

Louisiana Believes

Career Diploma Pathway Regional Input Meeting

Meeting Objective / Agenda

Meeting Objective: *The Department of Education will demonstrate an understanding of how the state can assist local communities in developing Louisiana Diploma pathways to ensure high school graduates attain either a college degree or high-wage jobs near where they live.*

Agenda:

- *LCTCS Welcome and Introduction (5 minutes)*
- *Superintendent White's Presentation (20 minutes)*
- *Discussion (60 minutes)*
- *Summary Comments (5 minutes)*

Today's Diplomas

In Louisiana today, students can earn one of three diplomas:

The Core Four Diploma

- Intended to prepare students attending four-year universities. 49% of Louisiana students enroll in college, but only 19% of students graduate.

The Basic Diploma

- Students earning the Basic Diploma do not meet the requirements for TOPS, and do not leave high school prepared for high-wage careers in high-growth job sectors.

The Career Diploma

- Only 2,400 of students statewide are pursuing a Career Diploma.
- Of those 2,400 students, only \approx 170 graduated this year.
- Most certificates earned in career education have been in basic business and customer service rather than high-growth, high-wage Louisiana industries.

Steps to Improve the Louisiana Diploma

For our students and our state, we have an opportunity to improve this system.

- **Simplify.** We can move from three diplomas to one diploma with two pathways.
- **Increase Flexibility.** Students should be able to change their pathway mid-stream.
- **One System, not Three.** We can form one coordinated system of workforce development among K – 12 school boards, technical colleges, and industry.
- **Connection to the Real World.** We can help students leave high school with credentials that lead directly to college and career success.

Career Pathway Possibilities

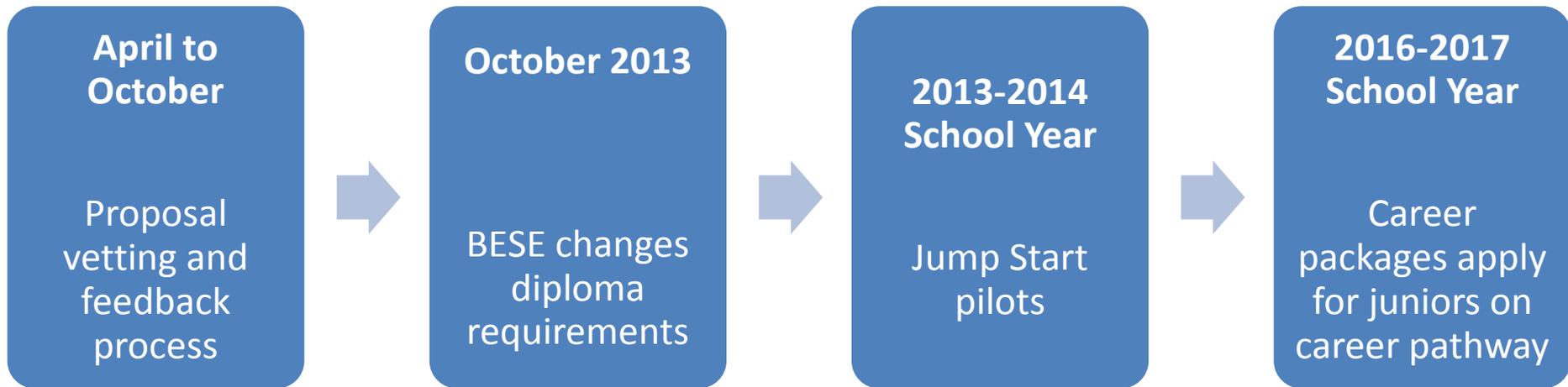
The Louisiana Diploma Career Pathway could:

- Provide a strong academic base (two years); and
- Provide industry-defined training for high-wage careers in high-growth job sectors (two years)
- Provide enhanced levels of career and life counseling

Changes may include:

- Goal: Graduate students with credentials that translate directly to regional employment in high-wage, high-growth job sectors.
- Programming: School districts, local industry, and technical colleges create career course “packages” that lead to credentials in industry sectors appropriate for specific regions.
- Accountability: Expand school accountability system to reward student career success in ways similar to the rewards given for academic success.

Implementation Timeline



Next Step: Career Pathway Jump Start

The **Career Diploma Pathway Jump Start** option is for regions capable of launching career packages prior to 2016.

The basic offer of the **Career Diploma Pathway Jump Start** process is:

- Districts that successfully complete the process will receive an immediate waiver from AOC requirements;
- To receive the waiver, districts will complete a regional planning process in collaboration with the LED and the LDOE to build regionally-relevant career pathways.

Questions for Discussion

- What is important for the Department of Education to consider regarding this potential approach to career preparation?
- What is unique to this region of our state that the Department should consider?