

Requests that the Bd. of Regents and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in collaboration with the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, La. Office of Student Financial Assistance, public postsecondary education management boards, La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities, La. Dept. of Economic Development, La. Workforce Commission, La. Assoc. of Business and Industry, Council for a Better La., La. School Counselors Assoc., La. Assoc. of School Superintendents, La. Assoc. of Educators, La. Federation of Teachers, Associated Professional Educators of La., La. School Boards Assoc., Stand for Children-La., La. Black Alliance for Educational Options, the parent of a high school student selected by the BESE president, the parent of a college student selected by the Bd. of Regents chairman, and any other person or entity the Bd. of Regents and BESE deem appropriate, study certain issues relative to TOPS. Such issues shall include but need not be limited to the following:

- (1) Measures that may be taken in order to align the granting of TOPS awards with the meeting of workforce needs.
- (2) Facilitating the efforts of guidance counselors with respect to counseling students about TOPS before they enter high school and while they are in high school.
- (3) Establishing a "Total Louisiana" workforce counseling program in which each high school student will receive personalized guidance counseling on how his skills and aptitudes best align with La. employment opportunities.
- (4) The cost of TOPS thus far and projected future costs, degrees obtained by TOPS recipients, the number of TOPS recipients who lose their awards, and the number of TOPS recipients who do not graduate.
- (5) Relative to TOPS-Tech, the feasibility of lowering the minimum ACT score and of eliminating chemistry courses from the core curriculum required for initial eligibility.
- (6) Relative to TOPS-Tech, the feasibility of allowing certain individuals who receive a GED to qualify.

Further requests that the Bd. of Regents and BESE submit jointly a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House and Senate education committees not later than 60 days prior to the 2015 R.S.