2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 264

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

CURRICULA:　Adds computer science as a high school graduation requirement and requires teacher preparation programs to include computer science education

1　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　AN ACT

2

3　To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f), 5025(2)(b), (3)(c), and (8), and

4　　　　5026(A)(2)(c), (3)(b), and (5) and to enact R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9), 280.3, 3996(B)(82),

5　　　　5025(9), 5025.7, and 5026(F), to provide relative to curricula; to revise the courses

6　　　　required in the high school career major program; to add Computer Science as a

7　　　　required high school course; to require teacher education programs include computer

8　　　　science education; to provide for alignment with the core curriculum required for

9　　　　qualification for TOPS awards; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the

10　　　State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide for applicability; to

11　　　provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

12　Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13　　　　Section 1.　This Act may be known and shall be cited as the "Computer Science

14　Education Advancement Act".

15　　　　Section 2.　R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f), 5025(2)(b), (3)(c), and (8), and

16　5026(A)(2)(c), (3)(b), and (5) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3996(B)(82),

17　5025(9), 5025.7, and 5026(F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

18　　　　§183.3.　Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

19　　　　　　　　　　　　　　*　　　*　　　*

1   B.

2   *   *   *

3   (2)   The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the

4   following:

5   *   *   *

6   (b) At least four mathematics credits, including Algebra I, Algebra I Part

7   One and Algebra I Part Two, or an applied or hybrid Algebra course; Geometry or

8   an applied Geometry course; Financial Literacy as provided for in R.S. 17:270; and

9   one additional mathematics course from among the following: Math Essentials,

10   Business Math, Algebra II, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics,

11   Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Computer Science, or comparable

12   Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as

13   approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated

14   Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra

15   II and shall equal three mathematics credits.

16   (c) At least two science credits, including one credit of Biology and one

17   additional course from among the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science,

18   Environmental Science, Physical Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one

19   credit combined), Physics, Computer Science, or AP or IB Science courses.

20   *   *   *

21   (f)   At least nine credits in Jump Start course sequences, workplace

22   experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series

23   of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based

24   learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This

25   shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses

26   related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses,

27   including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are

28   appropriate for the career major. One of these credits shall be Computer Science,

1   unless Computer Science is taken to fulfill one credit as provided in Subparagraph

2   (b) or (c) of this Paragraph.

3   *   *   *

4   §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

5   *   *   *

6   B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and

7   except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a

8   charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this

9   Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be

10   exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are

11   applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for

12   the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

13   *   *   *

14   (82) Computer Science; required instruction, R.S. 17:280.3.

15   *   *   *

16   §5025. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,

17   Honors Awards

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

19   to this Chapter, a student shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which

20   consists of twenty units of high school course work as follows:

21   *   *   *

22   (2) Mathematics - Four Units

23   *   *   *

24   (b) One unit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math

25   Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math

26   Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math

27   Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP

28   Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; ~~IB Mathematics HL.~~ IB Mathematics HL;

29   Computer Science.

1   (3) Science - Four Units

2   *   *   *

3   (c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental

4   Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined);

5   Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science, or IB

6   Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP

7   Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, or

8   AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or ~~IB Biology II.~~ IB Biology II; Computer

9   Science.

10   *   *   *

11   (8) Computer Science - one unit. This requirement shall be satisfied as

12   provided in Paragraph (2), (3), or (5) of this Section.

13   (9) For the purposes of this Section, any core curriculum course that is taken

14   by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary

15   and Secondary Education policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's

16   Individualized Education Program shall be considered a gifted course and shall fulfill

17   the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

18   *   *   *

19   §5025.7. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance, and

20   Honors Awards; students graduating in the 2027-2028 school year

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

22   to this Chapter, a student shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which

23   consists of twenty units of high school course work as follows:

24   (1) English - Four Units

25   (a) English I.

26   (b) English II.

27   (c) One unit chosen from the following: English III, AP English Language

28   Arts and Composition, or English III IB (Language A or Literature and

29   Performance).

1   (d) One unit chosen from the following: English IV, AP English Literature

2   and Composition, or English IV IB (Language A or Literature and Performance).

