

**WHY LOUISIANA NEEDS A  
CAREER/TECHNICAL/WORKFORCE DIPLOMA.  
(ACT 246)**

The current “one size fits all” curriculum and diploma system is leaving out or leaving behind approximately 22,000 students (or 42%) each year. Louisiana cannot afford to neglect the educational needs of this number of students each year.

The present Louisiana curriculum and diploma system is a college prep system that is appropriate for no more than 50% of Louisiana's students. Nationwide only 27% of students attain a college degree. If Louisiana targeted up to 50% of its students to be prepared to enter college, this would more than meet the needs of the job market for college educated workers.

Louisiana's career bound students (the other 50%) are adversely affected by Louisiana's curriculum and graduation requirements

1. Students who fail LEAP in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades often become less engaged with school work because academic studies are less relevant to their needs.
2. A large number (42%) of our students are dropping out in frustration with a curriculum that does not fit their needs to enter the job market or to receive limited job training at the Community or Technical College level.
3. Many critical vocational and business courses have disappeared from the high school curriculum because the current academic (college prep) requirements leave little room for skills and vocational courses.
4. Students who really need applied math and English to prepare them for real life jobs are wasting time and effort while struggling with math and English requirements that will never be useful in their careers.

Louisiana's true college prep students are adversely affected by Louisiana's curriculum and graduation requirements.

1. Over-age students in the classrooms often become discipline problems and disrupt productive classroom activities.
2. True college prep courses are being watered down in an attempt to reach all students.

Louisiana's economy is adversely affected by Louisiana's curriculum and graduation requirements.

1. Louisiana's workforce needs are much greater for skilled trades than for college prepared students, yet the school policy makers at the state level are determined to get all students college ready!
2. Thousands of unemployable youths on the streets result in more crime, a greater demand for public assistance and higher incarceration costs.

A career/workforce diploma would demonstrate that the educational system values the achievement of all students not just the college prep students.