

# Louisiana Believes

---

Evaluation Results  
New Documentation Requirements in SER  
July 2018

# Agenda + Logistics

- I. **Background: Policy and Progress for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.**
- I. **Technical Guidance: Entering Evaluation Results into SER**
- I. **Technical Guidance: Using Evaluation Results to Inform Alternate Assessment Eligibility**
- I. **Summary and Resources**

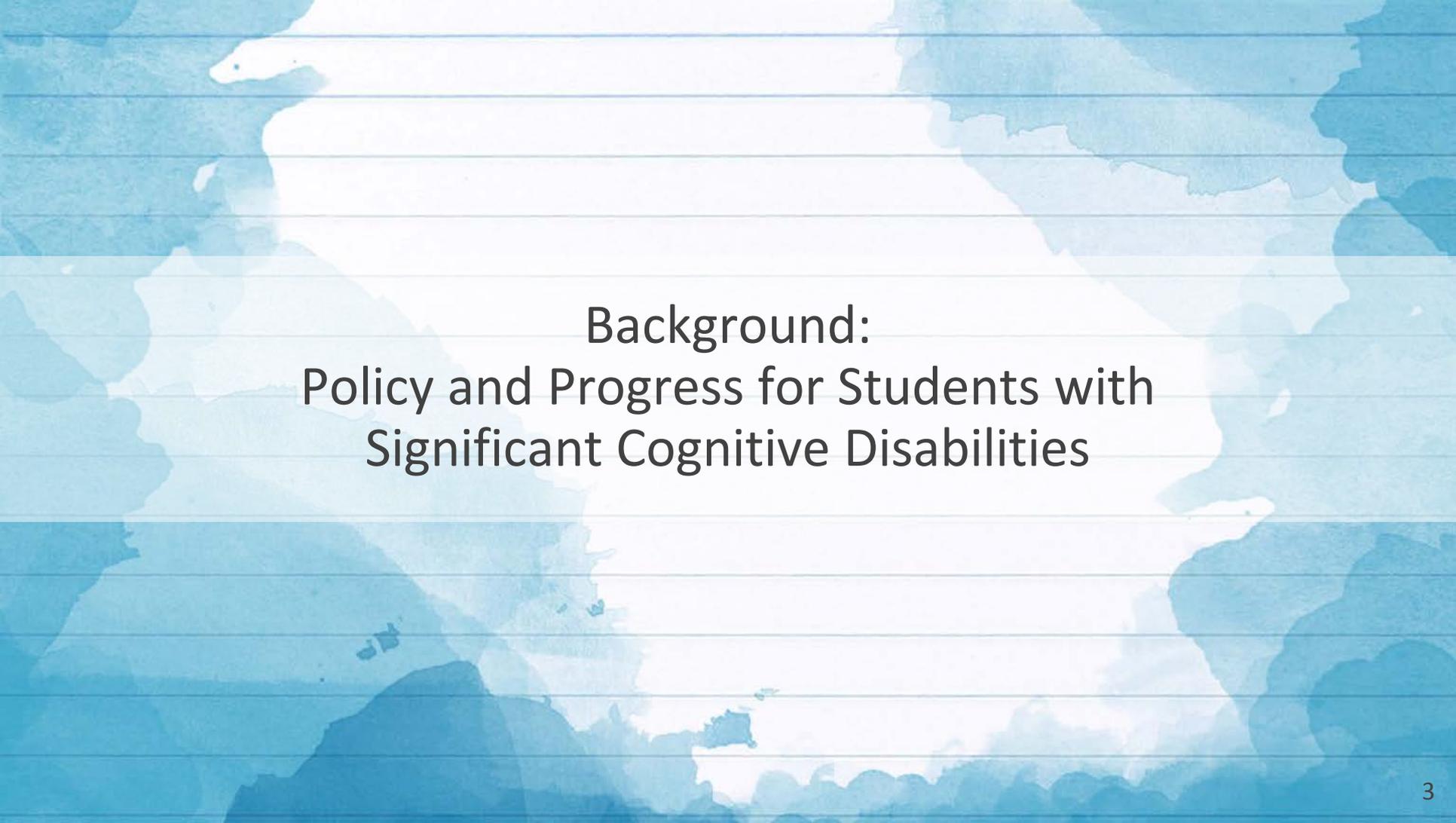
## Logistics

If you are experiencing audio difficulties, please make sure that your speakers are on and that your volume is at a suitable level.

