TOPS University Diploma – AP® Physics I and II

At its meeting of June 21, 2017, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved changes to the TOPS University Diploma as it pertains to AP® Physics I and AP® Physics II such that a student can meet high school graduation requirements by taking either course and that each course will be given a full Carnegie Unit of credit.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that this change does not apply to TOPS eligibility requirements. Students who chose to use AP Physics I and AP Physics II to fulfill their TOPS Core science requirements for a TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors award must take and earn credit for both AP Physics I and AP Physics II. Students completing and earning credit for both courses will receive 2 units of the required 4 units of science required for TOPS. If a student only takes one of these courses, he/she will not receive any credit towards the two units of science electives required for TOPS.

Below are options for satisfying science requirements for both the TOPS University diploma and the TOPS Core Curriculum for students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year, if AP Physics I is successfully completed as a standalone course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Action</th>
<th>Meets Graduation Requirements?</th>
<th>Meets TOPS Core Curriculum Requirements for Science?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPTION 1:</strong> In addition to satisfying the Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student also earns credit in both AP Physics I and AP Physics II</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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| **OPTION 2:** In addition to satisfying Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student earns credit by way of proficiency exam for Physics I or Physics I (Honors) and successfully completes one of the following:  
  - One of: Chemistry II, AP Chemistry II, IB Chemistry I, IB Chemistry II  
  - One of: AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems  
  - One of: AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, IB Physics II  
  - One of: Biology II, AP Biology, IB Biology I, IB Biology II, Human Anatomy and Physiology | Yes                           | Yes*                                                |
| **OPTION 3:** In addition to satisfying Biology I and Chemistry I requirement, student earns credit in two of the following:  
  - One of: Chemistry II, AP Chemistry II, IB Chemistry I, IB Chemistry II  
  - One of: AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems  
  - One of: Physics I, IB Physics I  
  - One of: AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, IB Physics II  
  - One of: Biology II, AP Biology, IB Biology I, IB Biology II, Human Anatomy and Physiology | Yes                           | Yes                                                 |

*NOTE: For calculation of the TOPS GPA, AP, IB, gifted, talented, and honors courses are graded on a 5.0 scale. “P” (proficiency exam) is not a grade and therefore will not receive any points. The TOPS GPA is calculated based on 19 qualifying credits, except in cases where a student has “P” grades. With a “P” test grade, the GPA will be determined based on grades for 18 courses instead of 19.

What is being done to address TOPS eligibility? The Department will pursue legislation in Spring 2018 to retroactively approve AP Physics I and AP Physics II as standalone courses for the purpose of satisfying the TOPS Core Curriculum science requirement for students entering ninth grade in 2014-2015 and beyond. The Department will inform school systems if/when this legislation is approved.

For questions, please contact HighSchoolAcademics@la.gov.