

# STUDENT PROVISIONS

## POLICY CHANGES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Governor John Bel Edwards signed a proclamation to ensure high school seniors and current college students are able to meet requirements to be eligible for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). Below is information about requirement adjustments and additional resources for students.

### CURRENT TOPS RECIPIENTS

- Continuous enrollment, academic year earned hours, and GPA requirements are suspended for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year.
- A “P” grade counts as a completed course and does not affect the student’s cumulative GPA.
- An “F” grade does affect the student’s cumulative GPA.

### INTERNET ACCESS

- Public libraries statewide continue to offer wifi access at a safe distance. Access hours and location information are listed [here](#).
- Many companies are now offering free or discounted [wifi](#) access in response to COVID-19.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

- Students who are experiencing a loss of income may be eligible for [unemployment benefits](#).

### SNAP BENEFITS

- Students may be eligible for [SNAP benefits](#) in response to COVID-19.



### SOCIAL DISTANCING

Remain six feet apart and avoid gathering in groups.



### WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



### STAY HOME

Limit movement outside your home beyond essential needs.

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Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law. The CARES Act provides several education-related provisions outlined below.

## CARES ACT

### STUDENT LOAN PAYMENT DEFERRAL

- Be sure your loan is through the U.S. Department of Education and not through a private lender.
- Payments are suspended and interest will not accrue through Sept. 30, 2020.
- Student borrowers will continue to receive credit toward public service loan forgiveness, income-driven repayment forgiveness, and loan rehabilitation.
- Forced collections are suspended during this term.

### FEDERAL LOANS & PELL GRANTS

- This term is excluded from lifetime eligibility.
- Students are not required to return unused grants or loans to the DOE. If a student withdrew due to COVID-19, the portion of the loan taken out for this semester will be cancelled.

### WORK-STUDY PAYMENTS

- Universities are authorized to continue issuing work-study payments if one is unable to work due to workplace closures relating to COVID-19.

### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL & COMMUNITY AWARD SERVICE (CNCS)

- Students serving in CNCS programs will receive the education reward they were due to receive without interruption.
- The terms of service will be extended to allow individuals to continue once the COVID-19 disaster declaration ends.

