster,
11 occupational focus, and proposed tier designation.

12 (b) A statement of the workforce development need the pathway is
13 intended to address, with reference to applicable Priority Industry List data and
14 the data sources upon which the need determination is based.

15 © Identification of the local education agency or agencies and any
16 regional team partners that will participate in delivering the pathway.

17 (2) Upon receipt of a notice of intent under Paragraph (1) of this
18 Subsection, the Council shall: (a) assign a staff liaison to assist the proposing
19 party in navigating the proposal development and authorization process; (b)
20 provide the proposing party with the current pathway authorization proposal
21 form and checklist under Subsection A(3) of this Section; and © schedule a pre-
22 proposal consultation meeting with the proposing party within thirty calendar
23 days of receipt of the notice of intent.

24 (3) The proposing party shall submit a complete pathway authorization
25 proposal under Subsection A(2) of this Section not later than ninety calendar
26 days before the desired implementation date. The Council shall review the
27 proposal and issue its recommendation to the State Board of Elementary and
28 Secondary Education within the sixty-day period provided in Subsection B(2)
29 of this Section.

1 **(4) A new pathway shall not be implemented before the State Board of**
2 **Elementary and Secondary Education has acted on the Council's**
3 **recommendation pursuant to Subsection B(3) of this Section. No local education**
4 **agency or regional team may represent to students, families, or the public that**
5 **a pathway is an "authorized Jump Start pathway" or that enrollment in the**
6 **pathway will lead to Career Diploma eligibility before formal authorization has**
7 **been granted.**

8 **(5) The Council shall publish on its publicly accessible website a**
9 **dashboard of pending pathway proposals, updated monthly, identifying the**
10 **proposing party, the proposal status, and the expected Council recommendation**
11 **date. Nothing in this Paragraph shall require the Council to disclose**
12 **deliberative materials or communications that are otherwise protected from**
13 **public disclosure under applicable law.**

14 **§189.14. Rural LEA access; differentiated provisions and thresholds**

15 **A. Rural LEA Classification; Statutory Criteria.**

16 **(1) For purposes of this Subpart, a local education agency shall be**
17 **classified as a "rural local education agency" or "rural LEA" upon meeting one**
18 **or more of the following criteria:**

19 **(a) The LEA is located in a parish where the population density, as**
20 **determined from the most recently published federal decennial census data, is**
21 **fewer than one hundred (100) persons per square mile.**

22 **(b) The LEA's total public K–12 student enrollment, as reported in the**
23 **most recently published annual enrollment data of the Louisiana Department**
24 **of Education, is fewer than four thousand (4,000) students.**

25 **© The LEA's primary service area has been classified as a rural locale**
26 **under the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) locale classification**
27 **framework maintained by the United States Department of Education,**
28 **specifically as Locale Code 41 (Rural — Fringe), 42 (Rural — Distant), or 43**
29 **(Rural — Remote), under the most recently published NCES locale**

1 classification data.

2 (2) In addition to the criteria established in Paragraph (1) of this
3 Subsection, the Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council
4 may, upon written application by a local education agency, certify the LEA as
5 a rural local education agency for purposes of this Section upon a finding, by
6 not fewer than six voting members then serving, that the LEA faces one or more
7 of the following documented structural access barriers materially impairing its
8 participation in the K-12 CTE pathway system on the same basis as non-rural
9 LEAs:

10 (a) Fewer than two employers with operations within the relevant
11 workforce development region are positioned to provide the employer demand
12 documentation required under §183.9(C)(2)(e).

13 (b) The LEA cannot project sustained enrollment in a single pathway at
14 levels required for independent pathway authorization.

15 © Geographic isolation from workforce development centers,
16 postsecondary institutions, or pathway delivery sites that creates documented
17 transportation or access barriers for students enrolled or seeking enrollment in
18 an authorized pathway.

19 (3) The Council shall review and reconfirm rural LEA classifications
20 under this Section not less frequently than once every five years, coordinated
21 with the five-year pathway reauthorization cycle under §183.13(D) of this
22 Subpart. An LEA that no longer meets any criterion in Paragraph (1) or any
23 basis for certification under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection shall be
24 transitioned to standard pathway authorization requirements upon written
25 notice from the Council. Such notice shall be provided not less than twenty-four
26 (24) months before the effective date of the transition, and shall specify the
27 authorization cycle at which standard requirements will apply.

28 (4) The Council shall maintain and publish on its publicly accessible
29 website a current list of all LEAs classified as rural local education agencies

1 under this Section, together with the applicable criterion or criteria supporting
2 each classification, updated within thirty (30) calendar days of any classification
3 determination, reconfirmation, or transition notice under this Subsection.

4 **B. Differentiated Pathway Authorization Thresholds for Rural LEAs.**

5 (1) Notwithstanding §183.9 and §183.13, a rural LEA classified under
6 Subsection A shall be subject to the following differentiated thresholds when
7 submitting a regional pathway authorization proposal:

8 (a) Employer Partnership Documentation. In lieu of §183.9(C)(2)(e), a
9 rural LEA shall provide documented evidence of employer demand from at
10 least one employer with operations within the applicable workforce
11 development region or an immediately adjacent region. Where an industry
12 sector's employer base is concentrated outside the LEA's primary region, the
13 Council may consider employers from the broader labor market area, provided
14 the LEA demonstrates the sector's draw area encompasses that broader area.

15 (b) Work-Based Learning Provisional Authorization. A rural LEA shall
16 provide work-based learning placements meeting the §183.11(B) standards.
17 Where a rural LEA demonstrates that employer unavailability makes required
18 WBL placements inaccessible during the initial authorization period, the
19 Council may, by majority vote, approve provisional authorization conditioned
20 on the LEA's submission and execution of a Council-approved Work-Based
21 Learning Development Plan. A Work-Based Learning Development Plan shall:

22 (i) Identify specific, time-bound steps the rural LEA will take to establish
23 work-based learning placements at the required minimum tier level, to be
24 achieved not later than the beginning of the pathway's third year of operation.

25 (ii) Identify at least one industry partner who has executed or committed
26 in writing to execute a formal employer partnership agreement under §183.11©
27 of this Subpart within two years of the pathway's authorization.

28 (iii) Be submitted to the Council for review and written approval as part
29 of the rural LEA's annual pathway progress report under Paragraph (3) of this

1 **Subsection.**

2 **(iv) Include a documented contingency plan for WBL access, which may**
3 **include consortium arrangements with adjacent LEAs, virtual employer**
4 **partnerships, or regional vocational and technical institution partnerships**
5 **under §183.17 of this Subpart, in the event that the LEA is unable to secure on-**
6 **site employer placements within the plan timeline.**

7 **© The differentiated employer documentation and work-based learning**
8 **thresholds established in Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph shall**
9 **apply only to initial pathway authorization and to the rural LEA's first**
10 **reauthorization review under §183.13(D) of this Subpart. At the second**
11 **reauthorization review and each subsequent review, the Council shall evaluate**
12 **whether the rural LEA's access barriers remain sufficiently documented to**
13 **warrant continued differentiated threshold treatment and shall make a written**
14 **finding to that effect.**

15 **(2) All other minimum pathway authorization criteria under §183.13(B)**
16 **apply to rural LEAs without differentiation, including: §183.4 (Regional**
17 **Priority Industry List alignment); §183.8 (career counselling and coaching);**
18 **§183.10 (Career Major Program curriculum and course sequence); §183.12**
19 **(industry-based credential tiers); and §183.15 (articulation agreements). The**
20 **differentiated thresholds of Paragraph (1) apply only to employer demand**
21 **documentation and work-based learning placement availability and do not**
22 **modify any academic quality, credential, or postsecondary access standard.**

23 **(3) A rural LEA whose pathway has been authorized under this Section**
24 **shall submit to the Council an annual rural pathway progress report not later**
25 **than December 1 of each year, covering the immediately preceding academic**
26 **year and containing:**

27 **(a) Current enrollment in the authorized pathway, disaggregated by**
28 **grade level.**

29 **(b) The current status of all employer partnerships established under**

1 §183.11© of this Subpart, including new employer partnerships established
2 during the reporting year and any employer partnerships discontinued.

3 © The tier level of work-based learning placements provided to enrolled
4 students during the reporting year, and documentation of progress toward the
5 WBL minimum tier level required by §183.11(B) of this Subpart where a Work-
6 Based Learning Development Plan is in effect.

7 (d) Any material changes to pathway delivery that may affect compliance
8 with the pathway authorization conditions of §183.13© of this Subpart.

9 (e) Any transportation access challenges experienced during the
10 reporting year and the steps the LEA has taken or plans to take to address
11 them, consistent with the transportation access plan required under Subsection
12 D of this Section.

13 (4) The Council shall, by rule adopted pursuant to the Administrative
14 Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., establish procedures for rural LEA pathway
15 authorization that implement the differentiated thresholds of this Subsection in
16 a manner that maintains the academic quality, workforce alignment, and
17 credential standards applicable to all authorized pathways under this Subpart.

18 C. Consortium Pathway Authorization; Small Districts.

19 (1) Two or more rural LEAs classified under Subsection A may jointly
20 submit a pathway authorization proposal as a consortium to develop and deliver
21 an authorized K–12 CTE pathway. A consortium established under this
22 Subsection shall be treated as a single proposing party for purposes of the
23 §183.13 pathway authorization process, subject to the requirements of this
24 Subsection.

25 (2) A consortium pathway authorization proposal shall include, in
26 addition to all elements required under §183.13(A) of this Subpart:

27 (a) The identity of each participating rural LEA and the designation of
28 one participating LEA as the Lead LEA, which shall serve as the primary
29 administrative party responsible for all communications with the Council and

1 the Louisiana Department of Education, for enrollment coordination across
2 participating LEAs, and for compliance reporting under §183.19 of this Subpart
3 on behalf of the consortium.

4 (b) A signed consortium agreement executed by the authorized
5 representative of each participating LEA, specifying.

6 (I) The Lead LEA's administrative responsibilities, including reporting
7 obligations under §183.19 of this Subpart and the pathway authorization
8 conditions maintenance obligations under §183.13© of this Subpart.

9 (ii) The responsibilities of each participating LEA for curriculum
10 delivery, instructor staffing, work-based learning coordination, credentialing
11 support, and student advising and ICAP services under §183.7 and §183.8 of
12 this Subpart.

13 (iii) The site or sites at which pathway instruction will be delivered, and
14 the transportation arrangements each participating LEA will use to ensure
15 enrolled students have access to each delivery site, consistent with the
16 requirements of Subsection D of this Section.

17 (iv) A plan for equitable allocation of pathway enrollment capacity
18 among participating LEAs, including enrollment targets and procedures for
19 addressing over- or under-enrollment at any participating LEA.

20 (v) Notice requirements and continuity-of-enrollment provisions
21 governing the process by which a participating LEA may withdraw from the
22 consortium, ensuring that students currently enrolled in the pathway at the time
23 of withdrawal are not displaced from the pathway.

24 (vi) The process for admitting additional rural LEAs to the consortium,
25 consistent with Paragraph (5) of this Subsection.

26 (vii) Dispute resolution procedures for inter-LEA disagreements arising
27 from the consortium's delivery of the authorized pathway.

28 © Documentation of the combined total K–12 student enrollment of all
29 participating LEAs, which shall constitute the enrollment basis for all Council

1 assessments of pathway viability for the consortium.

2 (d) Where applicable, documentation of any existing partnering
3 arrangements under §183.9(G) of this Subpart on which the consortium intends
4 to rely for pathway delivery, together with a description of how those
5 arrangements are incorporated into the consortium's delivery model.

6 (3) For purposes of pathway authorization, reauthorization, and all
7 related Council assessments under §183.13 of this Subpart, the combined
8 student enrollment of all participating LEAs shall be aggregated and treated as
9 a single LEA enrollment figure. The employer demand documentation
10 thresholds applicable under Subsection B(1)(a) of this Section shall apply to the
11 consortium as a whole, not separately to each participating LEA.

