

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

**Department of Children and Family Services
Family Support**

**TANF Star Academy Program
(LAC 67:III.5532)**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Family Support, has exercised the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953.1 to adopt LAC 67:III, Subpart 15 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives, Chapter 55 TANF Initiatives, Section 5532 Star Academy Program. This emergency rule shall be effective January 1, 2023 and shall remain in effect for a period of 180 days.

Pursuant to Louisiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, adoption of Section 5532 is required to fund the TANF Star Academy Program which provides core curriculum through project based learning grounded in a positive classroom culture, social-emotional learning strategies, and safe spaces to build relationships with fellow students and educators. The program promotes student-led decision making, accountability, and leadership skills. The program has a strong potential for fostering a new generation of self-sufficient individuals that choose to experience a new and better economic future.

The department considers emergency action necessary to facilitate the expenditure of TANF funds. The authorization to promulgate emergency rules to facilitate the expenditure of TANF

funds is contained in Act 199 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Title 67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Part III. Family Support

Subpart 15. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Initiatives

Chapter 55. TANF Initiatives

§5532. Star Academy Program

A. The department shall enter into an agreement with the Office of the Governor to fund the Star Academy Program which provides core curriculum through project based learning grounded in a positive classroom culture, social-emotional learning strategies, and safe spaces to build relationships with fellow students and educators. The program promotes student-led decision making, accountability, and leadership skills.

B. These services meet TANF Goal 3, to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, by helping teachers better understand the gaps in executive functioning and the effect of poverty on students, establishing community service-based learning for students so that they can accept the perspectives of others, and workforce development alignment to assist students in gaining employability skills to begin their career pathway.

C. Eligibility includes any student selected by the school to participate in the program regardless of income.

D. Services are considered non-assistance by the agency.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq. and R.S. 36:474.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Family Support Section, LR 49:

 01/01/2023

Terri Ricks
Secretary