LASFAA
Louisiana’s First Choice for College Access

LASFAA Fall Conference
October 25, 2013
Presented By:
Sujuan W. Boutté, Ed. D.
Executive Director
LOSFA’s Mission

To Promote & Provide College Access

• Promote College Access
  – Louisiana Connect
  – CACG (Grant ending Fed FY 2013)
  – GEAR-UP
  – START Savings Plan
  – Counselor Training
  – Peer Training (Trailblazer Camps)
  – Public Information: Call Center & Public Presentations

• Provide College Access
  – TOPS
  – TOPS Tech Early Start
  – Go Grant
  – Rockefeller
  – Chafee
    • Education & Training Vouchers
    • Dual Enrollment*
  – John R. Justice
  – HELP (Healthcare Educators Loan Forgiveness) – not being funded FY15
  – START Savings Plan
  – TANF STEP*
    • Adult Education (GED)*
    • Vocational Education*
  – Federal Student Loan Information

* New Programs beginning during FY 2013-14.
TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

• Existing Programs
• New Programs
• New Rules for 2013
• Impact of New Minimum Admission Requirements
Existing Programs
Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) Program Profile

WHAT IS START?
⇒ The Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust Program (START), is Louisiana’s college savings plan, a “Qualified Tuition Plan” under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. An innovative college savings plan designed to help families contend with the growing costs of educating their children after high school.

OBJECTIVES
⇒ To help make education affordable and accessible to all citizens of Louisiana
⇒ To encourage savings
⇒ To enhance the ability of citizens to obtain access to institutions of postsecondary education.

HOW CAN I USE START?
On Qualified Higher Education Expense (QHEE) such as:
⇒ Tuition, fees, books supplies and equipment required for enrollment or attendance,
⇒ Room and Board, and
⇒ Expenses for Special Needs Services in the case of a Special Needs Beneficiary.

BENEFITS OF START
⇒ Account owners choose investment options based on level of risk.
⇒ Earnings are tax-exempt when used to pay for QHEE.
⇒ State matches a percentage of annual deposits (Earning Enhancements) based on account owner’s federal adjusted gross income. Earning Enhancements range from 14% to 2%.
⇒ Amount of annual deposits (up to $4,800) may be deducted from income for state income tax purposes.
⇒ No fees charged by State.
⇒ Deposits can be made by Automatic Bank Debit, Payroll Deduction, or Direct Payment.

CURRENT IMPACT
⇒ 46,600 START Savings Account currently
⇒ $464,000,000 in Deposits as of June 2013.
⇒ $24,100,000 of Disbursements made from START account to pay for QHEE as of June 2013.

LOSFA’s Vision is to be Louisiana’s First Choice for College Access
MISSION

⇒ To increase the number of low-income students who graduate from high school and enter and succeed in postsecondary education

OBJECTIVES

⇒ To increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students
⇒ To increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students
⇒ To increase GEAR UP student's and their families knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation and financing.

BACKGROUND

⇒ In 2002, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Louisiana a six-year, $12.5 million GEAR UP grant, which became a seven-year, $15 million award.
⇒ In 2008, LA.GEAR UP began a second six-year grant for $16 million, cohort of sixth and seventh graders.

HISTORICAL IMPACT

⇒ Over 20,000 Louisiana Students Supported to Date
⇒ Over 17 Louisiana Parishes Supported
⇒ Over 60 Louisiana Schools Supported

CURRENT IMPACT

⇒ 7,047 Louisiana Students (11th and 12th Graders) Supported
⇒ 12 Louisiana Parishes Supported
⇒ 30 Louisiana High Schools Supported

SUPPORT SNAPSHOT (CURRENT)

⇒ Rewards For Success Scholarships
⇒ technology
⇒ Financial Aid Literacy
⇒ Mentoring and Tutoring
⇒ Summer Transition Programs
⇒ Professional Development
⇒ Positive Behavior Support
⇒ Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate
⇒ Louisiana College Application Week
⇒ ACT Online Prep
⇒ Library and Information Centers

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access
**DATA SNAPSHOT**

**ON AVERAGE, 49% OF LGU STUDENTS WHO MATRICULATE TO A LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY ARE AWARDED TOPS1.**

![Pie chart](#) showing breakdown of awards with 49% highlighted.

**ON AVERAGE, 87% OF LGU STUDENTS WHO MATRICULATE TO A LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY RECEIVE A LOSFA AWARD1.**

![Bar chart](#) showing years 2006, 2007, 2008 with 87% highlighted.

