

Louisiana Believes

School System Updates

May 14, 2020

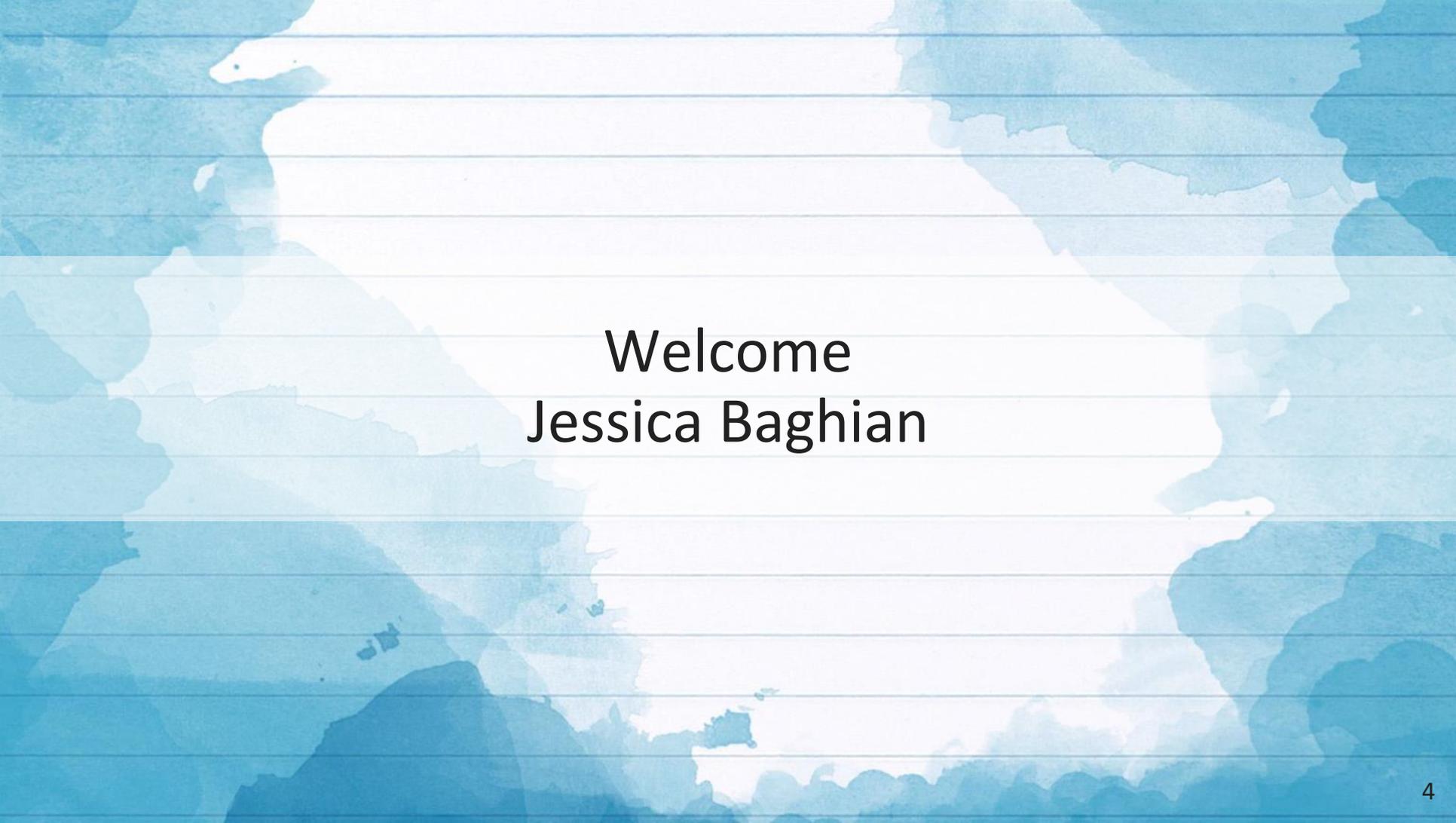
ATTENTION: Instructions for participants

During this meeting, participants may submit questions via the online chat feature throughout the presentation. Submitting questions via the chat allows LDOE the opportunity to not only answer your question while on the call but to also add your question and the answer to our publicly disseminated FAQ document(s).