The call will be in the listen only mode to ensure we get through the information. Please type questions into the chat box as we go along.

**Dial in by phone:** 1-408-638-0968

**Meeting ID:** 934105439



Background:  
Policy and Progress for Students with  
Significant Cognitive Disabilities

# Background

Louisiana believes that all students, including students with significant disabilities, should be held to the highest possible grade-level expectations. To this end,

- Louisiana has developed the Louisiana Connectors in English language arts, mathematics, and science to provide developmentally- appropriate content for all grades and courses while maintaining high expectations for all students.
- To measure progress towards the LEAP Connectors, Louisiana developed the LEAP Connect alternate assessment so that all students are able to participate in an assessment of their knowledge.

ESSA requires states to ensure that only students with the most significant disabilities take the LEAP Connect alternate assessment. To ensure this, the Department is releasing enhancements to the special education reporting system (SER) to verify eligibility.

# State Criteria: Alternate Assessment Participation

BESE policy outlines specific [criteria](#) a student must meet to participate in the LEAP Connect alternate assessment. **IEP teams are responsible** for determining if a student should participate in the alternate assessment, based on the state's criteria.

1. **The student has a disability that significantly impacts cognitive function and/or adaptive behavior.**
1. The student requires extensive modified instruction aligned with the Louisiana extended standards to acquire, maintain, and generalize skills.
1. The decision to include the student in the alternate assessment is not solely based certain factors (placement, behavior, English learner status, etc.).

# State Criteria: Alternate Assessment Participation

The first criterion states that the student must be functioning **significantly below the mean on an assessment of cognitive and/or adaptive functioning**. Grade-level is defined as:

- A. For students who have not completed the 5th grade, an eligible student is functioning **3 or more standard deviations** below the mean in cognitive functioning and/or adaptive behavior.
- A. For students who have completed 5th grade, an eligible student is functioning **2.3 or more standard deviations** below the mean in cognitive functioning and/or adaptive behavior.
- A. Students who have completed the 5th grade functioning between **2.0 and 2.29 or more standard deviations** below the mean in cognitive functioning and/or adaptive behavior may be eligible for alternate assessment participation if the IEP team provides additional empirical evidence an alternate assessment identification is appropriate for the student.

# Cognitive and Adaptive Assessments

The first criterion state that the student must be functioning **significantly below the mean on an assessment of cognitive and/or adaptive functioning**. Cognitive and adaptive assessments are part of a formal psychological evaluation, typically conducted as part of a student' initial evaluation, or as part of a reevaluation, when additional information on the student's performance is needed.

- **Cognitive** development is characterized by the way a child learns, acquires knowledge and interacts with his or her surrounding environment. A cognitive assessment provides information on a student's ability to reason, to think abstractly, and to solve problems.
- **Adaptive** behavior is how a child meets the demands of their environment. Assessments of adaptive behavior typically measure conceptual (communication, self-direction, etc.), social (leisure, etc.) and practical (community use, self-care, etc.) functioning.

# Documenting Evaluation Results in SER

IEP teams do not always have the full evaluation available and/or do not always know how to interpret cognitive and/or adaptive assessment results. **IEP teams need the right information at the right time to make an informed decision** as to whether a student is eligible for the alternate assessment and whether that's the best decision for his/her educational goals.

To help IEP teams in the decision-making process, LDOE is adding enhancements to the SER system that will capture and display cognitive and adaptive assessment results clearly and transparently. These will:

- Require pupil appraisal teams / SER clerks to add specific elements of cognitive and adaptive evaluation results under the evaluation link in SER.
- Automatically add those results to the IEP's LEAP Connect form, the place where the IEP team documents the student meets the state's criteria.