3   (2) Mathematics - Four Units

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

5   Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III

6   may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.

7   (b) One unit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math

8   Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math

9   Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math

10   Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP

11   Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.

12   (3) Science - Four Units

13   (a) Biology I.

14   (b) Chemistry I.

15   (c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental

16   Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined);

17   Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science, or IB

18   Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP

19   Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, or

20   AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II.

21   (4) Social Studies - Four Units

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

23   US History.

24   (b) One unit chosen from the following: Civics, Government, AP US

25   Government and Politics: Comparative, AP US Government and Politics: United

26   States.

27   (c) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European

28   History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB

29   Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of

1   Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics;

2   African American History.

3   (5) Foreign Language or Computer Science - Two Units

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

5   may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language

6   and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture,

7   AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture,

8   French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.

9   (b) Computer Science - the two units shall be in principles, coding, and

10   programming, which may include the following: Computer Science I; Computer

11   Science II; Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Level 1); Advanced

12   JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development (Level 2); AP

13   Computer Science A; AP Computer Science Principles; Computer Science Year One

14   IB; and Computer Science Year Two IB.

15   (6) Art - one unit chosen from the following: Performance course in Music,

16   Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and

17   IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech

18   III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design;

19   AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film

20   Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design

21   IV IB; Theatre I IB; or Drafting.

22   (7) Financial Literacy - one unit.

23   (8) For the purposes of this Section, any core curriculum course that is taken

24   by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary

25   and Secondary Education policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's

26   Individualized Education Program shall be considered a gifted course and shall fulfill

27   the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

28   §5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

1   A. To be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the

2   student shall have successfully completed the core curriculum requirements of R.S.

3   17:5025 or the core curriculum defined as follows:

4   *   *   *

5   (2) Math - Four Units

6   *   *   *

7   (c) One or more units from the following: Algebra II, Math Essentials,

8   Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced

9   Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Computer Science, or comparable Louisiana

10   Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the

11   State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II,

12   and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal

13   three mathematics credits.

14   (3) Science - Two Units

15   *   *   *

16   (b) One unit from the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental

17   Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science,

18   Physics, Computer Science, or AP or IB science courses.

19   *   *   *

20   (5)   At least nine credits in Jump Start course sequences, workplace

21   experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series

22   of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based

23   learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This

24   shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses

25   related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses,

26   including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are

27   appropriate for the career major. One of these credits shall be Computer Science,

28   unless Computer Science is taken to fulfill one credit as provided in Paragraph (2)

29   or (3) of this Subsection.

1   *   *   *

2   F. For a student graduating during the 2027-2028 school year to be eligible

3   for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall have successfully

4   completed the core curriculum requirements of R.S. 17:5025 or the core curriculum

5   defined as follows:

6   (1) English - Four Units

7   (a) English I.

8   (b) English II.

9   (c) Two or more units from the following: English III, English IV, AP or IB

10   English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana

11   Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the

12   State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

13   (2) Math - Four Units

14   (a) Algebra I, Algebra I Part One and Algebra I Part Two, or an applied or

15   hybrid algebra course (one unit), and Geometry or an applied Geometry course (one

16   unit).

17   (b) Financial Literacy (one unit).

18   (c) One or more units from the following: Algebra II, Math Essentials,

19   Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced

20   Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College

21   courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of

22   Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be

23   substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three

24   mathematics credits.

25   (3) Science - Two Units

26   (a) Biology.

27   (b) One unit from the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental

28   Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science,

29   Physics, or AP or IB science courses.

1   (4) Social Studies - Two Units

2   (a) One unit from the following: U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S.

3   History.

4   (b) One unit from the following: Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government

5   and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States.

6   (5)   At least nine credits in Jump Start course sequences, workplace

7   experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series

8   of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based

9   learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This

10   shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses

11   related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses,

12   including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are

13   appropriate for the career major.