Questions will be addressed at the end of the call. To signify that you would like to ask a verbal question at that time, please **raise your hand in the online system (preferred) or type *9 on your telephone**. The moderator will then acknowledge and unmute your line when requested by the presenter. **You will not have the ability to unmute/mute yourself individually using *6 or the online system**, so please be patient while the moderator assists the presenter in taking questions.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Teaching and Learning
- Assessment and Accountability
- Early Childhood
- Fiscal Operations & Federal Support
- Q&A



Welcome
Jessica Baghian

Pandemic-EBT

Louisiana anticipates being approved for the new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. This program will provide extra help buying groceries for the families who normally receive free and reduced-price meals at school. This includes all families attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school. **To receive these benefits, families must be notified of the benefits and must complete an application.** The portal will launch May 18.

While there will be a statewide communications campaign to notify parents of their eligibility, **USDA requires that schools also reach out to eligible families.** This communication can be made through the school system's normal family communication channels. The Department has created a [digital flyer](#) that can be used to notify parents of their eligibility for these benefits. The flyer, which links to the application portal and FAQs, will be available on the Department's [COVID-19 webpage](#) as soon as Louisiana receives approval.

Anticipated Pandemic-EBT Timeline

Date	Action Item
Thursday, May 14	Louisiana anticipates its P-EBT plan will be approved by USDA.
Friday, May 15	School systems will receive confirmation Louisiana has been approved for P-EBT benefits and may begin contacting families.
Monday, May 18	Family application portal goes live.
Monday, May 25	School systems have notified all families receiving free or reduced-lunch benefits as well as all families attending CEP schools of their eligibility for P-EBT benefits.
Monday, June 8	Family application portal closes and families can no longer apply for P-EBT benefits

Resources: [LDOE digital flyer](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#), [LAHelpU Call Center](#) at 1-888-524-3578

Guidelines for Summer School, Camps, and Extracurricular Activities

The Department of Health has issued guidelines for operating summer school, camps, and extracurricular activities. The Department of Education has provided supplemental, non-binding guidance to support school systems' implementation of these guidelines.

This information is now available on the LDOE and Office of Public Health websites.

- Guidelines produced by the state Department of Health can be found [here](#).
- Supplemental guidance produced by LDOE is located [here](#).

A webinar will be held on Friday, May 15, 2020 to provide further details.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 15 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96194787064>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 **Meeting ID#:** 961 9478 7064

Supplemental guidance relative to transportation and athletics will be available in the coming weeks.

Teaching and Learning

Preparing for 2020-2021

In order to ensure a strong start to 2020-2021, the Department is working with publishers and vendors to provide resources to support distance learning, diagnose unfinished learning, and adapt professional learning.

- [Strong Start Instructional Materials Guidance](#)
- [Strong Start Professional Development Vendor Guidance](#)

These resources are available on the [Strong Start 2020](#) page and will be updated weekly.

2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semi-finalists

Congratulations to these school systems and their [semi-finalists](#).

Assumption Parish	Concordia Parish	Lincoln Parish	St. Landry
Ascension Parish	DeSoto Parish	Livingston Parish	St. Martin Parish
Beauregard Parish	East Baton Rouge Parish	Madison Parish	St. Tammany Parish
Benjamin Franklin High School	Franklin Parish	Morehouse Parish	Tangipahoa Parish
Bossier Parish	Grant Parish	Ouachita Parish	Tensas Parish
Caddo Parish	Iberia Parish	Plaquemines Parish	Terrebonne Parish
Calcasieu Parish	Jackson Parish	Pointe Coupee Parish	Vermilion Parish
Caldwell Parish	Jefferson Davis Parish	Rapides Parish	Vernon Parish
Central Community School District	Jefferson Parish	Sabine Parish	Webster Parish
City of Monroe School District	Lafayette Parish	St. Charles Parish	Zachary Community School District
Collegiate Academies	Lafourche Parish	St. James Parish	

2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series

The Louisiana Department of Education is shifting the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit from its in-person format to a series of **free** interactive webinars.