# Documenting Evaluation Results in SER

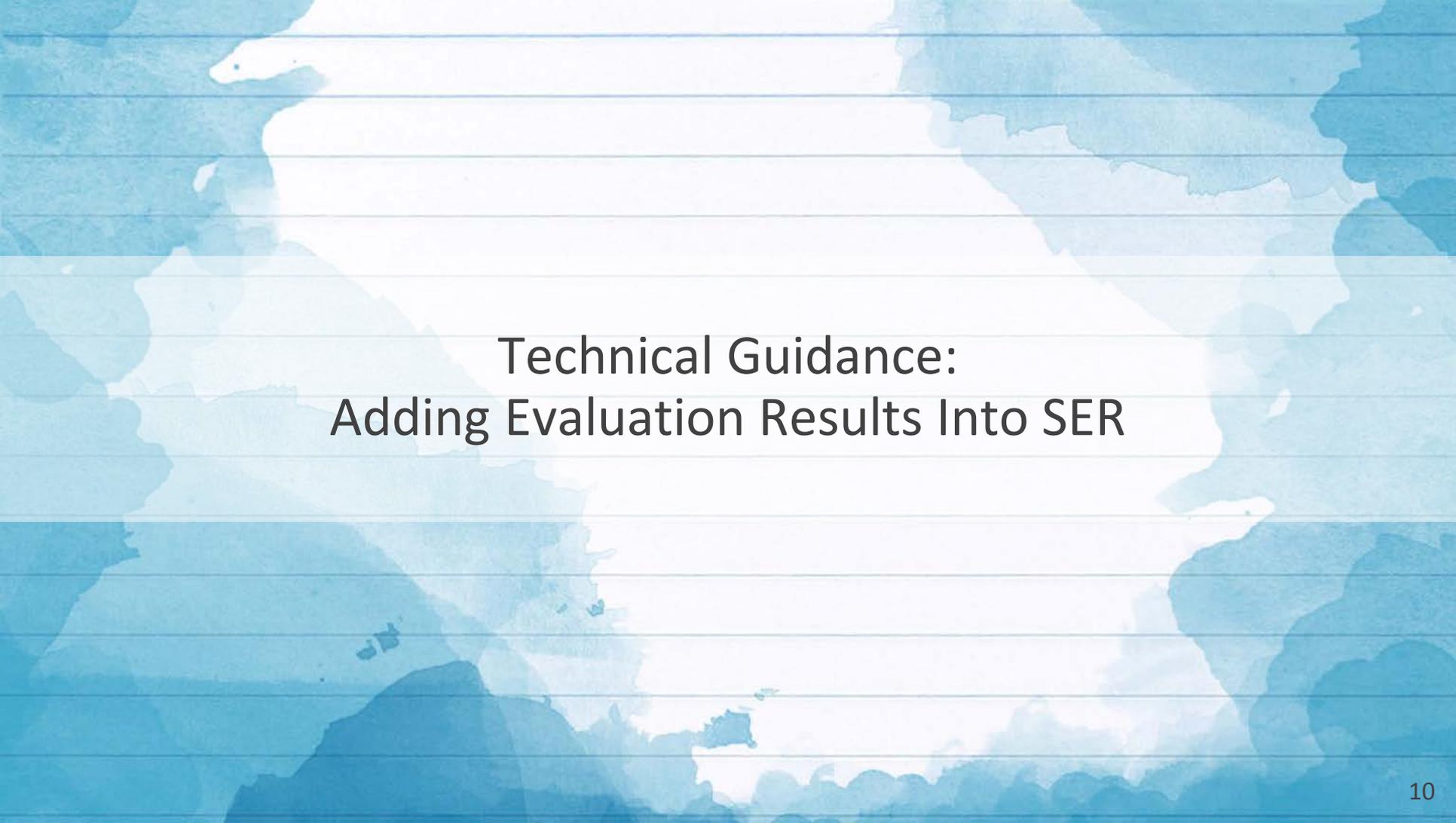
School systems need to ensure cognitive and adaptive evaluation results are captured for all students with disabilities on the following timeline:

For all students who will take the LEAP Connect alternate assessment in Spring 2019

By **January 4, 2019**. School systems must verify eligibility for students to take the alternate assessment.

For all other students with disabilities

During the student's next initial evaluation or reevaluation.



