

Louisiana Course Choice Program

Policy Information

In October 2024, BESE approved policy changes based on Act 91 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session.

Major changes to the policy can be categorized as either School System responsibilities or Parental Choice Enhancements.

Local Education Agency Responsibilities

The updated policy outlines specific duties for School Systems to ensure transparency, accountability, and equitable access to high-quality courses funded through the Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) program. The update includes:

- Consultation with a designated school system staff member and obtaining written permission from a parent or guardian before approving a student's course selection.
- A student shall not be permitted to enroll in a course where the determination was made that the course is not academically appropriate considering the student's chosen graduation pathway or conflicts with the LDOE published planning resources.
- School Systems are now required to actively inform parents and students about Course Choice opportunities, including eligible courses, funding availability, and the application process.
- School Systems are tasked with ensuring that parents are aware of their rights to choose approved Course Choice courses for their children.
- School Systems must provide guidance to help families choose courses that align with students' educational and career goals.
- School Systems must prioritize funding for courses that align with state and local workforce needs, particularly those tied to high-demand career pathways and dual enrollment opportunities.
- Schools must report how funds are allocated and utilized, ensuring transparency and accountability.

The prioritization of Supplemental Course Allocation funding is as follows:

Priority	Description
1	Seniors who require a course in order to graduate or student access to TOPS aligned courses not available through the school or school system.
2	Students enrolling in courses required to complete an associate degree in a Fast Forward pathway or a certificate of technical studies aligned to high wage, high demand jobs or work-based learning.
3	Students seeking access to TOPS aligned college credit.
4	Students enrolled in a Comprehensive Intervention Required (CIR) or Urgent Intervention Required for Academics (UIR-A) schools.
5	Access to high quality academic content aligned to graduation requirements or access to high quality career and technical content aligned to the Louisiana IBC state focus list which can be offered as recovery credit.
6	Students seeking coursework to increase a student score on a nationally recognized assessment (ACT, SAT, CLT, WorkKeys, or ASVAB) as defined in LAC 28:XI.1711 Bulletin 111.
7	Other priorities defined by the school system, approved by LDOE, and included in the School System's pupil progression plan prior to the student enrollment process.

Parental Choice Enhancements

The agency's updated policy gives parents more influence in their child's education while holding schools accountable for providing these opportunities. School Systems now have a responsibility to ensure parents are informed about all the options available through the Course Choice program. This includes sharing detailed information about courses, explaining how the funding is prioritized, and helping families select classes that support students' goals.

Parents have the right to decide which eligible courses their children take, whether they're offered online, in person, or as a combination of both. Schools are required to honor parental requests as long as the courses meet the student's educational and career goals and funding is available. Before your student can enroll in a course, you must provide written permission. As a parent, it's important to work with your student and the school to ensure their course choices align with their graduation pathway. If the designated school system staff member determines that a course does not fit your student's academic plan or conflicts with state graduation guidelines, they will not be able to take the course.

The updated policy is designed to make it easier for parents to understand their options and includes enhancements that aim to empower families with the tools, information, and authority needed to take an active role in shaping their child's educational experience, ensuring meaningful opportunities that prepare students for future success.

Key Parental Enhancements Include

- **Access to Comprehensive Information:** School Systems must provide parents with detailed information about all eligible Course Choice courses, including how funding is prioritized.
- **Support in Course Selection:** Schools are required to guide families in choosing courses that align with students' academic and career goals.
- **Expanded Rights to Choose Courses:** Parents have the right to select eligible courses for their child if they align with the student's academic and career goals, if the student meets the prerequisites for the course, and if funding is available.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** LEA's must share up-to-date lists of approved courses and providers to ensure families have accurate and reliable information for decision-making.
- **Written Parental Consent:** Parents must provide written permission for their child's course selection, ensuring they remain central to the decision-making process.