12 (4) The Lead LEA is primarily responsible for compliance with §183.13©
13 authorization conditions and timely submission of §183.19 reporting on behalf
14 of the consortium. Lead LEA failure to fulfill these obligations constitutes a
15 consortium compliance failure under §183.13(H); provided the Council first
16 gives written notice of the deficiency to all participating LEAs and affords thirty
17 (30) calendar days to designate a replacement Lead LEA and submit a
18 corrective action plan.

19 (5) A local education agency that is not classified as a rural LEA under
20 Subsection A of this Section but that operates in a geographic area contiguous
21 to the service area of one or more participating rural LEAs in a consortium may
22 petition the Council for inclusion in the consortium upon demonstrating that
23 the LEA faces documented access barriers substantially comparable to those
24 qualifying the participating rural LEAs. The Council may approve inclusion
25 upon a written finding that the applying LEA's participation would strengthen
26 the consortium's ability to deliver a high-quality pathway consistent with the
27 standards of this Subpart and that inclusion does not circumvent the rural
28 access purpose of this Section.

29 (6) A consortium authorized under this Subsection shall coordinate with

1 the applicable regional team for all pathway development and oversight
2 functions under §183.9(F) of this Subpart. Participation by the LEAs in a
3 consortium shall satisfy the §183.9(F)(2)(a) requirement for multi-LEA regional
4 team representation to the extent the participating LEAs collectively provide
5 regional team representation within the applicable workforce development
6 region.

7 D. Transportation Support Requirements.

8 (1) An LEA delivering a K–12 CTE pathway at a site outside enrolled
9 students' school of attendance—whether independently or through a
10 consortium under Subsection C—shall ensure enrolled students have
11 meaningful access to transportation to and from the delivery site.
12 Transportation provided under this Section shall comply with all applicable
13 Louisiana law governing the transportation of public school students.

14 (2) Each rural LEA that delivers, or proposes to deliver, a pathway at a
15 shared or off-campus site shall include in its pathway authorization proposal
16 under §183.13(A) of this Subpart a Transportation Access Plan specifying:

17 (a) Each delivery site at which pathway instruction will be conducted,
18 with the address and the estimated distance from the home school of each
19 participating LEA's students.

20 (b) The estimated number of students for whom LEA-provided or LEA-
21 arranged transportation will be necessary during each academic year of the
22 pathway's authorization period.

23 © The mechanism or mechanisms through which the LEA will provide
24 or facilitate student access to each delivery site, which may include but is not
25 limited to:

26 (I) Regular school bus routes or dedicated shuttle service.

27 (ii) Cooperative transportation arrangements with one or more adjacent
28 LEAs or governmental entities entered into pursuant to R.S. 33:1324.

29 (iii) Formal agreements with regional transit authorities, vocational-

1 technical institutions, or other public entities to provide student transportation
2 services.

3 (iv) Student transportation stipend or mileage reimbursement programs
4 where direct transportation cannot be provided.

5 (v) Technology-aided or hybrid instruction arrangements, consistent
6 with §183.18(D) of this Subpart, to supplement in-person delivery for pathway
7 components that can be effectively delivered remotely, thereby reducing
8 required student travel.

9 (d) The estimated annual cost of the transportation access mechanism
10 identified under Subparagraph © of this Paragraph and the lawfully available
11 funding source or sources from which those costs will be funded, which may
12 include career development funds, available federal CTE funds under the Carl
13 D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, as amended, 20 U.S.C.
14 § 2301 et seq., state transportation funds appropriated by the legislature, or
15 other lawfully available appropriations.

16 (e) A written assurance executed by the LEA's chief administrative
17 officer that no enrolled student will be denied access to the authorized pathway
18 solely because of the student's inability to independently arrange or fund
19 transportation to the delivery site.

20 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education, in coordination with the
21 Council, shall develop and maintain a Transportation Technical Assistance
22 Resource for rural LEAs that provides:

23 (a) A summary of available state and federal funding mechanisms
24 applicable to rural CTE student transportation.

25 (b) Model cooperative transportation agreement templates, consistent
26 with R.S. 33:1324, for use by rural LEAs and consortia.

27 © A compilation of technology-aided instruction arrangements and
28 hybrid delivery models currently authorized under §183.18(D) of this Subpart
29 that rural LEAs may use to reduce transportation burdens.

1 (d) Documented examples of rural CTE transportation models
2 implemented by Louisiana LEAs and LEAs in comparable rural states. The
3 Transportation Technical Assistance Resource shall be updated not less
4 frequently than once every two years and shall be made available on the
5 Louisiana Department of Education's publicly accessible website.

6 (4) The failure of a rural LEA to submit and maintain the
7 Transportation Access Plan required under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection,
8 or to implement the plan in a manner that ensures enrolled students are not
9 systematically denied access to the pathway due to unresolved transportation
10 barriers, shall constitute a failure to maintain pathway authorization conditions
11 under §183.13© of this Subpart and shall be subject to the consequences
12 established in §183.13(H) of this Subpart.

13 E. Rural Access Monitoring; Oversight Council Responsibility.

14 (1) The Council shall monitor and publicly report on rural LEA access
15 to authorized K–12 CTE pathways as provided in this Subsection, in
16 coordination with its annual reporting obligations under §183.3(I)(6) and the
17 data requirements of §183.19.

18 (2) The Council shall, as a component of its annual report required
19 under §183.3(I)(6) of this Subpart, include a Rural Access and Completion
20 Report containing all of the following:

21 (a) The total number of LEAs classified as rural local education agencies
22 under Subsection A of this Section and the number and percentage of those
23 rural LEAs that have at least one currently authorized K–12 CTE pathway.

24 (b) A comparison, presented by workforce development region, of the
25 number of authorized K–12 CTE pathways accessible in rural LEAs versus
26 non-rural LEAs, disaggregated by pathway tier under §183.9(D) and by
27 industry sector under §183.4 of this Subpart.

28 © Rural-disaggregated data on: K–12 CTE pathway enrollment and
29 enrollment trends; CTE completer and concentrator rates; industry-based

1 credential attainment rates; work-based learning participation rates; and post-
2 graduation outcomes, as those data elements are reported under §183.19 of this
3 Subpart.

4 (d) The number, status, and performance outcomes of all active rural
5 LEA consortium pathway authorizations under Subsection C of this Section.

6 (e) An identification of any workforce development region in which rural
7 LEA access to authorized pathways is disproportionately limited relative to
8 non-rural LEA access within the same region, or in which rural student CTE
9 completion rates or post-graduation outcomes are materially lower than
10 statewide averages for non-rural students in comparable pathways, and a
11 Council determination as to whether the identified disparity constitutes a
12 material rural access gap requiring a corrective action response.

13 (f) Where the Council identifies a material rural access gap under
14 Subparagraph (e) of this Paragraph, a Council-developed Rural Access
15 Corrective Action Plan specifying:

16 (I) The nature and geographic scope of the identified gap.

17 (ii) The specific outreach, technical assistance, and reduced-barrier
18 authorization support the Council and the Louisiana Department of Education
19 will provide to rural LEAs in the identified region during the subsequent
20 twelve-month period.

21 (iii) Any modifications to Council authorization procedures, timeline
22 accommodations, or technical assistance resources that the Council will
23 implement to improve rural LEA participation.

24 (iv) Measurable targets and a timeline against which progress on closing
25 the identified gap will be assessed in the subsequent year's Rural Access and
26 Completion Report.

27 (3) The Council shall transmit the Rural Access and Completion Report
28 required under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection to the chair of the House
29 Committee on Education and the chair of the Senate Committee on Education

1 not later than December 1 of each year, covering data from the preceding
2 academic year.

3 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education shall provide the Council,
4 not later than October 1 of each year, a complete data extract containing the
5 pathway enrollment, completion, credential attainment, and outcome data
6 necessary for the Council to prepare the Rural Access and Completion Report
7 required under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, with all data disaggregated by
8 LEA rural classification status consistent with Subsection A of this Section and
9 by the geographic disaggregation categories established in §183.19© of this
10 Subpart.

11 (5) Nothing in this Section requires a rural LEA to offer any specific
12 K–12 CTE pathway or limits its authority to determine, consistent with local
13 governance responsibilities and the pathway authorization requirements of this
14 Subpart, which pathways, if any, to propose for authorization.

15 §189.15. Postsecondary articulation and transfer credit agreements

16 A. Articulation agreement mandate; condition of pathway authorization

17 (1) As a condition of pathway authorization under §183.13, each
18 applicant for K–12 CTE pathway authorization shall maintain at least one
19 written, signed postsecondary articulation agreement between the proposing
20 local education agency or regional team and at least one Louisiana public
21 postsecondary institution, with priority given to technical and community
22 colleges, satisfying the requirements of this Section. The required agreement
23 shall be submitted to the Council as evidence of compliance in the authorization
24 proposal under §183.13(A)(2)(g), or the proposing party shall submit a Council-
25 approved compliance timeline under Subsection D in lieu of an executed
26 agreement.

27 (2) An articulation agreement required under this Subsection shall:

28 (a) Be signed by authorized representatives of both parties.

29 (b) Specify the K–12 CTE pathway or pathways to which the agreement

1 applies and the academic year from which the credit transfer terms are
2 effective.

3 (c) Set forth minimum credit transfer terms for qualifying pathway
4 completers accepted at the contracting institution, consistent with
5 Subsection B.

6 (d) Specify an effective period of not fewer than five years or the pathway's
7 authorization period under §183.13(D), whichever is longer, subject to
8 annual review under Subsection F.

9 (e) Include a process for resolving disputes between a qualifying student and
10 the contracting institution regarding the student's eligibility for credit
11 transfer.

12 (3) Each executed articulation agreement required under this Section
13 shall be maintained in the Council's publicly accessible pathway registry,
14 consistent with §183.9(B)(3) and §183.9(C)(1) of this Subpart, and updated
15 within thirty (30) calendar days of any execution, renewal, or modification.

16 (4) A pathway's failure to maintain an active articulation agreement
17 satisfying the requirements of this Section shall constitute a failure to maintain
18 pathway authorization conditions under §183.13(C)(1)(e) of this Subpart and
19 shall trigger the mid-cycle review process under §183.13(E)(1)(e) of this
20 Subpart.

21 **B. Minimum Agreement Terms; Credit Transfer Standards.**

22 (1) Each articulation agreement required under Subsection A of this
23 Section shall, at a minimum, provide all of the following:

24 (a) A defined transfer pathway entitling students who satisfy the
25 completion requirements of Subparagraph (c) to postsecondary course credit
26 or equivalency recognition at the contracting institution in an aligned subject
27 area.

28 (b) A minimum transfer value of three postsecondary credit hours, or
29 one postsecondary course equivalent, in the relevant subject area or

1 occupational domain, applied toward the student's program of study upon
2 enrollment.

3 (c) The pathway completion requirements for credit transfer eligibility,
4 including completion of the approved nine-credit Jump Start course sequence
5 under §183.10(C), attainment of the required industry-based credential under
6 §189.12, or both; eligibility conditions shall not conflict with §183.5(C).

7 (d) The procedure by which an eligible student shall document pathway
8 completion and request credit transfer evaluation by the contracting
9 postsecondary institution, which shall not require the student to bear costs
10 beyond those generally applicable to credit evaluation and transfer at the
11 institution.

12 (e) An annual review process consistent with Subsection F of this Section.

13 (2) An articulation agreement required under this Section shall not:

14 (a) Condition credit transfer eligibility solely on a student's enrollment
15 in a specific program of study at the contracting postsecondary institution,
16 except to the extent the transferred credit is applicable only within a defined
17 postsecondary program or course of study aligned to the pathway.

18 (b) Require a student to repeat or retake coursework that is substantially
19 equivalent in content to the K–12 pathway coursework for which the credit
20 transfer is sought.

21 (c) Include terms that, in practical effect, render credit transfer
22 inaccessible to a substantial proportion of qualifying completers through
23 disproportionate administrative burdens, costs, or deadlines.

