SENIORS' GRADUATION REQUIREMENT for FINANCIAL AID

The Louisiana Department of Education has instituted **a new financial aid graduation requirement** beginning with the Class of 2018.
(https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/financialaid).

All students must complete **ONE** of the following options in order to satisfy this requirement.

1. **Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.**

This form is your application for: TOPS/TOPS Tech, Pell Grants, work study (on-campus jobs), student loans, and parent PLUS loans. Completion of the FAFSA will allow you to see the full financial picture for your first year in college. It can help you decide which schools are financially feasible, and help you plan your finances.

The first step in this process is to create a FSA ID. This is your electronic signature, and will be used each year you attend college. A FSA ID must be created for the student and one parent. Be sure to keep your username and password in a safe place. To create a FSA ID, go to https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid. This step may be completed at any time.

The 2019-20 FAFSA opens on October 1, 2018. You will use 2017 tax information to complete the form. Grant money is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so the sooner you complete the form, the better. Go to https://fafsa.gov/ to complete the FAFSA. Once completed, email or bring a hard copy of your confirmation to the career coach office or email kristie.overstreet@apsb.org

2. **Complete and submit the Louisiana TOPS online application.**

Students may complete the TOPS online application instead of the FAFSA if:

- TOPS is the only State program for which you are applying;
- You do not qualify for Federal Pell Grants; or
- You are a 2019 Louisiana high school graduate who is applying for TOPS for the first time and will not complete the FAFSA at a later date. To complete the TOPS online application, go to:

https://www.osfa.la.gov/AwardSystem/faces/jsf/onlineApp/onlineAppFAFSA.jspx.
Students completing the TOPS application must email or bring a hard copy of the confirmation/submission summary page to the career coach office or email kristie.overstreet@apsb.org

3. **Complete and submit the Ascension Parish non-participation form.**

Students who do not plan to complete the FAFSA or the TOPS online application, may complete the attached non-participation form. All completed forms must be submitted to Mrs. Aucoin.

4. **Submit required documents to Mrs. Overstreet no later than March 30, 2019**

FAFSA - email or print a copy of your confirmation page or confirmation email
OR TOPS application - email or print a copy of your confirmation/summary page
OR Non-participation form - submit the completed form.