

COURSE CHOICE OVERVIEW AND FACT SHEET

Course Choice Is Expanding Educational Opportunities for All Louisiana Students.

- **A Clear Need for Louisiana Students.** These courses are a necessity, not a luxury for Louisiana students.
 - For example, during the 2011-2012 school year 106 school sites across the state did not have a teacher on-site certified to teach Algebra I.
 - Students at 48.9% of Louisiana schools currently do not have access to AP courses. Louisiana ranks 49th in the nation in the percentage of public high school students who earn college credit.
- **Funding and Eligibility.** Through Course Choice, hundreds of courses are available at no additional cost for Louisiana students if they attend a C, D or F public school or if they want to register for a course not offered at their A or B public school.

Course Choice Registration Is Available Online.

- **Registration Process and Support.** Families shop for course(s) at louisianacoursechoice.net and submit a request to enroll in the course(s) through the Course Choice Registration System. Department staff will work with a student's school counselor to make sure the course is academically appropriate, logistically practical, and keeps the student on track for an on-time graduation. Students can take any Course Choice course they are academically qualified to take. Families also have access to a toll-free Course Choice Counselor Assistance hotline (1-877-453-2721) that provides one-on-one access to experienced, certified professional school counselors who can answer questions about the registration process.
- **Types of Courses and Providers.** Students will have access to a wide range of courses, both online and in person, through 42 course providers in over 90 locations, including:
 - **AP Courses:** For the first time, *all* Louisiana students will have access to Advanced Placement courses;
 - **Career And Technical Education (CTE) Courses:** Hands-on coursework, internships and apprenticeships in a wide array of high-demand job sectors will enable students across Louisiana to learn the skills they will need to secure high-wage 21st Century careers;
 - **Core Academic Courses:** Innovative programs will be available for younger students, including foreign language courses for elementary and middle school students and gifted-student programs for elementary school students;
 - **Test Preparation Courses:** Courses that specialize in helping students excel in high-stakes testing like the ACT and core academic "End of Course" (EOC) exams; and
 - **College Credit Opportunities:** Students will have access to courses at technical and community colleges across Louisiana and every four-year Louisiana public university.

Course Choice Courses Are High Quality, And Providers Are Accountable For Results.

There are five layers of quality control built into the Course Choice Program and every Course Choice course:

- **Course Provider Selection:** Course providers had to pass an intensive four step selection process;
- **Student Reporting:** Twice every month, course providers upload student progress scores which will be monitored and reviewed by the Department;
- **Instant Notification:** Course providers can provide school counselors and the Department instant notification through the registration system if a student is not pursuing his / her coursework;
- **Tuition Payment:** Course providers are not paid 50% of their tuition unless students successfully complete their courses on time;
- **Annual Reviews:** The Department will conduct an annual review of each course provider to determine if they have successfully implemented their courses and achieved their targeted student learning objectives. Course providers that do not pass this review will be suspended or eliminated from the Course Choice Program.

Course Choice Is Included In The 2013-2014 MFP.

The Course Choice Program continues to exist in statute even though a legal challenge related to the funding is pending a ruling by the Supreme Court. The proposed formula continues to include funding for the program; however, contingency language has been included in the formula to address a circumstance in which the current funding mechanism is deemed unconstitutional.