

Interests and Opportunities Index 2020-2021 Frequently Asked Questions

Louisiana’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan includes an Interests and Opportunities Index, which comprises five percent of the School Performance Score (SPS). The purpose of the Interests and Opportunities Index is to measure the degree to which schools are providing students with access to a well-rounded education by offering diverse areas of learning to develop skills and talents.

This document is intended to provide guidance to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on accountability and reporting requirements for the 2020-2021 Interests and Opportunities Index.

Survey Completion FAQs

1. When will the survey open and close?

- Survey open date: Thursday, January 14, 2021
- Survey close date: Monday, February 22, 2021

2. Who should complete the survey?

The survey should be completed by the principal or school leader, in coordination with the staff member(s) responsible for enrichment programming and someone who has access to coursework, enrollment, and staffing data (i.e. data manager, operations manager). All schools, regardless of grade configuration, should complete the survey. Each survey must be verified and electronically signed by the superintendent.

3. How will principals receive the survey?

The online survey will be distributed to the email address associated with each school leader in the Sponsor Site (SPS) data system. Accountability contacts will also receive a notification with directions that can be shared with school leaders. The directions will be shared on Thursday, January 14, 2021. LEAs are responsible for ensuring completion by February 22, 2021. Each survey will only be considered complete upon receipt of the superintendent or head of school’s electronic signature. Principals will receive an email upon submission of the survey and upon receipt of the superintendent’s signature.

The Department will provide weekly survey completion reports to LEAs via the data management secure FTP on Friday mornings.

4. How will the superintendent or head of school validate the survey after the principal has submitted it?

The superintendent or head of school will receive an email indicating that a survey has been submitted and requires verification, including a copy of the survey submission. After reviewing the survey, the superintendent, head of school, or his or her designee, will click the link in the email, provide an electronic signature after verifying the information, and click submit.

5. What if a school has more than one principal or administrator?

Only one survey should be submitted for each school (site code). Schools with multiple principals or administrators should coordinate to submit one survey.

6. What type of questions will the survey ask?

The purpose of this survey is to gather comparable data across schools about what enrichment programming is offered and perceptions of how well it is implemented. Information collected via the survey will be used to inform the development of a long-term interests and opportunities measure.

7. Will the survey be scored?

No, only survey completion will count towards the Interests and Opportunities score. Principals should enter their best estimate of what services and programs are being provided during the 2020-2021 school year.

Course Enrollment FAQs

8. Where is course enrollment reported to the LDOE?

The percent of students enrolled in each course category (physical education, visual arts, performing arts, and world languages) is based on student and teacher schedules as reported across three Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) data systems. SIS, PEP, and CUR are linked together by unique class codes, which allow LDE to link students to teachers and then link both to course data through the CUR database.

LDE Data System	Description of Class Schedule Data Reporting
Student Information System (SIS)	Student Class Schedules (Record 110) contain information regarding each class a student is enrolled in on October 1st. Student class schedules are required to be submitted to SIS during the fall Oct. 1 CLASS data collection.
Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP)	Teacher Class Schedules (Record Type 210) contain information regarding each class a teacher is scheduled to teach. Teacher class schedules are required to be submitted to PEP during the fall Oct. 1 CLASS data collection.
Curriculum System (CUR)	Curriculum data includes Class Schedule Records which describe the classes in which the students are enrolled. These class schedules should be a reflection of your LEA’s classes offered/planned for each semester within the entire school year (not just the first semester) as those classes were scheduled as of October 1. These class schedules are required to be submitted to CUR during the fall Oct 1. CLASS data collection.

For the purpose of calculating the Interests and Opportunities index, the following must be true:

1. Students are enrolled in the school on October 1, 2020, according to the October 1, 2020 SIS record submission.
2. Classes are reported to CUR, PEP, and SIS during the October 1 CLASS collection.
3. Course codes match the enrichment course code list provided by LDE.

9. Will there be a data verification process for course enrollment reporting in 2020-2021?

There will not be a data verification process for course enrollment after the data systems close in January.

LDE will provide CLASS data validation reports and rosters to LEAs during the CLASS data collection period. The reports will be available on the [Data Management FTP](#).

These reports will highlight class schedule data that may impact Interests and Opportunities.

LEA data coordinators should review these data validation reports carefully to ensure accurate information has been reported for calculating the Interests and Opportunities index. The final report includes a statement of affirmation that must be signed by the data manager and superintendent. No additional data verification period will be provided.

