2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 264

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUGHES, BAYHAM, BOYD, BUTLER, CARLSON, ROBBY
CARTER, CARVER, DEWITT, FISHER, GREEN, LAFLEUR, JACOB LANDRY,
LARVADAIN, MENA, SELDERS, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, WALTERS, AND
WYBLE

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),(5), and (8),

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

5   3996(B)(82), 5025(9), 5025.7, and 5026(F), relative to curricula; to revise the

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

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

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

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

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

11   applicability; to 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),(5), 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   (5) Foreign Language or Computer Science - two units

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

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

14 and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture,

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

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

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

18 ~~programming, which may include the following: Computer Science I, Computer~~

19 ~~Science II, Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Level 1), Advanced~~

20 ~~JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development (Level 2), AP~~

21 ~~Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Computer Science Year One~~

22 ~~IB, and Computer Science Year Two IB.~~

23   *   *   *

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

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

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

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

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

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

2   the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

3   *   *   *

4   §5025.7. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance, and

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

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

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

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

9   (1) English - Four Units

10   (a) English I.

11   (b) English II.

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

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

14   Performance).

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

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

17   (2) Mathematics - Four Units

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

19   Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III

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

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

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

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

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

25   Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.

26   (3) Science - Four Units

27   (a) Biology I.

28   (b) Chemistry I.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7   (4) Social Studies - Four Units

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

9   US History.

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

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

12   States.

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

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

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

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

17   African American History.

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

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

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

21   and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29   IB; and Computer Science Year Two IB.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7   IV IB; Theatre I IB; or Drafting.

8   (7) Financial Literacy - one unit.

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

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

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

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

13   the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

14   §5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

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

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

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

18   *   *   *

19   (2) Math - Four Units

20   *   *   *

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

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

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

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

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

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

27   three mathematics credits.

28   (3) Science - Two Units

29   *   *   *

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

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

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

4   *   *   *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14   or (3) of this Subsection.

15   *   *   *

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

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

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

19   defined as follows:

20   (1) English - Four Units

21   (a) English I.

22   (b) English II.

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

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

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

26   State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

27   (2) Math - Four Units

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

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

3   unit).

4   (b) Financial Literacy (one unit).

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

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

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

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

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

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

11   mathematics credits.

12   (3) Science - Two Units

13   (a) Biology.

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

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

16   Physics, or AP or IB science courses.

17   (4) Social Studies - Two Units

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

19   History.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29   appropriate for the career major.

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

2   §7.2. Approved teacher education programs

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

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

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

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

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

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

9   University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, shall establish qualifications

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

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

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

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

14   *   *   *

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

16   science, which may be incorporated into an existing course of study.

17   *   *   *

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

19   §280.3. Computer science; required instruction

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

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

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

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

24   instruction in exploratory computer science to its students.

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

26   computer science and computational thinking.

27   B. The state Department of Education shall approve the computer science

28   courses required by this Section.

1   <u>C.   The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall</u>

2   <u>promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Section.</u>

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

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

5   the provisions of this Act. The plan shall:

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

7   Education Advisory Commission.

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

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

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

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

12   certification or endorsement in computer science.

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

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

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

16   school year and thereafter.

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

18   beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

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

20   beginning on June 30, 2026.

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

22   implemented as follows:

23   (1) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1) and (2) shall be initially implemented prior to the 2026-2027

24   school year and shall apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2026-2027

25   school year and thereafter.

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

27   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 Reengrossed   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 for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

(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.

Present law and proposed law, relative to students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year, requires successful completion of either.

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 and authorizes such instruction to be incorporated into an existing course of study.

Implementation required in part beginning with the 2026-2027 school year; in part beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f), 5025(2)(b), (3)(c), (5), 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))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

    1.   Authorize teacher prep instruction on teaching students computer science to be incorporated into an existing course of study.

2.   Regarding qualifying for a TOPS Award, add an option for one unit of a foreign language and one unit of computer science, rather than requiring two units of either one.

3.   Delay implementation of requirement that public high schools provide computer science instruction until the 2026-2027 school year.

4.   Require the state Dept. of Education to approve the computer science courses offered to public school students.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1.   For a TOPS award, remove proposed law option to take one unit of a foreign language and one unit of computer science and remove content specifics regarding computer science course options.

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