Everyday in Louisiana, educators are committed to making sure that all students and schools have the opportunity to grow and thrive. By 2025, Louisiana’s K-12 education system will:

- ensure students are ready for the next level of study,
- give all students access to the same opportunities as their peers across the country,
- require comprehensive support for struggling schools and groups of students, and
- provide families and communities with an accurate picture of school, center, and system performance and quality.
Increasing Opportunities for Louisiana’s Graduates

In recognition of these long-terms goals, Louisiana launched a series of policies and programs in 2012 designed to increase college and career opportunities for high school graduates.

- **2012**: Accountability system updated to include ACT, Advanced Placement, and dual enrollment.
- **2013**: Implementation of ACT for all juniors and expanded Advanced Placement and dual enrollment.
- **2014**: State launches Jump Start career education initiative, phasing out “basic diploma,” recognizing only WIC approved credentials.
- **2015**: BESE requires graduates to choose to apply or not apply for college financial aid, starting in 2018.
- **2018**: Students required to receive financial aid planning and complete either TOPS core curriculum and/or Jump Start industry credential. “Basic” diploma no longer an option.
- **2025**: Schools earning a rating of an “A” will have a cohort graduation rate of 90 percent.
Class of 2018:
Cohort Graduation Rate Reaches All-Time high

LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Cohort Graduation Rate

Year     | Graduation Rate | Number of Graduates
---------|----------------|---------------------
2012     | 72.3%          | (35,332)            
2013     | 73.5%          | (36,216)            
2014     | 74.6%          | (37,798)            
2015     | 77.5%          | (37,176)            
2016     | 77%            | (38,859)            
2017     | 78.2%          | (39,395)            
2018     | 81.4%          | (40,124)            
2025     | 90%            |                    

The number of graduates in the class of 2018 is nearly 5,000 greater than in the class of 2012.
Cohort Graduation Rate Growth: Outpacing the Nation

LOUISIANA AND NATIONAL COHORT GRADUATION RATES, 2012-2018

- U.S. average: +4.6 percentage points
- Louisiana average: +9.1 percentage points
Cohort Graduation Rate: Growth Amongst Historically Disadvantaged Students

COHORT GRADUATION RATES BY SUBGROUP, 2013-2018

- All Students
- African American
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Students with Disabilities
- English Learner

Year | All Students | African American | Economically Disadvantaged | Students with Disabilities | English Learner
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
2012 | 72.3% | 66.2% | 50.4% | 33% |
2013 | 73.5% | 67.7% | 48.4% | 36.7% |
2014 | 74.6% | 65.9% | 49.8% | 42.8% |
2015 | 77.5% | 67.9% | 50.3% | 44.3% |
2016 | 77% | 70.8% | 45.2% | 43.2% |
2017 | 78.2% | 71.5% | 52.6% | 35.9% |
2018 | 81.4% | 75.5% | 59.3% | 36.3% |
Cohort Graduation Rate: African-American Rate Ahead of National Average

LOUISIANA AND NATIONAL COHORT GRADUATION RATES, AFRICAN AMERICAN

Louisiana’s African-American graduation rate is higher than the national average.
### Increasing Education Levels through Credentials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEWIDE CREDENTIAL OBTAINED</th>
<th>WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SCHOOLS?</th>
<th>WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR STUDENTS?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Basic**                    | Schools earn 110 points out of 150 points. | Indicates a student completed college-level coursework or attained proficiency with an industry-valued skill set recognized by the Workforce Investment Council (WIC).  
**Ex:** Student completes a college-level course aligned to TOPS or earns a NCCER Welding Level 1 certificate. |
| **Advanced**                 | Schools earns 150 points or an A+. | Indicates a student earned a post-secondary certificate or college credit validated by an exam or has attained advanced proficiency with an industry-valued skill set recognized by WIC.  
**Ex:** Student passes rigorous national examination to receive college credit or earns a NCCER Welding Level 2 certificate. |

**Students who earn a Basic or Advanced high demand industry-based credential earn from $3,000 to $8,000 more in starting salary versus students in lower-demand industry sectors.**
Class of 2018: Cohort Credential Attainment Reaches All-Time High

*Beginning in 2015, dual enrollment credits earned must be aligned to TOPS requirements in order to receive credential-level credit. Beginning in 2018, some historical IBCs that are not aligned with a high wage, high growth Jump Start pathway will no longer meet the standard to earn points in the Strength of Diploma index.
Cohort Credential Attainment: Growth Amongst Historically Disadvantaged Students

*Beginning in 2015, dual enrollment credits earned must be aligned to TOPS requirements in order to receive credential-level credit. Beginning in 2018, some historical IBCs that are not aligned with a high wage, high growth Jump Start pathway will no longer meet the standard to earn points in the Strength of Diploma index.*
Class of 2018: TOPS Eligible Graduates

The number of students in the class of 2018 eligible for TOPS is nearly 5,000 greater than in the class of 2012.
TOPS Eligible Graduates by Ethnicity

NUMBER OF TOPS ELIGIBLE GRADUATES BY ETHNICITY

- All Students
- White
- Black

2012: 16,289
2013: 17,438
2014: 18,034
2015: 17,985
2016: 18,373
2017: 19,220
2018: 21,280

- +4,991 (31%)
- +2,797 (27%)
- +1,569 (32%)