



SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH IN LOUISIANA BY:

PROMOTING SUCCESS THROUGH CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION AND KEEPING TOPS ALIVE

Since 1997, when Governor Foster removed the income cap, and the program broadened, TOPS has allowed all Louisiana students to become eligible for awards based on their academic performance. Taking away TOPS is removing the opportunity for youth who cannot afford tuition, the chance of ever going college in Louisiana. We must continue to stress the importance of keeping TOPS alive and available to our youth, it provides them with one of the most innovative and progressive student assistance programs in the nation.

THE CURRENT PICTURE...

- According to Louisiana Believes, Louisiana high school students earned nearly 1,300 more qualifying scores of 3+ on AP exams in 2015 than in 2014.
- Louisiana Believes also reported that since 2012, the number of students enrolling in AP courses has increased 163%, from 6,645 in 2012 to 17,509 in 2015.
- The Louisiana Department of Education reported the percent of high school graduates enrolling in college, between the class of 2011 and 2014, increased by 16%.
- State statistics indicate the number of students earning a TOPS-qualifying score on ACT, scores of at least 17, increased by nearly 1,000 students since 2014.
- The Louisiana Department of Education announced last year that Louisiana's four-year high school graduation rate achieved a record high in 2014, increasing for the fourth straight year to reach 74.6 percent

AS YOUNG PEOPLE OUR HUMBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE...

- Strategize a plan that will modify the current requirements of TOPS, but does not make every aspect impossible for youth to qualify for.
- Work with corporations to financially support TOPS by donating money to TOPS and giving tax incentives to the ones that invest in TOPS.
- Promote and encourage more local companies to invest in scholarship programs and not just give money to colleges for building expansions.