

School Systems Course Choice Webinar



2026-2027

Objectives

- Review of the Course Choice Program
- Discuss policy changes to Bulletin 132, Louisiana Course Choice Program
- Review updated policies for School Systems
- Explain the updated policy in reference to parental choice
- Discuss registration, reporting, funding and payments
- Review a LIVE presentation of navigating the Course Choice Portal

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Purpose and Implementation

The Course Choice Program (funded through the Supplemental Course Allocation) was developed to:

- Provide course opportunities that may not be available at a student's school
- Allows students to physically attend courses on a college or university campus
- Develop innovative career and technical education courses and internship opportunities
- Motivate academically-focused students to graduate high school early and/or earn credits towards a college degree
- Help students who are behind their class level to catch up and graduate on time

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First Years of Implementation

- **June 2012**
 - Act 2 was passed creating the Course Choice Program
- **2013-2014 School Year**
 - Courses offered to students statewide by 21 private providers
- **2014-2015**
 - Course offerings were expanded to include Public Higher Education colleges, universities and CTE Education Centers

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Funding

- Allocation is \$70 per student in grades 7-12.
- Allocation paid through MFP and can only be used on BESE approved course providers.
- School systems use the allocation to pay tuition cost for courses.
- LDOE monitors expenditures and re-allocates funds not spent and/or allocated pre program policy.

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Overview of System-Level Responsibilities

- Refer to current [MFP Budget Letter](#) to determine the school system's allocation for the current year.
- Designate person at school system and school level to handle reporting in the [Course Choice Portal](#).
- Work with course providers to get students registered through their registration system.
- Report registration enrollments in the [Course Choice Portal](#) by the deadline.
- Pay invoices to course providers upon receipt.

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School System Beginning 2025-2026 School Year

The revised policy defines clear responsibilities for School Systems to promote transparency, accountability, and fair access to high-quality courses funded by the Course Choice program.

Overview of system-level changes:

- **Parental Involvement & Course Approval** – Schools must obtain written parental permission and ensure courses align with students' graduation pathways.
- **Increased Transparency & Outreach** – Schools are required to actively inform parents and students about Course choice opportunities, funding, and course options.
- **Funding & Accountability** – Schools must prioritize funding based on graduation requirements, TOPS-aligned and college credit courses, Fast Forward and career pathways, support for struggling schools, academic and career-technical recovery, test preparation, and school system-defined priorities approved by LDOE.

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What Does Parental Involvement and Outreach Now Look Like?

- **Access to Planning Resources** - Provide parents with information about LDOE planning resources to help them understand graduation requirements and available Course Choice course enrollments.
- **Consultation** – Consult with student and parent in course selection process.
- **Written Permission** – Obtain written consent from parent prior to enrollment.
- **Academic Guidance** – Notify parent if course is determined to be academically inappropriate based on the student's graduation pathway or if it conflicts with state graduation planning resources.

What Does Prioritization Look Like?

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:X1.1711 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.

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Planning

Considerations when thinking about next steps:

Depending on your role (system leader, principal, counselor, etc.)

- What changes would your school system need to make internally to implement these priorities?
- What are the current parental communication channels that can be leveraged in implementing these changes?
- What practices does your school system already have in place that fall in line with the changes?
- At the system level, who would be the key people involved in beginning to implement these priorities?
- At the school level, what internal practices need to be adjusted to follow the new policy and to help students and parents make the transition?
- How can your school work effectively with parents to ensure that the students are provided the appropriate opportunities to Course Choice courses?
- Which key stakeholders do you see as the key people in getting the changes implemented?

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Registration, Reporting, Funding and Payments



Registration

- School systems and/or schools register directly with providers using the provider's registration system.
- Only school systems and/or schools have the authority to register students with a provider in order to be eligible for SCA funds.
- Parent must go through the school system/school to register a child.
- Student privacy laws must be followed between the school system/school and provider.
- Registrations with providers must match those in [Course Choice Portal](#) by set deadlines or they are not eligible to be paid with SCA funds.