24 (3) Nothing in this Section prevents an articulation agreement from
25 providing credit transfer terms more favorable than the minimums required by
26 Paragraph (1), including stacked credit applicable to multiple postsecondary
27 programs, advanced-standing placement, or equivalencies exceeding
28 Subparagraph (1)(b).

29 C. Board of Regents Coordination; Common Course Numbering

1 **Framework.**

2 **(1) The Board of Regents, in coordination with the Council, shall develop**
3 **a common course numbering framework for K–12 CTE pathway courses that**
4 **facilitates consistent transfer credit evaluation by Louisiana public**
5 **postsecondary institutions. The framework shall:**

6 **(a) Assign to each authorized K–12 CTE pathway, or to defined clusters**
7 **of pathway course sequences, a standardized course identifier that Louisiana**
8 **public postsecondary education institutions may use to assess transfer credit**
9 **eligibility consistent with their institutional articulation policies and with the**
10 **minimum agreement terms required by Subsection B of this Section.**

11 **(b) Be organized by career cluster and industry sector, consistent with**
12 **the Statewide Priority Industry List established under §183.4(A) of this**
13 **Subpart, and updated to reflect additions to and removals from the Priority**
14 **Industry List as part of each Biennial Priority Review under §183.4(E) of this**
15 **Subpart.**

16 **(c) Be published on the Board of Regents' and the Council's public**
17 **websites, updated at least every two academic years.**

18 **(d) Serve as the shared reference system for all articulation agreements executed**
19 **under this Section and for the statewide articulation framework developed**
20 **under Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.**

21 **(2) The Board of Regents shall, not later than two years after the**
22 **effective date of this Subpart and in coordination with the Council, develop and**
23 **publish a statewide articulation framework establishing minimum transfer**
24 **credit terms applicable to all Louisiana public postsecondary education**
25 **institutions for pathway course sequences identified in the common course**
26 **numbering framework under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. The statewide**
27 **articulation framework shall:**

28 **(a) Establish minimum credit transfer terms applicable to completers of**
29 **authorized K–12 CTE pathways aligned to each industry sector on the**

1 **Statewide Priority Industry List.**

2 **(b) Identify the postsecondary degree programs, technical certificate**
3 **programs, and workforce certificate programs to which K–12 CTE pathway**
4 **course credit may be applied, consistent with the Board of Regents' program**
5 **approval and articulation authority under R.S. 17:3138 et seq.**

6 **(c) Be reviewed and updated by the Board of Regents, in coordination**
7 **with the Council, not less frequently than once every two academic years, to**
8 **reflect updates to the common course numbering framework and any changes**
9 **to the Statewide Priority Industry List.**

10 **(3) In developing the statewide articulation framework required under**
11 **Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the Board of Regents shall consult with local**
12 **education agencies, regional teams, and public postsecondary education**
13 **institutions within each workforce development region, and shall solicit and**
14 **consider written comment from the Council before finalizing the framework.**

15 **(4) The Board of Regents shall certify to the Council and to the chairs of**
16 **the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education,**
17 **not later than December 1 of each year, the status of all articulation agreements**
18 **required under this Section, including: (a) the number of authorized pathways**
19 **for which a compliant articulation agreement is on file with the Council; (b) the**
20 **number of pathways operating under an approved compliance timeline under**
21 **Subsection D of this Section; and (c) the identification of any Louisiana public**
22 **postsecondary institution that has not, within the applicable timeline under**
23 **Subsection D, executed a required articulation agreement with a proposing**
24 **party that has made documented good-faith efforts to negotiate such an**
25 **agreement.**

26 **D. Statutory Timeline for Agreement Establishment.**

27 **(1) For pathways seeking initial authorization under §183.13 of this**
28 **Subpart, the following requirements govern submission of the articulation**
29 **agreement:**

1 (a) A proposing party that has an executed articulation agreement
2 meeting Subsection B at the time of proposal submission under §183.13(A) shall
3 submit the agreement with the authorization proposal as required by
4 §183.13(A)(2)(g).

5 (b) A proposing party that does not yet have a fully executed articulation
6 agreement at the time of authorization proposal submission shall, in lieu of an
7 executed agreement, submit a documented compliance timeline as part of the
8 proposal specifying:

9 (i) The name of each Louisiana public postsecondary institution with
10 which the proposing party has been or is actively engaged in negotiations
11 toward execution of a qualifying articulation agreement

12 (ii) The credit transfer terms tentatively agreed upon or under active
13 discussion, to the extent then determinable.

14 (iii) A date certain by which a fully executed agreement will be submitted
15 to the Council, which shall be not later than eighteen (18) months following the
16 date on which the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
17 authorizes the pathway.

18 (2) The Council shall review the compliance timeline submitted under
19 Subparagraph (1)(b) of this Subsection as part of its written pathway
20 authorization recommendation under §183.13(B) of this Subpart. Approval of
21 a compliance timeline by the Council in its authorization recommendation
22 constitutes the authorization referenced in §183.13(B)(1)(f) of this Subpart and
23 satisfies the authorization condition of §183.13(C)(1)(e) of this Subpart for the
24 period during which the timeline is in effect.

25 (3) A pathway operating under an approved compliance timeline under
26 Paragraph (1)(b) shall not be subject to §183.13(H) authorization condition
27 failure solely because no agreement has yet been executed, provided the
28 proposing party is actively pursuing execution and submits a qualifying
29 agreement to the Council by the timeline's specified date.

1 (4) A pathway shall not receive reauthorization under §183.13(D) of this
2 Subpart, and shall not be approved or maintained at Tier 2 or Tier 3 pathway
3 designation under §183.9(D) of this Subpart, unless a fully executed articulation
4 agreement meeting the requirements of Subsection B of this Section is on file
5 with the Council at the time of the reauthorization review.

6 (5) Where a Louisiana public postsecondary institution identified in an
7 approved compliance timeline under this Subsection fails to execute a qualifying
8 articulation agreement within the stated timeline period, the Council shall
9 notify the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents shall take such action as is
10 within its authority under R.S. 17:3138 et seq. to facilitate execution of the
11 required agreement. Failure of a postsecondary institution to execute a required
12 agreement within the applicable timeline shall be identified in the Board of
13 Regents' annual certification under §183.15(C)(4) of this Subpart.

14 E. Compliance Mechanism; Consequences of Non-Compliance.

15 (1) As part of its pathway oversight functions under §183.3(I), the
16 Council shall monitor compliance with this Section by taking the following
17 actions:

18 (a) Require each local education agency operating an authorized
19 pathway to confirm in its annual pathway data submission under §183.19 of this
20 Subpart whether the articulation agreement required for that pathway remains
21 in effect and whether any material changes to the agreement have occurred
22 during the reporting year.

23 (b) Notify the Louisiana Department of Education, the Board of Regents,
24 and the affected postsecondary institution within thirty (30) calendar days of
25 the Council's determination of any compliance failure by a local education
26 agency related to the articulation agreement requirement of this Section.

27 (c) Include in the Council's annual report required under §183.3(I)(6) of
28 this Subpart a summary of articulation agreement compliance for all authorized
29 pathways statewide, identifying the number of pathways with active compliant

1 agreements, the number operating under approved compliance timelines under
2 Subsection D, and the number for which the required agreement has expired,
3 been terminated, or remains unexecuted beyond the applicable compliance
4 timeline.

5 (2) A pathway whose articulation agreement expires or is terminated
6 without simultaneous execution of a replacement agreement shall be subject to
7 a mandatory mid-cycle review under §183.13(E)(1)(e) of this Subpart. The
8 Council shall notify the affected local education agency within fifteen (15)
9 calendar days of the Council's determination that the agreement has expired or
10 been terminated, and shall require the LEA to submit documentation to the
11 Council within sixty (60) calendar days demonstrating either:

12 (a) Execution of a replacement articulation agreement meeting the
13 requirements of Subsection B of this Section.

14 (b) A Council-approved compliance plan specifying a timeline of not
15 more than twelve (12) months within which a replacement agreement will be
16 executed, consistent with the requirements of Subsection D of this Section.

17 (3) A pathway that fails to maintain an active articulation agreement
18 meeting the requirements of this Section for a continuous period exceeding
19 twenty-four (24) months, without an approved compliance plan under
20 Paragraph (2)(b) of this Subsection or a Council finding of postsecondary
21 institutional non-cooperation under Paragraph (4) of this Subsection, shall be
22 subject to pathway suspension under §183.13(G) of this Subpart until a
23 compliant agreement is executed and submitted to the Council.

24 (4) Nothing in this Section requires deauthorization of a pathway solely
25 because a postsecondary institution failed to execute or maintain a required
26 agreement, where the LEA has documented good-faith efforts with at least two
27 Louisiana public postsecondary institutions and demonstrated that no
28 geographically accessible institution has agreed. In such circumstances, the
29 Council may continue the pathway authorization with a written finding of

1 institutional non-cooperation, reported to the Board of Regents and legislature
2 under §183.15(C)(4).

3 F. Annual Review and Update of Articulation Agreements.

4 (1) Each articulation agreement required under this Section shall include
5 a provision for annual review by both parties by June 1 of each year to assess
6 whether the agreement accurately reflects the pathway's current curriculum,
7 credentials, and postsecondary program alignments, and whether modifications
8 are needed to maintain compliance with Subsection B.

9 (2) A local education agency operating an authorized pathway shall
10 notify the Council within thirty (30) calendar days of any of the following
11 events:

12 (a) Execution of a new articulation agreement or renewal of an existing
13 agreement covering the authorized pathway.

14 (b) A material modification to the credit transfer terms of an existing
15 articulation agreement.

16 (c) Expiration of an articulation agreement without simultaneous
17 execution of a renewal or replacement agreement.

18 (d) Termination or cancellation of an existing articulation agreement
19 prior to its stated expiration date.

20 (3) The Council shall maintain on its publicly accessible website, as part
21 of the pathway registry consistent with §183.9(B)(3) and §183.9(C)(1) of this
22 Subpart, a current record of all articulation agreements associated with each
23 authorized pathway, including the name of each contracting postsecondary
24 institution, the effective dates, and a summary of the credit transfer terms
25 applicable to pathway completers, updated within thirty (30) calendar days of
26 any agreement execution, renewal, modification, or termination.

27 (4) The Board of Regents shall include in its annual certification required
28 under Subsection C(4) of this Section an assessment of any patterns of
29 agreement non-execution, expiration without renewal, or restricted credit

1 transfer terms that may indicate systemic barriers to postsecondary articulation
 2 for Jump Start pathway completers, and shall transmit any such assessment to
 3 the Council and to the chairs of the House Committee on Education and the
 4 Senate Committee on Education.

5 §189.16. Tops Tech earl start linkage; financial access alignment

6 A. requirement for Tier 3 Pathway Authorization; TOPS Tech Early
 7 Start Provider.

8 (1) As a condition of Tier 3 pathway designation under §189.9(D)(2)© of
 9 this Subpart, each pathway seeking Tier 3 authorization shall have at least one
 10 TOPS Tech Early Start Training Provider, approved pursuant to Bulletin 138,
 11 Chapter 5, and consistent with R.S. 17:3048 et seq., offering pathway-aligned
 12 occupational training within the workforce development region in which the
 13 pathway is authorized for delivery.

14 (2) For purposes of this Section, a TOPS Tech Early Start Training
 15 Provider offers "pathway-aligned training" if the provider's approved
 16 occupational training offerings within the applicable workforce development
 17 region:

18 (a) Are aligned to the same career cluster and occupational focus as the
 19 Tier 3 K–12 CTE pathway for which Tier 3 designation is sought.

20 (b) Include occupational training leading to the same industry-based
 21 credential, or a directly related credential in the same occupational domain,
 22 required for completion of the Tier 3 pathway under §183.12 of this Subpart.

23 © Are offered within the applicable workforce development region or,
 24 for rural LEAs under §189.14(A), within that region or an adjacent region
 25 accessible to enrolled students under §189.14(D).

