DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Board of Regents
Office of Student Financial Assistance

Scholarship/Grant Programs—Hurricane Laura
Exceptions and Deferments (LAC 28:IV.2103 and 2105)

The Louisiana Board of Regents is exercising the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950 et seq.) to amend the rules of the Scholarship/Grant programs [R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, R.S. 17:3042.1.1-3042.8, R.S. 17:5001 et seq., and R.S. 56:797.D(2)].

This rulemaking provides for a blanket exception to the requirements to enroll full time each semester/term during the academic year, to maintain continuous enrollment, and to earn the required academic hours each academic year for TOPS, Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, and GO Youth Challenge Recipients impacted by Hurricane Laura. In addition, this rulemaking provides deferments for students who are currently in repayment status for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program and TOPS Teacher.

This Emergency Rule is necessary to implement changes to the Scholarship/Grant programs to allow the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance and state educational institutions to effectively administer these programs. A delay in promulgating rules would have an adverse impact on the financial welfare of the eligible students and the financial condition of their families. The Board of Regents has determined that this Emergency Rule is necessary in order to prevent imminent financial peril to the welfare of the affected students.

This Declaration of Emergency is effective on September 23, 2020, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act. (SG21193E)

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part IV. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education
Chapter 21. Miscellaneous Provisions and Exceptions
§2103. Circumstances Warranting Exception to the Initial and Continuous Enrollment Requirements

A. - G.5.b.iii. …

H. Hurricane Laura Exceptions

1. For the purposes of this subsection, *displaced students* are TOPS, Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, and GO Youth Challenge recipients and students eligible for TOPS and on August 26, 2020:

a. were enrolled at SOWELA Technical Community College; or

b. whose home of record was one of the following parishes:

i. Acadia;
ii. Allen;
iii. Beauregard;
iv. Caddo;
v. Calcasieu;
vi. Cameron;
vii. Grant;
viii. Jackson;
ix. Jefferson Davis;
x. Lasalle;
xi. Lincoln;
xii. Morehouse;
xiii. Natchitoches;
xiv. Ouachita;
xv. Rapides;
xvi. Sabine;
xvii. St. Landry;
xviii. Union;
xix. Vermilion;
xx. Vernon; or
xxi. Winn.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, *home of record* is:

a. the domiciliary address of a dependent student's parent or court-ordered custodian; or

b. the domiciliary address of an independent student.

3. For the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS), displaced students are not required to enroll as full-time students, to maintain continuous enrollment, or to earn at least 24 hours during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS).

4. Displaced students may enroll on a part-time basis in an eligible college or university without losing TOPS eligibility.

a. Upon request of the student, the eligible college or university may bill for the TOPS award for these part-time students.

b. The terms of eligibility for a displaced student whose part-time enrollment is paid by TOPS will be reduced by one full semester (term) for each semester (term) paid.

c. Institutions must document the displaced student's request for part-time payment of TOPS under these circumstances.

d. Any grades earned by a displaced student who enrolls part-time during the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS) will be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative grade point average.

5. Displaced students who are Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship recipients may enroll full-time or part-time in a college or university that does not offer a course of study leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree in wildlife, forestry or marine science.

a. Upon request of the student, the eligible college or university may bill for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship for these students.

b. The amount paid for any such semester of enrollment in accordance with this Subsection shall reduce the student's total eligibility for the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program.

c. Institutions must document the displaced student's request for payment in accordance with this Subsection.

d. Any grades earned by a displaced student who enrolls in school during the 2020-2021 in accordance with this Subsection will be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative grade point average.

6. For the 2020-2021 academic year (TOPS), students who are not displaced students, but who, due to the effects of Hurricane Laura were unable to enroll for the first time as full time students by the applicable deadline, to enroll as full-time students, to maintain continuous enrollment in school, or to earn 24 hours during the 2020-2021 academic

year (TOPS) may submit a request for exception in accordance with §2103.D. based on the circumstances provided in §2103.E.12.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:5001 et seq., and R.S. 17:3050.1-3050.4.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), amended LR 23:1648 (December 1997), repromulgated LR 24:647 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1916 (October 1998), LR 26:1015 (May 2000), LR 26:2002 (September 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1866 (November 2001), amended LR 27:1875 (November 2001), LR 28:46 (January 2002), LR 28:449 (March 2002), LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 and 2333 (November 2002), LR 29:126 (February 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:785 (April 2004), LR 30:1167 (June 2004), LR 31:1060 (May 2005), LR 33:440 (March 2007), LR 35:1233 (July 2009), LR 38:3160 (December 2012), LR 41:657, 667 (April 2015), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:562 (March 2018), LR 45:1173 (September 2019), LR 46:

§2105. Repayment Obligation, Deferment, Cancellation and Reduced Payments

A. - B.9.e.iii.

10. Hurricane Laura Deferments

a. For the purposes of this Subsection, *displaced students* are recipients of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship or TOPS Teacher Award who are in repayment status and whose Home of Record on August 26, 2020, and whose Home of Record was one of the following parishes:

i. Acadia;
ii. Allen;
iii. Beauregard;
iv. Caddo;
v. Calcasieu;
vi. Cameron;
vii. Grant;
viii. Jackson;
ix. Jefferson Davis;
x. Lasalle;
xi. Lincoln;
xii. Morehouse;
xiii. Natchitoches;
xiv. Ouachita;
xv. Rapides;
xvi. Sabine;
xvii. St. Landry;
xviii. Union;
xix. Vermilion;
xx. Vernon; or
xxi. Winn.

2. For the purposes of this Subsection, home of record is the domiciliary address of the recipient who is in repayment status.

3. The loans repayments for displaced students are deferred and accrual of interest is suspended from August 26, 2020, through August 31, 2021.

4. For the period August 26, 2020, through August 31, 2021, recipients of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship or the TOPS Teacher Award who are not displaced students, but who, due to the effects of Hurricane Laura, are unable to repay their loan may submit a request for exception in accordance with §2103.D based on the circumstances provided in §2103.E.12.

C. - H.2. …

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3031 and R.S. 17:3042.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:649 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1918 (October 1998), LR 26:1603 (August 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1868 (November 2001), amended LR 28:775 (April 2002), LR 30:781 (April 2004), LR 30:1167, 1168 (June 2004), LR 33:442 (March 2007), amended by the Board of Regents, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 44:566 (March 2018), LR 46:

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