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from May 28 to June 5.

It will bring together a host of educators and content experts who are focused on creating meaningful growth for every student, every day. Educators will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Yesterday, the Department released the Teacher Leader Summit app, Sched, allowing registrants to build their specific schedules at that time. All registered participants received an email from Sched to begin this process. **All sessions will be first come, first served.**

Praxis Exams

ETS is launching a new test administration format that will allow educators to take a *Praxis* exam at home while test centers are closed due to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Tests will be proctored remotely by a trained specialist
- The 36 most frequently used tests will launch on **May 18**
 - Tests in the first wave include Praxis Core and most content tests
 - Registration for these exams will open **May 15**
- Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) exams and school leadership assessments are expected to launch **June 1**

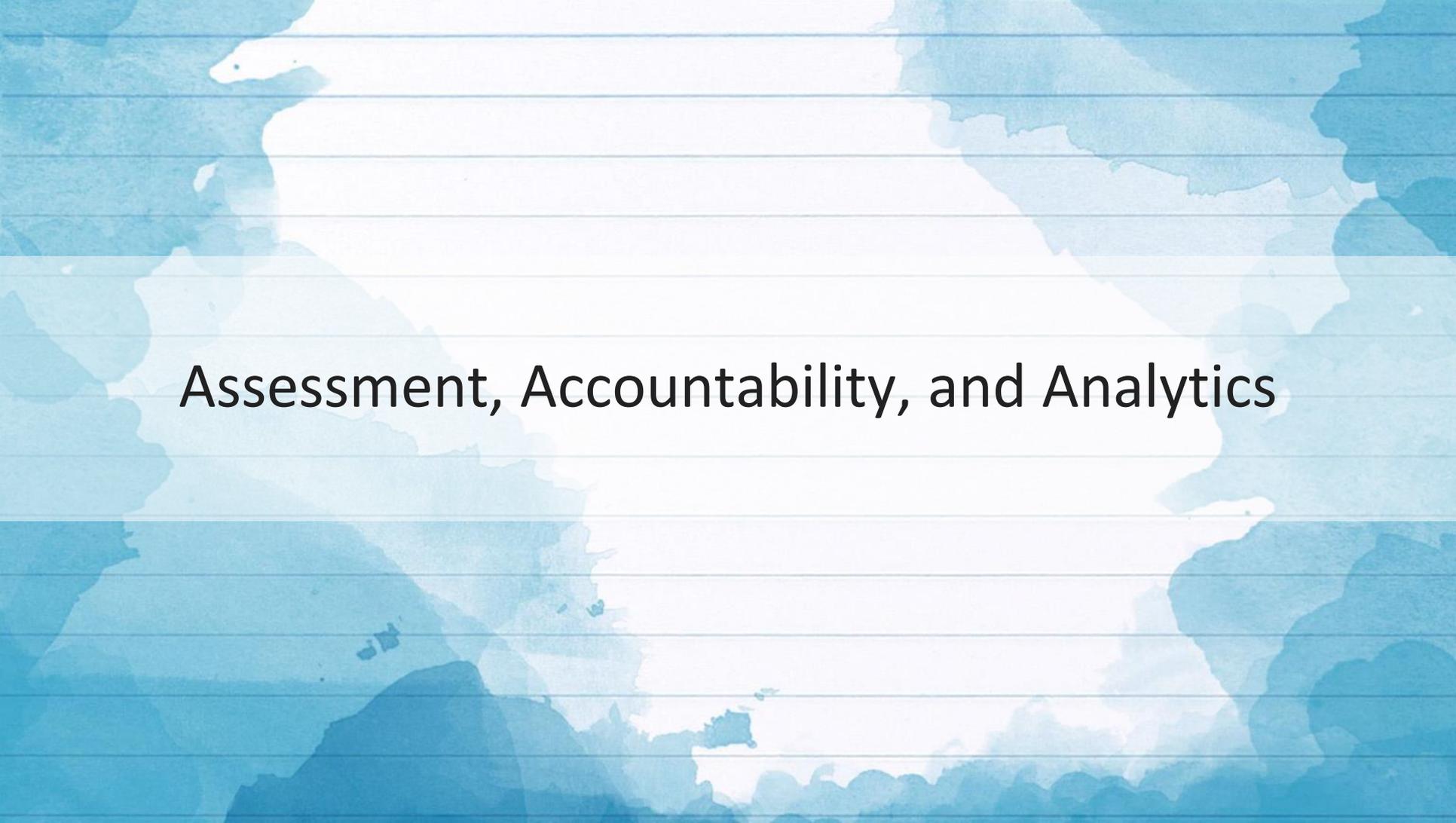
Please review [this guidance document](#) and the [ETS Testing Updates webpage](#) for more.