26 (3) A local education agency or regional team seeking Tier 3 pathway
 27 designation shall document in its pathway authorization proposal under
 28 §189.13(A) of this Subpart:

29 (a) The name, physical location, applicable workforce development

1 region, and current TOPS Tech Early Start approval status of at least one
2 Training Provider meeting the requirements of Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this
3 Subsection.

4 (b) A description of the coordination arrangement between the local
5 education agency or regional team and the identified Training Provider through
6 which students enrolled in the Tier 3 pathway will be informed of, and provided
7 access to, the TOPS Tech Early Start financial access opportunity.

8 © Written confirmation from the identified Training Provider of its
9 current TOPS Tech Early Start approval status and its commitment to offer
10 pathway-aligned training to students enrolled in the Tier 3 pathway during the
11 pathway's authorization period.

12 (4) The Council shall verify the Training Provider arrangement under
13 this Subsection as part of its recommendation under §189.13(B) and each
14 reauthorization review under §189.13(D) and §189.13(E). Failure to maintain
15 a qualifying arrangement constitutes a failure of Tier 3 designation conditions
16 under §189.13(C)(1) and shall trigger a Council tier reassessment; if no
17 replacement provider is identified within twelve (12) months, the pathway may
18 be reclassified to Tier 2 pending restoration of a qualifying arrangement.

19 B. All Public High Schools; Student Advisement Obligation.

20 (1) Each local education agency operating an authorized K–12 CTE
21 pathway shall annually advise enrolled ninth through twelfth grade students in
22 a Jump Start pathway of the TOPS Tech Early Start program as a financial
23 access mechanism for postsecondary CTE training, consistent with §189.8.

24 (2) The advisement obligation required under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall
25 include, at minimum:

26 (a) Written or digital notification to each Jump Start-enrolled student
27 and the student's parent or legal guardian, at the beginning of each academic
28 year and at the time of ICAP annual review required under §189.7(B) of this
29 Subpart, of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start program, its

1 applicable student eligibility requirements under R.S. 17:3048 et seq., and its
2 connection to the student's enrolled Jump Start pathway.

3 (b) Identification of any TOPS Tech Early Start Training Provider
4 offering pathway-aligned training accessible to the student, consistent with the
5 requirements of Subsection A of this Section, to the extent such a provider has
6 been identified in the pathway authorization proposal or through the Council's
7 registry §189.16(C)(2)(d) of this Section.

8 © Documentation of the TOPS Tech Early Start advisement provided to
9 each student in the counselling activity report required under §189.8(F) of this
10 Subpart.

11 (3) The Louisiana Department of Education shall develop, distribute, and
12 maintain standardized advisement materials explaining the TOPS Tech Early
13 Start program, its student eligibility requirements under R.S. 17:3048 et seq.
14 and Bulletin 138, and its connection to authorized K–12 CTE pathways.
15 Materials shall be updated at least every two years or upon any material change
16 to program eligibility or operational requirements, and published on the
17 department's public website.

18 C. TOPS Tech Early Start Training Provider Approval; Priority
19 Industry Alignment.

20 (1) The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, in
21 coordination with the Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight
22 Council and the Louisiana Workforce Commission, shall review TOPS Tech
23 Early Start Training Provider approvals and renewals for alignment with the
24 state and regional Jump Start priority industries reflected in the Statewide
25 Priority Industry List and applicable Regional Priority Industry Lists
26 established pursuant to §189.4 of this Subpart.

27 (2) As part of the Training Provider approval and renewal process conducted
28 pursuant to Bulletin 138, Chapter 5, and R.S. 17:3048 et seq., the Louisiana
29 Student Financial Assistance Commission shall:

1 (a) Notify the Council of all pending Training Provider approvals and
2 renewals not less than thirty calendar days before a final approval
3 determination is made, including the name, location, workforce development
4 region, and occupational training focus of each provider under review.

5 (b) Give priority consideration, in approving new Training Providers
6 and in renewing existing Training Provider approvals, to providers offering
7 occupational training in industry sectors on the Statewide Priority Industry List
8 or the applicable Regional Priority Industry List.

9 © For Training Providers offering occupational training in an industry
10 sector not included on the applicable Priority Industry List, include in the
11 approval or renewal determination a documented finding, in coordination with
12 the Council, regarding the degree to which the provider's offerings are aligned
13 with or expected to become aligned with the Priority Industry List.

14 (d) Transmit to the Council, by October 1 of each year, a complete list
15 of all currently approved TOPS Tech Early Start Training Providers, organized
16 by workforce development region and industry sector, including for each
17 provider: the provider's name and location; the occupational training offerings
18 for which the provider is approved; the date of the provider's most recent
19 approval or renewal; and the provider's Priority Industry List alignment status.

20 (3) Where the Council determines, following a Biennial Priority Review
21 under §189.4(E) of this Subpart, that an industry sector to which a currently
22 approved TOPS Tech Early Start Training Provider is primarily aligned has
23 been removed from the Statewide Priority Industry List and from all applicable
24 Regional Priority Industry Lists, the Council shall notify the Louisiana Student
25 Financial Assistance Commission. Upon receiving such notification, the
26 Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall:

27 (a) Notify the affected Training Provider of the sector removal from the
28 applicable Priority Industry Lists and the implications for the provider's
29 alignment status under this Subsection.

1 **(b) Include in the affected provider's next renewal determination a**
 2 **documented finding regarding the provider's current Priority Industry List**
 3 **alignment and whether modification of the provider's approved training**
 4 **offerings or a transition period is warranted to support alignment with current**
 5 **priority industries, consistent with the purposes of this Subpart.**

6 **(4) Nothing in this Section alters the authority of the Louisiana Student**
 7 **Financial Assistance Commission to approve, renew, or revoke TOPS Tech**
 8 **Early Start Training Provider status under R.S. 17:3048 et seq. and Bulletin**
 9 **138. The coordination requirements of this Section are intended to strengthen**
 10 **the alignment between Training Provider approvals and Jump Start priority**
 11 **industry identification and do not supersede or modify the Louisiana Student**
 12 **Financial Assistance Commission's established approval standards or authority.**

13 **§189.17. Access to career and technical education; partnering authority**

14 **A. All Public High Schools; Access Obligation.**

15 **(1) Each local education agency operating a public high school shall**
 16 **provide each enrolled student access to career and technical education courses,**
 17 **including authorized K–12 CTE pathways offered pursuant to this Subpart.**

18 **(2) Such access obligation includes:**

19 **(a) Ensure that at least one authorized K–12 CTE pathway is available**
 20 **to students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in each public high school**
 21 **operated by the local education agency, except as provided in Subsection C of**
 22 **this Section.**

23 **(b) Inform enrolled students and their parents or legal guardians of**
 24 **available K–12 CTE pathway options in connection with ICAP and IGP**
 25 **development as required under §189.7 of this Subpart.**

26 **© Ensure that the full nine-credit Jump Start course sequence required for**
 27 **Career Diploma completion under §189.10© of this Subpart is accessible to**
 28 **students enrolled in an authorized pathway, either through direct course**
 29 **delivery by the local education agency or through a partnering agreement**

1 established under Subsection B of this Section.

2 (3) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require a local education
3 agency to offer a pathway in an industry sector not included on the Statewide
4 Priority Industry List or applicable Regional Priority Industry List maintained
5 pursuant to §189.4 of this Subpart.

6 B. Partnering Authority; Agreements with Other Schools and
7 Institutions.

8 (1) If a local education agency cannot directly provide CTE courses or
9 an authorized K–12 CTE pathway, the local education agency may enter into
10 a written partnering agreement with one or more of the following entities to
11 provide such courses or pathway access to enrolled students.

12 (a) A public school or public school district in the state.

13 (b) A Louisiana public two-year postsecondary education institution;

14 © A nonprofit proprietary school approved by the State Board of
15 Elementary and Secondary Education.

16 (d) A Course Choice provider approved by the State Board of Elementary
17 and Secondary Education, consistent with R.S. 17:4002.1 et seq.

18 (e) A Louisiana public vocational or technical education institution,
19 including a Louisiana Technical College campus, with which the local
20 education agency has established a formal resource-sharing
21 arrangement pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

22 (2) A partnering agreement entered into under this Subsection shall:

23 (a) Be in writing and executed by authorized representatives of both
24 parties.

25 (b) Specify the courses, pathways, or course sequences to which the
26 agreement applies and the terms under which enrolled students will
27 access the agreed instruction.

28 © Address liability, transportation responsibilities, and any cost-sharing

- 1 arrangements between the parties.
- 2 (d) Be submitted to and reviewed by the Louisiana Career and Technical
3 Education Oversight Council as part of any regional pathway
4 authorization or reauthorization proposal under §183.13 of this Subpart,
5 to the extent the agreement supports or enables a Jump Start pathway.
- 6 (3) A partnering agreement under this Subsection may support the delivery of one
7 or more components of an authorized K–12 CTE pathway, including the CTE
8 course sequence, work-based learning activities under §183.11, and industry-
9 based credential preparation under §183.12 of this Subpart, but shall not
10 substitute for the local education agency's obligation to ensure that enrolled
11 students receive all required academic core courses, individual career planning,
12 and counselling services consistent with §183.8 and §183.10 of this Subpart.
- 13 (4) When a local education agency enters into an arrangement to share facilities,
14 materials, equipment, or instructors with a Louisiana public vocational or
15 technical institution:
- 16 (a) If students are transported to area technical colleges or vocational
17 institutions, the local education agency shall be responsible for the cost
18 of transporting such students; and
- 19 (b) Other expenses and issues, including liability, involved in sharing
20 resources with technical colleges or vocational institutions shall be
21 approved by the appropriate local school board with subsequent
22 approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- 23 (5) A regional team formed pursuant to §189.9(F) of this Subpart shall coordinate
24 pathway and course delivery across local education agency boundaries and may
25 establish cross-district enrollment agreements and program-sharing
26 arrangements consistent with §183.9(G) of this Subpart to support the goals of
27 this Section.
- 28 (6) For rural local education agencies classified under §183.14(A) of this Subpart,

1 the partnering authority provided by this Subsection is subject to the provisions
2 of §189.14 of this Subpart, including consortium pathway arrangements
3 available to multiple rural local education agencies under §189.14©.

4 C. Mission-Based Waiver; BESE Authority.

5 (1) If the approved mission or curriculum model of a public high school does not
6 align with providing career and technical education courses, the governing
7 authority of the school may request a waiver from the State Board of
8 Elementary and Secondary Education of the access obligation established in
9 Subsection A of this Section. Nothing in this Section shall be interpreted to
10 supersede R.S. 17:4002.1 et seq.

11 (2) A waiver request submitted under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall:

12 (a) Describe the school's approved mission or curriculum model and the
13 basis on which it does not align with providing career and technical
14 education courses;

15 (b) Identify any alternative means through which students
16 enrolled at the waiver-requesting school may access career and technical
17 education courses consistent with Subsection A of this Section, including
18 through partnering agreements under Subsection B of this Section; and

19 © Be submitted to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
20 Education in a form and manner prescribed by the Board, not later than
21 ninety days before the start of the academic year in which the waiver
22 would take effect.

23 (3) A waiver granted under this Subsection shall be reviewed by the
24 Board not less frequently than once every five years to assess whether the
25 mission or curriculum basis for the waiver remains valid.

26 D. No Student Course Fee; Career Development Funds.

27 No student shall be assessed a course fee for enrollment in a career and
28 technical education course or authorized K–12 CTE pathway when the local

1 education agency receives career development funds in the minimum
2 foundation program allocated for such course or pathway. This Subsection shall
3 not be construed to prevent a local education agency from accepting equipment,
4 materials, or other in-kind contributions from employer partners pursuant to
5 employer partnership agreements established under §183.11© of this Subpart.

