# BESE Course Choice Submission Package: Preamble

***The mission of the Louisiana Course Choice program is to expand access to quality course offerings to all Louisiana students.*** Course Choice provides this access to high quality course offerings to Louisiana students while holding course providers accountable for academic outcomes.

According to statute, BESE authorizes Course Choice course providers. As with charters, course providers will sign a contract with definitive conditions and terms. Unlike with charters, however, the Department maintains a proactive role in insuring Course Choice course provider quality and accountability.

Attached please find a package of Course Choice course provider snapshots. These are the 17 course providers the Department is recommending that BESE Approve for final contract negotiations. These 17 course providers have completed a comprehensive vetting process:

Process 1: Applications – every course provider submitted an application that the Department evaluated for instructional quality, credible content, focus on serving special education students, accountability, quality control and a sound enterprise model.

Many course providers had their initial applications deferred or rejected, and then chose to rework and resubmit their applications.

Process 2: Interviews – every course provider that earned an Accept designation with their application then entered into the Interview process. Department staff interviewed the course provider leadership teams.

Process 3: Independent Panel Reviews – course providers that earned a Proceed designation after their interviews had their credentials submitted to a panel of independent reviewers. These independent reviewers provided a Favorable or Unfavorable evaluation based solely on the online package of materials we provided to them.

This is not the end of the selection process for Course Choice course providers – they must still negotiate a final, definitive contract with the Department that will include (among many elements) specific and demanding accountability and quality control standards.

***Our goal in today's meeting is to receive from BESE their determination of which course providers they will Approve for final, definitive negotiations***. During these negotiations, Department team members will reach final agreement with course providers on the specific course titles they will offer, the tuitions associated with each course, their accountability and quality control obligations, their reporting obligations, and many, many other specific conditions.

Each course provider snapshot provides their background, proposed course offerings, and the Department's indication of why we believe each course provider merits inclusion in the program.

# 2013 Course Choice "Recommend Approve" Course Providers Overview

| | Course Provider Organization | Course Type | Level | Region | Louisiana Based |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Academic Access, LLC | Online | High | Statewide | Yes |
| 2 | ACT Mastery | Online and F2F | High | Statewide | |
| 3 | Amplify | Online and F2F | High | Statewide | |
| 4 | Benjamin Franklin High School | Online and F2F | High | New Orleans Region | Yes |
| 5 | Djay's School of Beauty | Face-to-Face | High | EBR & Livingston | Yes |
| 6 | eLearning Center LLC | Online and F2F | K-12 | Statewide | Yes |
| 7 | J. Schneider Associates, Ltd. | Face-to-Face | High | Acadiana Region | Yes |
| 8 | Mosaica Online | Online | K-12 | Statewide | |
| 9 | Nelson Academy of Agricultural Sciences Online | Online | High | Statewide | |
| 10 | Pelican Virtual School | Online | Grades 6-12 | Statewide | Yes |
| 11 | Penn Foster | Online | K-12 | Statewide | |
| 12 | PresenceLearning | Online | K-12 | Statewide | |
| 13 | Raymond Career College | Face-to-Face | High | Algiers (New Orleans) | Yes |
| 14 | SkillBott Inc. | Online | Grades 6-12 | Statewide | |
| 15 | Sparx Welding and Technology Institute, LLC | Face-to-Face | High | Bayou Region | Yes |
| 16 | University of Nebraska High School | Online | High | Statewide | |
| 17 | US Heritage Powersports | Face-to-Face | High | New Orleans Region | Yes |

## Academic Access, LLC

| | |
|---|---|
| Contact Name | Sandra Morgan<br>academicaccessllc@gmail.com |
| Address | 1105 Hillcrest Dr.<br>Franklinton, LA 70438 |
| Course Type | Online |
| Description of Course Offerings | High school mathematics |
| Rationale for Approval | Developed by Louisiana educators with a history of teaching mathematics in Louisiana, their focus is ensuring quality mathematics skills are learned by their students. |

## ACT Mastery

| | |
|---|---|
| Contact Name | Craig Gehring<br>craig@actmastery.org |
| Address | 7117 Florida Blvd.<br>Baton Rouge, LA 70806 |
| Course Type | Online and F2F |
| Description of Course Offerings | ACT test preparation |
| Rationale for Approval | ACT Mastery is currently serving in several LA school districts. They are familiar with ACT requirements and have a track record of improving student scores on the exam. |

## Amplify

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Emily Grad<br>egrad@amplify.com |
| Address | 55 Washington St. Ste. 900<br>Brooklyn, NY 11201 |
| Course Type | Online and F2F |
| Description of Course Offerings | AP Computer Science |
| Rationale for Approval | The use of innovative technology creates personalized learning for students. |

## Benjamin Franklin High School

| | |
|---|---|
| Contact Name | Timothy G. Rusnak<br>trusnak@bfhsla.org |
| Address | 2001 Leon C. Simon Dr.<br>New Orleans, LA 70122 |
| Course Type | Online and F2F |
| Description of Course Offerings | AP Calculus |
| Rationale for Approval | Partnering with Khan Academy, this program offers individualized instruction that is rigorous, engaging, and effective. |

## Djay's School of Beauty

| | |
|---|---|
| Contact Name | Paul Schilleci<br>financialaid@djaysschoolofbeauty.com |
| Address | 10120 Red Oak Dr.<br>Baton Rouge, LA 70815 |
| Course Type | Face-to-Face |
| Description of Course Offerings | Cosmetology |
| Rationale for Approval | Long time leader in the cosmetology industry in Baton Rouge, they seek to provide students with knowledge and skills to be successful in the cosmetology industry. |