# Technical Guidance: Adding Evaluation Results Into SER

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

## Initial Evaluation

Save Close Cancel Delete

### Initial Evaluation

Permission Request Date:

Parent Decision:

Decision/Start Date:

Eligibility Determination Date:

Report Disseminated Date:

---

Evaluation Coordinator

Title:

SSN:  -  -

---

### Evaluation Exceptionality

+ Add New

Exceptionality	Primary Exceptionality	Exceptionality Detail
----------------	------------------------	-----------------------

---

### Evaluation Results

+ Add New

Assessment Type	Assessment Completed	Assessment Name	Date Administered	Standard Deviation
-----------------	----------------------	-----------------	-------------------	--------------------

Extension Reason:

Date Approved:  Days:

Participant [Add Multiple](#)   [Add Multiple](#)

Participant	Impairment
-------------	------------

---

### Record Information

Created On: 7/25/2018 1:57:22 PM Created By: teahld  
Modified On: 7/25/2018 1:57:22 PM Modified By: teahld

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

Creating an Initial Evaluation adds the ability to create an Evaluation Results component.

Save Close Cancel Delete

**Initial Evaluation Saved.**

### Initial Evaluation

**Permission Request Date:** 7/13/2018  
**Parent Decision:** Yes\_Granted  
**Decision/Start Date:** 7/13/2018  
**Eligibility Determination Date:** 7/13/2018  
**Report Disseminated Date:**

**Evaluation Coordinator**

**Title:** -- SELECT ONE --  
**SSN:** - - - Clear

### Evaluation Exceptionality

+ Add New

Exceptionality	Primary Exceptionality	Exceptionality Detail
----------------	------------------------	-----------------------

### Evaluation Results

+ Add New

Assessment Type	Assessment Completed	Assessment Name	Date Administered	Standard Deviation
-----------------	----------------------	-----------------	-------------------	--------------------

Extension	Date Approved	Days	Participant	Medical Diagnosis
Reason: -- SELECT ONE --	Date Approved: [ ] [ ] [ ]	Days: [ ]	Participant: -- SELECT ONE --	Medical Diagnosis: -- SELECT ONE --
Extension	Date Approved	Days	Participant	Impairment

Extension: Reason: -- SELECT ONE -- Add Date Approved: [ ] [ ] [ ] Days: [ ] Participant: -- SELECT ONE -- Add Medical Diagnosis: -- SELECT ONE -- Add Impairment: -- SELECT ONE -- Add

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

Clicking Add New opens the Evaluation Results component.

## Standard Deviation:

digit can be entered as a positive (+) or a negative (-) integer. You must select either sign from the drop down menu

## Standard Deviation:

If the user clicks inside the standard deviation text box a Standard Deviation label will popup.

Save Close Cancel

### Intellectual Functioning / Cognitive Assessments

Assessment Completed:  Yes  No

Assessment Name: Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI) ▼

Date Administered:

Standard Deviation\*: - ▼

---

### Adaptive Behavior Assessments

Assessment Completed:  Yes  No

Assessment Name: Scales of Independent Behavior - Revised (SIB) ▼

Date Administered:

Standard Deviation\*: - ▼

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

## Standard Deviation\*

### Standard Deviation

This section must include the standard deviation from a cognitive and/or adaptive assessment that may qualify the student to participate in the alternate assessment. Note that this information alone will not automatically qualify the student to participate in the alternate assessment. That decision is completed by the IEP team and is documented on the "LEAP Connect Form". Louisiana's alternate assessment was developed for students for whom there is evidence of a disability or multiple disabilities that significantly impacts cognitive functioning and/or adaptive behavior. In order to participate in an alternate assessment, a student must meet one of three criteria. The first criterion states that the student's cognitive and/or adaptive behavior is assessed and the student is functioning:

- a) 3 or more standard deviations below the mean.
- b) between 2.3 and 2.9 standard deviations below the mean and has completed fifth grade.
- c) between 2.0 and 2.29 standard deviations below the mean and has completed fifth grade, with additional documentation required.

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

Fill out the remainder of required information.  
**Assessment Name:**  
Checking "Other"  
makes the "Other" test  
box appear.

Close

**Evaluation Results Information Saved**

**Intellectual Functioning / Cognitive Assessments**

Assessment Completed:  Yes  No

Assessment Name:

Other:

Date Administered:

Standard Deviation\*:

**Adaptive Behavior Assessments**

Assessment Completed:  Yes  No

Assessment Name:

Date Administered:

Standard Deviation\*:

Checking "No" will disable  
the assessment fields.

