



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Pathways to Bright Futures program?

Pathways to Bright Futures is an East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS) program designed to multiply and enhance educational opportunities for high school students in the district, increasing student access to advanced and college level courses and granting students the opportunity to exit high school with a diploma and to complete 60 hours of transferable college credits that may result in a student's eligibility towards earning a Louisiana Transfer Associate Degree and/or Industry Based Certifications through advanced course offerings.

What are the eight areas of concentration for a Louisiana Transfer Degree?

Biological Sciences, Fine Arts, Humanities, Physical Sciences, Social/Behavioral Sciences, Criminal Justice, General Business, and Mass Communication

Note: The Pathways to Bright Futures program is associated with five career pathways that EBRSS identified in collaboration with the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce and other local industry leaders. The following career pathways represent high skill, high wage, and high demand industry fields in our community that the district has prioritized as areas for which work-based experiences and industry-based credentialing will be targeted:

- Technology
- Construction and Manufacturing
- Medical and Pre-Med
- Transportation and Logistics
- Liberal Arts and Management

Is the school district eliminating Magnet Programs?

No. EBRPSS prioritizes expanding opportunities and providing more options for all students and their families across the district. The Pathways to Bright Futures is a program designed to increase student access to advanced courses and enhance student outcomes. This program is not intended to replace or eliminate Magnet Programs.

When will the district launch the Pathways to Bright Futures program?

Beginning SY 2022-2023, the Pathways to Bright Futures programming will be initiated at all EBRPSS high schools.

Which groups of students will be impacted by the launch of the Pathways to Bright Futures program?

All students on a diploma track entering the 9th grade for the first time.



Are there academic requirements for students to be eligible to participate in the Pathways to Bright Futures program?

There are no GPA or academic requirements to participate.

How will schools engage students on a non-diploma track?

EBRPSS students on a non-diploma track will be afforded opportunities to engage in workforce and adult living programs established by the Division of Exceptional Student Services.

What will the Pathways to Bright Futures course schedule look like for a 9th grade student?

Students will be scheduled on an eight-period alternating A-B Day schedule in which they will take a minimum of four classes a day. Student course schedules will be aligned with the standard sequence of courses required to earn a Louisiana High School Diploma. Students will be scheduled in at least one advanced course (dual enrollment or AP) based on a student's choice.

Students who elect to pursue an Associate Degree or Technical Degree pathway of study will have a course schedule that aligns with the course sequencing for their selected pathway.

Will the Pathways to Bright Futures course schedule prohibit students from enrolling in AP courses?

The Pathways to Bright Futures program does not limit student access to AP courses.

What is recognized as a passing grade for a dual enrollment course?

To receive college course credit, students must earn a grade of C or higher in the dual enrollment course; however, if students receive a mark of D or higher in the dual enrollment course, then they are eligible to receive high school credit, but will not be eligible to receive college credit.





What supports are in place to support student success in advanced courses?

Individualized school-based supports will be offered, which could include tutoring and interventions, recovery options, and tiered supplemental classes. A student can also retake the dual enrollment course by being scheduled in a succeeding academic session in which the college/university offers the course to earn a passing mark in the course that is eligible for both college and high school credit; or the student can enroll in a credit recovery course equivalent to the failed course to earn a passing mark in the course that will only be eligible for high school credit.

How are our specialized populations supported as they engage in the Pathways to Bright Futures program?

EBRPSS will maintain and continue to ensure the accommodations and modifications that are indicated in a student’s Individual Education Plan are provided. Additionally, school teams will continue to monitor students’ academic progression and will provide extended supports to students that are not performing well in classes and/or who may be encountering challenges (academic, attendance, behavioral factors) that are impeding a student’s ability to successfully access the content of study.

EL students will be provided with the accommodations and supports that are required to provide adequate access to the content of study. Additionally, as with all students, EL students should be provided with advanced course options that represent their inclination and interests.

Do advanced course grades have a higher quality value than a traditional course?

According to the EBRPSS Pupil Progression Plan, advanced courses are weighed on a 5.0 scale and assigned the following quality point values to academic marks:

Grading Scale for District Approved, Academic Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement Courses

BEGINNING 2018-2019 AND BEYOND

Grading Scale for District Approved, Academic Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement Courses

Grade	Percentage	Quality Points
A	100-90	5
B	89-80	4
C	79-70	3
D	69-60	1
F	59-0	0

Can a student exit a dual enrollment course after being scheduled and engaging in a class?

Yes. The two most common options for exiting dual enrollment courses are dropping and withdrawing.

Course Drop: If a course is dropped prior to the start of the course, then neither the course registration nor withdrawal is recorded on the student’s post-secondary transcript.

Course Withdrawal: If a student withdraws from a course prior to the designated drop date, then he/she will receive a grade of “W,” which will appear on the transcript. A grade of “W” will not be considered as hours attempted in the student’s accumulated Grade-Point Average (GPA).

What is the instructional model for dual enrollment courses offered through the Pathways to Bright Futures program?

The instructional model will include distance learning, in-person instruction, and highlight collaborative engagement between college instructors and classroom teachers.

Dual enrollment courses will be taught either at the high school or at the postsecondary institution by postsecondary faculty. There is an opportunity for district high school teachers with the required credentials to teach dual enrollment courses. They will be able to serve as credentialed adjunct faculty for the postsecondary institution offering the course.

Dual enrollment courses taught by postsecondary faculty will also be staffed with EBRPSS teachers of record that are specialized in the content area being studied to provide academic support, engage in progress monitoring, serve as a point of contact for parents/guardians and collaborate with the postsecondary faculty members.

How will college-level courses taken in high school that appear on a student’s post secondary transcript impact TOPS eligibility and/or renewal?

All high school courses reported to the transcript are used to calculate a TOPS GPA. Grades earned in dual enrollment courses will be included in the calculation of the TOPS cumulative GPA after completing the first semester of college. If a student withdraws from a dual enrollment course, the course will not be included in the cumulative GPA calculation.

Will the Pathways to Bright Futures program result in a reduction in the district’s instructional staff?

No. EBRPSS will not replace local teachers with college or university instructors.

