

# Jump Start Graduation Pathways



## Introduction

Jump Start graduation pathways indicate how students can graduate with a Jump Start Career Diploma by taking courses and attaining industry credentials relevant to an industry sector.

Jump Start Regional Teams develop and submit graduation pathways to the Jump Start Graduation Pathway Review Panel (Panel). The Panel consists of members from Louisiana Economic Development (LED), Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) and Louisiana Department of Education (LDE). This Panel collaborates with the regional teams to insure that course offerings in a pathway are relevant, that credentials are relevant and rigorous, and that sample schedules provide appropriate guidance to school counselors and educators.

Graduation pathways approved by the Panel are forwarded to the LDE Superintendent for review. The Superintendent forwards graduation pathways to BESE for approval.

Once a graduation pathway is approved by BESE, other Jump Start regional teams can adapt and adopt these graduation pathways.

## Sections of a Graduation Pathway

A Jump Start graduation pathway has four sections:

- 1) Sample Careers – a list of jobs in the career pathway derived from the LWC’s Star Jobs system. This section is to help school counselors provide context to students who are considering whether or not a graduation pathway might be “right” for them.
- 2) Pathway Course Progressions – the complete list of courses that students can take to fulfill the Jump Start requirement of passing courses that represent nine (9) CTE Carnegie credits in their pathway.

*Our intention is to make these course progressions as inclusive as possible, for three reasons:*

- a) broad course progressions will enable school districts to support a graduation pathway using the resources and staff they have on hand. In fact, every school district within a Jump Start region will support a graduation pathway in its own unique way<sup>1</sup>;
- b) students transferring into a school district will still be able to graduate with a Jump Start Career Diploma in their chosen pathway as long as course progressions are inclusive; and
- c) unlike the old AOC (areas of concentration) model that mandated specific courses (which were often expensive for schools to offer and unconnected from what employers wanted), Jump Start focuses on industry credentials as our quality control mechanism, i.e., the assurance that students who graduate with a Jump Start Career Diploma are prepared to attain entry-level employment in Louisiana.

<sup>1</sup> – and not all school regions will support all graduation pathways, which is why “collaboration” and “sharing” are two key elements of Jump Start. Students from one school district interested in a pathway may be able to graduate using that pathway by taking courses and earning credentials at a neighboring school district.

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- 3) Culminating Credentials – this is the most important section of every graduation pathway, indicating for educators, counselors, students and parents / caregivers the credentials students will be required to attain in order to graduate with a Jump Start Career Diploma.

*Statewide* graduation pathways utilize industry credentials approved by the Workforce Investment Council (WIC). The primary criteria WIC uses to approve statewide credentials are: a) the credential is for a high-wage job in a high-growth career sector; and b) the credential is valued by employers when making entry-level hiring decisions. WIC-approved statewide credentials are indicated in Appendix 3 to the *Jump Start Blueprint*.<sup>2</sup>

*Regional* graduation pathways utilize two types of credentials, reviewed and approved by the Panel: 1) Core credentials that prepare a student for a specific career (analogous to a college major); and 2) Complementary credentials that have value across industry sectors (examples: First Aid / CPR, safety credentials, computer literacy credentials, etc.). Students graduating via a regional graduation pathway will have a combination of credentials that will enable them to attain employment in their targeted career field.

The Gulf River Parishes regional team developed the concept of *Integrated* graduation pathways that combine statewide pathways with related regional pathways. This is an intelligent and useful innovation. Integrated graduation pathways indicate how students who seek to attain a basic or advanced statewide credential – only to find that credential unattainable – will *still* be able graduate on time via a directly-related regional pathway.

- 4) Sample Schedule – a sample schedule indicating how students can graduate via this pathway, indicating both courses and credentials required. These sample schedules clearly illustrate the flexibility Jump Start students will have to change their minds in high school as their interests evolve and still graduate on time.

At the end of every graduation pathway is a table indicating how the LDE will maintain updated graduation pathways.

### **Dynamically Updating Graduation Pathways**

After BESE approves a graduation pathway, things will change. The world – especially the business world – is dynamic, so graduation pathways will be dynamic as well.

Regional teams may recommend adding new courses in each course progression relevant to the pathway. The default position of the Panel will be to approve requested new course additions, indicating their concern by exception. Regional teams can also recommend new / updated credentials for a graduation pathway. The Panel will review each of these requests in detail. The Panel may: a) approve new credentials; b) reject new credentials; or c) forward a graduation pathway back to BESE for re-approval if they believe new credentials materially change the graduation pathway.

<sup>2</sup> – Certificates of Technical Study (CTSs) awarded by Louisiana technical colleges are equivalent to basic statewide industry credentials. Technical Diplomas (TDs) are the equivalent to advanced statewide industry credentials.

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## Graduation Pathways Submitted for BESE Approval

Statewide Graduation Pathways	
1) Automobile Service	11) Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
2) Carpenter	12) Internet Web Foundations
3) Certified Mechanical Drafter	13) Manufacturing Specialist
4) Certified Nursing Assistant	14) Mobile Crane Operator
5) Collision Repair	15) Oil & Gas T2 Safety Systems
6) Electrician	16) Pipefitter
7) Emergency Medical Tech	17) Plumber
8) Fashion Design	18) Prostart / Restaurant
9) Four Stroke Engine Tech	19) Web Design Professional
10) HVAC Tech	20) Welder
Integrated Graduation Pathways	
21) Agriculture Tech	25) Information Technology
22) Digital Media and Entertainment Technology	26) Manufacturing, Construction Crafts and Logistics
23) Health Sciences – Patient Care and Management	27) STEM
24) Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary and Retail	28) Technology Specialist
Regional Graduation Pathways	
29) Business Management	32) Sheet Metal
30) Commercial Driver	33) Welder's Helper
31) Mason	