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

Close

## Evaluation Results Information Saved

### Intellectual Functioning / Cognitive Assessments

Assessment Completed:  Yes  No

Assessment Name: Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI) ▼

Date Administered: 7/2/2018 

Standard Deviation\*: - ▼ 1.11

### Adaptive Behavior Assessments

Assessment Completed:  Yes  No

Assessment Name: Scales of Independent Behavior - Revised (SIB) ▼

Date Administered: 7/2/2018 

Standard Deviation\*: + ▼ 3.33

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

Saved Evaluation Results record:

Save Close Cancel Delete

### Initial Evaluation

Permission Request Date: 7/13/2018  
Parent Decision: Yes, Granted  
Decision/Start Date: 7/13/2018  
Eligibility Determination Date: 7/13/2018  
Report Disseminated Date:

Evaluation Coordinator  
Title: -- SELECT ONE --  
SSN: - - Clear

### Evaluation Exceptionality

+ Add New

Exceptionality	Primary Exceptionality	Exceptionality D
----------------	------------------------	------------------

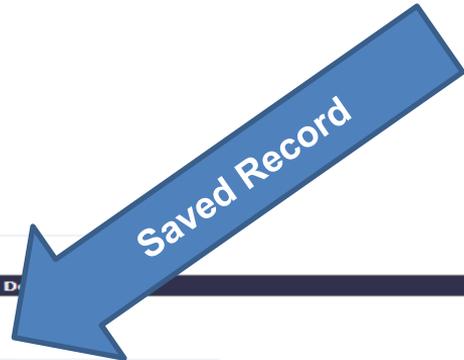
### Evaluation Results

Assessment Type	Assessment Completed	Assessment Name	Date Administered	Standard Deviation
Intellectual Functioning / Cognitive Assessments	Yes	Cognitive Assessment	7/13/2018	-3.01
Adaptive Behavior Assessments	No			

Extension Reason: -- SELECT ONE -- Add  
Date Approved: Days:

Participant Add Multiple  
Participant -- SELECT ONE -- Add

Medical Diagnosis Add Multiple  
Impairment -- SELECT ONE -- Add



# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

## Re-Evaluation

Save Close Cancel

### Re-Evaluation

Permission Request/Start Date:

Re-Evaluation Reason: -- SELECT ONE --

---

Evaluation Coordinator

Title: -- SELECT ONE --

SSN:  -  -

### Evaluation Exceptionality

Exceptionality	Primary Exceptionality	Exceptionality Detail
----------------	------------------------	-----------------------

---

### Alternate Assessment

Assessment Type	Eligible For Assessment	Assessment Name	Date Administered	Standard Deviation
-----------------	-------------------------	-----------------	-------------------	--------------------

Extension Reason: -- SELECT ONE --  Participant  Medical Diagnosis

Date Approved:  Days:  Participant -- SELECT ONE --  Impairment -- SELECT ONE --

Extension	Date Approved	Days	Participant	Impairment
-----------	---------------	------	-------------	------------

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

## Populate - Education Results

Save Close Cancel Delete

**Re-Evaluation Saved.**

**Re-Evaluation**

Permission Request/Start Date: 7/27/2018  
Disseminated Date:  
Re-Evaluation Reason: New Concern

**Evaluation Coordinator**

Title: -- SELECT ONE --  
SSN: - - - Clear

**Evaluation Exceptionality**

+ Add New

Exceptionality	Primary Exceptionality	Exceptionality Detail
----------------	------------------------	-----------------------

**Evaluation Results**

+ Add New | + Populate From Previous Evaluation

Assessment Type	Assessment Completed	Assessment Name	Date Administered	Standard Deviation
-----------------	----------------------	-----------------	-------------------	--------------------

**Extension** Reason: -- SELECT ONE --  
Date Approved: Days:

**Participant** Add Multiple -- SELECT ONE -- Add

**Medical Diagnosis** Add Multiple -- SELECT ONE -- Add

Extension	Date Approved	Days	Participant	Impairment
-----------	---------------	------	-------------	------------

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

Saved Pre-Populated Evaluation Results:

Save Close Cancel Delete

Evaluation Results has been pre-populated from the previous evaluation.

