



DATE: August 11, 2015

FROM: Course Choice Leadership Team

SUBJECT: HOW COURSE CHOICE FUNDS WILL BE PAID THIS YEAR

Objective of Course Choice

Course Choice provides a catalog of academic and career and technical education (CTE) courses – from other school districts, from Louisiana’s public technical colleges and universities, from industry training organizations and from private course providers – that help Louisiana students achieve ambitious college and career readiness goals.

Two Sources of Course Choice Funds

Course Choice funds (also called Supplemental Course Allocation or SCA funds) *must* (by law) be spent by LEAs on Course Choice tuitions for courses offered by state-approved course providers. For 2015-2016 there will be two sources of Course Choice funds:

- 1) the Course Choice SCA funds built into the MFP will provide LEAs with \$26 for each student enrolled in grades 7-12. This is the same level of SCA funding as last year;
- 2) the Legislature has provided additional Course Choice funding outside the MFP of \$9 for each student enrolled in grades 7-12. To try to keep matters clear we will be calling these funds “Additional Course Choice Funds” in this and future communications.

LEAs will receive total Course Choice funding in 2015-2016 equal to \$35 / student in grades 7-12.

LEAs can determine their total 2015-2016 Course Choice / SCA funding using this link: [http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/minimum-foundation-program/2015-16-circular-no-1159b---hb1-appropriation-of-\\$2-6-million-for-supplemental-course-allocation.pdf?sfvrsn=4](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/minimum-foundation-program/2015-16-circular-no-1159b---hb1-appropriation-of-$2-6-million-for-supplemental-course-allocation.pdf?sfvrsn=4).

As in past years, LEAs *must* (by law) spend all of their Course Choice funding. Any Course Choice funding that LEAs don’t spend (or commit to spending on a timely basis) will be reallocated in January 2016 to LEAs who are investing these funds on behalf of their students.

How Course Choice Funds Will be Paid to LEAs in 2015-2016

Course Choice SCA Funds – Course Choice SCA funds included in the MFP will be paid evenly each month to LEAs in their monthly MFP remittance. Example: if an LEA has 600 students in grades 7-12, then this LEA will receive \$1,300 in SCA funds each month within their MFP remittance.

*(600 students in grades 7-12) x (\$26 / student in Course Choice SCA MFP funding) = \$15,600 total SCA funds
\$15,600 in SCA funds within the MFP / 12 months = \$1,300 / monthly payment in the MFP remittance*

“Additional Course Choice Funds” – the additional Course Choice funds outside of the MFP will be paid to LEAs in a lump sum when they have committed their total Course Choice funding, either in October 2015 or in February 2016.

LEAs that commit 90% or more of their total Course Choice funding (\$35 / students grades 7-12) by September 4, 2015 will receive 100% of their Additional Course Choice Funds in a lump sum payment in October 2015.

LEAs can commit Course Choice funding by:

- a) registering students in high school course providers through the Agilix registration system;
- b) registering students with a post-secondary dual enrollment course provider; and
- c) responding promptly to the Course Choice team when we request information about unspent Course Choice funding in September.

LEAs that commit less than 90% of their total Course Choice funding by September 4 can receive 100% of their Additional Course Choice Funds in a lump sum payment in February 2016 by spending all of their total Course Choice funding by January 22, 2016.

Reallocating Unspent Course Choice Funds

Course Choice funds (both SCA funds and Additional Course Choice Funds) not spent by January 22, 2016 will be reallocated in February, 2016 to LEAs that have spent 100% of their total Course Choice funding.

The Additional Course Choice Funds due LEAs will be withheld equal to the amount of unspent Course Choice funding. Any unspent Course Choice funding above this amount will be subtracted from the LEA's February MFP payment, with supporting documentation.

The Department of Education encourages and supports LEAs in spending 100% of their total Course Choice funding. The Course Choice team will be available to assist each LEA with any questions they have about the Course Choice program so they can successfully utilize 100% of their total Course Choice funding.

Our goal is \$0 in reallocated Course Choice funding for 2015-2016.

Questions / Future Webinars

Please contact CourseChoice@la.gov with any questions you have about Course Choice funding or any other program-related issue.

Please be alert to the webinars the Course Choice team will hold this Fall about various Course Choice-related topics.