

Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Extension Academy Informational Webinar

Announcement and Purpose

On September 26, 2019 the Louisiana Department of Education released a request for applications pertaining to the establishment, in the academic year of 2020-2021, of an alternative graduation model for a period of 3 years that will include, for a designated cohort of students, a fifth year of high school.

The purpose of this innovation is to provide students, who are on track to graduate but not on track to participate in a low-cost postsecondary college or training program, with a one year extension to attain a Regents-recognized associate degree, a registered pre-apprenticeship or an advanced Industry Based Credential (IBC). Extension Academy students shall be counted in the LEA's MFP formula.

Enabling Legislation

Under authority of [R. S. §17:151.1](#) the Department and the Board of Regents released a request for application for Extension Academy pilots for the 2019-2020 school year. This was in response to the need for a greater connection between high schools, colleges, and employers. These pilots served students who were on track for high school graduation, but did not currently qualify for low-cost, high-value post-secondary credentials.

Extension Academy Timeline

Timeline:

Process Step	Timeline
Announcement and Application Release	September 26, 2019 Extension Academy RFA
Informational Webinar	October 7, 2019 3:00 PM CST
Priority Deadline	November 20, 2019 4:00 PM CST
Notice of Preliminary Approval	December 2, 2019: Regional Consortium members will notified that proposal has been pre-approved for consideration during the December Joint Board Meeting.
BESE Approval: Course Providers	December 11, 2019: The Superintendent proposes pre-approved Extension Academy applications to BESE/Regents Joint Board Meeting

The Board of Regents and Department of Education will approve Extension Academy pilot sites for a fifth year of high school during the 2020-2021 school year. BESE/BoR pilot site recommendations will be brought to the December 2019 BESE/BoR joint meeting for an initial 3-year authorization period .

Key Principles

The Extension Academy pilots will:

- provide a debt free, accelerated, dual enrollment college experience for a period of no more than five years of high school that is aligned to Louisiana's top-rated 4 and 5 star jobs;
- prepare students for work, through employer driven work-based learning experiences, internships, or apprenticeships;
- ensure the attainment of Regents-recognized associate degrees, registered apprenticeships, or an advanced Industry Based Credential; and
- facilitate student success after graduation through post-secondary transitional coaching.

Target Audience

Extension Academy Pilots will specifically support students on track for high school graduation, but have yet to acquire high-value post-secondary credentials.

- Students graduating on a TOPS University diploma pathway not eligible for TOPS ~15,000 in 2019
- Students graduating on a Jump Start TOPS Tech diploma not on track to earn an advanced credential and not TOPS Tech eligible ~3,200 in 2019

Policy Considerations

Students that participate in the Extension Academy are members of a clearly defined cohort with an explicit purpose and goal. State and federal policy impacting the fiscal support, duration, and status of these students are as follows:

- Fifth year students shall be counted in the MFP membership count of each participating LEA.
- Fifth year students shall be counted in the graduation cohort after their fourth year of high school. Per federal guidance, they will be considered graduates upon completion of all high school graduation requirements.
- If approved, implementing schools will be authorized by BESE and the Board of Regents for a period of 3-years.

Regional Consortium

Required Signatories

- School board president
- Industry aligned employer partner(s)
- School system administrator(s) – superintendent, principal (s), director(s), etc.
- Higher education partner(s)

Logistical Considerations

As you consider adopting the extension academy model consider those essential elements to successful rollout and implementation.

- Number of school sites
- Participating post-secondary campuses
- Enrollment target(s)
- Transportation/class locations and apprenticeships
- Instructors
- Implementation timeline/key monthly activities starting June 2020

RFA Overview

- [*Louisiana Extension Academy Request for Application*](#)

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