**68% OF LGU STUDENTS WHO MATRICULATE TO LOUISIANA POSTSECONDARY ATTEND A 4-YR INSTITUTION1.**

![Pie chart](#) showing breakdown with 68% highlighted.

**ON AVERAGE, LGU SUPPORTED DISTRICT PERFORMANCE SCORES INCREASED 20% FROM 2008 TO 20122.**

![Map](#) showing state map with increasing scores.

---

1 Data Source: Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance Award System
2 Data Source: Louisiana Department of Education’s 2012 District Performance Scores/Grades Report
BACKGROUND

The Louisiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (Louisiana GEAR UP) Rewards for Success (RFS) scholarship program recognizes students for demonstrating positive behavior by awarding winners $250, $500, or $1000 scholarships. Funds are deposited into savings accounts on behalf of students through the START Saving Program, Louisiana’s 529 college savings plan. The funds accrue state funded earnings enhancements and interest at a rate of 2% to 14% depending on family income. Upon enrollment in post-secondary education, funds become accessible to pay for Qualified Higher Education Expenses such as tuition, fees, books, and housing.

From 2002-2012, RFS criteria included:

- eligibility for free or reduced lunch
- grade point average
- standardized test scores
- school and community involvement
- school citizenship (behavior)
- attendance
- parental interest and support

Beginning in 2013, students also earn points towards RFS eligibility by engaging in college and career research and planning activities through Louisiana’s college and career readiness web portal, Louisiana Connect. (www.louisianaconnect.org)

To date, over $2.1 million dollars have been disbursed to Louisiana GEAR UP students via the Rewards for Success scholarship program.

SOURCE: START SAVING PROGRAM DATABASE

*1252 unique individuals were supported with RFS funds. The sum of the number of students supported by institution type, 1290, accounts for some students attending more than one type of institution.
TOPS Recipients - AY 2012-13

- LSU System: 624, 1.3%
- SU System: 4,014, 8.5%
- UL System: 15,162, 32.3%
- LCTC System: 2,991, 6.4%
- Independents: 24,210, 51.5%

TOPS Awards - AY 2012-13

- LSU System: $94,189,47, 49.4%
- SU System: $2,172,495, 1.1%
- UL System: $5,500,209, 2.9%
- LCTC System: $14,216,98, 7.5%
- Independents: $74,568,55, 39.1%

Independents' include Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) schools and Proprietary schools.
GO Grant Recipients - AY 2012-13

- LSU System: 18,608, 48%
- UL System: 5,037, 13%
- SU System: 2,239, 6%
- Independents': 3,223, 9%
- 9,362, 24%

GO Grant Awards - AY 2012-13

- LSU System: $3,604,094, 14%
- UL System: $13,888,541, 53%
- SU System: $4,624,175, 18%
- Independents': $1,706,330, 6%
- LCTC System: $2,340,677, 9%
- 18,608, 48%

Independents’ include Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) schools and Proprietary schools.
LOSFA and the Louisiana State University System Profile

**LOSFA PROGRAMS**

- TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students)
  - Opportunity
  - Performance
  - Honors
- GO Grant
- Rockefeller
- Chafee Education and Training Vouchers

---

**TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED TO LSU SYSTEM STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13**

$78,164,163

**TOTAL LOSFA AWARDS TO LSU SYSTEM STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13**

20,182

LOSFA’s Vision is to be Louisiana’s First Choice for College Access
TOPS & GO GRANT for LSU System

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access
LOSFA and the Southern University System Profile

LOSFA PROGRAMS

⇒ TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students)
   Opportunity
   Performance
   Honors

⇒ GO Grant

⇒ Rockefeller

⇒ Chafee Education and Training Vouchers

LOSFA’s Vision is to be Louisiana’s First Choice for College Access
GO GRANT RECIPIENTS & AWARDS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13

1,561

355

323

Southern-BR
Southern-NO
Southern-S

$1,238,295

$256,910

$211,125

Southern-BR
Southern-NO
Southern-S
LOSFA and the University of Louisiana System Profile

LOSFA PROGRAMES

⇒ TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students)
  Opportunity
  Performance
  Honors

⇒ GO Grant

⇒ Rockefeller

⇒ Chafee Education and Training Vouchers

TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED TO UL SYSTEM STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13
$108,155,364

TOTAL LOSFA AWARDS TO UL SYSTEM STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13
42,849

LOSFA’s Vision is to be Louisiana’s First Choice for College Access
TOPS & GO GRANT for UL System

LOSFA
LOUISIANA OFFICE of STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

TOPS RECIPIENTS & AWARDS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13

Losfa's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access
LOSFA and the Louisiana Community & Technical College System Profile

