
Process for Developing a New Jump Start Graduation Pathway

(August 6, 2015)

Regional teams develop Jump Start graduation pathways.

The Jump Start leadership team is available to assist regional teams that want to develop a new graduation pathway.

The Jump Start Graduation Pathways Review Panel reviews all recommended new graduation pathways. A concise description of the Graduation Pathways Review Panel is available on the *All Things Jump Start* web portal (<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/all-things-jump-start/>)

Step 1: Identify an industry credential with “employability value”

The critical element that merits the creation of a new graduation pathway is an industry credential with significant “employability value” (i.e., a credential that helps students secure entry-level employment in a specific industry sector).

This credential can be a new Workforce Investment Council (WIC)-designated statewide industry credential, or it can be an industry credential that a particular regional team wants to support.

Regional teams can create graduation pathways with culminating credentials appropriate for Act 833-eligible students.¹

Step 2: Determine if a new graduation pathway is required

Not all industry credentials need to have a completely new graduation pathway developed on their behalf. Two examples:

- WIC designated the Basic Access Scaffolding credential as a statewide credential. The Capital Region team contacted the Jump Start team to initiate the development of a new Scaffolding credential. Upon review, the Capital Region team realized that the Manufacturing, Construction Crafts and Logistics integrated graduation pathway had all the appropriate courses relevant to the scaffolding credential. Instead of developing a new pathway the Capital Region team recommended to the Graduation Pathways Review Panel that the Basic Access Scaffolding credential should be added to this integrated pathway. The Panel approved – so no new graduation pathway was necessary;
- The Diamond Council of America sought statewide recognition for its DCA Jewelry Sales Certification. The WIC did not approve this as a statewide credential. After working with the Jump Start team, the Panel determined that this credential could be a Complementary credential in the Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary and Retail integrated pathway – and the Panel approved. Again, no new graduation pathway was necessary.

Regional teams should consult with the Jump Start team to determine if an industry credential with strong employability value requires the development of a new graduation pathway, or if the credential can be included in an existing graduation pathway (which is a far more efficient process that does not require BESE approval).

¹ - Jump Start Pathways require a student to attain industry-recognized credentials. If the IEP team determines an Act 833-eligible student is not progressing successfully towards completion of an approved Jump Start pathway, the IEP team can select an approved customized Jump Start graduation pathway available only to Act 833-eligible students. IEP teams can contact JumpStart@la.gov for assistance in identifying appropriate industry credentials.

Step 3: Use an existing graduation pathway to create the new graduation pathway

If the regional team and the Jump Start team jointly arrive at the conclusion that a new graduation pathway is required, the next step is to find the closest graduation pathway and use that as the foundation for the new graduation pathway.

2015-2016 graduation pathways have been substantially updated with a completely new format. *Regional teams should always use a current Word version of a graduation pathway as the foundation for developing a new pathway.*

Regional teams should consult with the Jump Start team to determine which is the closest graduation pathway to use as the foundation for the new pathway, and which courses and credentials are appropriate for the new pathway.

Step 4: Submit the new pathway to the Jump Start Graduation Pathways Review Panel

The regional team should send its proposed new pathway to JumpStart@la.gov. The Panel facilitator will include the new pathway in the Panel's next agenda.

The Panel will provide one of three determinations for each graduation pathway it reviews:

- Accepted and forwarded to the LDE Superintendent for presentation to BESE for formal approval;
- Deferred with suggested steps the regional team can take to revise and resubmit the pathway;
- Declined, in which case the Panel has indicated that it will not support the pathway.

The Jump Start team will submit all Accepted pathways to the Superintendent and BESE.

The Jump Start team is available to work with regional teams to revise and resubmit Deferred pathways.

The text box below is an excerpt from the document that describes the Jump Start Graduation Pathways Review Panel, indicating how often the Panel meets and how regional teams can attend a Panel meeting where they are reviewing a graduation pathway the regional team has proposed.

How Often Does the Graduation Pathways Review Panel Meet?

The Panel meets "upon demand." With 47 graduation pathways already approved, the Panel believes it will meet less often during 2015-2016 than it did during the 2014-2015 school year.

Graduation pathways will be updated three times each year:

- 1) in August to start the new school year;*
- 2) in January to reflect any "lessons learned" during the Fall semester; and*
- 3) in April to accommodate changes that address potential graduation issues with seniors.*

The Panel suspects it will schedule its 2015-2016 meetings to correspond with the BESE meetings timed to allow approval of new pathways prior to each of these updates (i.e., BESE's August, December and March meetings).

The Panel may also convene informal virtual meetings if there is a limited agenda that it can address and resolve in-between more extensive meetings.

Can Anyone Attend a Graduation Pathways Review Panel Meeting?

Yes. Meetings are both virtual and in-person. Anyone can learn about scheduled Panel meetings by contacting JumpStart@la.gov

Next Steps

For assistance in creating a new Jump Start graduation pathway, please contact JumpStart@la.gov