



# LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 16, 2014

TO: District Superintendents, High School Principals, Business Managers, CTE Supervisors

SUBJECT: NEW (OR MODIFIED) LEA-DETERMINED FUNDING STREAMS FOR CAREER EDUCATION

Because of the Jump Start program and the state's increased focus on career and technical education, BESE and the Legislature recently created and modified several career and technical education (CTE) funding streams for 2014-2015 that will require districts, charter schools and special schools to revise their budgets.

These adjustments will result in millions of dollars in increased funds for career education course and activities, provided that LEAs adjust their programming and budgets accordingly.

The changes to these funding streams share a common theme: ***new or increased CTE funding streams that empower families, students, schools and school districts to make independent determinations about how best to use these funds.***

This document provides an overview of these new or modified funding streams, with indications of how school district, charter school and special school leaders can get additional information or assistance from Department experts.

## New or Modified Funding Streams

- **New:** Supplemental Course Allocation
- **New:** Career Development Fund
- **New:** Jump Start Grants
- **Modified:** Microsoft IT Academy Funding
- **Modified:** TOPS Tech Early Start
- **Modified:** JAG Program Funding

### **New: Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA)**

Districts, charter schools and special schools will receive \$26 per student in grades 7–12 in supplemental course allocation (SCA) funding through the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).

These funds support the cost of supplemental courses and are to be spent on course offerings provided by state-approved course providers, using the Department's online [SCA registration system](#). Descriptions of these course providers and the 1,000+ courses they offer are available on this website.

New this year: a complete slate of courses from LCTCS colleges to support each Jump Start regional team, as well as dual enrollment academic courses from LSU, Nicholls State and other Louisiana universities. Districts and schools need to work with their regional post-secondary partners to get these campuses to upload to the SCA registration system the courses they need for their students.

The SCA online registration system is now open for enrollment requests. Several LEAs have already started to register students for 2014-2015 courses using this online system.

*Districts and schools can independently determine how they can best utilize this new funding stream to address priorities that include: a) courses that make students TOPS-eligible; b) enhanced services for students with disabilities; c) remediation services for students struggling to graduate on-time; d) dual enrollment; and e) courses that enable students to graduate with Jump Start career diplomas.*

**Louisiana Believes**

Attached to this document is the table from the 2014-2015 MFP that indicates projected SCA funding levels for districts and schools. (Column 11 provides SCA funding by district/school.)

<b>Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) Snapshot</b>	
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$26/student in grades 7–12</li> <li>• Projected statewide total: \$7,574,000; click <a href="#">here</a> for SCA funding by LEA</li> <li>• New, incremental funding source</li> </ul>
<b>Key Facts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 1,000 course titles offered by ~35 course providers and Louisiana post-secondary institutions</li> <li>• Districts and schools must commit at least 90% of their SCA funding by the close of Fall registration (September 12) or the funds will be reallocated to other LEAs</li> </ul>
<b>For Assistance</b>	<p><a href="#">SCA Fact Sheet</a> and <a href="#">SCA / CDF FAQs</a> available using these links</p> <p>Please send questions about SCA or requests for update reports to <a href="mailto:SCA@la.gov">SCA@la.gov</a></p>

Districts and schools must commit at least 90% of their SCA funding by the close of fall registration (September 12), or these funds will be reallocated to other districts / schools. Districts and schools commit SCA funds by registering students via the online registration system. The Department will provide districts and schools with frequent updates during the registration period tracking their course enrollments and the degree to which they've committed their SCA funds. Districts and schools can request an update report at any time.

The Department will offer districts and schools a cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA) that will streamline the administration of SCA vendor payments. The SCA CEA is based on the Louisiana Virtual School CEA, and avoids the need for LEAs to establish commercial relationships with (and track payments to) several dozen course providers.

LEAs that execute this CEA will receive regular SCA expenditure tracking reports from the Department. Per the terms of this CEA, the Department will make all course provider payments.

**Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA)  
Implementation Steps**

- Step 1: Contact [SCA@la.gov](mailto:SCA@la.gov) to obtain or confirm your SCA online registration username / passcode
- Step 2: Work with families, students and the SCA Counselor Assistance Center to register students
- Step 3: Utilize enrollment reports issued by the SCA team to track / confirm 90+% commitment of your SCA funding
- Step 4: Review and execute the SCA collaborative endeavor agreement (CEA) to streamline program administration and course provider payments
- Step 5: Help students succeed with their SCA courses to maximize student outcomes / school accountability points

The text box immediately above describes the SCA Implementation Steps. An SCA Fact Sheet and a combined SCA / CDF FAQs document are available using the links above.

Please send your questions about SCA to [SCA@la.gov](mailto:SCA@la.gov). Department experts will answer your questions promptly.

**New: Career Development Fund (CDF)**

Districts, charter schools and special schools will receive a 6% MFP adder (state funding portion only) for student enrollments in “technical” CTE courses. This adder equals ~\$240 per student enrollment by course. The CDF adder is in addition to the current 6% MFP adder for any student enrollment in a CTE course. There is a minimum CDF allocation of \$25,000 per district or \$10,000 per charter/special school.

CDF funds must be spent on teacher training or certification, equipment and facilities aligned with the high-demand career paths identified by the Workforce Investment Council (WIC). Districts and schools have complete discretion on how to spend CDF funds within these guidelines.

The CDF allocation will be calculated on data reported in the 2014-2015 class schedule data collection culminating in January 2015. Funding will be distributed the last week of February 2015 in a one-time payment in addition to normal MFP payments.

