

Louisiana Believes

School System Updates

May 21, 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
- Summer Guidance
- Teaching and Learning
- Assessment and Accountability
- Strong Start 2020
- Early Childhood
- Fiscal Operations & Federal Support
- Q&A



Welcome
Beth Scioneaux

Pandemic EBT

Louisiana has been 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 (FRL) at school. The [portal](#) went live on Monday. As of 8 a.m. today, over 180,000 applications have been processed on behalf of more than 300,000 children.

Federal regulations require an assurance that each child receiving P-EBT attends a CEP school or receives FRL meals. Therefore, the application portal compares student data entered by the parent with the student data in eScholar and SIS. Since LDOE cannot access student PII to verify data on behalf of parents or school systems, we need your help.

Most general questions can be answered via the [LDOE digital flyer](#) or the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). However, [questions and answers](#) specific to school systems assisting families have been developed. If school systems need additional help, please visit [Ask LDOE](#) and choose P-EBT from the subject dropdown.



Summer Guidance

Hannah Dietsch

Reopening: Serving Students this Summer

The State of Louisiana has developed a phased plan, The Roadmap to Restarting Louisiana, for reopening various sectors of the economy. The plan is organized around [phases](#) of reopening that roughly follow [federal guidelines](#).

Currently, Louisiana is operating under Phase 1. Transitions to and from phases of reopening are dependent on public health criteria and determined by the Governor.

The [Resilient Louisiana Education and Workforce Development Task Force](#) and the K-12 subgroup previously approved guidance for summer programming and **now has reviewed additional guidelines and guidance relative to athletics and transportation**. The guidelines and guidance will be reviewed during this webinar today before they are considered by the *Resilient Louisiana* Commission.

Transportation Guidelines for Phase 1: Summary

During Phase 1:

- **Physical distancing**
 - Keep every other seat empty
 - Maximum capacity should not exceed 25%.
 - Members of the same household may sit together
- **Maximize ventilation** by keeping windows open
- **Limit contagion** by checking each rider's symptoms and temperature before boarding the bus
- **Sanitation and hygiene**
 - All passengers should use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
 - High-touch surfaces are cleaned after each use and the bus is disinfected at least once per day.

Athletics: Summary

Contact and higher risk sports and activities are not permitted in Phase 1 or Phase 2. This is because the risk of transmitting COVID-19 is higher when individuals are in close physical contact or proximate to aerosol particles emitted, such as through the use of musical instruments or loud singing.

Updated guidance will include:

- General adaptations, such as:
 - A requirement to remain in static groups
 - Frequent cleaning of equipment
- Sport-specific adaptations

Next Steps

The Department will:

- Post updated guidance documents, once approved, to the COVID-19 website
- Link to updated guidance documents, once approved, in the Newsletter
- Conduct a webinar for athletic directors and transportation supervisors with additional detail related to this guidance.