Science Content Leader

Since 2017-2018, the Department has developed a cadre of Content Leaders to support the implementation of high quality curricula and lead adult learning in their schools. To expand the Content Leader initiative, the Department is working with partners to design [Science Content Leader](#) training that helps participants:

- deeply understand the Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS) and the associated shifts
- deeply understand the essential elements of high quality science curriculum
- employ pedagogical strategies to effectively implement high quality science curriculum
- apply best practices of adult learning.

The following three providers are seeking BESE approval to deliver Science Content Leader trainings: University of Texas Dana Center, SchoolKit Group, and Great Minds PhD Science. The [approved provider](#) list will be updated accordingly following next week's meeting.

The background of the slide is a watercolor-style illustration. It features a central white area that tapers towards the top and bottom, creating a sense of depth. This white area is surrounded by various shades of blue, from light sky blue to deep, dark navy blue. The colors are blended together in a soft, painterly manner, with some darker blue shapes that resemble landmasses or abstract forms. The overall effect is clean, modern, and professional.

Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

Technology for Continuous Learning

Now more than ever, students should have access to a device and the Internet to support continuous learning and a strong start to 2020. To help facilitate investments in access for all students, the Department [released information and resources](#) on discounted technology and broadband.

Implementation Timeline	
Date	Action Item
Thursday, May 21 from 11:00 - 12:00	Education Technology Monthly Call - Join via Zoom
Friday, June 5 from 11:00 - 12:00	Office Hours - Join via Zoom
Ongoing	Individual support calls to school systems. Email EdTech@la.gov to schedule a time.

Reporting Instructional Days and Absences

School days covered in the Governor's order concerning COVID-19 should be entered into the Calendar system as regular instructional days. Holiday days during the time period of the Governor's order concerning COVID-19 should be entered into the Calendar system as "holiday" days (ex. Spring Break).

School systems should not submit any absences for days March 13 through the end of the school year.

Early Childhood

Early Childhood Strong Start 2020 Overview

To sustain the progress Louisiana has made as a state and to prepare for a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year, it is critical that early childhood communities take steps to support the child care sector and to ensure that children continue to learn and thrive.

- All **child care centers have the tools and resources they need to reopen safely** and in accordance with Office of Public Health guidelines.
- **Communities sustain and/or increase access** to opportunities for early childhood care and education in the near and long-term.
- **Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions** for children every day.
- **Families are supported to re-enroll** children in early childhood programs, **or to provide quality care and education in their homes** if programs are unable to reopen or remain open.

Early Childhood Strong Start 2020 Community Child Care Recovery Grants

In alignment with the Early Childhood Strong Start 2020 planning guide, the Department released a request for applications for [COVID-19 Community Child Care Recovery Grants](#) that early childhood lead agencies can apply for.

- Early childhood lead agencies [will be asked](#) to plan for how to support a strong “start” response post-pandemic, including the key priorities outlined in the planning guide, in coordination and partnership with Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs), local stakeholders/coalitions, governing boards (if applicable) and all program partners.
- Lead agencies are invited to apply for [community-level grants](#) funded by the Child Care Development Grant COVID-19 relief funding to support activities in their plan that will directly or indirectly support child care.
- Additionally, lead agencies are invited to consider the use of other funding sources to support their plans, such as lead agency allocations, Ready Start Network allocations, or school system flow through funding.

