

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 372

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA: Provides relative to computer science as a high school graduation requirement

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5025.7(introductory paragraph) and 5026(F)(introductory
3 paragraph) and to repeal Section 6(A) and (D) of Act No. 211 of the 2024 Regular
4 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, relative to curricula; to provide relative to
5 Computer Science as a required high school course; to provide for alignment with
6 the core curriculum requirements for qualifications for TOPS awards; to provide for
7 applicability; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:5025.7(introductory paragraph) and 5026(F)(introductory
10 paragraph) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §5025.7. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance, and
12 Honors Awards; students graduating ~~in the 2027-2028 school year~~ through
13 2029-2030 school years

14 To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant
15 to this Chapter, a student who graduated during or after the 2027-2028 school year
16 but not later than the 2029-2030 school year shall have successfully completed a core
17 curriculum which consists of twenty units of high school course work as follows:

18 * * *

19 §5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

20 * * *

1 F. For a student graduating during or after the 2027-2028 school year but
2 prior to the 2030-2031 school year to be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant
3 to this Chapter, the student shall have successfully completed the core curriculum
4 requirements of R.S. 17:5025 or the core curriculum defined as follows:

5 * * *

6 Section 2. Section 6.(A) and (D) of Act No. 211 of the 2024 Regular Session of the
7 Legislature of Louisiana are hereby repealed in their entirety.

8 Section 3. The provisions of R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f) as amended by
9 Section 2 of Act No. 211 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana shall
10 apply as follows:

11 (A) R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b) and (c), relative to the authorization that computer
12 science may count as math and science credits for a high school career major, shall apply to
13 students who enter the ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter.

14 (B) R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(f), relative to the requirement that one of the nine Jump
15 Start courses required for a high school career major be computer science unless computer
16 science is taken to fulfill a math or science credit, shall apply to students who enter the ninth
17 grade during the 2027-2028 school year and thereafter.

18 Section 4. The provisions of R.S. 17:280.3(A), as enacted by Section 4 of Act No.
19 211 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, shall be implemented as
20 follows:

21 (A) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1), relative to the requirement that each public high school
22 provide computer science instruction to its students, shall initially be implemented beginning
23 with the 2026-2027 school year.

24 (B) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1), relative to the requirement that each public high school
25 student successfully complete a one-credit computer science course to qualify for high
26 school graduation, shall apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2027-2028
27 school year and thereafter.

28 (C) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(2) shall initially be implemented beginning with the 2026-
29 2027 school year.

- 1 (D) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(3)) shall initially be implemented beginning with the 2027-
2 2028 school 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 372 Original

2025 Regular Session

Hughes

Abstract: Provides relative to computer science as a requirement for high school graduation.

Relative to the requirement of completion of a one unit Computer Science course for:

- (1) Graduation from a public high school, including charter schools. Present law applies to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter. Proposed law (R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1)) changes this requirement to apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2027-2028 school year and thereafter.
- (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. Further requires that one of these 11 credits be Computer Science for students who enter the ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter. Proposed law (R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(f)) changes this requirement to apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2027-2028 school year and thereafter.
- (3) A TOPS award. Present law (R.S. 17:5025) 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. Further requires that one of these five credits be Computer Science for students graduating in the 2028-2029 school year and thereafter. Proposed law changes this requirement to apply to students who graduate during the 2030-2031 school year and thereafter.
- (4) A TOPS-Tech award. Present law (R.S. 17:5026(A)) 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. Further requires that one of these 11 credits be Computer Science for students graduating in the 2028-2029 school year and thereafter. Proposed law changes this requirement to apply to students who graduate during the 2030-2031 school year and thereafter.

Present law requires each public school, including charter schools, to provide instruction in computer science as follows:

- (1) Elementary school: prior to the 2027-2028 school year.
- (2) Middle school: prior to the 2026-2027 school year.
- (3) High school: prior to the 2026-2027 school year.

Proposed law (R.S. 17:280.3) changes the timing of this requirement to the beginning of such school years.

(Amends R.S. 17:5025.7(intro. para.) and 5026(F)(intro. para); Repeals Section 6(A) and (D) of Act No. 211 of the 2024 R.S.)