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 26th 2:00 pm

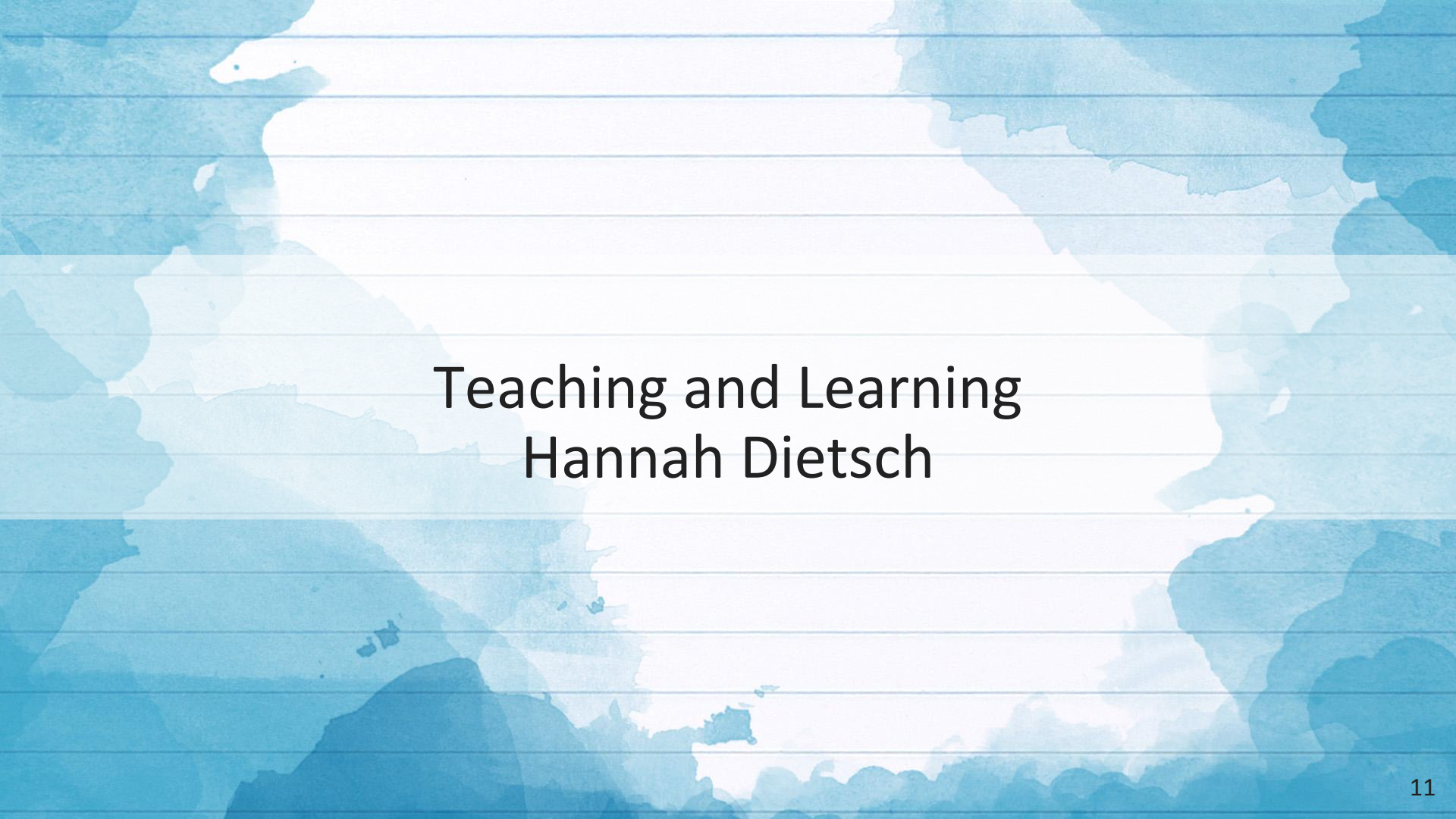
To Join:

<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95331908744?pwd=VFdld21mQTQ3Yzk5dEFnRlZWdFYxUT09>

Meeting ID: 953 3190 8744

Meeting Password: 036210

Meeting call line: +1-312-626-6799,,95331908744#,,1#,036210#



Teaching and Learning

Hannah Dietsch

Preparing for 2020-2021

The Strong Start 2020 plan includes [Instructional Materials Guidance](#), and the Department continues to work with publishers to update the guide as they build and refine their supports.

Updated Guidance is available for the following publishers:

- Carnegie Learning High School Math Solutions: Carnegie Learning
- Collections: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Connect 4 Learning: Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA): Amplify
- DIG. Develop. Inspire. Grow: Frog Street Press
- EL Education: LearnZillion
- ELA Guidebooks: LearnZillion
- Eureka Math: Great Minds
- Frog Street Press: Frog Street Press
- Illustrative Mathematics: LearnZillion
- IQWST: Activate Learning
- JUMP Math: JUMP Math
- Learn Everyday: Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Studies Weekly Social Studies: Studies Weekly, Inc.

Preparing for 2020-2021

The Strong Start 2020 plan includes [Professional Development Guidance](#), and the Department continues to work with vendors to update the guide as they build and refine their supports.

Updated Guidance is available for the following vendors:

- CLASS: TeachStone
- Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA): Leading Educators
- Creative Curriculum: Teaching Strategies
- EL Education: ANet
- Eureka Math: ANet, New Directions Educational Solutions
- Gold: Teaching Strategies
- ELA Guidebooks: ANet, LearnZillion, New Directions Educational Solutions, The Writing Revolution, NIET
- Illustrative Mathematics: New Directions Educational Solutions, Leading Educators, ANet
- JUMP Math: JUMP Math
- Studies Weekly Social Studies: Studies Weekly, Inc.
- Zearn Math: ANet, New Directions Educational Solutions, Zearn

Math Lesson Broadcasting

The Department, in partnership with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), Great Minds, Illustrative Math (IM), and SchoolKit, will broadcast Eureka (K-5) and Illustrative Math (6-Algebra I) lessons. These lessons will air on LPB from Monday, July 6th through Friday, July 31st on a regular daily schedule. They will also be available on-demand at the [Great Minds](#) and [Illustrative Mathematics](#) websites.

