

MEMORANDUM

To: System Leaders
From: Office of Governmental, Administrative, and Public Affairs
Date: March 12, 2024
Re: Updated FAFSA Policy

During the March 2024 meeting, the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a repeal of the policy requiring graduating seniors to complete steps related to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This policy change will be effective starting with the graduation cohort of 2024-2025 and does not remove the requirement of local education agencies (LEAs) to provide students and their parents or guardians with information regarding financial aid programs to support postsecondary education and training. LEAs must ensure that each student receives adequate support in completing and submitting an application for financial aid. However, a student action related to FAFSA completion will no longer be required.

The text below from Part CXV. *Bulletin 741–Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators* Chapter 9. Scheduling will be updated to remove the language in §901. Scheduling.

§901. Scheduling

A.- C. ...

~~D. Beginning with the 2017–2018 school year, each graduating senior shall, as part of his individual graduation plan and as a requirement for graduation, complete at least one of the following steps to support a successful transition to postsecondary education or training:~~

~~1. complete and submit to the Office of Student Financial Assistance an application for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award;~~

~~2. complete and submit to the U.S. Department of Education a free application for federal student aid; or~~

~~3. a parent or legal custodian, or a student legally emancipated or of the legal age of majority, may certify a waiver in writing to the LEA if he refuses to complete such an application;~~

~~4. if a graduating senior is not able to fulfill the requirements of Subsection D of this Section due to extenuating circumstances, the LEA may apply for a waiver to be approved by the state superintendent of education to waive the student of this requirement for graduation.~~

E. - F.3. ...