

JOINT MEETING

**BOARD OF REGENTS AND
BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Misti S. Cordell, Chair, Board of Regents, Presiding

AGENDA

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Thomas Jefferson Rooms A&B (1-136), Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I Call to Order**
- II Roll Call**
- III Public Comments**
- IV Approval of BESE/BOR Minutes of August 20, 2025**
- V 2025 Kevin P. Reilly, Sr. Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund Report**
 - Dr. John Fleming, State Treasurer, Department of the Treasury
 - Amy Mathews, Chief Investment Officer, Department of the Treasury
- VI Informational Report on the Office of Broadband**
 - Veneeth Iyengar, Executive Director, Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity
- VII Informational Report on Louisiana Dual Enrollment**
 - Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, Board of Regents
 - Dr. Ernise Singleton, Assistant Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education
- VIII Informational Reports on Horizon Topics**
 - Task Force on Career Alignment
 - Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, Board of Regents
 - Tri-Agency Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative
 - Dr. Susannah Craig, Interim Executive Director for LOSFA & Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, Board of Regents
- IX Consideration of an Update Report Regarding Computer Science Course Equivalent to the TOPS University Core Requirements**
 - Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, Board of Regents
 - Dr. Ernise Singleton, Assistant Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education
- X Closing Remarks**
 - Dr. Cade Brumley, State Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education
 - Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, Board of Regents
- XI Other Business**
- XII Adjournment**

JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
AND
BOARD OF REGENTS

August 20, 2025

MINUTES

In accordance with the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article VIII, Section 5(D), a joint meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Board of Regents (BOR) was called to order at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, located in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ronnie Morris, President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The rolls were called with quorums established for the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Board of Regents

Present

Mr. David Aubrey
Mr. Christian Creed
Mr. Blake David
Mr. Ted Glaser, III
Mr. Dallas Hixson
Mr. Darren Mire
Mr. Wilbert Pryor
Ms. Christy Reeves
Mr. Devesh Sarda
Dr. Samer Shamieh
Ms. Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair
Mr. Collis Temple, III
Ms. Judy Williams-Brown

Absent

Ms. Misti Cordell, Chair
Ms. Stephanie Finley
Mr. Phillip May, Jr., Secretary

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Present

Mr. Ronnie Morris, President
Mr. Lance Harris, Vice President
Ms. Stacey Melerine, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Conrad Appel
Dr. Judy Armstrong
Mr. Kevin Berken
Mr. Preston Castille
Ms. Simone Champagne
Ms. Sandy Holloway

Absent

Dr. Sharon Clark
Mr. Paul Hollis

Mr. Ronnie Morris, President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, welcomed those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2024

On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Boards approved the minutes of the joint meeting held December 11, 2024.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING COURSE ADDITIONS TO THE TOPS UNIVERSITY CORE REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, requested the approval of additions to the Foreign Language Category and Social Science Category, as outlined.

On motion of Ms. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Berken, the Boards approved the course additions to the TOPS University Core Requirements.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING ACT 347 OF THE 2025 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION (TOPS EXCELLENCE)

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, shared information regarding the new TOPS Excellence category to the Boards.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Melerine, the Boards received the update report regarding Act 347 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING THE TRI-AGENCY TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE

Dr. Paula Calderon, College of Education Dean, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Dr. Arthur Joffrion, Deputy Assistant Superintendent, shared information regarding the following in the report to the Boards:

- the current Resident model through a four-year Teacher Preparation Program;
- the proposed Apprenticeship model; and
- the desired outcomes for an Apprentice compared to a Resident.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Mr. Harris, the Boards received the update report regarding the Tri-Agency Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE REPORT REGARDING THE TASK FORCE ON CAREER ALIGNMENT

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, shared the following goals of the Task Force in the report to the Boards:

- expand work-based learning opportunities and improve career coaching;
- develop accountability measures; and
- convene to develop detailed recommendations.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. Holloway, the Boards received the update report regarding the Task Force on Career Alignment.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION ACADEMY HELIX MENTORSHIP STEAM ACADEMY IN CITY OF BAKER SCHOOLS

Dr. Brumley recommended the Extension Academy for approval.

On motion of Dr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Appel, the Boards approved Extension Academy Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy in City of Baker Schools.

Board members in attendance expressed no objections to the motion.

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Boards, the joint meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

TASK FORCE ON CAREER ALIGNMENT

About the Task Force

Senate Concurrent Resolution 38 of the 2025 Regular Session created the Task Force on Career Alignment. This task force is working to strengthen Louisiana's education-to-career pipeline and retain graduates in-state.

To inform the work of this Task Force, all higher education office of career services were surveyed, providing the following information:

Current Statistics

- ▶ **80% of higher education institutions** reported having career centers
- ▶ **83% of higher education institutions** reported having a program that includes work-based learning
- ▶ **50% of higher education institutions** reported requiring career services engagement

2026 Meeting Schedule

- ▶ February 11, 2026
1-3 PM
- ▶ June 16, 2026
1-3 PM
- ▶ September 10, 2026
1-3 PM
- ▶ December 3, 2026
1-3 PM

By January 21, 2027, the Task Force will submit its final report to the Governor and the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Education.