10. Which course codes will count towards the Interests and Opportunities measure?

The course codes that will be considered for each category of enrichment in the Interests and Opportunities course enrollment indicator are listed [here](#). Please be aware that generic enrichment course codes will not be included in the calculation.

11. Do after school activities count?

After school offerings are not classes and may not be included in the course enrollment measure. The Department looks forward to gathering information regarding after school offerings through the survey.

12. My school offers enrichment courses not included in the visual and performing arts, health and physical education, and/or world language categories. Will these courses be counted?

In the 2020-2021 school year, only courses in the four required enrichment categories (visual arts, performing arts, health and physical education, and world languages) will be included in the course enrollment component.

13. How frequently must a course meet to be included in the Interests and Opportunities measure?

A course is dedicated instruction on a particular topic provided during the school day. Courses must be part of a student's regular class schedule (e.g. daily or every other day). There is no minimum number of minutes required in order to earn credit in the 2020-2021 Interests and Opportunities measure.

Many schools have a dedicated enrichment block in which students rotate through different enrichment courses. Students may have music class on Mondays, PE on Tuesdays, and so on; or students may rotate through a different enrichment class each quarter. For schools with this type of scheduling, be sure to report each course (e.g. music, PE) via SIS, PEP, and CUR.

Bulletin 741 provides guidance for the number of minutes for physical education, visual arts, performing arts, and world language courses. The 2020-2021 Interests and Opportunities measure will collect data on the number of minutes provided in these courses.

- World Language: 30 minutes daily in grades 4-6, and 150 minutes per week in grades 7-8
- Physical Education: 30 minutes daily
- Visual and Performing Arts: 60 minutes each per week

14. Are courses required to be taught by certified teachers in order to earn credit in Interests and Opportunities?

No. Courses included in the Interests and Opportunities measure may be offered during regular class time and lead by the classroom teacher, and/or may take place outside of the home classroom with a subject-specific teacher; however, courses must take place during the school day.

15. Do students have to receive a grade in enrichment courses?

No. Schools and school systems should continue to award grades to students following local policies.

16. Will LEAs with a world language waiver include a world language course measure for Interests and Opportunities?

Yes. The Interests and Opportunities measure will include student enrollment in world language courses for all schools enrolling grades K-8.

17. How do students who are enrolled in multiple enrichment courses count in the measure?

Each student counts one time in each enrichment category. If a student is enrolled in multiple courses in the same category (e.g. band and choir), that still counts as one student enrolled in that category. If a student is enrolled in multiple categories (e.g. Visual Arts and Performing Arts), that student will count (only once) in each category.

18. Can classes count for both DCAI and Interests and Opportunities?

Yes. If an 8th grade student earns high school credit for an enrichment course, the school may earn DCAI points in the following year, in addition to earning credit in Interests and Opportunities in the current year.

Accountability FAQs

18. How will the Interests and Opportunities measure be calculated?

In the 2020-2021 school year, the Interests and Opportunities index for high schools will be based solely on survey completion. The index for grades K-8 will be based in equal parts on survey completion and course enrollment.

The course enrollment score is defined as the percent of grade K-8 students enrolled in physical education courses, visual arts courses, performing arts courses, and of grade 4-8 students enrolled in world language courses.

To calculate the numerator, sum the following based on October 1 enrollment:

- Total grade K-8 students enrolled in physical education and/or health courses;
- Total grade K-8 students enrolled in visual arts courses;
- Total grade K-8 students enrolled in performing arts courses; and
- Total grade K-8 students enrolled in world language courses.

To calculate the denominator, sum the following:

- Total grade K-8 students enrolled as of October 1, multiplied by 3; and
- Total grade 4-8 students enrolled as of October 1.

Divide the numerator by the denominator and multiply the result by 75.

19. How will Interests and Opportunities be determined for K-2 schools?

K-2 school principals will complete the survey for their schools. Survey completion will be worth 75 points, and up to 75 points will be awarded for course enrollment. The School Performance Score for K-2 schools will be calculated using the unique Interests and Opportunities survey index points for the K-2 school, combined with the other indices (assessment and other applicable indices) that are shared by the school with which they are paired.

20. How will the Interests and Opportunities index be calculated for combination schools?

In order to calculate a school performance score for a combination school, a K8 SPS is calculated using all of the students in grades K-8 at the site and a high school SPS is calculated using all of the students in high school grades. The two SPS are then averaged using a weighting formula. Principals at combination schools will complete a single survey, including information for all grades at the site. The results from the survey for the K8 portion of the SPS will include 75 points for survey completion and up to 75 points for course enrollment. The results from the survey for the high school portion of the SPS will include 150 points for survey completion.