7 **§183.18. PROGRAM DELIVERY METHODS; INSTRUCTOR**
8 **QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

9 **A. Methods of Program Development and Curriculum Design Options.**

10 **(1) To develop and implement an authorized career major program within a K–12**
11 **CTE pathway, a local education agency may use any of the following program**
12 **development methods:**

13 **(a) System-wide development, in which the local education agency develops**
14 **a uniform career major program across all schools under the agency's**
15 **jurisdiction;**

16 **(b) Individual school development, in which each school within the local**
17 **education agency develops its own career major program aligned with**
18 **the agency's authorized pathways; or**

19 **© Consortium development, in which the local education agency**
20 **collaborates with one or more other local education agencies or a**
21 **regional team formed pursuant to §183.9(F) of this Subpart to jointly**
22 **develop and deliver a career major program.**

23 **(2) The following curriculum design options are available for authorized career**
24 **major programs:**

25 **(a) Block scheduling arrangements that allow a student to accumulate**
26 **Carnegie units in alignment with the nine-credit Jump Start course**
27 **sequence established in §183.10© of this Subpart;**

1 **(b) Coordination of available elective credits into a coherent, sequenced**
2 **career major program aligned with an authorized pathway;**

3 **© State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education-approved new**
4 **courses developed to meet the academic and technical requirements of**
5 **an authorized pathway;**

6 **(d) Sharing of facilities, materials, equipment, and instructors with**
7 **vocational and technical colleges consistent with §183.17(B)(4) of this**
8 **Subpart;**

9 **(e) Organization of new courses in accordance with the appropriate state-**
10 **adopted career clusters and the Statewide Priority Industry List**
11 **established under §183.4 of this Subpart; and**

12 **(f) Arrangements for students to complete work-based learning activities,**
13 **including job shadowing, mentoring, paid or unpaid internships, pre-**
14 **apprenticeships, community service projects, school-based enterprises,**
15 **and early admission to postsecondary education or training, consistent**
16 **with the work-based learning quality standards and tiered requirements**
17 **established in §183.11 of this Subpart.**

18 **(3) Each local education agency shall submit proposed career major program**
19 **curricula to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for**
20 **approval in accordance with §183.10(F) of this Subpart.**

21 **B. Career and Technical Instructor Qualifications.**

22 **(1) An instructor assigned to teach a career and technical education course within**
23 **an authorized K–12 CTE pathway shall meet at least one of the following**
24 **qualification standards:**

25 **(a) Hold a valid teaching certificate issued in accordance with Bulletin 746**
26 **— Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel — in**
27 **the applicable career and technical education subject area; or**

28 **(b) Be in compliance with the reciprocal instructor certification policy**

1 established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
2 for instructors who reside in other states but are employed by authorized
3 course providers and satisfy applicable state certification requirements
4 pursuant to state law.

5 (2) In addition to Paragraph (1), the Louisiana Department of Education shall, in
6 coordination with the Council and the State Board of Elementary and
7 Secondary Education, establish minimum industry-experience standards for
8 instructors assigned to career and technical education courses in pathways
9 aligned to priority occupations under §183.4 of this Subpart. Such standards
10 shall:

11 (a) Require, at a minimum, that instructors in designated technical
12 pathway courses hold, or demonstrate the ability to obtain within a
13 Department-specified timeframe, the industry-based credential required
14 for student completion of the applicable pathway under §183.12 of this
15 Subpart;

16 (b) Recognize demonstrated industry experience in the relevant career field
17 as a qualification pathway for alternative certification or provisional
18 authorization, consistent with alternative certification procedures
19 established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education;
20 and

21 © Be established not later than one hundred eighty (180) calendar days
22 following the effective date of this Subpart and updated as necessary to
23 reflect changes in priority occupation requirements and industry-based
24 credential standards.

25 (3) As a condition of pathway authorization under §183.13 of this Subpart, the
26 Council shall require applicants to submit, as part of the authorization proposal
27 under §183.13(A), an instructor staffing plan demonstrating how all assigned
28 instructors will meet the qualification standards of this Subsection throughout
29 the authorization period.

1 (4) A local education agency unable to identify a qualified instructor under
2 Paragraph (1) or (2) for a specific CTE course within an authorized pathway
3 may, upon written acknowledgment from the Louisiana Department of
4 Education:

5 (a) Contract with an approved postsecondary institution, technical college,
6 or other provider authorized under §183.17(B) of this Subpart to deliver
7 the affected course through a formal instructional partnership
8 agreement; or

9 (b) Deliver the affected course through technology-aided instruction
10 consistent with Subsection D of this Section.

11 C. Staff Development and Professional Development Standards; LDE Role.

12 (1) Each instructor assigned to teach a career and technical education course
13 within an authorized K–12 CTE pathway shall receive staff development and
14 in-service training addressing both the technical content of the applicable career
15 field and effective instructional strategies for CTE delivery, aligned with the
16 career major program requirements.

17 (2) The Louisiana Department of Education shall:

18 (a) Establish minimum professional development requirements for career
19 and technical education instructors, consistent with the industry-
20 experience standards required under Subsection B(2) of this Section and
21 aligned with the credential requirements of §189.12 of this Subpart;

22 (b) Develop and maintain a schedule of approved professional development
23 opportunities for career and technical education instructors, including
24 opportunities to update industry knowledge, renew required industry-
25 based credentials, and develop instructional capacity in high-priority
26 pathway content areas aligned to the Statewide Priority Industry List
27 under §183.4 of this Subpart;

28 © Coordinate with the regional teams established under §183.9(F) of this

1 Subpart to identify and communicate regional employer partners willing
2 to provide technical training or workplace exposure opportunities to
3 career and technical education instructors; and

4 (d) Include in the annual report under §183.19 a summary of professional
5 development participation by career and technical education instructors,
6 disaggregated by pathway and workforce development region.

7 (3) Any instructor assigned to teach an applied course of instruction who was not
8 previously certified or trained in the applicable content area shall receive
9 appropriate staff development and in-service training before assuming sole
10 instructional responsibility for the course, or shall be supervised by a qualified
11 instructor until such training is completed.

12 (4) Local education agencies shall document professional development activities
13 completed by each instructor assigned to a career and technical education
14 course within an authorized pathway and shall make such records available to
15 the Louisiana Department of Education and the Council upon request as part
16 of pathway oversight under §183.3(I) of this Subpart.

17 D. Alternative Delivery; Technology-Aided Instruction.

18 (1) An authorized K–12 CTE pathway course may be delivered through
19 technology-aided instruction, including virtual, online, or blended delivery
20 methods, in any of the following circumstances:

21 (a) A qualified instructor meeting the standards of Subsection B of this
22 Section is unavailable to provide direct instruction for the course;

23 (b) The local education agency determines that technology-aided
24 instruction represents the most practicable means of providing pathway
25 access to students in rural or geographically remote locations, consistent
26 with the rural access provisions of §189.14 of this Subpart; or

27 © Technology-aided instruction supplements and supports classroom
28 instruction, including through digital learning tools, simulations, or

1 virtual work-based learning components endorsed by the applicable
2 regional team and consistent with the work-based learning standards of
3 §183.11 of this Subpart.

4 (2) Technology-aided instruction delivered under this Subsection shall:

5 (a) Satisfy the curriculum and course sequence requirements applicable to
6 the authorized pathway under §189.10 of this Subpart;

7 (b) Be offered through a provider or platform reviewed and approved by
8 the Louisiana Department of Education; and

9 © Include appropriate supervision and quality assurance arrangements,
10 including identification of a local education agency contact responsible
11 for monitoring student progress in the technology-aided course.

12 (3) Technology-aided instruction alone shall not substitute for the work-based
13 learning placements required under §189.11 of this Subpart. In pathways
14 delivered primarily or substantially through technology-aided instruction, local
15 education agencies shall maintain active employer partnerships under §189.11©
16 of this Subpart to ensure that students have access to required work-based
17 learning experiences at the minimum tier level required by §189.11(B) of this
18 Subpart.

19 E. Faculty Composition Requirements; Career and Technical Instructors and
20 Academic Teachers.

21 (1) The faculty for a career major program within an authorized K–12 CTE
22 pathway shall include both:

23 (a) Career and technical instructors who meet the qualification standards
24 of Subsection B of this Section and who are responsible for delivering the
25 CTE course sequence within the career major program; and

26 (b) Academic teachers trained to integrate the academic core requirements
27 — English, mathematics, science, and social studies — with the technical
28 content of the career major program.

1 (2) A local education agency may employ, on a shared or part-time basis, a career
2 and technical instructor who also holds a teaching or instructional assignment
3 at an area vocational-technical school or Louisiana Technical College campus,
4 with approval of the local school board and BESE, and consistent with the
5 resource-sharing arrangements permitted under §189.17(B)(4) of this Subpart.

6 (3) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in coordination with
7 the Louisiana Department of Education and the Council, shall adopt rules
8 establishing minimum faculty composition requirements for authorized K–12
9 CTE pathways. Such rules shall address the qualifications required of both
10 career and technical instructors and academic teachers assigned to career
11 major programs and shall incorporate the minimum industry-experience
12 standards established pursuant to Subsection B(2) of this Section.

15

16 **§183.19. DATA COLLECTION, REPORTING, AND PUBLIC**
17 **TRANSPARENCY**

18 **A. Annual Public Jump Start Data Report; Mandate and Publication Deadline.**

19 (1) The Louisiana Department of Education shall publish annually a
20 comprehensive public report on the Jump Start career and technical education
21 program (the "Jump Start Annual Data Report"). The report shall be publicly
22 available on the Louisiana Department of Education's official website not later
23 than January 1 of each year, covering data from the prior academic year.

24 (2) The Louisiana Department of Education shall transmit the Jump Start Annual
25 Data Report to each of the following recipients not later than the publication
26 deadline established in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection:

27 (a) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council;

28 (b) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education;

1 © The chair of the House Committee on Education and the chair of the
 2 Senate Committee on Education of the Louisiana Legislature; and
 3 (d) The Governor.

4 (3) Each Jump Start Annual Data Report shall be published in a format and at a
 5 level of detail sufficient to allow members of the public, students, families,
 6 employers, and policymakers to assess the performance, equity, and workforce
 7 alignment of the Jump Start CTE program at the statewide, regional pathway,
 8 and local education agency levels.

9 **B. Required Data Elements; Minimum Statutory Floor.**

10 (1) Each Jump Start Annual Data Report shall include, at a minimum, all of the
 11 following data elements. All pathway-level performance metrics reported under
 12 this Subsection shall use the standardized metrics established and updated by
 13 the Council pursuant to §189.3(I)(2) of this Subpart, ensuring consistency
 14 between the internal shared performance framework and the public report.:

15 (a) The number of CTE concentrators, as defined in §189.2(D) of this
 16 Subpart, enrolled in each authorized K–12 CTE pathway, disaggregated
 17 by pathway, industry sector, workforce development region, and grade
 18 level;

19 (b) The number of CTE completers, as defined in §189.2(E) of this Subpart,
 20 including both those who earned a Career Diploma under §189.5 of this
 21 Subpart and those who completed all pathway requirements without
 22 electing a Career Diploma, disaggregated by pathway and industry
 23 sector;

24 © Credential attainment rates, including the percentage of CTE
 25 concentrators who earned at least one industry-based credential,
 26 disaggregated by pathway and credential tier as established under
 27 §189.12 of this Subpart;

28 (d) Work-based learning participation rates, including the percentage of
 29 CTE concentrators participating in work-based learning activities and

- 1 the tier of participation consistent with the tiered work-based learning
2 requirements of §189.11(B) of this Subpart;
- 3 (e) Early postsecondary credit participation rates, including dual
4 enrollment participation rates, articulated credit participation rates, and
5 TOPS Tech Early Start participation rates, each reported by authorized
6 pathway, consistent with the postsecondary articulation framework of
7 §189.15 and the TOPS Tech Early Start linkage requirements of §189.16
8 of this Subpart;
- 9 (f) Post-graduation transitions and outcomes, including all of the following,
10 measured using enhanced wage record data obtained through the cross-
11 agency data sharing agreement required under Subsection E of this
12 Section and collected at the intervals specified in Subsection D of this
13 Section:
- 14 (i) Postsecondary enrollment rates for Career Diploma graduates
15 within twelve (12) months of graduation, disaggregated by type
16 of postsecondary institution;
- 17 (ii) Employment rates for Career Diploma graduates within twelve
18 (12) months of graduation;
- 19 (iii) Post-graduation employment rates and median wages for
20 Career Diploma holders at one (1) year following graduation;
21 and
- 22 (iv) Post-graduation employment rates and median wages for Career
23 Diploma holders at three (3) years following graduation;
- 24 (g) The statutory alignment metric required under Subsection F of this
25 Section;
- 26 (h) A summary of professional development participation by career and
27 technical education instructors, disaggregated by pathway and
28 workforce development region, as required under §183.18(C)(2)(d) of
29 this Subpart; and

1 (i) TOPS Tech Early Start program data required under §189.16 of this
2 Subpart, including the number of approved TOPS Tech Early Start
3 training providers by authorized K–12 CTE pathway and workforce
4 development region, the rate at which CTE concentrators enrolled in
5 Tier 3 pathways designated under §189.9(D)(2)© of this Subpart
6 accessed TOPS Tech Early Start financial assistance, and, to the extent
7 available through the cross-agency data sharing agreement required
8 under Subsection E of this Section, postsecondary continuation and
9 credential completion outcomes for TOPS Tech Early Start recipients,
10 each disaggregated by pathway and student characteristic category
11 consistent with Subsection C of this Section.

