LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Career and College Readiness

Diploma Endorsement

Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators: §2317. High Schools outlines the diploma endorsements Louisiana high school students may earn upon graduation.

Seals

What diploma endorsements can be earned by high school students in Louisiana?

School systems may allow students to earn a Community Service Diploma Endorsement, State Seal of Biliteracy, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Diploma Endorsement, Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement, and/or the State Seal of Fine Arts.

Community Service

What is the Community Service Diploma Endorsement?

School systems may award a Community Service Endorsement to students completing a minimum of 80 hours of service anytime between ninth and twelfth grade. Students may earn service hours identified in the Community Service Diploma Endorsement Categories.

What are the requirements for earning a Community Service Endorsement?

To earn the Community Service Endorsement, students must complete at least 80 community service hours by graduation. The school system will use the Community Service Diploma Endorsement Tracking Form to summarize the student's efforts recorded on the Community Service Diploma Endorsement Student Documentation Form. Documentation is housed at the local level.

Biliteracy

What is the State Seal of Biliteracy?

Since the approval of RS 17:273.4 in 2014, Louisiana students may earn the State Seal of Biliteracy by proving literacy in English and another language.

What are the requirements for earning the State Seal of Biliteracy?

To earn the Seal of Biliteracy, the student must demonstrate mastery of English by meeting the English Language Arts graduation requirements and earning a composite score of 19 on the English and Reading components of the ACT. The student must also demonstrate proficiency at the Intermediate-High level in a second language using one of the pathways outlined on the Seals of Biliteracy Request form. English Language Learners are eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy provided they meet the above criteria and score proficient on the English Proficiency Assessment.

STEM

What is the STEM Diploma Endorsement?

The gold and silver STEM Diploma Endorsements recognize high school graduates who complete coursework in one of Louisiana's approved STEM Pathways.

What are the requirements for earning the STEM Diploma Endorsement?

To earn the Silver STEM Diploma Endorsement, students must pass four concentration-area courses listed on the relevant STEM Pathway brief. To earn the Gold STEM Diploma Endorsement, students must meet the Silver STEM Diploma Endorsement requirements, complete three additional pathway courses, and pass one extra math or science course listed in the brief. Details are in the pathway briefs. For students entering grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year or later, use STEM Renaissance Pathways. For earlier freshmen cohorts, use Archived Pathway Briefs.

Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement

What is the Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement?

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has developed the Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement, a new recognition for high school students who demonstrate excellence in civics education.

What are the requirements for earning the Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement?

The endorsement will be awarded to students who score Mastery or above on the LEAP 2025 civics assessment. Beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, eligible students will receive a special diploma seal and may receive a red, white, and blue honor cord to wear during graduation.

State Seal of Fine Arts

What is the State Seal of Fine Arts Endorsement?

The State Seal of Fine Arts Endorsement is a diploma recognition established by Act 137 of the 2026 Regular Session to recognize Louisiana high school graduates who have demonstrated sustained achievement and excellence in the arts. Eligible students will receive a special State Seal of Fine Arts Endorsement affixed to their diploma or transcript by participating public school governing authorities.

What are the requirements for earning the State Seal of Fine Arts Endorsement?

To earn the State Seal of Fine Arts Endorsement, a student must complete four Carnegie credits in the same arts discipline, such as music, dance, visual arts, theater, media arts, or culinary arts, and earn a minimum 3.00 grade point average across the four arts credits. Students must also complete an arts-related capstone performance or portfolio that meets BESE requirements.

For more information, view the State Seal of Fine Arts Requirements.

Ordering

How do I order diploma endorsements?

Order diploma endorsements yearly using the electronic Diploma and Seal Order Form available from the Louisiana Department of Education. If you need more information, please email jenny.moran2@la.gov.

How do I order honor cords? Red, white, and blue honor cords are available for order from both local and online awards and graduation supply vendors.