**Re-Evaluation**

Permission Request/Start Date: 7/16/2018  
Disseminated Date:   
Re-Evaluation Reason: New Concern

**Evaluation Coordinator**

Title: -- SELECT ONE --  
SSN: - - - Clear

**Evaluation Exceptionality**

+ Add New

Exceptionality	Primary Exceptionality	Detail
----------------	------------------------	--------

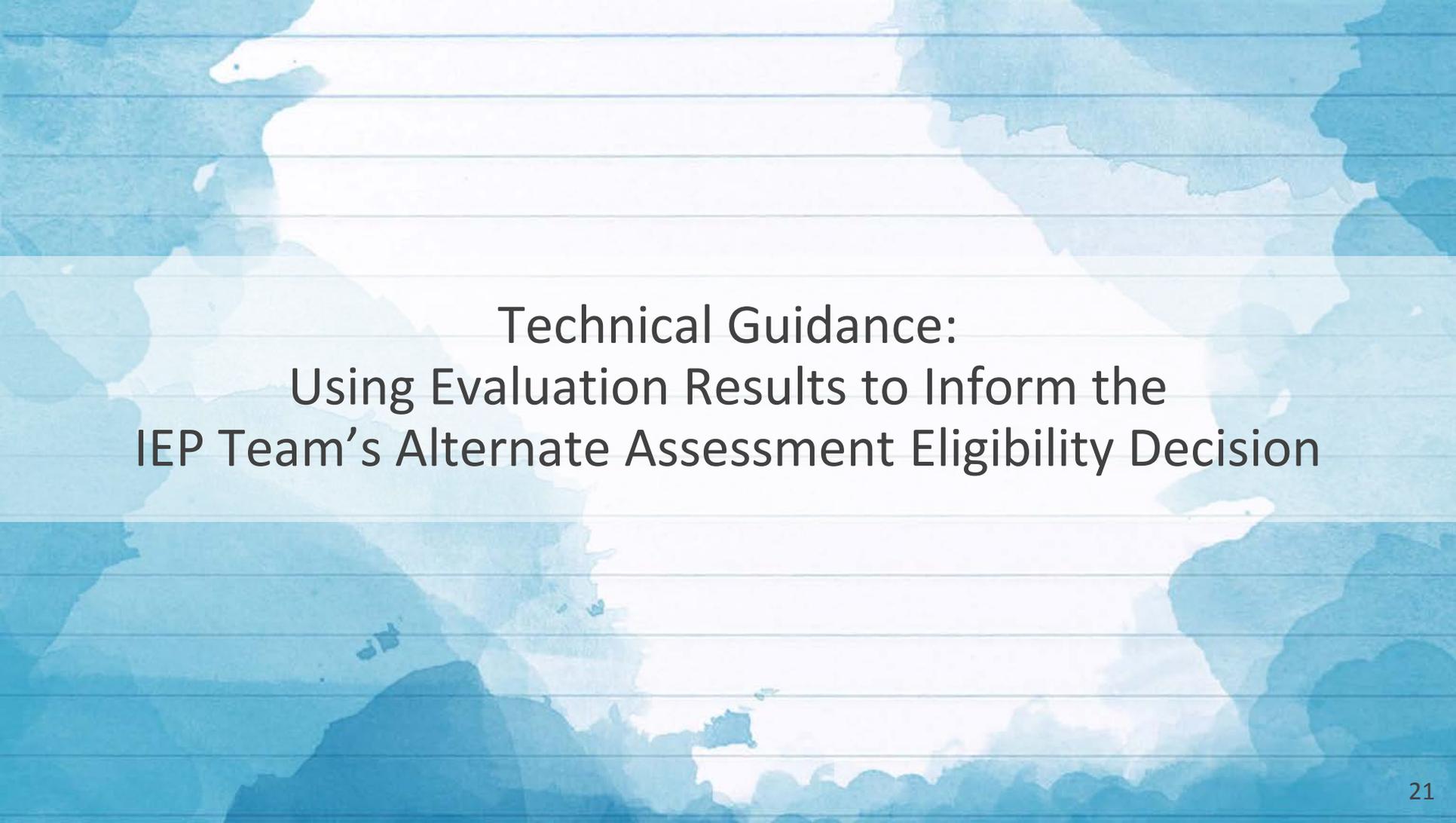
**Evaluation Results**

Assessment Type	Assessment Completed	Assessment Name	Date Administered	Standard Deviation
Intellectual Functioning / Cognitive Assessments	Yes	Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI)	7/2/2018	-1.11
Adaptive Behavior Assessments	Yes	Scales of Independent Behavior - Revised (SIB)	7/2/2018	3.33