12 (2) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to prevent the Louisiana
13 Department of Education from including additional data elements in the Jump
14 Start Annual Data Report beyond the minimum floor established in Paragraph
15 (1) of this Subsection, provided that all additional elements are consistent with
16 the privacy protections established in Subsection G of this Section.

17 C. Student Disaggregation; Statutory Obligation.

18 (1) All data elements reported in the Jump Start Annual Data Report under
19 Subsection B of this Section shall be disaggregated, to the extent data are
20 available and the aggregate reporting thresholds established in Subsection G of
21 this Section permit, by all of the following student characteristic categories:

22 (a) Race or ethnicity;

23 (b) Household income or economic disadvantage status, determined using
24 eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch under the National School
25 Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., or any successor federal eligibility
26 criteria;

27 © Rural or urban geographic classification of the student's enrolled school,
28 using the rural local education agency designation criteria established
29 in §189.14(A) of this Subpart;

1 **(d) Disability status, including students with disabilities receiving services**
 2 **under an Individualized Education Program pursuant to the Individuals**
 3 **with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.; and**

4 **(e) English learner status.**

5 **(2) The student disaggregation requirement established in this Subsection is a**
 6 **standalone statutory obligation applicable to the Jump Start Annual Data**
 7 **Report published under Subsection A of this Section. This obligation is**
 8 **independent of, and supplementary to, any equity disaggregation requirements**
 9 **applicable to the shared performance framework under §189.3(I)(2)(a) of this**
 10 **Subpart.**

11 **D. Enhanced Wage Record Data Elements; Collection Intervals.**

12 **(1) For purposes of producing the post-graduation outcome data required under**
 13 **Subsection B(1)(f) of this Section, the Louisiana Department of Education, in**
 14 **coordination with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, shall collect all**
 15 **enhanced wage record data, as defined in §189.2(G) of this Subpart, at the**
 16 **following intervals following the graduation date of each Career Diploma**
 17 **holder:**

18 **(a) Six (6) months post-graduation;**

19 **(b) Twelve (12) months post-graduation; and**

20 **© Thirty-six (36) months post-graduation.**

21 **(2) The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall compile enhanced wage record**
 22 **data at each collection interval specified in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and**
 23 **transmit such data to the Louisiana Department of Education pursuant to the**
 24 **cross-agency data sharing agreement required under Subsection E of this**
 25 **Section, in sufficient time to allow incorporation of the most recently available**
 26 **twelve-month and thirty-six-month interval data into the Jump Start Annual**
 27 **Data Report published under Subsection A of this Section on or before January**
 28 **1 of each year.**

29 **(3) Enhanced wage record data collected under this Subsection shall include all**

1 data elements specified in the definition of "enhanced wage record" in
2 §189.2(G) of this Subpart not already collected by LWC.

3 (4) The Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Workforce
4 Commission shall jointly establish procedures for matching Career Diploma
5 graduate records with employer quarterly wage submissions in a manner
6 consistent with the data privacy requirements of Subsection G of this Section
7 and applicable provisions of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
8 governing the confidentiality of Louisiana Workforce Commission wage data.

9 E. Cross-Agency Data Sharing Agreement; LDE, LWC, Board of Regents.

10 (1) The Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce
11 Commission, and the Louisiana Board of Regents shall enter into a written,
12 formal cross-agency data sharing agreement for the purpose of enabling the
13 Louisiana Department of Education to access the data necessary to produce the
14 post-graduation tracking, postsecondary continuation, and workforce outcome
15 metrics required by Subsection B of this Section and the enhanced wage record
16 data collection required by Subsection D of this Section.

17 (2) The cross-agency data sharing agreement required under this Subsection shall:

18 (a) Be fully executed by all three agencies not later than one hundred eighty
19 (180) calendar days following the effective date of this Subpart;

20 (b) Specify the categories of data to be shared by each agency, the specific
21 data fields to be transmitted, the frequency and format of data
22 transmission, and the permitted uses of shared data, consistent with
23 applicable federal and state privacy law;

24 © Designate a data custodian within each agency responsible for ensuring
25 compliance with the terms of the agreement and with applicable data
26 privacy requirements, including the Family Educational Rights and
27 Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (FERPA), and the confidentiality
28 provisions of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes governing
29 Louisiana Workforce Commission wage records;

1 Occupation designations in effect during the applicable academic year
2 as maintained by the Council under §189.4 of this Subpart;

3 **(b) Reported in the Jump Start Annual Data Report at both the statewide**
4 **level and disaggregated by workforce development region; and**
5 **Considered by the Council in the biennial Priority Industry List**
6 **review required under §189.4(E) of this Subpart to assess whether the**
7 **distribution of authorized pathways reflects current and projected state**
8 **and regional workforce development priorities.**

9 **(3) A statutory alignment metric result falling below seventy percent at**
10 **the statewide level for two consecutive academic years shall be reported by the**
11 **Council to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with a**
12 **written analysis of contributing factors and a recommendation for corrective**
13 **action, including any proposed adjustments to Priority Industry List**
14 **designations under §183.4 of this Subpart or to pathway authorization criteria**
15 **under §189.13 of this Subpart.**

16 **G. Privacy Protections; Aggregate Reporting Requirements.**

17 **(1) All data published in the Jump Start Annual Data Report shall be presented in**
18 **aggregate form only. No individually identifiable student data shall be disclosed**
19 **in any public report published under this Section.**

20 **(2) For purposes of the equity disaggregation required by Subsection C of this**
21 **Section and any other disaggregated data element included in the Jump Start**
22 **Annual Data Report, the Louisiana Department of Education shall apply the**
23 **following aggregate reporting thresholds to prevent the identification of**
24 **individual students from publicly reported data:**

25 **(a) No disaggregated cell in any publicly reported data table shall report**
26 **data for a student subgroup of fewer than ten (10) students;**

27 **(b) Where a disaggregated subgroup falls below the threshold established**
28 **in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the data for that subgroup shall**
29 **be suppressed in the published report and noted as suppressed due to**

1 small sample size; and

2 © The Louisiana Department of Education shall apply complementary
3 suppression techniques, as necessary and consistent with recognized data
4 privacy standards, to prevent the mathematical derivation of a
5 suppressed cell's value from other publicly available data within the
6 same table.

7 (3) The data privacy protections established in this Subsection shall be consistent
8 with and no less protective than the requirements of the Family Educational
9 Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (FERPA), and any applicable
10 Louisiana statutes governing the privacy of student records.

11 (4) Enhanced wage record data obtained through the cross-agency data sharing
12 agreement required by Subsection E of this Section shall be subject to the
13 confidentiality protections applicable to Louisiana Workforce Commission
14 wage records under Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and shall not be
15 used for any purpose other than the production of the aggregate outcome data
16 required by this Section.

17 H. Perkins V Compliance; Coordination with Federal Reporting Obligations.

18 (1) The Louisiana Department of Education shall, to the maximum extent
19 practicable, coordinate the data collection procedures, reporting timelines, and
20 data element definitions used for the Jump Start Annual Data Report under this
21 Section with Louisiana's obligations to submit Annual Performance Reports to
22 the United States Department of Education under the Carl D. Perkins Career
23 and Technical Education Act of 2006, as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 2323 (Perkins V).

24 (2) For purposes of this coordination:

25 (a) The data elements required under Subsection B of this Section shall be
26 defined, to the extent consistent with this Section's requirements, using
27 the standardized performance indicator definitions established under
28 Perkins V, including the core indicators for secondary CTE
29 concentrators under 20 U.S.C. § 2323(b)(2), to minimize duplicative data

1 collection and reporting obligations for local education agencies.

2 (b) The Louisiana Department of Education shall assess annually whether
3 the Jump Start Annual Data Report meets or exceeds Louisiana's state-
4 level reporting requirements under 20 U.S.C. § 2323 and shall document
5 the coordination and any material differences between the two reporting
6 systems.

7 © Where the data elements or reporting standards required by this Section
8 exceed the federal Perkins V reporting floor, the more stringent state
9 requirements of this Section shall apply and govern the content of the
10 Jump Start Annual Data Report.

11 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to limit the obligations of the
12 Louisiana Department of Education under this Section to the minimum
13 requirements imposed by federal Perkins V law. The Jump Start Annual Data
14 Report is a state public transparency instrument and shall be published
15 annually regardless of any change in Louisiana's federal Perkins V funding
16 status or any modification of federal reporting requirements.

17
18 **§183.20. RETURN ON INVESTMENT INTEGRATION; ACT**
19 **187 STATUTORY CROSS-REFERENCE AND EXPANSION**

20 **A. Formal Cross-Reference to R.S. 17:3138.13; Statutory Integration Requirement.**

21 (1) The return on investment analysis conducted annually by the Louisiana
22 Workforce Commission pursuant to R.S. 17:3138.13, as expanded and amended
23 by this Section, is hereby formally integrated into the Jump Start career and
24 technical education governance framework established by this Subpart. The Act
25 187 return on investment report shall serve as a primary data instrument for
26 Jump Start pathway accountability, and all references in this Subpart to "the
27 Act 187 return on investment analysis" or "the Act 187 ROI report" shall be
28 construed as references to R.S. 17:3138.13, as amended.

1 **(2) The formal statutory integration required by this Section shall operate as**
2 **follows:**

3 **(a) The Act 187 return on investment analysis, as expanded under**
4 **Subsections B and C of this Section, shall constitute the primary**
5 **longitudinal wage and employment outcome data source for the post-**
6 **graduation tracking metrics required in §189.19(B)(1)(f) of this Subpart**
7 **and the statutory alignment metric required in §189.19(F) of this**
8 **Subpart;**

9 **(b) The Council's shared performance framework established under**
10 **§189.3(I)(2) of this Subpart shall incorporate ROI metrics consistent**
11 **with R.S. 17:3138.13, as amended, as provided in §189.3(I)(2)(f) of this**
12 **Subpart; and**

13 **© Act 187 ROI findings shall be incorporated into pathway reauthorization**
14 **review by the Council as required under §183.13(F)(1)(e) and**
15 **§189.13(F)(2) of this Subpart.**

16 **B. Expansion of Act 187 Scope; Amendment to R.S. 17:3138.13.**

17 **(1) R.S. 17:3138.13 is hereby amended to expand the scope of the Louisiana**
18 **Workforce Commission's annual return on investment analysis beyond students**
19 **who earn industry-based credentials to include all CTE completers as defined**
20 **in §189.2(E) of this Subpart. As amended, R.S. 17:3138.13 shall require the**
21 **Louisiana Workforce Commission's annual ROI analysis to cover the following**
22 **populations:**

23 **(a) All CTE pathway completers who earned a Career Diploma under**
24 **§189.5 of this Subpart, including those who did and those who did not**
25 **earn an industry-based credential;**

26 **(b) CTE concentrators, as defined in §183.2(D) of this Subpart, who**
27 **completed the Jump Start pathway course sequence but did not elect to**
28 **receive a Career Diploma; and**

29 **© Students who earned one or more industry-based credentials under**

1 §189.12 of this Subpart regardless of whether they elected a Career
2 Diploma.