LOSFA PROGRAMS

⇒ TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students)
  Opportunity
  Performance
  Honors
  Tech

⇒ GO Grant

⇒ Rockefeller

⇒ Chafee Education and Training Vouchers

TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED TO LCTCS SYSTEM STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13 $10,231,032

TOTAL LOSFA AWARDS TO LCTCS SYSTEM STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13 12,383

LOSFA’s Vision is to be Louisiana’s First Choice for College Access
TOPS & GO GRANT for LCTCS

Top recipients & awards academic year 2012-13

Baton Rouge CC: 455
Bossier Parish CC: 401
Central Louisiana TCC: 68
Delgado CC: 679
LE Fletcher CC: 198
Louisiana Delta CC: 215
Northshore Tech CC: 22
LTC: 218
Nunez CC: 68
River Parishes CC: 148
South La. CC: 316
Sowella Tech CC: 244

LOSFA’s Vision is to be Louisiana’s First Choice for College Access
GO GRANT RECIPIENTS & AWARDS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13

Bar chart showing grants and awards for various colleges and universities.

Top chart:
- Baton Rouge CC: 5690
- Bossier Parish CC: 1121
- Delgado: 292
- L E Fletcher CC: 144
- Louisiana Delta CC: 380
- LTC: 361
- Northshore Tech CC: 51
- Nunez CC: 107
- River Parishes CC: 89
- South La. CC: 776
- Sowella Tech CC: 351

Bottom chart:
- Baton Rouge CC: $2,470,750
- Bossier Parish CC: $615,722
- Delgado: $251,475
- L E Fletcher CC: $88,625
- Louisiana Delta CC: $249,125
- LTC: $199,568
- Northshore Tech CC: $30,625
- Nunez CC: $55,750
- River Parishes CC: $54,875
- South La. CC: $388,535
- Sowella Tech CC: $219,125
LOSFA and the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges & Universities (LAICU) Profile

LOSFA PROGRAMS

⇒ TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students)
  Opportunity Performance Honors

⇒ GO Grant

TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED TO LAICU SYSTEM STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13
$16,308,656

TOTAL LOSFA AWARDS TO LAICU SYSTEM STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13
6,980

LOSEFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access
TOPS & GO GRANT for LAICU System

LOSFA
LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

TOPS RECIPIENTS & AWARDS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access
LOSFA and the Proprietary Schools Profile

LOSFA PROGRAMS

⇒ TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students)
  - Opportunity
  - Performance
  - Honors

⇒ GO Grant

⇒ Chafee Education and Training Vouchers

TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED TO PROPRIETARY STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13
$266,094

TOTAL LOSFA AWARDS TO PROPRIETARY STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13
264

LOSFA's Vision is to be Louisiana's First Choice for College Access
NEW PROGRAMS
Chafee Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

• Administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) on behalf of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) since Spring 2011.

• Chafee ETV Program provides grants up to $5,000 annually to certain students who have been in the foster care system to pursue postsecondary education or training to enter the workforce.

• Beginning Fall 2013, the Chafee ETV Program now provides funding to eligible high school students dually enrolled in a secondary and eligible post-secondary educational/vocational program. DCFS staff is responsible for requesting payment for Chafee dually enrolled students.
STEP Adult Education

- Starting this month, LOSFA will begin processing Adult Education payments.
- LOSFA will coordinate training with DCFS regional consultants who will be responsible for billing for STEP Adult Education payments once Award System programming is completed.
- STEP participants are allowed to take the GED test three times (initial test and two re-tests or three re-tests) in a calendar year (January through December).

www.osfa.la.gov
**STEP Vocational Education**

- Beginning with the Spring 2014 semester/term, LOSFA will begin processing Vocational Education payments.
- DCFS will provide LOSFA with a list of STEP students eligible for the Vocational Education Training Program.
- Schools will determine the amount of the award. STEP dollars will be awarded after all other grant aid, except the Louisiana Go Grant.
- LOSFA will notify schools through an upcoming Student Financial Aid Bulletin of the procedures for receiving payment for STEP participants and provide the necessary Award System training.
NEW RULES
New Rules for 2013

Exception to the requirements to enroll full time and remain continuously enrolled.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, students can use their remaining TOPS eligibility if they enroll full time no later than the fall semester immediately following the first anniversary of the completion of a certificate or diploma in a technical or nonacademic program, an associate’s degree in a technical or academic program, or a baccalaureate degree.

