

Grant Overview:

The New Skills for Youth (NSFY) Phase II grant will expand the scope and effectiveness of Louisiana’s Jump Start program while creating best-practice, implementation resources that are available to all Career Readiness Initiative (CRI) states. NSFY and CRI are both initiatives funded by JPMorgan Chase.

Louisiana’s Jump Start Program

In February 2014 the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and K-16 education, industry, government, and non-profit stakeholders launched Jump Start. Jump Start transformed CTE policies in Louisiana, so that CTE and graduation pathways in Louisiana’s schools were aligned with promising careers in the state’s most important industry sectors. These policies were created in response to a needs assessment that indicated a dramatic mismatch between K-12 CTE (resource allocation, available pathways and student outcomes) and the state’s key industry sector growth rates and employment opportunities.

Phase II Transformational Goals

Louisiana will leverage NSFY Phase II initiatives to achieve transformational Jump Start goals that include:

- Creating pathways that appeal to university-bound students. Full parental acceptance of Jump Start will depend on developing pathways aligned with emerging technologies as well as future educational and employment opportunities.
- Implementing Jump Start goal tracking systems that illustrate the progress every region is making in aligning K-12 CTE with the career opportunities Louisiana students will find as adults in the communities where they live.
- Evolving pathways to promote equal student participation regardless of gender, location or disability.
- Evolving Louisiana’s accountability system to provide students with multiple, nontraditional pathways to industry-based credentials (IBC).

Phase II Objectives

NSFY Objective 1: Employer Engagement	
Formation of Education Subcommittees	Develop Workforce Development Board (WDB) Education Subcommittees to align Jump Start regional goals (i.e., IBCs earned by teachers and students, Jump Start pathways supported) with employment / career opportunities.
Mentor Network Development Grants	Develop mentor networks in high schools across the state to support one-on-one engagement between students and mentors in every industry sector they are interested in exploring.
Expanding Workplace Experience Opportunities	Develop joint training/employment opportunities where students work first with a course provider and then complete paid work assignments on the jobsite in their chosen industry sector.
Virtual Externships	Develop week-long teacher training initiatives in the summer that place teachers in multiple in-person and virtual industry externships.

NSFY Objective 2: Quality and Rigor in Career Pathways for ALL Students	
Rural District Implementation Initiatives	Initiatives to help remote school districts address their unique challenges supporting high-value pathways.
Expansion of Post-Secondary Financial Aid	Increase the percentage of students who successfully apply for financial aid and matriculate to Louisiana Career and Technical College System (LCTCS) and Board of Regent (BoR) campuses.
Remote Teacher and Counselor Training-on-Demand Resources	Secure or develop resources that provide teachers with on-demand training to attain high-demand IBCs and counselors with resources to support student pathway completion.
NSFY Objective 3: Career-Focused Accountability System	
Evolving the State's K-12 Accountability System	Develop dynamic reporting systems to enhance stakeholder engagement
NSFY Objective 4: Scaled Pathways that Culminate in Credentials of Value	
Develop Jump Start Pathways Relevant to University-Bound Students	Develop Jump Start pathways (e.g. Pre-Engineering, Coding, Entrepreneurship) aligned with key state industry sectors and that qualify students for credit at four-year universities.
Family Communications / Outreach Campaign	Integrate Jump Start Video Network and the Jump Start Automated Text Response System into district communication networks to help parents learn more about Jump Start pathways.
NSFY Objective 5: Aligning Funding Streams	
Increased Opportunities for Students with Disabilities	Collaborate with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) and school systems to fund additional Jump Start courses and pathway for students with disabilities.
NSFY Objective 6: Ensuring Cross-Institutional Alignment	
Statewide K-16 Jump Start Implementation Conferences	Sponsor conferences that help create statewide "best practices" on K-16 alignment of LCTCS courses and tuition, Jump Start pathways, IBC costs, etc.
CTE Supervisor Academy	Develop blended academy (online and in-person) to train the next generation of Louisiana CTE supervisors.