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Payment Procedure for Public Higher Education Providers

- 100% of tuition is paid by the institutions and there are no refunds for withdrawals.
- **School systems must account for all courses reported in the reporting system by prescribed deadlines or the tuition is ineligible for SCA funding.**
- Ensure that the cost reflected in the portal matches the invoicing by Course Choice deadlines.
- **Invoices that are received after the deadline with enrollments that were not reported in the portal are ineligible for SCA funding.**
- SCA funds may only pay a single tuition price (books, materials, and supplies may be included in the price in the portal but cannot be paid for separately with SCA funds).

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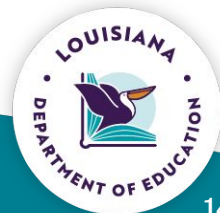


Payment Procedure for Private Providers

In accordance with legislation...

50% of tuition shall be paid upon active enrollment in a course and 50% shall be paid upon completion of the course according to the published course length. If a student does not complete a course, and the provider has received the first payment, the provider shall receive 40% of the course amount only if the student completes the course and receives credit for the course (must pass the course).

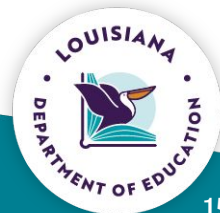
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Course Choice Reporting System

- All Course Choice enrollments are to be reported in the [Course Choice Portal](#).
- School system does the reporting, provider verifies, LDOE cross-checks with enrollments, grades, withdrawals, and payments.
- No student-identifiable information in the portal.
- School systems have until set dates to accurately report all Course Choice enrollments in the [Course Choice Portal](#).
- Enrollments must be recorded in the reporting system to be eligible for Course Choice funding.

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2026 - 2027 Dates to Remember

- **September 18, 2026** -portal closes to new fall and full year enrollments for Private Providers (known spring enrollments can be input)
- **October 2, 2026** -Private Providers begin billing school systems for the first half of fall and full year tuition
- **October 23, 2026** -portal closes to new fall and full year enrollments for Public Higher Education (know spring enrollments can be input)
- **November 23, 2026** -portal reopens for spring enrollments
- **December 18, 2026** -provide grades to school systems
- **January 8, 2027** -Private Providers bill school systems for remainder of fall enrollments
- **January 29, 2027** -portal closes to new spring enrollments for private providers
- **February 12, 2027** -begin billing for the first half of spring tuition
- **March 5, 2027** -portal closes to new spring enrollments for Public Higher Education
- **May 14, 2027** -provide grades to school systems
- **May 19, 2027** -bill school systems for the remainder of spring and full year enrollments

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Student Participation

- **Active student** - working in a course, will receive a grade/credit
- **No show** - registered and reported but never showed up or did any work in the course or is removed from the course before the drop date
- **Withdrawal** - was active at one time but was officially withdrawn by the school after the registration (will result in half or full payment to provider depending on drop date)

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Personnel Screening/Criminal Background Checks

- All providers perform a background check for all instructors, as well as any other employees or contractors that will come into contact with students (online or in person)
- No person who has been convicted of or has pled no contest to a crime listed in R.S. 15:587.1 (C) shall be allowed to instruct/interact with students as a teacher or any person or entity that contracts with Course Provider to provide such services.
- Course Provider establishes procedures through which it may request information from the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification (Bureau) and Information necessary to ascertain whether an employee has been arrested for, convicted of, or pled nolo contendere to, any criminal offense.
- A person whose fingerprints have been submitted to the Bureau may be temporarily hired pending the report from the Bureau.
- Course Provider is responsible for obtaining and maintaining Bureau statements of approval for all applicable employees. These statements of approval shall be kept on file at all times by the course provider and shall be produced upon request to any law enforcement officer, BESE, or LDE staff upon request.

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Closing

- Course Choice has provided over a decade of expanding access to high quality, credit earning courses.
- Policy changes have been made to improve the opportunities for students within the school systems.
- Parental choice and communication are major components of the improvements.
- Register with college or university and report in the Course Choice Portal.
- Invoices should be paid as soon as it is received from the provider.

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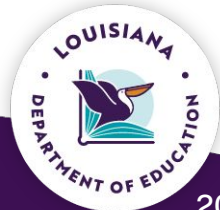
Questions?

Reach out to coursechoice@la.gov

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LIVE demonstration of navigating the Course Choice Portal