Early Childhood Strong Start 2020

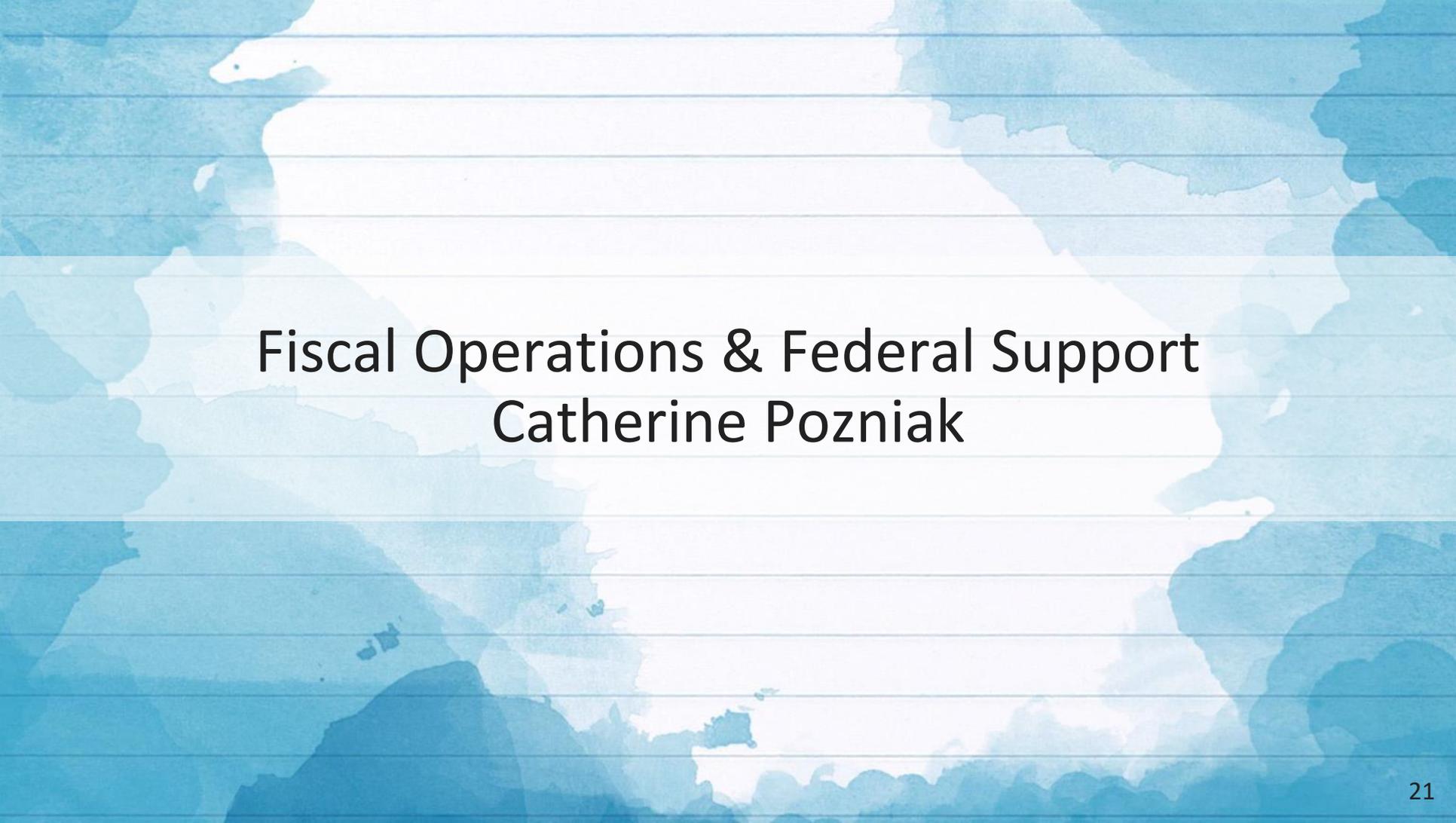
LaCAP Relief Grants

The Department is releasing a second round of the Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) relief grants that child care providers may be eligible for.