To ensure accessibility for students with disabilities, live broadcasts will have closed captioning and on-demand videos will be available with closed captioning and audio description.

To support school systems as they plan for summer learning and ensure students are prepared for on grade level learning by August 1, [this guidance document](#) contains information about the following:

- Purchasing student materials
- Watching live broadcasts
- Watching on-demand
- Lesson details

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.

Tomorrow, the Department will release a list of sessions to be broadcasted live on YouTube to allow educators who were waitlisted or unable to register to view the sessions live regardless of event registration. Though not all sessions will be broadcasted live, **all sessions will be recorded** and posted to the [Teacher Leader Library](#) shortly following the event.

Mentor Training Providers

Mentor providers approved by BESE in May

- Collegiate Academies
- Crescent City Schools
- Learning Forward
- Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge
- Louisiana State University-Shreveport
- Northwestern State University
- St. Tammany Public Schools
- TNTP
- University of Texas at Austin, Dana Center

- FirstLine Schools
- Loyola University
- Relay Graduate School of Education
- SchoolKit Group
- Tangipahoa Parish Schools
- University of Holy Cross
- University of New Orleans

Previously approved Mentor training providers

- A+PEL
- Grambling University
- Learning Forward
- Louisiana Tech
- McNeese University
- Nicholls University
- NIET
- Southeastern University
- Teaching & Learning Center (LAE)
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- University of Louisiana at Monroe

Content Leader Training Providers

ELA	Math	Science	Intervention
<p>Newly approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Tammany Schools ● Leading Educators <p>Previously approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SchoolKit Group ● Great Minds ● Teaching Lab ● Louisiana Tech 	<p>Newly approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Tammany Schools ● Leading Educators ● SchoolKit Group ● Louisiana State University, Gordon Cain Center <p>Previously approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● University of Texas at Austin, Dana Center ● Louisiana Tech 	<p>Newly approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● University of Texas at Austin, Dana Center ● Great Minds PhD Science ● SchoolKit Group 	<p>Previously approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SchoolKit Group



Student Opportunities

Ken Bradford

Student Opportunities Office Hours

Student Opportunities Office Hours will occur each Wednesday from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. through May 31.

Join via Zoom: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/411290309>

Meeting ID: 411 290 309

Meeting Password: 031058

If you join by calling in, use any of the following numbers:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Career and Technical Education Webinar

The Department will host a Career and Technical Education webinar on May 21 at 1:30pm.

The webinar will include updates on the following:

- Jump Start 2.0 implementation
- Carl D. Perkins
- Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities
- Continuous learning supports for CTE
- Teacher Leader Summit

Join via Zoom: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98544142335>

Meeting ID: 985 4414 2335 Meeting Password: 742078

If you join by calling in, use any of the following numbers:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US, (New York) +1 346 248 7799 US

(Houston)