**Extension** Reason: -- SELECT ONE -- Add Date Approved: Days:   
**Participant** Add Multiple -- SELECT ONE -- Add   
**Medical Diagnosis** Add Multiple -- SELECT ONE -- Add

Extension	Date Approved	Days	Participant	Impairment
-----------	---------------	------	-------------	------------

Saved Pre-populated Record



Technical Guidance:  
Using Evaluation Results to Inform the  
IEP Team's Alternate Assessment Eligibility Decision

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

Error Code: O051

✓ [ESY](#)

✗ [LAA 1](#)

- ✗ O010: To be eligible to participate in LAA 1, the response to each of the four Criterion must have been "Agree."
- ✗ O020: Parental Understanding: Louisiana Extended Standards must be selected.
- ✗ O021: Parental Understanding: Functional Skills must be selected
- ✗ O022: Parental Understanding: Annual must be selected.
- ✗ O030: LAA1 Approval: Eligibility is required.
- ✗ O032: Parent Signature is required.
- ✗ O033: LEA Representative Signature is required.
- ✗ O034: Special Education Teacher Signature is required.
- O051: Intellectual Functioning / Cognitive Assessments - Evaluation Results needs to be added on the evaluation screen.
- O051: Adaptive Behavior Assessments - Evaluation Results needs to be added on the evaluation screen.

Validation Error  
Message

# Special Education Reporting System (SER) System Updates

## LEAP Connect Form:

SER Individualized Education Program | LA Department of Education

IEP Forms | 8. LEAP Connect | Validate | Official / Signed | Delete

System: Vernon Parish | Student Name: [REDACTED] | Grade: [REDACTED] | add/delete forms to IEP  
 Meeting Date(s): 7/17/2018 | DOB: [REDACTED] | Local Id: [REDACTED]

In order to protect student privacy per RS 17:3914, refrain from using student name, date of birth, and other personally identifiable information.

### LEAP Alternate Assessment, LEAP Connect Participation Criteria Grades 3-11

**Exceptionality** | Detail(s)

Primary: -- SELECT ONE --  
 Other: -- SELECT ONE --

### Evaluation Results Detail

Assessment Type	Complete	Name of Assessment	Date Administered	Standard Deviation
Intellectual Functioning / Cognitive Assessments	Yes	Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI)	7/2/2018	-1.11
Adaptive Behavior Assessments	Yes	Scales of Independent Behavior - Revised (SIB)	7/2/2018	3.33

LEAP Alternate Assessment, LEAP Connect was developed for students for whom there is evidence of a disability or multiple disabilities that significantly impact cognitive functioning and/or adaptive behavior. To be eligible to participate in LEAP Connect, the response to each of the four statements below must be "Agree."

**Criterion #1**  
 Evidence of a Significant Cognitive Disability or Multiple Disabilities (select one)  
 Agree  Disagree

The student's cognitive and/or adaptive behavior has been assessed and the student is functioning:

- A. 3 or more standard deviations below the mean.
- B. Between 2.3 and 2.9 standard deviations below the mean and has completed fifth grade.
- C. Between 2.0 and 2.29 standard deviations below the mean and has completed fifth grade - additional documentation required.

# Resources and Support

School systems can access resources to help IEP teams and pupil appraisal / SER personnel navigate the documentation requirements:

- [Alternate Assessment Eligible FAQ for IEP Teams](#)
- [Evaluation Updates in SER Q&A for School Systems](#)

In addition, the Department is hosting additional training and support opportunities:

- SER webinar training for SER clerks (today)
- September Collaboration sessions
- Validation report updates during fall 2018
- SER evaluation results and alternate assessment eligibility report *coming soon*

# Summary

ESSA requires states to ensure that only students with the most significant disabilities take the LEAP Connect alternate assessment. To ensure this, the Department is releasing enhancements to SER to verify eligibility.

- School systems must verify eligibility for students to take the alternate assessment by adding this information by **January 4, 2019**.
- School systems must add this information for all students with disabilities during their next evaluation or reevaluation.

For policy questions, please email [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov)

For technical questions, please email [Bernetta.Sims@la.gov](mailto:Bernetta.Sims@la.gov)