As child care providers become operational again, they will face increased costs related to increased cleaning and sanitation, required adult-child ratios and group sizes detailed in the [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#), and other activities necessary to maintain operations.

To support providers as Louisiana transitions into Phase I and begins to reopen its economy, the Department is announcing two upcoming grant opportunities:

- **LaCap Relief Grants Round 2:** Child care assistance providers (Type III centers and certified home-based providers) who are operational by June 1, 2020 will be eligible to receive \$187.50 per child in licensed capacity. More information will be released soon.
- **LaCap Relief Grants Round 3:** Child care assistance providers (Type III centers and certified home-based providers) who become operational later in summer 2020 may be eligible to receive a later grant.



Fiscal Operations & Federal Support

Catherine Pozniak

Equitable Services Under the CARES Act

The CARES Act includes provisions for equitable services to nonpublic schools:

ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS SEC. 18005. (a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving funds under sections 18002 [GEERF] or 18003 [ESSERF] of this title shall provide equitable services in the same manner as provided under section 1117 [Title I, Part A] of the ESEA of 1965 to students and teachers in non-public schools, as determined in consultation with representatives of non-public schools.

Equitable Services Under the CARES Act

ED provided [guidance](#) regarding equitable services:

7. How does an LEA that receives funds under the CARES Act programs provide equitable services “in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the ESEA”?

1117(a)(4)(A) – Under both Title I, Part A and the CARES Act programs, an LEA must determine the proportional share available to provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools based on the total amount of funds an LEA receives prior to any allowable expenditures or transfers. Under the CARES Act programs, the LEA calculates the proportional share based on the number of children enrolled in each non-public school whose students or teachers participate in the CARES Act programs compared to the number of students enrolled in public schools in the LEA.

Equitable Services Under the CARES Act

On May 7, the Council of Chief State School Officers sent a [letter](#) to Secretary DeVos, asking for clarification of its guidance:

The information provided is counter to the CARES Act statute and the Department's long standing interpretations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), and could significantly harm the vulnerable students who were intended to benefit the most from the critical federal COVID-19 education relief funds Congress has provided.

In addition, CCSSO Past President Pedro Rivera wrote a [letter](#) to Assistant Secretary Frank Brogan asking for clarification and requesting that ED direct LEAs to use the Title I equitable share calculations for FY19-20.

Edweek published an [analysis](#) of the impact for each parish/city school system in Louisiana.

There also have been several articles on this matter:

- [Guidance from DeVos means more coronavirus relief for private schools](#)
- [Backlash Grows to DeVos Push for COVID-19 Aid to Help All Private School Students](#)
- [Indiana rejects guidance from DeVos to reroute more coronavirus relief to private schools](#)

HEROES

The [Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions \(HEROES\) Act](#) is a 4th COVID-19 emergency supplemental appropriations package.

- The HEROES Act would appropriate \$90 billion for Education:
 - 65% to LEAs by Title I formula and 30% to public higher education
 - \$1.5 billion for E-Rate to address the homework gap by providing greater access to broadband in homes.
- This proposed legislation also includes statutory language to clarify CARES Act Equitable Services.

Equitable Share Calculation

Districts will calculate the nonpublic equitable share in the Strong Start 2020 application in eGMS:

1.		Number of Students
1.a	2500	Public district count
1.b	350	Nonpublic count of participating private schools
1.c	2,850	Total count of public district and nonpublic schools

From this calculation, the application will derive a per pupil allocation (PPA) for equitable services. It is the responsibility of the LEA to consult with each nonpublic school about the equitable services it will provide. The LEA will record the consultation results in eGMS to submit the Strong Start application.

Equitable Share Follow-up Webinar

There will be a follow-up webinar on equitable services for school systems and nonpublic schools today, May 14th, at 1 p.m.