Career Development Fund (CDF) Snapshot	
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6% MFP adder (~\$240) per student enrollment by course</li> <li>• Minimum CDF allocation of \$25,000 per district and \$10,000 per charter and special school</li> <li>• New, incremental funding source, provided in a one-time February 2015 payment</li> </ul>
<b>Key Facts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A list of <a href="#">CDF-qualifying courses</a> is available using this link</li> </ul>
<b>For Assistance</b>	Combined <a href="#">SCA / CDF FAQs</a> available using this link Please send questions about CDF to <a href="mailto:JumpStart@la.gov">JumpStart@la.gov</a>

The list of courses that qualify for the CDF adder, along with CDF FAQs, are available via the links above. Please send your questions about CDF to [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov).

**New: Jump Start Grants**

In 2014-2015 the Department will offer \$845,000 in 8g-funded *Jump Starting* Jump Start grants to the 12 Jump Start regional teams that have formed across the state. The application process for these grants will open in October 2014. Regional teams will apply for these grants using the same streamlined process utilized with the first round of *Jump Starting* Jump Start grants awarded this spring.

Every school district is now aligned with one or more Jump Start Regional Team. You can request a listing of the school districts and key stakeholders on each regional team at [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov).

Jump Starting Jump Start Grants Snapshot	
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$845,000 awarded to Jump Start Regional Teams</li> <li>• New, incremental funding source, paid per standard grant procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Key Facts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of initial <a href="#">Jump Starting Jump Start grant awards</a> to Jump Start Regional Teams available using this link</li> <li>• Application process will open in October 2014</li> </ul>
<b>For Assistance</b>	Please send questions about CDF to <a href="mailto:JumpStart@la.gov">JumpStart@la.gov</a>

**Modified: Microsoft IT Academy Funding**

In light of significant increases in state funding for career education coursework described above – and because of the state’s shift to provide funds for schools and regional teams to use at their discretion – the Department will be ending the practice of holding back 5% of district-allocated Carl Perkins funds that previously funded the Certiport process by which Microsoft certificates are processed.

As a result, the state has terminated its centrally managed Microsoft and Certiport agreements effective with the 2014-2015 school year. Districts will now have complete discretion on how to spend these Perkins funds.

Districts may continue to invest in these training/certification services if they are members of Jump Start Regional Teams that intend to utilize Microsoft certifications as part of their Jump Start regional graduation pathways.

Information Technology Pathway coursework aligned with statewide Jump Start graduation pathways (see [Jump Start Blueprint Appendix 3](#)) will receive additional funding through CDF (see above) that they can use to pay for licensure and software costs.

Each Jump Start Regional Team is developing a Jump Start Proposal that will indicate, among other information, the Jump Start graduation pathways and credentials districts in the region will support. You can request information about the status of Jump Start proposal development in your region at [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov).

LEAs interested in continuing their investments in Microsoft and Certiport should contact:

- Michael Warren, Louisiana Account Executive, Microsoft Corporation  
(469) 775-2087 Michael.Warren@microsoft.com
- Mike Maddock, Regional Certiport Manager, Pearson Certiport  
(801) 847-3172 x 172 Mike.Maddock@pearson.com

<b>Microsoft IT Academy Funding Snapshot</b>	
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5% of Perkins funding will no longer be withheld for Certiport/Microsoft</li><li>• Modified funding source</li></ul>
<b>Key Facts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LEAs now have complete discretion on how to spend these Perkins funds</li><li>• Districts may continue to invest in these training/certification services: a) to receive CDF funds; and/or b) if their Jump Start Regional Teams utilize Microsoft certifications as part of their Jump Start regional graduation pathways</li></ul>
<b>For Assistance</b>	LEAs interested in continuing their investments in Microsoft and Certiport should contact the individuals indicated immediately above this snapshot table For questions about Jump Start Regional Team graduation pathways please contact <a href="mailto:JumpStart@la.gov">JumpStart@la.gov</a>

**Modified: TOPS Tech Early Start**

The TOPS Tech Early Start award provides up to \$600 per academic year for any eligible 11th or 12th grade student attending a public high school who wishes to concurrently enroll for up to six credit hours per semester at a public college in vocational courses aligned with a “top demand occupation.”

Senate Bill 126 expands the availability of TOPS Tech Early Start so that it may be used to fund any technical or applied course leading to a “top demand” Industry-Based Certification, a Certificate of Applied Sciences and/or a Certificate of Technical Sciences at a Louisiana public post-secondary education institution.

Additionally this bill eliminates the requirement that the student must have at least the minimum scores required to pass the math and English portions of the graduation exit exam established by BESE.

This link provides the [current list of “top demand occupations” qualifying for TOPS Tech Early Start](#). The list will likely change based on the passage of SB 126.

Districts and schools can and should make plans to help their students more effectively utilize TOPS Tech Early Start opportunities. Jump Start teams may be part of this deliberation.

Please email questions about how your LEA can leverage TOPS Tech Early Start to [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov).

**Modified: JAG Program Funding**

This week BESE will consider nearly \$3 million in allocations to support Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG-LA) programs. The recently passed state budget reflected a decrease in federal funding specifically earmarked for the JAG-LA program. However, districts may use other funds to support JAG-LA programs, including Carl Perkins funding.

JAG-LA programs qualifying for the 2014-2015 federal grant will receive an allocation of \$44,395 based on the 2014-2015 appropriated funding level. A total of 55 programs received continuation funding, based on the scores their applications received based on established selection criteria and the ability to meet the requirements of the 2013-2014 grant. Programs not recommended for continuation either did not meet all 2013-2014 grant requirements and/or did not serve the in-school population in which focus is now being shifted.

JAG-LA AIM High! Programs will continue with 13 programs at an unchanged funding rate for the 2014-2015 school year.

This link provides the [2014 – 2015 JAG allocations by district](#).

Please contact [Dianna.Keller@la.gov](mailto:Dianna.Keller@la.gov) for additional information regarding JAG-LA programs and funding.