ENROLLED

2024 Regular Session

ACT No. 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 264

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUGHES, BAYHAM, BOYD, BUTLER, CARLSON, ROBBY CARTER, CARVER, DEWITT, FISHER, GREEN, LAFLEUR, JACOB LANDRY, LARVADAIN, MENA, SELDERS, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, WALTERS, AND WYBLE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f), 5025(2)(b), (3)(c),(5), and (8), and 5026(A)(2)(c), (3)(b), and (5) and to enact R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9), 280.3, 3996(B)(82), 5025(9), 5025.7, and 5026(F), relative to curricula; to revise the courses required in the high school career major program; to add Computer Science as a required high school course; to require teacher education programs include computer science education; to provide for alignment with the core curriculum required for qualification for TOPS awards; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide for applicability; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. This Act may be known and shall be cited as the "Computer Science Education Advancement Act".

Section 2. R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f), 5025(2)(b), (3)(c),(5), and (8), and 5026(A)(2)(c), (3)(b), and (5) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3996(B)(82), 5025(9), 5025.7, and 5026(F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

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B.

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(2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the following:

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(b) At least four mathematics credits, including Algebra I, Algebra I Part One and Algebra I Part Two, or an applied or hybrid Algebra course; Geometry or an applied Geometry course; Financial Literacy as provided for in R.S. 17:270; and one additional mathematics course from among the following: Math Essentials, Business Math, Algebra II, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Computer Science, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and shall equal three mathematics credits.

(c) At least two science credits, including one credit of Biology and one additional course from among the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one credit combined), Physics, Computer Science, or AP or IB Science courses.

* * *

(f) At least nine credits in Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major. One of these credits shall be Computer Science, unless Computer Science is taken to fulfill one credit as provided in Subparagraph (b) or (c) of this Paragraph.

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(82) Computer Science; required instruction, R.S. 17:280.3.

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§5025. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance, Honors Awards

To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of twenty units of high school course work as follows:

* * *

(2) Mathematics - Four Units

* * *

(b) One unit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; ~~IB Mathematics HL.~~ IB Mathematics HL; Computer Science.

(3) Science - Four Units

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(c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined);

Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science, or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or ~~IB Biology II.~~ IB Biology II; Computer Science.

* * *

(5) Foreign Language or Computer Science - two units

(a) Foreign Language - the two units shall be in the same language, which may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.

(b) Computer Science - ~~the~~ two units. ~~shall be in principles, coding, and programming, which may include the following: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Level 1), Advanced JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development (Level 2), AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Computer Science Year One IB, and Computer Science Year Two IB.~~

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(8) Computer Science - one unit. This requirement shall be satisfied as provided in Paragraph (2), (3), or (5) of this Section.

(9) For the purposes of this Section, any core curriculum course that is taken by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's Individualized Education Program shall be considered a gifted course and shall fulfill the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

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§5025.7. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards; students graduating in the 2027-2028 school year

To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of twenty units of high school course work as follows:

(1) English - Four Units

(a) English I.

(b) English II.

(c) One unit chosen from the following: English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or English III IB (Language A or Literature and Performance).

(d) One unit chosen from the following: English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or English IV IB (Language A or Literature and Performance).

(2) Mathematics - Four Units

(a) Algebra I (one unit), Geometry (one unit), and Algebra II (one unit). Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.

(b) One unit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.

(3) Science - Four Units

(a) Biology I.

(b) Chemistry I.

(c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science, or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP

Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II.

(4) Social Studies - Four Units

(a) One unit chosen from the following: U.S. History, AP US History, or IB US History.

(b) One unit chosen from the following: Civics, Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, AP US Government and Politics: United States.

(c) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics; African American History.

(5) Foreign Language or Computer Science - Two Units

(a) Foreign Language - the two units shall be in the same language, which may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.

(b) Computer Science - the two units shall be in principles, coding, and programming, which may include the following: Computer Science I; Computer Science II; Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Level 1); Advanced JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development (Level 2); AP Computer Science A; AP Computer Science Principles; Computer Science Year One IB; and Computer Science Year Two IB.