14   Section 3. R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

15   §7.2. Approved teacher education programs

16   A.   In carrying out its responsibility to prescribe the qualifications and

17   provide for the certification of teachers under authority of R.S. 17:7(6), the State

18   Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, subject to the constitutional power

19   and authority of the Board of Regents, the Board of Supervisors for the University

20   of Louisiana System, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and

21   Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Southern

22   University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, shall establish qualifications

23   and requirements for the approval of teacher education programs from which

24   graduates may be certified. The qualifications and requirements established by the

25   State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for an approved teacher

26   education program shall include but not be limited to the following:

27   *   *   *

28   (9)   That the program include instruction on teaching students computer

29   science.

1   *   *   *

2   Section 4. R.S. 17:280.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

3   §280.3. Computer science; required instruction

4   A.(1) Each public high school shall provide computer science instruction to

5   its students. Each public high school student shall successfully complete a one credit

6   Computer Science course as a requirement for high school graduation.

7   (2) Each public school with students in grades six through eight shall provide

8   instruction in exploratory computer science to its students.

9   (3) Each public elementary school shall provide instruction in the basics of

10   computer science and computational thinking.

11   B.   The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall

12   promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Section.

13   Section 5. By June 30, 2024, the state Department of Education shall publish on its

14 website and enact a plan to ensure sufficient computer science teacher capacity to carry out

15 the provisions of this Act. The plan shall:

16   (1) Be initially based on the recommendations of the Louisiana Computer Science

17 Education Advisory Commission.

18   (2) Provide options, including but not limited to online options, for alternative

19 endorsement pathways for certificated teachers and teacher preparation program students to

20 demonstrate competency that may result in a certification to teach computer science.

21   (3) Outline scholarship or state-funded training opportunities for teachers to gain

22 certification or endorsement in computer science.

23   (4) Be updated by the state department as necessary.

24   Section 6.(A) The provisions of R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f) as amended by

25 Section 2 of this Act shall apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2025-2026

26 school year and thereafter.

27   (B) R.S. 17:3996(B)(82) as enacted by Section 2 of this Act shall be implemented

28 beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

1   (C) R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9) as enacted by Section 3 of this Act shall be implemented

2 beginning on June 30, 2026.

3   (D) The provisions of R.S. 17:280.3(A) as enacted by Section 4 of this Act shall be

4 implemented as follows:

5   (1) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1) shall be initially implemented prior to the 2025-2026 school

6 year and shall apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year

7 and thereafter.

8   (2) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(2) shall be initially implemented prior to the 2026-2027 school

9 year.

10   (3) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(3) shall be initially implemented prior to the 2027-2028 school

11 year.

DIGEST

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

HB 264 Original   2024 Regular Session   Hughes

Abstract: Requires students to successfully complete a one unit Computer Science course
to grade from high school and to qualify for TOPS.

Proposed law requires completion of a one unit Computer Science course for:

(1)   Graduation from a public high school.

(2)   A high school career diploma. Present law requires a student to complete one
       mathematics elective course, one science elective course, and nine credits in Jump
       Start courses to be eligible for a career diploma. Proposed law requires that one of
       these credits be Computer Science.

(3)   A TOPS award. Present law requires a student to complete one mathematics elective
       course, two science elective courses, and two units in either Foreign Language or
       Computer Science to be eligible for a TOPS award. Proposed law requires that one
       of these credits be Computer Science.

(4)   A TOPS-Tech award. Present law requires a student to complete one mathematics
       elective course, one science elective course, and nine credits in Jump Start courses
       to be eligible for a TOPS-Tech award. Proposed law requires that one of these
       credits be Computer Science.

Proposed law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to promulgate
rules to implement offering Computer Science courses.

Proposed law requires teacher preparation programs to include instruction on teaching
students computer science.

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

Implementation required in part prior to the 2025-2026 school year; in part prior to the 2026-2027 school year; in part prior to the 2027-2028 school year.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f), 5025(2)(b), (3)(c), and (8), and 5026(A)(2)(c), (3)(b), and (5); Adds R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9), 280.3, 3996(B)(82), 5025(9), 5025.7, and 5026(F))

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