## eLearning Center LLC

| | |
|---|---|
| Contact Name | Nancy Toups<br>ntoups@elearningk12.com |
| Address | 142 Laura Dr. Ste. E<br>Thibodaux, LA 70301 |
| Course Type | Online and F2F |
| Description of Course Offerings | Variety of core academic courses, forensic science, veterinary science, legal studies, international business, agricience, culinary arts |
| Rationale for Approval | A Louisiana based company currently working in the Southern part of the state. An individualized educational plan for each student with courses aligned to Louisiana standards and Common Core State Standards. |

## J. Schneider Associates, Ltd.

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Susan Norris<br>susan.norris@jschneiderltd.com |
| Address | 325 Industrial Parkway<br>Lafayette, LA 70508 |
| Course Type | Face-to-Face |
| Description of Course Offerings | Fire protection, medical first aid, fall protection, and dealing with hazardous materials clean-up |
| Rationale for Approval | A specialist in safety, environmental, and regulatory laws they provide training for the oil & gas industry. Coursework leads to a Workforce Investment Council approved IBC. They have state of the art facilities. |

## Mosaica Online

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Shannon Metcalf<br>smetcalf@mosaicaeducation.com |
| Address | 3400 Peachtree Rd. Ste. 550<br>Atlanta, GA 30326 |
| Course Type | Online |
| Description of Course Offerings | World history |
| Rationale for Approval | Innovative and engaging world history course integrating the arts into the learning process. Course is aligned to iNACOL standards. |

## Nelson Academy of Agricultural Sciences Online

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | LeRoy Nelson<br>mrnelson@allagonline.com |
| Address | 306 1st Ave. West, Box 23<br>Scobey, MT 59263 |
| Course Type | Online |
| Description of Course Offerings | Agriculture education courses including farm business, veterinary science, equine science, animal science, crop science, etc. |
| Rationale for Approval | Offers a unique set of courses in the agricultural arena. |

## Pelican Virtual School

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Christian Cecchini<br>ccecchini@swissmail.org |
| Address | 150 Lakeland Blvd.<br>Denham Springs, LA 70726 |
| Course Type | Online |
| Description of Course Offerings | Foreign language |
| Rationale for Approval | A cadre of former Louisiana Virtual School instructors with more than 10+ years of foreign language online instruction. |

## Penn Foster

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | J Garth Fasano<br>garth.fasano@pennfoster.edu |
| Address | 374 Congress St.<br>Boston, MA 2210 |
| Course Type | Online |
| Description of Course Offerings | Theory courses in the arenas of construction, automotive technology, dental assisting, and plumbing |
| Rationale for Approval | Offers specific courses tied to the workforce of Louisiana. |

## PresenceLearning

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Clay Whitehead<br>clay@presencelearning.com |
| Address | 580 Market St., 6th Floor<br>San Francisco, CA 94102 |
| Course Type | Online |
| Description of Course Offerings | Speech therapy, social skills, occupational therapy |
| Rationale for Approval | Provides access to speech and occupational therapy through innovative technology. |

## Raymond Career College

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Danita Raymond<br>draymondaka@yahoo.com |
| Address | 3740 Plymouth Place<br>New Orleans, LA 70131 |
| Course Type | Face-to-Face |
| Description of Course Offerings | Nursing assistant and education careers |
| Rationale for Approval | A small focused program in Orleans Parish wanting to aid students in obtaining credentials to become a Nursing Assistant. This is an area recognized by the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council. |

## SkillBott Inc.

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Robert G. Klemp Jr., PhD<br>rgk@ptcsi.com |
| Address | 5464 S. Hyde Park Blvd. #2<br>Chicago, IL 60615 |
| Course Type | Online |
| Description of Course Offerings | Career readiness, "soft skills" curricula |
| Rationale for Approval | Courses focused on being an effective communicator and skills to be job ready. |

## Sparx Welding and Technology Institute, LLC

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Philip Callahan<br>phc@sparxwelding.net |
| Address | 280-A Equity Blvd.<br>Houma, LA 70360 |
| Course Type | Face-to-Face |
| Description of Course Offerings | Basic welding |
| Rationale for Approval | A preferred training center focused on providing knowledge and skills to be come a successful welder. An American Welding Society training based certified welding school. |

## University of Nebraska High School

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|---|---|
| Contact Name | Barbara Wolf Shousha<br>bshousha@nebraska.edu |
| Address | 1520 N 20th Circle<br>Lincoln, NE 68588 |
| Course Type | Online |
| Description of Course Offerings | Large variety of core academic, technology, foreign language, and arts courses |
| Rationale for Approval | They are committed to serving students anytime, anywhere with a high quality, college prep high school curriculum aligned to Common Core. |

# US Heritage Powersports

| | |
|---|---|
| Contact Name | Demetri Melekos<br>demetri@us-hp.com |
| Address | 1441 Canal St. Ste. 224<br>New Orleans, LA 70112 |
| Course Type | Face-to-Face |
| Description of Course Offerings | Welding, electrical, and craft skills utilizing NCCER curriculum |
| Rationale for Approval | Seeking to provide industry-based certifications to students in the New Orleans region by partnering with Delgado Community College. Doing so will help to increase the manufacturing economy in the New Orleans region. |