2019-20 Sci High Senior Course Credit and Graduation Information

(To see full LDOE guiding document, please visit:

Course Credit Guidance

Q: What options can schools provide to help students meet credit requirements?

A: School systems should determine if students have demonstrated proficiency in the grade-level content and/or courses to award credit. If it is determined that they have not, schools can provide options that can help students meet credit requirements via distance learning options, online coursework, written work packets, project-based learning, portfolios, proficiency exams, or work-based learning (where current high school course standards align with a student’s job).

Sci High course instructors will create proficiency exams for students to demonstrate proficiency in the grade level content and/or each course to award. If a student is determined not to have met proficiency, Sci High will provide options which can help students meet requirements via online coursework, written work packets, project-based learning, or portfolios.

Q: What if a student is currently failing a course?

A: For students that have not met minimum levels of proficiency, schools should have them participate in additional distance or alternative learning options to complete unfinished learning and demonstrate proficiency. The final grade must be input into the Student Transcript System (STS) by August 31, 2020.

If a student is determined not to have met proficiency, Sci High will provide options which can help students meet requirements via online coursework, written work packets, project-based learning, or portfolios.

Q: Do schools have to check attendance daily while utilizing distance or alternative learning methods during mandatory school closures?
A: The provisions that require daily attendance be taken at schools at the beginning of each school day and start of each class period have been suspended for the current school year.

Due to the current COVID-19 concerns and subsequent proclamation by Gov. John Bel Edwards, regulatory flexibilities have been granted that enable students to complete the school year and graduate without penalty. Therefore, Sci High will not take daily attendance during this ongoing learning period. Sci High teachers are, however, continuing to share lessons via online learning to ensure that students maintain skills and proficiency and will keep track of which students are participating.

Assessment and Accountability Guidance

Q: What if a senior needs a LEAP 2025 high school assessment score to be eligible to graduate?

A: The spring LEAP 2025 assessment window has been cancelled, and the requirement has been waived for currently enrolled graduating seniors who will graduate by August 31, 2020.

The LEAP 2025 high school assessment waivers apply to all Sci High graduating seniors (seniors graduating by August 31, 2020), including those eligible under Act 833.

Q: If seniors have not had the opportunity to take the ACT, will this be waived so these students can graduate?

A: Seniors are not required to test as a condition of graduation. However, ACT exam options are available in June 2020 that can be used for TOPS eligibility. The state administration of ACT has been rescheduled for June 2, 2020. The national ACT test administration has been moved to June 13, 2020, and the Board of Regents will ask the Legislature to take action to allow a student to qualify for Fall 2020 TOPS with the June test date. The Board of Regents will provide updates once action is taken.

Sci High seniors who have not yet taken the ACT will be eligible to test during the state administration on June 2, 2020. The national ACT test administration has been moved to
June 13, 2020. The state legislature will take action to allow June test scores to be used for TOPS eligibility.

Q: Will testing requirements be waived for 5th and 6th year graduates?

A: If the student was enrolled as a 5th or 6th year senior and counted in the latest Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) enrollment count and the student meets course credit graduation requirements, the testing requirements will be waived.

The LEAP 2025 high school assessment waivers apply to all Sci High graduating seniors (seniors graduating by August 31, 2020), including 5th and 6th year seniors who were counted on the Feb 1st enrollment count.

Q: Will a student who has not completed the financial aid planning requirement be eligible to graduate?

A: The financial aid requirement has been waived for graduating seniors who will graduate by August 31.

Although Sci High students will not be required to complete the FAFSA as a graduation requirement, they should confirm the FAFSA requirements for TOPS as established by the Louisiana Office of Students Financial Assistance (LOSFA). Also, the FAFSA is still a requirement for TOPS and other state and federal financial aid.

Q: Will a TOPS Tech Career Diploma student be eligible to graduate if school closures impacted their ability to earn an Industry Based Credential (IBC)?

A: The IBC terminal graduation requirement has been waived for seniors who will graduate by August 31, 2020.

The IBC requirement for Sci High students pursuing the Jump Start (TOPS Tech Career) diploma has been waived. All IBCs earned by students prior to school closure are not affected by this action.
Q: How do school systems determine class rankings or other honors if students are given alternative modes of instruction to earn credit?

A: The local governing authority determines how to calculate GPAs to determine local class rankings and any other type of student local honors status. Local Pupil Progression Plan requirements in RS 17.24.4 have been suspended.

Sci High class rankings will be based on cumulative GPAs calculated to the thousandth (.000) place and rounding will follow standard mathematical practice. As such, multiple students may be designative valedictorian and/or salutatorian. The Principal shall determine the role of students sharing the valedictorian and/or salutatorian role(s) in the graduation program.

Determination of Valedictorian and Salutatorian – Class of 2020 only:

The valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s) of the graduating class of 2020 will be determined based on their weighted, cumulative grade point average (GPA) as of December 31, 2019. The cumulative GPAs will be calculated according to the following specifications:

- Courses are weighted on a 4.0 or a 5.0 scale in accordance with BESE designations.
- All credit bearing courses undertaken by the student are included in the cumulative GPA, excluding courses that are taken for a second time in pursuit of a higher grade. For example, a student who earns a ‘D’ the first time they take AP Chemistry may retake the course in order to replace the lower grade in their cumulative GPA.
- Credit bearing courses accumulated at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts will be excluded from the valedictorian/salutatorian calculation.
- Pass/Fail options will be not calculated into the cumulative grade point average GPA.

Note: A student must attend the New Orleans Charter Science and Math High School both semesters of their 12th grade year to be designated a valedictorian or salutatorian.