Interim Report Task Force Recommendations

- ▶ Create a Louisiana Faculty Work-Based Learning (WBL) Playbook
- ▶ Establish a Louisiana Career Counseling Transformation Network
- ▶ Adopt a Louisiana Work-Study-to-WBL Program
- ▶ Develop a Louisiana Opportunity Index (Scorecard)
- ▶ Strengthen Workforce Reporting Requirement to Track and Evaluate the Impact of Initiatives
- ▶ Increase Employer Engagement by Centralizing Processes, Leveraging Technology and Partnerships, and Systematically Collecting Employer Feedback



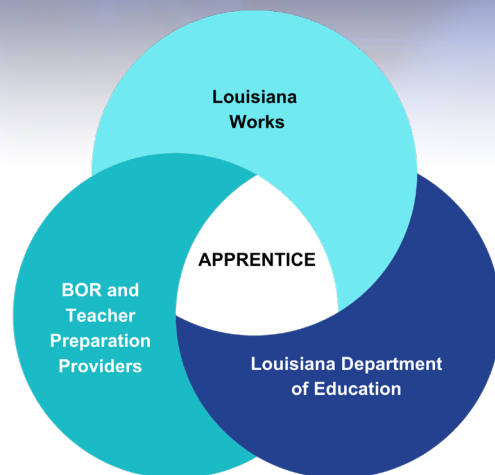
Tri-Agency Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative

What is the Tri-Agency Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative?

The Initiative is a collaboration between the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Louisiana Department of Education, and Louisiana Works. Together, these agencies are developing a statewide strategy to guide registered teacher apprenticeship programs. These programs combine coursework with hands-on classroom training and are designed to create a sustainable pipeline of well-prepared teachers.

What problem are they trying to solve?

The Initiative addresses Louisiana's teacher shortage and the challenge of retaining qualified educators. Current pathways into teaching can be costly, offer limited financial support during training, and create barriers for aspiring teachers. By introducing apprenticeships, the agencies aim to reduce those barriers, improve teacher preparation, and ensure schools can recruit from a pool of effective educators.



What are the desired outcomes?

► For teacher apprentices:

- Lower cost to obtain certification
- Access to pay and benefits during training
- Retirement credit for time spent as an apprentice
- Stronger system/school ties through onboarding and potential guaranteed employment

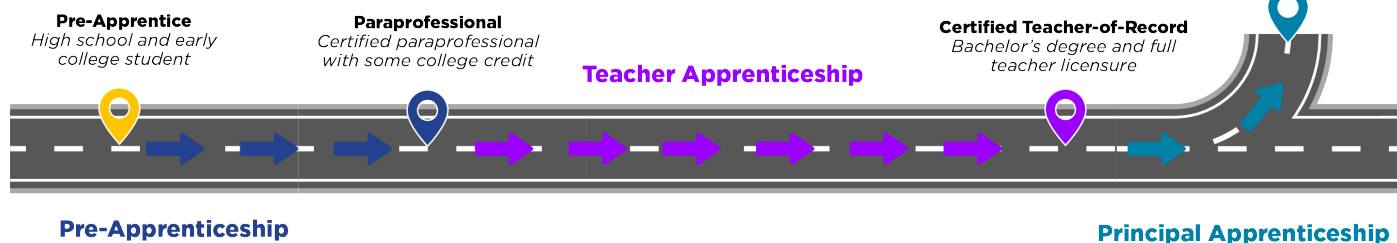
► For the state and schools:

- Expanded, high-quality pathways into teaching
- Increased teacher recruitment and retention
- Stronger alignment of teacher training with workforce needs
- Improved student outcomes through a well-prepared teacher workforce

Merging Educator Apprenticeship Pathways

Certified Principal-of-Record
Master's degree and
school leader credential

Certified Teacher-of-Record
Bachelor's degree and full
teacher licensure



Agenda Item IX

Report regarding Course Additions to the TOPS University Core Requirements

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To align the TOPS University Diploma with the eligibility requirements for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) scholarship, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) requests to expand course offerings within the Mathematics and Natural Science categories of the TOPS Core Curriculum.

Many computer science concepts like sequencing, patterns, and logic align with math and science reasoning. Strategies such as decomposition and algorithms support problem-solving across these fields. Incorporating computer science into these areas helps students see connections and view technology as a tool for solving real-world problems.

Requested Additions to the TOPS Core Curriculum in Mathematics and Science:

- **Computer Sciences proposed to count as a mathematics credit for the TOPS Core Curriculum, effective with the high school graduates of 2031 and beyond.**
Statistical Reasoning
Introduction to Computational Thinking
Data Science
Quantitative Reasoning
- **Computer Sciences proposed to count as a natural science credit for the TOPS Core Curriculum, effective with the high school graduates of 2031 and beyond.**
AP Computer Science Principles
Computer Science I
Computer Science II
Data Manipulation and Analysis
Modeling and Simulation

In accordance with standard BOR and LDOE procedures, BOR staff shared these proposed additions with chief academic officers (CAOs) from all public postsecondary institutions. The faculty members at each institution reviewed the proposals and favorably approved them on behalf of their institution.

Recommendation for Approval:

BOR and LDOE staff request that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and Board of Regents (BOR) approve the above-listed courses for inclusion in the TOPS and BOR Core. Specifically, for students graduating in 2031 and thereafter, the following courses shall be eligible for fulfilling TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors, and Excellence Award requirements:

- **Mathematics Options:**
Statistical Reasoning, Introduction to Computational Thinking, Data Science, and Quantitative Reasoning
- **Natural Science Options:**
AP Computer Science Principles, Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Data Manipulation and Analysis, and Modeling and Simulation