

College and Career Readiness Commission Meeting
March 25, 2013
Unofficial Minutes

Attending: Troy Allen (Chair), Connie Bradford, Dr. Linda McKee, Kimberlee Gazzolo, Dr. Derrick Manns, Kim Mims, Dianne Moran, Dr. Lisa Vosper, Superintendent John White and Dr. Sandra Woodley.

Meeting called to order by 9:00am by Chairman Troy Allen

Mr. Allen asked the attendees to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2012 meetings. The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. Allen then asked Superintendent John White to provide an overview of Louisiana Believes 2013 / 2014.

Superintendent White indicated that Louisiana Believes 2013 / 2014 will focus on: a) simplifying and enhancing high school graduation standards; b) aligning the College Diploma with TOPS; c) enhancing the Career Diploma; and d) implementing a series of policies to enhance student success in college and careers.

Simplifying and Enhancing High School Graduation Standards – parents and students have reported that the current diploma structure is hard to understand. Parents and educators find the current diploma structure hard to administer and inflexible for students with evolving interests that might lead them to want to change diploma tracks or change their areas of study.

The three diploma tracks do not align with either college entrance requirements or the high-wage careers available in Louisiana.

The current Career Diploma is not highly utilized (only 2,400 students currently participating). Analysis has revealed that high school CTE efforts are not aligned with future Louisiana workforce opportunities, especially in the four industry sectors that offer the greatest promise for future high-wage employment in every region of the State: 1) Manufacturing; 2) Transportation, Distribution & Logistics; 3) Health Science; 4) Architecture and Construction.

The Department of Education has been working closely with the Louisiana College and Technical Career System and a variety of business and educational stakeholders to simplify and enhance high school graduate standards.

The Department will release a series of recommendations to simplify and enhance high school graduation standards:

- The Department will recommend moving from three diploma tracks that are poorly aligned with college and career opportunities to two diploma tracks. The Department will offer supporting policies to remove restrictions that prevent students from selecting the diploma pathway best suited to their needs and opportunities, including

specific recommendations for more flexible Individual Graduation Plan processes that better leverage both the LA Connect and Star Jobs systems.

- The revised College Diploma track will be aligned with TOPS, offering a simpler diploma process that will incentivize AP and IB course participation (success with AP and IB are highly correlated with future academic and career success).
- The revised Career Diploma will be aligned with fast growth job sectors offering high-wage careers to Louisiana students. The Career Diploma will offer students the ability to earn post-secondary certificates / degrees within their four years of high school – the first two years of high school will focus on core academic courses, the second two years on hands-on study in CTE areas relevant to regional job opportunities. The new structure of the Career Diploma will be dynamic, offering incentives for CTE completions in job sectors that regional stakeholders determine offer the most promising high-wage career opportunities for local graduates.

Superintendent White discussed the next steps necessary to support these recommendations. These next steps included continued collaboration with stakeholders across the State and the LCTCS system, as well as enhanced outreach to parents and students around the rigor and promise of the revamped Career Diploma.

The members present participated in a brief question and answer period about the plans offered by Superintendent White, and indicated their anticipation of the official release of these new policies in late April.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.