3 (2) As amended by this Section, R.S. 17:3138.13 shall require the annual ROI
4 analysis to be reported at the pathway level, disaggregated by credential type,
5 industry sector, and workforce development region, to enable identification of
6 high-performing and underperforming pathways within the same industry
7 sector. Summary-level statewide reporting alone shall not satisfy the pathway-
8 level disaggregation requirement of this Paragraph.

9 (3) The Louisiana Workforce Commission, in collaboration with the Louisiana
10 Department of Education, shall establish procedures for identifying and
11 matching the expanded population of CTE pathway completers described in
12 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection within the Louisiana Workforce Commission's
13 wage record data system, in a manner consistent with the cross-agency data
14 sharing agreement required under §189.19(E) of this Subpart.

15 C. Required Additional Metrics; Amendment to R.S. 17:3138.13.

16 (1) R.S. 17:3138.13 is hereby further amended to require the Louisiana Workforce
17 Commission's annual return on investment report to include all of the following
18 metrics in addition to those required under the existing provisions of that
19 statute:

20 (a) Postsecondary continuation rates, defined as the percentage of CTE
21 completers who enrolled in a Louisiana public technical college,
22 community college, or four-year postsecondary institution within twelve
23 (12) months of high school graduation, reported at the pathway level and
24 disaggregated by institution type;

25 (b) Credential stackability metrics, defined as the percentage of CTE
26 completers who earned one or more additional postsecondary
27 credentials, industry certifications, or academic degrees within thirty-six
28 (36) months of high school graduation, reported at the pathway level;

29 © Regional labor market alignment data, defined as the percentage of CTE

1 pathway completers employed within twelve (12) months of graduation
2 in an occupation aligned with their completed K–12 CTE pathway, using
3 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes to establish
4 alignment, reported by workforce development region; and

5 (d) Demographic disaggregation of all metrics required by R.S. 17:3138.13
6 and this Section, by race or ethnicity, household income or economic
7 disadvantage status, gender, and geographic region, consistent with the
8 equity disaggregation categories established in §183.19© of this Subpart.

9 (2) The additional metrics required under this Subsection shall be included in the
10 annual ROI report submitted by the Louisiana Workforce Commission to the
11 legislature, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the
12 Council under R.S. 17:3138.13 not later than February 1 of each year,
13 beginning with the first report due following the first full academic year after
14 the effective date of this Subpart.

15 (3) The Louisiana Workforce Commission may coordinate with the Louisiana
16 Board of Regents and the Louisiana Department of Education, consistent with
17 the cross-agency data sharing agreement required under §189.19(E) of this
18 Subpart, to obtain postsecondary enrollment, credential completion, and
19 program of study data necessary to produce the metrics required by this
20 Subsection.

21 **D. Oversight Council; Act 187 Report Receipt; Formal Recommendation Obligation.**

22 (1) The Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council shall
23 formally receive the annual return on investment report submitted by the
24 Louisiana Workforce Commission under R.S. 17:3138.13, as amended by this
25 Section, as a standing item of the Council's governance responsibilities.

26 (2) Not later than sixty (60) calendar days following the Council's receipt of each
27 annual Act 187 ROI report, the Council shall issue a formal written
28 recommendation to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
29 addressing all of the following:

1 (a) A summary of the ROI findings contained in the annual report, at both
 2 the statewide level and disaggregated by workforce development region
 3 and pathway sector;

4 (b) Identification of any authorized K–12 CTE pathway for which the Act
 5 187 ROI analysis reveals wage outcomes or employment rates falling
 6 below the minimum performance thresholds established in Subsection
 7 F of this Section;

8 © Recommended actions for pathways identified under Subparagraph (b)
 9 of this Paragraph, which may include pathway modification
 10 requirements, a mandatory mid-cycle review under §183.13(E) of this
 11 Subpart, enhanced employer partnership or credential requirements, or,
 12 where warranted, recommendation of pathway suspension; and

13 (d) Any recommended adjustments to the Statewide Priority Industry List
 14 or Regional Priority Industry Lists maintained under §189.4 of this
 15 Subpart, based on the ROI findings and regional labor market
 16 alignment data required under Subsection C of this Section.

17 (3) The formal written recommendation issued by the Council under Paragraph (2)
 18 of this Subsection shall be transmitted to the State Board of Elementary and
 19 Secondary Education and shall be made publicly available on the Council's
 20 official website not later than ten (10) calendar days following its adoption by
 21 the Council.

22 **E. BESE Written Response Requirement; Public Findings.**

23 (1) Not later than ninety calendar days following receipt of the Council's formal
 24 written recommendation under Subsection D of this Section, the State Board of
 25 Elementary and Secondary Education shall issue a written public response to
 26 each recommendation contained therein.

27 (2) The written public response required under this Subsection shall:

28 (a) Address each specific recommendation made by the Council pursuant
 29 to Subsection D(2) of this Section;

1 **(b) State whether BESE accepts, modifies, or declines to act on each Council**
2 **recommendation, and provide a written explanation for each departure**
3 **from a Council recommendation consistent with the general written**
4 **findings requirement of §189.3(K) of this Subpart; and**

5 **© If BESE declines to act on a Council recommendation that a specific**
6 **pathway be subject to mid-cycle review or suspension based on Act 187**
7 **ROI findings, provide a written explanation of the specific operational,**
8 **equity, or regional economic justification for continued authorization**
9 **and identify any alternative corrective measures BESE requires of the**
10 **relevant local education agency or regional team.**

11 **(3) The written public response of BESE required by this Subsection shall be made**
12 **available on the State Board's official public website not later than ten (10)**
13 **calendar days following adoption of the response by BESE. The Louisiana**
14 **Department of Education shall include a summary of BESE's responses to**
15 **Council ROI-based recommendations in the Jump Start Annual Data Report**
16 **published under §189.19(A) of this Subpart.**

17 **F. Minimum Performance Thresholds; Pathway Authorization Standards.**

18 **(1) As a condition of pathway authorization and reauthorization under §189.13 of**
19 **this Subpart, each authorized K–12 CTE pathway shall meet or exceed the**
20 **following minimum economic return performance thresholds, as measured by**
21 **the Act 187 annual ROI analysis conducted pursuant to R.S. 17:3138.13, as**
22 **amended by this Section, over the applicable measurement period established**
23 **in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection:**

24 **(a) An employment rate threshold of not less than sixty percent (60%) of**
25 **CTE completers, as defined in §189.2(E) of this Subpart, employed in**
26 **any occupation within twelve (12) months of graduation, as measured**
27 **using enhanced wage record data.**

28 **(b) A wage outcome threshold under which the median wage of employed**
29 **CTE completers at one (1) year post-graduation equals or exceeds the**

1 median wage for workers without a postsecondary credential in the same
2 workforce development region, as determined using Louisiana
3 Workforce Commission regional wage data updated not less than
4 annually.

5 (2) For purposes of this Subsection:

6 (a) Minimum performance thresholds shall be evaluated as part of every
7 pathway reauthorization review conducted under §183.13(F) of this
8 Subpart, using the most recently available Act 187 ROI report.

9 (b) A pathway that fails to meet one or more thresholds established in
10 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection for two (2) consecutive Act 187
11 reporting cycles shall be subject to mandatory mid-cycle review under
12 §189.13(E)(1)(d) of this Subpart, unless the Council, by majority vote,
13 determines that identifiable extraordinary circumstances outside the
14 control of the local education agency or regional team explain the below-
15 threshold performance.

16 (3) The minimum performance thresholds established in Paragraph (1) of this
17 Subsection are distinct from and supplementary to the credential attainment
18 threshold established in §189.13(F)(1)© of this Subpart. A pathway must satisfy
19 both sets of performance standards to maintain authorization under §189.13 of
20 this Subpart.

21 (4) The Council may, by rule adopted in accordance with the Administrative
22 Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., establish minimum performance thresholds
23 more stringent than the floors established in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection,
24 or establish differentiated thresholds for specific pathway tiers as designated
25 under §189.9(D) of this Subpart, provided that no threshold adopted by rule
26 shall be less stringent than the minimums established in Paragraph (1) of this
27 Subsection.

28 G. Bulletin 138 Conforming Direction; Minimum Performance Standards.

29 (1) Not later than one hundred eighty calendar days following the effective date of

1 this Subpart, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
2 amend Bulletin 138 (LAC Title 28, Part CLXIII), including specifically the
3 program evaluation criteria of §301 of Bulletin 138, to conform to the minimum
4 performance thresholds and Act 187 ROI integration requirements established
5 in this Section. As amended, Bulletin 138 §301 shall:

6 (a) Incorporate the Act 187 ROI metrics specified in R.S. 17:3138.13, as
7 amended by this Section, as mandatory criteria within the five-year
8 pathway evaluation and reauthorization process;

9 (b) Reflect the minimum performance thresholds for employment rates and
10 wage outcomes established in Subsection F of this Section as enforceable
11 pathway reauthorization standards; and

12 © Align Bulletin 138's pathway evaluation criteria with the biennial priority
13 industry review process established under §189.4(E) of this Subpart, to
14 ensure that administrative standards reflect updates to Priority Industry
15 List designations.

16 (2) Any provision of Bulletin 138 (LAC Title 28, Part CLXIII) that is inconsistent
17 with or sets a lower standard than the requirements of this Section shall, upon
18 the effective date of this Subpart, be of no effect to the extent of the
19 inconsistency. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
20 complete the conforming Bulletin 138 amendments required by this Subsection
21 through emergency rulemaking under R.S. 49:953(B) if necessary to avoid a
22 period of inconsistency between statute and administrative rule.

23 (3) The Council shall monitor compliance with the conforming direction required
24 by this Subsection and shall report to the legislature not later than two hundred
25 forty (240) calendar days following the effective date of this Subpart on the
26 status of Bulletin 138 amendments required by this Section, including whether
27 emergency rulemaking was required and the anticipated effective date of all
28 required amendments.

1 §183.22. SEVERABILITY; IMPLEMENTATION;
2 APPLICABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE

3 A. Severability.

4 (1) If any provision of this Subpart, or the application thereof to any person or
5 circumstance, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity
6 shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Subpart that can be given
7 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
8 of this Subpart are declared severable.

9
10 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, any pathway authorization, credential tier
11 designation, or Council recommendation made under this Subpart prior to a
12 judicial determination of invalidity of any portion of this Subpart shall remain
13 valid and in force to the extent consistent with the remaining provisions of this
14 Subpart.

15 B. Phased Implementation Schedule.

16 (1) Phase 1 — Foundation (Effective Date through Day 90). Not later than ninety
17 calendar days following the effective date established in §189.22(E)(1) of this
18 Subpart, all of the following shall be completed:

19 (a) The governor shall make initial appointments to all voting member positions
20 on the Louisiana Career and Technical Education Oversight Council pursuant
21 to §189.3(C)(2) of this Subpart;

22 (b) The Louisiana Department of Education shall establish the administrative and
23 staff support infrastructure required to support Council operations pursuant
24 to §189.3(M)(3) of this Subpart;

25 © The Louisiana Department of Education shall initiate the process of transmitting
26 to the Council such existing Jump Start program data, pathway authorization

1 records, credential tier designations, and industry priority determinations as
2 are necessary to allow the Council to perform its initial duties; and

3 (d) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall transmit to the
4 Council a preliminary list of rules, bulletins, and guidance documents that
5 require amendment to conform to this Subpart, as required under
6 §189.22(D)(2) of this Subpart.