Note: Participating colleges and universities must report:

• a student’s completion of a program of study,
• whether the program was technical or academic,
• the credential awarded (certificate, diploma, associate’s, baccalaureate), and
• the semester of completion.

www.osfa.la.gov
EXAMPLES

• A student with the TOPS Tech Award completes a cosmetology program after the fall term of 2013 with one year of eligibility remaining. Student will be eligible for TOPS Tech payments if she enrolls in a technical, cosmetology or proprietary program no later than the fall semester of 2015.

• A student with the TOPS Tech Award completes a technical certificate program after the fall semester of 2013 with one year of TOPS eligibility remaining. Student will be eligible for TOPS Tech payments if he enrolls in a technical, cosmetology or proprietary program no later than the fall semester of 2015.

• A student with the TOPS Opportunity Award completes a technical certificate program after the spring semester of 2014 with 6 semesters of TOPS eligibility remaining. Student will be eligible for TOPS payments if she enrolls in a technical, cosmetology, proprietary or academic program no later than the fall semester of 2015.

• A student with the TOPS Honors Award completes an academic Associate’s Degree after the fall semester of 2014 with 4 semesters of TOPS eligibility remaining. Student will be eligible for TOPS payments if he enrolls in a technical, cosmetology, proprietary or academic program no later than the fall semester of 2016.
Changed the Definition of “Tuition”

• Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, tuition for the purpose of TOPS awards at public colleges and universities is the tuition amount published by the postsecondary institution and approved by its management board.

• Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, tuition for the purpose of TOPS awards at public colleges and universities is the tuition amount as of August 1, 2013, published by the postsecondary institution and approved by its management board plus any increase in tuition authorized by the Legislature.
College Fee Bill Requirements

- Beginning with the spring semester of 2014, participating colleges and universities, except LAICU, proprietary, cosmetology, graduate and professional schools, must:
  - List the TOPS award amount on a student’s fee bill, whether paper or on-line.
  - Ensure the TOPS award amount is the same as the institution’s tuition amount listed on the fee bill.
IMPACT OF NEW ADMISSIONS STANDARDS
URGENT ALERT

ACT Sub-scores and 4-Year Louisiana Public University Admissions

Did you know that beginning fall 2014 ACT sub-scores will help to determine if a student may gain admission to a four-year public Louisiana university?

All colleges and universities require minimum ACT composite scores for admissions. However, it is important to understand that a minimum ACT English AND Math sub-score is required for a student to qualify for college level coursework at a four-year public institution in Louisiana. Students who do not meet the minimum English AND Math ACT sub-score requirement will require developmental coursework, therefore making them ineligible for admission.

Minimum required ACT Sub-scores

- **ENGLISH** 18
- **MATH** 19

It is also important to note that:

- Universities can mix and match ACT composite and sub-scores from multiple tests to determine whether an applicant meets the admission requirements.
- Eligibility is based on the highest ACT composite and sub-scores.
- Students can view their ACT composite and sub-scores by logging into Louisiana Connect!

Students who do not meet ACT sub-score requirements can:

- Retake the ACT test
- Enroll in dual-enrollment courses at a local community college to complete developmental coursework.
- Attend a community college after high school until eligible to transfer to a 4-year Louisiana institution by successfully fulfilling transfer admissions requirements.
Review ACT Composite & Sub-scores in Louisiana Connect!

Step 1  Log-In to your Louisiana Connect Account

Account Information
Please enter your email address and password. Register if you don’t have an account.

Email:
Password:

Remember me
Login

Step 2  Place your cursor on the tab labeled ‘My Portfolio’

Welcome, Isis

News Feed
Mississippi State University is interested in you! Give us the thumbs-up to share your contact info.

Event Sign-Up
You’ve been invited to 0 event(s)
Select an event
See all events
Step 4   Click on Scores and Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course History</th>
<th>Scores &amp; Stats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year: 2010-2011</td>
<td>2010-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL SEMESTER 2010-2011</td>
<td>2010-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING SEMESTER 2010-2011</td>
<td>2010-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year: 2011-2012</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL SEMESTER 2011-2012</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING SEMESTER 2011-2012</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year: 2012-2013</td>
<td>2012-2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL SEMESTER 2012-2013</td>
<td>2012-2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING SEMESTER 2012-2013</td>
<td>2012-2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL SEMESTER 2013-2014</td>
<td>2013-2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See your sub-scores listed below your ACT composite score.

Students who do not meet ACT sub-score requirements (English 18 and Math 19) can: retake the ACT test, enroll in dual-enrollment courses at a local community college to complete developmental coursework, and/or attend a community college after high school until eligible to transfer to a 4-year Louisiana institution by successfully fulfilling transfer admissions requirements.

See the attached Urgent Alert and Board of Regents Minimum Admissions Standards flyers for more information.