

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 191

BY SENATOR HEWITT

TOPS. Provides relative to high school core curriculum requirements. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 17:5025 and (5) and to enact R.S.  
3 17:5025.5, relative to high school core curriculum requirements for the Taylor  
4 Opportunity Program for Students; to authorize courses in computer science to be  
5 included in the core curriculum; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 17:5025 and (5) are hereby amended  
8 and reenacted and R.S. 17:5025.5 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §5025. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,  
10 Honors Awards

11 To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant  
12 to this Chapter, a student who graduates during or after the ~~2021-2022~~ **2025-2026**  
13 school year shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of  
14 nineteen units of high school course work as follows:

15 \* \* \*

16 (5) Foreign Language **or Computer Science** - two units

17 **(a) Foreign Language - the two units shall be** in the same language, which

1 may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language  
 2 and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture,  
 3 AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture,  
 4 French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.

5 **(b) Computer Science - the two units shall be in principles, coding, and**  
 6 **programming, which may include the following: Computer Science I, Computer**  
 7 **Science II, Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Level 1), Advanced**  
 8 **JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development (Level 2), AP**  
 9 **Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Computer Science Year**  
 10 **One IB, and Computer Science Year Two IB.**

11 \* \* \*

12 **§5025.5. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity,**  
 13 **Performance, Honors Awards; students graduating 2021-2022**  
 14 **through 2025-2026 school year**

15 **To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award**  
 16 **pursuant to this Chapter, a student who graduates during the 2021-2022**  
 17 **through the 2025-2026 school year shall have successfully completed a core**  
 18 **curriculum which consists of nineteen units of high school course work as**  
 19 **follows:**

20 **(1) English - Four Units**

21 **(a) English I.**

22 **(b) English II.**

23 **(c) One unit chosen from the following: English III, AP English**  
 24 **Language Arts and Composition, or English III IB (Language A or Literature**  
 25 **and Performance).**

26 **(d) One unit chosen from the following: English IV, AP English**  
 27 **Literature and Composition, or English IV IB (Language A or Literature and**  
 28 **Performance).**

29 **(2) Mathematics - Four Units**

1                   **(a) Algebra I (one unit), Geometry (one unit), and Algebra II (one unit).**

2                   **Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated**  
3                   **Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra**  
4                   **II sequence.**

5                   **(b) One unit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math**  
6                   **Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math**  
7                   **Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math**  
8                   **Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics**  
9                   **or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.**

10                   **(3) Science - Four Units**

11                   **(a) Biology I.**

12                   **(b) Chemistry I.**

13                   **(c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental**  
14                   **Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined);**  
15                   **Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science,**  
16                   **or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB**  
17                   **Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics,**  
18                   **IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II.**

19                   **(4) Social Studies - Four Units**

20                   **(a) One unit chosen from the following: U.S. History, AP US History, or**  
21                   **IB US History.**

22                   **(b) One unit chosen from the following: Civics, Government, AP US**  
23                   **Government and Politics: Comparative, AP US Government and Politics:**  
24                   **United States.**

25                   **(c) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European**  
26                   **History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography,**  
27                   **or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB;**  
28                   **History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP**  
29                   **Microeconomics; African American History.**

1                   **(5) Foreign Language - two units in the same language, which may**  
 2                   **include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language**  
 3                   **and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and**  
 4                   **Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language**  
 5                   **and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.**

6                   **(6) Art - one unit chosen from the following: Performance course in**  
 7                   **Music, Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art**  
 8                   **I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II,**  
 9                   **III, and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP**  
 10                   **Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing;**  
 11                   **AP Music Theory; Film Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB;**  
 12                   **Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; Theatre I IB; or Drafting.**

13                   **(7) For the purposes of this Section, any core curriculum course that is**  
 14                   **taken by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of**  
 15                   **Elementary and Secondary Education policy and that is taken in fulfillment of**  
 16                   **the student's Individualized Education Program shall be considered a gifted**  
 17                   **course and shall fulfill the core curriculum requirement in its given subject**  
 18                   **area.**

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

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The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

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Present law provides for a high school core curriculum that is required for a student to be eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award. Present law requires two units of foreign language that are in the same language.

Proposed law provides that students graduating during or after the 2025-2026 school year, may elect to earn two units in computer science or two units in the same foreign language.

Proposed law provides the Computer Science units shall be in computer science principles, coding, or programming and lists certain courses allowed for credit in the required TOPS core.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5025(intro para) and (5); adds R.S. 17:5025.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Adds additional computer science courses to the list allowed for credit.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Technical amendment.