(6) Art - one unit chosen from the following: Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film

Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; Theatre I IB; or Drafting.

(7) Financial Literacy - one unit.

(8) For the purposes of this Section, any core curriculum course that is taken by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's Individualized Education Program shall be considered a gifted course and shall fulfill the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

§5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

A. To be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall have successfully completed the core curriculum requirements of R.S. 17:5025 or the core curriculum defined as follows:

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(2) Math - Four Units

* * *

(c) One or more units from the following: Algebra II, Math Essentials, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Computer Science, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits.

(3) Science - Two Units

* * *

(b) One unit from the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, Physics, Computer Science, or AP or IB science courses.

* * *

(5) At least nine credits in Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series

of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major. One of these credits shall be Computer Science, unless Computer Science is taken to fulfill one credit as provided in Paragraph (2) or (3) of this Subsection.

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F. For a student graduating during the 2027-2028 school year to be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall have successfully completed the core curriculum requirements of R.S. 17:5025 or the core curriculum defined as follows:

(1) English - Four Units

(a) English I.

(b) English II.

(c) Two or more units from the following: English III, English IV, AP or IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(2) Math - Four Units

(a) Algebra I, Algebra I Part One and Algebra I Part Two, or an applied or hybrid algebra course (one unit), and Geometry or an applied Geometry course (one unit).

(b) Financial Literacy (one unit).

(c) One or more units from the following: Algebra II, Math Essentials, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be

substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three mathematics credits.

(3) Science - Two Units

(a) Biology.

(b) One unit from the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science, Physics, or AP or IB science courses.

(4) Social Studies - Two Units

(a) One unit from the following: U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History.

(b) One unit from the following: Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States.

(5) At least nine credits in Jump Start course sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are appropriate for the career major.

Section 3. R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§7.2. Approved teacher education programs

A. In carrying out its responsibility to prescribe the qualifications and provide for the certification of teachers under authority of R.S. 17:7(6), the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, subject to the constitutional power and authority of the Board of Regents, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, shall establish qualifications and requirements for the approval of teacher education programs from which

graduates may be certified. The qualifications and requirements established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for an approved teacher education program shall include but not be limited to the following:

* * *

(9) That the program include instruction on teaching students computer science, which may be incorporated into an existing course of study.

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Section 4. R.S. 17:280.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§280.3. Computer science; required instruction

A.(1) Each public high school shall provide computer science instruction to its students. Each public high school student shall successfully complete a one credit Computer Science course as a requirement for high school graduation.

(2) Each public school with students in grades six through eight shall provide instruction in exploratory computer science to its students.

(3) Each public elementary school shall provide instruction in the basics of computer science and computational thinking.

B. The state Department of Education shall approve the computer science courses required by this Section.

C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Section.

Section 5. By June 30, 2024, the state Department of Education shall publish on its website and enact a plan to ensure sufficient computer science teacher capacity to carry out the provisions of this Act. The plan shall:

(1) Be initially based on the recommendations of the Louisiana Computer Science Education Advisory Commission.

(2) Provide options, including but not limited to online options, for alternative endorsement pathways for certificated teachers and teacher preparation program students to demonstrate competency that may result in a certification to teach computer science.

(3) Outline scholarship or state-funded training opportunities for teachers to gain certification or endorsement in computer science.

(4) Be updated by the state department as necessary.

Section 6.(A) The provisions of R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f) as amended by Section 2 of this Act shall apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter.

(B) R.S. 17:3996(B)(82) as enacted by Section 2 of this Act shall be implemented beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

(C) R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9) as enacted by Section 3 of this Act shall be implemented beginning on June 30, 2026.

(D) The provisions of R.S. 17:280.3(A) as enacted by Section 4 of this Act shall be implemented as follows:

(1) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(1) and (2) shall be initially implemented prior to the 2026-2027 school year and shall apply to students who enter the ninth grade during the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter.

(2) R.S. 17:280.3(A)(3) shall be initially implemented prior to the 2027-2028 school year.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____