Topic: Equitable Services Follow-up

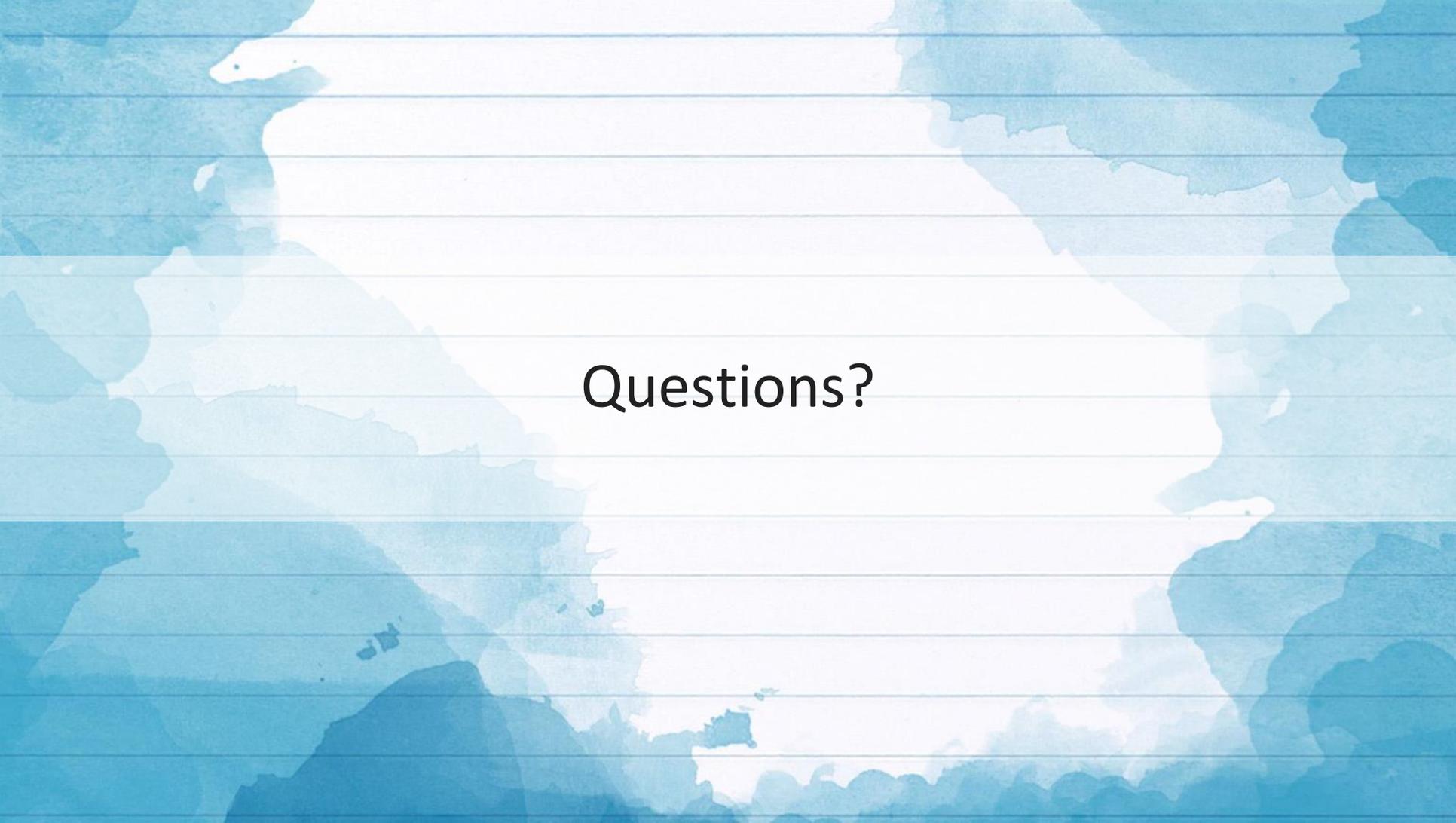
Time: May 14, 2020, 1:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92833120484>

Meeting ID: 928 3312 0484

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Questions?