7 (2) Phase 2 — Initial Operational Readiness (Day 91 through Day 180). Not later than
8 one hundred eighty (180) calendar days following the effective date established in
9 §189.22(E)(1) of this Subpart, all of the following shall be completed:

10 (a) The Council shall hold its organizational meeting, elect officers pursuant to
11 §183.3(G) of this Subpart, and adopt bylaws and operating procedures pursuant
12 to §189.3(I)(7) of this Subpart;

13 (b) The Council shall establish the initial Statewide Priority Industry List pursuant
14 to §189.4(A)(3) of this Subpart;

15 © The Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission,
16 and the Louisiana Board of Regents shall execute the cross-agency data sharing
17 agreement required pursuant to §189.19(E)(2)(a) of this Subpart;

18 (d) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall amend Bulletin
19 138 (LAC 28, Part CLXIII), including §301 thereof, to conform to the minimum
20 performance thresholds and Act 187 ROI integration requirements established
21 in §189.20(G)(1) of this Subpart;

22 (e) The Louisiana Department of Education shall publish the initial approved
23 career coaching vendor list pursuant to §183.8(D) of this Subpart; and

24 (f) The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall certify to the
25 Council its compliance with the TOPS program coordination requirements
26 established in §189.21(J)(3) of this Subpart.

27 (3) Phase 3 — Pathway Authorization Cycle Initiation (Day 181 through End of Year
28 1). Not later than one (1) year following the effective date established in §189.22(E)(1)

1 **of this Subpart, all of the following shall be completed:**

2 **(a) The Council shall begin accepting pathway authorization proposals pursuant**
3 **to §189.13(A) of this Subpart under the standards established in this Subpart;**

4 **(b) Each regional team in operation as of the effective date of this Subpart shall**
5 **submit to the Council a proposed Regional Priority Industry List pursuant to**
6 **§189.4(F)(3) of this Subpart;**

7 **© The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall amend all**
8 **applicable provisions of Bulletin 741 (LAC 28:CXV) to reflect the computer**
9 **science credit consolidation required by §189.21(B)(4) of this Subpart, the**
10 **accountability system integration required by §189.21(C)(2) of this Subpart, and**
11 **the curriculum standards compatibility required by §189.21(H)(3) of this**
12 **Subpart; and**

13 **(d) All local education agencies shall initiate the ICAP process for incoming**
14 **seventh grade students pursuant to §189.7(A) of this Subpart beginning with the**
15 **first academic year commencing after the effective date of this Subpart.**

16 **(4) Phase 4 — Full Program Architecture Implementation (Year 2). Not later than two**
17 **(2) years following the effective date established in §189.22(E)(1) of this Subpart, all of**
18 **the following shall be completed:**

19 **(a) The Board of Regents shall, in coordination with the Council, develop and**
20 **publish the statewide articulation framework establishing minimum transfer**
21 **credit terms pursuant to §189.15(C)(2) of this Subpart;**

22 **(b) The Council shall complete the initial tier designation review for all pathways**
23 **authorized under the new framework pursuant to §189.9(D) of this Subpart;**
24 **and**

25 **© Regional teams shall submit updated Regional Priority Industry Lists following**
26 **the Council's completion of the first Biennial Priority Review required pursuant**
27 **to §189.4(E) of this Subpart.**

28 **(5) Phase 5 — Steady-State Operation (Year 4 and Beyond). By the beginning of the**

1 **fourth academic year following the effective date established in §189.22(E)(1) of this**
2 **Subpart, all of the following milestones shall have been achieved:**

3 **(a) All authorized Jump Start pathways shall have been reviewed by the Council**
4 **under the standards of this Subpart and shall have received a tier designation**
5 **under §189.9(D) of this Subpart;**

6 **(b) The first cohort of students who initiated ICAPs under §183.7(A) of this**
7 **Subpart shall be completing their high school careers under the four-stage**
8 **framework established in §189.6 of this Subpart;**

9 **© The annual Jump Start Data Report required under §189.19(A) of this Subpart**
10 **shall have been published for the third consecutive year; and**

11 **(d) The Act 187 ROI report required under §183.20(B)–© of this Subpart shall**
12 **reflect, for the first time, outcome data for all CTE completers as defined by this**
13 **Subpart, not only industry-based credential earners as covered under the prior**
14 **scope of R.S. 17:3138.13.**

15 **(6) Phase deadlines are directory provisions. No private right of action accrues against**
16 **any state agency or officer solely for failure to meet a Phase deadline, except as**
17 **otherwise provided by law. An agency's failure to meet a deadline does not affect the**
18 **validity of this Subpart or any action taken under it.**

19 **C. Applicability; Grandfather Provisions for Currently Enrolled Students.**

20 **(1) Grandfather Protection for Currently Enrolled Students. Any student who, as of**
21 **the effective date of this Subpart, is enrolled in a career major program under the**
22 **provisions of R.S. 17:189.1 through R.S. 17:18395 as they existed prior to enactment**
23 **of this Act shall be entitled to complete that program and earn a Career Diploma under**
24 **the requirements applicable at the time of the student's initial enrollment in the career**
25 **major program, as follows:**

26 **(a) The graduation requirements, Jump Start course sequence requirements,**
27 **academic core credit requirements, and industry-based credential requirements**
28 **applicable to such student shall be those that were in effect under R.S. 17:189.1**

1 through R.S. 17:189.5 at the time of the student's enrollment in the career
2 major program, or, if those requirements changed during the student's
3 enrollment, the requirements in effect at the time the student most recently
4 confirmed the student's program of study in the student's Individual
5 Graduation Plan developed under R.S. 17:2925.

6 **(b) The grandfather protection of this Paragraph shall remain in effect for each**
7 **protected student through the earlier of: (i) the date of the student's graduation**
8 **or formal withdrawal from the career major program; or (ii) the end of the**
9 **fourth academic year following the effective date of this Subpart.**

10 **(c) A student protected by this Paragraph may, at the student's option and with the**
11 **written approval of the student's parent or legal guardian and the student's**
12 **school counselor or career coach, elect to transition to a K–12 CTE pathway**
13 **authorized under this Subpart in lieu of completing under the prior**
14 **requirements. A transition election under this Subparagraph shall not reduce**
15 **the number of credits or credentials the student has previously earned under**
16 **the prior requirements.**

17 **(2) Currently Authorized Pathways; Transitional Review. Each Jump Start pathway,**
18 **career major program, or credential-bearing program that was authorized by the State**
19 **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education under R.S. 17:189.1 through R.S.**
20 **17:183.5 as of the effective date of this Subpart shall continue in effect for a transitional**
21 **period of not less than eighteen (18) months following the effective date of this Subpart,**
22 **subject to the following:**

23 **(a) During the transitional period, the Council shall review each currently**
24 **authorized pathway against the standards established in this Subpart and shall**
25 **issue a written determination for each pathway indicating whether the pathway:**
26 **(i) qualifies for continued authorization as a K–12 CTE pathway under this**
27 **Subpart without modification; (ii) qualifies for continued authorization subject**
28 **to specified modifications to bring the pathway into compliance with this**
29 **Subpart; or (iii) does not qualify for authorization under this Subpart and shall**

1 be sunset at the end of the transitional period, or such later date as the Council
2 determines necessary to protect currently enrolled students under Paragraph
3 (1) of this Subsection.

4 (b) The Council shall issue the written determinations required by Subparagraph
5 (a) of this Paragraph not later than twelve (12) months following the effective
6 date of this Subpart. The Louisiana Department of Education shall provide the
7 Council all data and documentation necessary for the Council to make the
8 determinations required by this Paragraph within sixty calendar days following
9 the effective date of this Subpart.

10 © A currently authorized pathway for which the Council issues a determination
11 under Subparagraph (a)(iii) of this Paragraph shall remain available only to
12 students who were enrolled in that pathway as of the effective date of this
13 Subpart and who have elected to continue under the grandfather protection of
14 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

15 (3) Individual Graduation Plans Under Prior Law. An Individual Graduation Plan
16 established for a student under R.S. 17:2925 prior to the effective date of this Subpart
17 shall remain in effect and shall be honored for purposes of that student's graduation
18 requirements, subject to the student's rights under Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.
19 Nothing in this Subpart shall require a student to revise a prior Individual Graduation
20 Plan solely as a result of the enactment of this Act.

21 (4) No Adverse Effect on Earned Credentials. No industry-based credential earned by
22 a student under the prior provisions of R.S. 17:189.1 through R.S. 17:189.5 prior to the
23 effective date of this Subpart shall be invalidated, reclassified downward, or reduced
24 in value for purposes of that student's diploma requirements solely by reason of the
25 enactment of this Act or the credential tier framework established in §189.12 of this
26 Subpart.

27 D. Agency Rulemaking Authority.

28 (1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Louisiana

1 Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Louisiana
2 Board of Regents are each hereby authorized to promulgate, in accordance with the
3 Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., such rules, regulations, bulletins,
4 and guidelines as are necessary to implement their respective responsibilities under this
5 Subpart.

6 (2) BESE Rulemaking; Bulletin Amendments. The State Board of Elementary and
7 Secondary Education shall, not later than the end of the first full academic year
8 following the effective date of this Subpart, adopt, amend, or repeal all rules and
9 bulletins necessary to implement its responsibilities under this Subpart, including at
10 a minimum all of the following:

11 (a) Amendments to Bulletin 138 (LAC 28, Part CLXIII), including §301 thereof,
12 to conform to the performance standards, pathway evaluation criteria, and ROI
13 integration requirements established in §189.20(G)(1) of this Subpart;

14 (c) Such other rules, bulletins, and guidance documents as are necessary to
15 implement the four-stage developmental framework (§189.6), the ICAP and
16 IGP requirements (§183.7), the career counselling and coaching standards
17 (§189.8), the pathway structure and authorization and tier designation processes
18 (§189.9 and §189.13), the career major program curriculum requirements
19 (§189.10), the work-based learning tiered requirements (§189.11), and the
20 industry-based credential tier framework (§183.12) of this Subpart.

21 (3) Notwithstanding §189.3(J)(2)(a) of this Subpart, which prohibits the Council from
22 promulgating rules within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S.
23 49:950 et seq., the Council may adopt formal operating procedures, standards, and
24 guidance documents governing its internal operations, recommendation processes, and
25 shared performance framework management, consistent with §189.3(I)(7) of this
26 Subpart. Such documents shall not constitute rules subject to the Administrative
27 Procedure Act but shall be published on the Council's publicly accessible website and
28 made available to all interested parties.

29 (4) Emergency Rulemaking. Any agency authorized to promulgate rules under this

1 Subsection may use emergency rulemaking procedures under R.S. 49:953(B) to avoid
 2 a period of inconsistency between this Subpart and existing administrative rules, where
 3 the agency determines that the public interest requires prompt action. Emergency rules
 4 adopted pursuant to this Paragraph shall be followed by permanent rulemaking within
 5 the timeframes required by R.S. 49:953(B).

6 (5) Existing Rules; Continuing Effect. All rules, bulletins, and guidance documents of
 7 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Louisiana
 8 Department of Education that were in effect under the repealed provisions of Subpart
 9 A-1 shall continue in effect, to the extent consistent with this Subpart, until replaced
 10 or superseded by rules adopted pursuant to this Subsection. Any rule, bulletin, or
 11 guidance document that is directly inconsistent with a provision of this Subpart shall,
 12 upon the effective date of this Subpart, be of no effect to the extent of the inconsistency.

13 Section 2. R.S. 17:183.1 through 184 are hereby repealed.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
 The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 520 Original 2026 Regular Session Reese

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Jump Start Modernization Act.

Proposed law repeals the High School Career Option

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

(Adds R.S. 17:189.1-189.21; repeals R.S. 17:183.1-184)