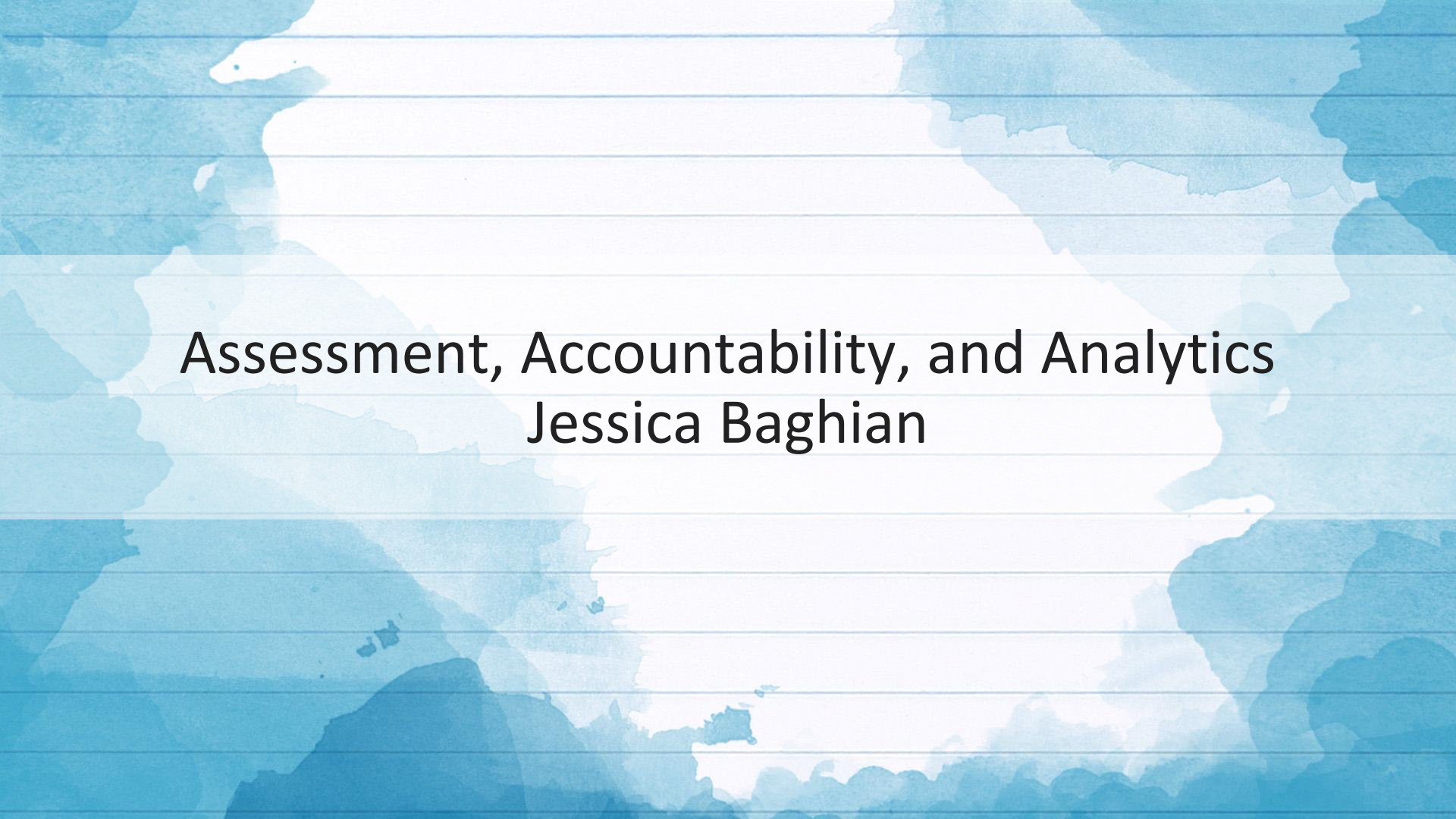
High School Student Planning Guide

The Department has released the annual [2020-2021 High School Planning Guide](#) (HSPG) for school counselors. The annual student planning guide includes information on the key policies and programs to support the needs of all students.

The 2020-2021 HSPG includes the following sections with applicable updates:

- Planning for Success
- Focus on Core Academics: 9th and 10th Grades
- Develop advanced College and Workplace Skills: 11th and 12th Grades
- Planning Resources
- Jump Start Opportunities
- Alternate Pathways for Students with Disabilities
- Course Requirements Chart
- Sample Individual Graduation Plan Form

Questions should be directed to JumpStart@La.Gov



Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

Jessica Baghian

New Schedule for LEAP 2025 High School Summer Administration

The LEAP 2025 high school summer administration, originally scheduled for the week of June 15, has changed.

- The new summer testing window is **July 13-July 24**.
- The window has expanded from 5 to 10 days.
- Additional scheduling dates for test setup, ordering, etc. will be shared with district test coordinators when they are finalized.

ACT June Administration Covid-19 Guidance

The Department released a new guidance document designed to protect the health of students and adults who participate in the June 2nd state administration of ACT.

- The [K-12 ACT Covid-19 Preventative Measures Guidance](#) is now available in the assessment library.
- The [ACT Administration Update FAQ-June 2020 Administration](#) has been updated.

Although, ACT will issue guidance for Covid-19 preventative measures, the LDOE guidance supersedes ACT guidance (as stated at the top of ACT guidance).



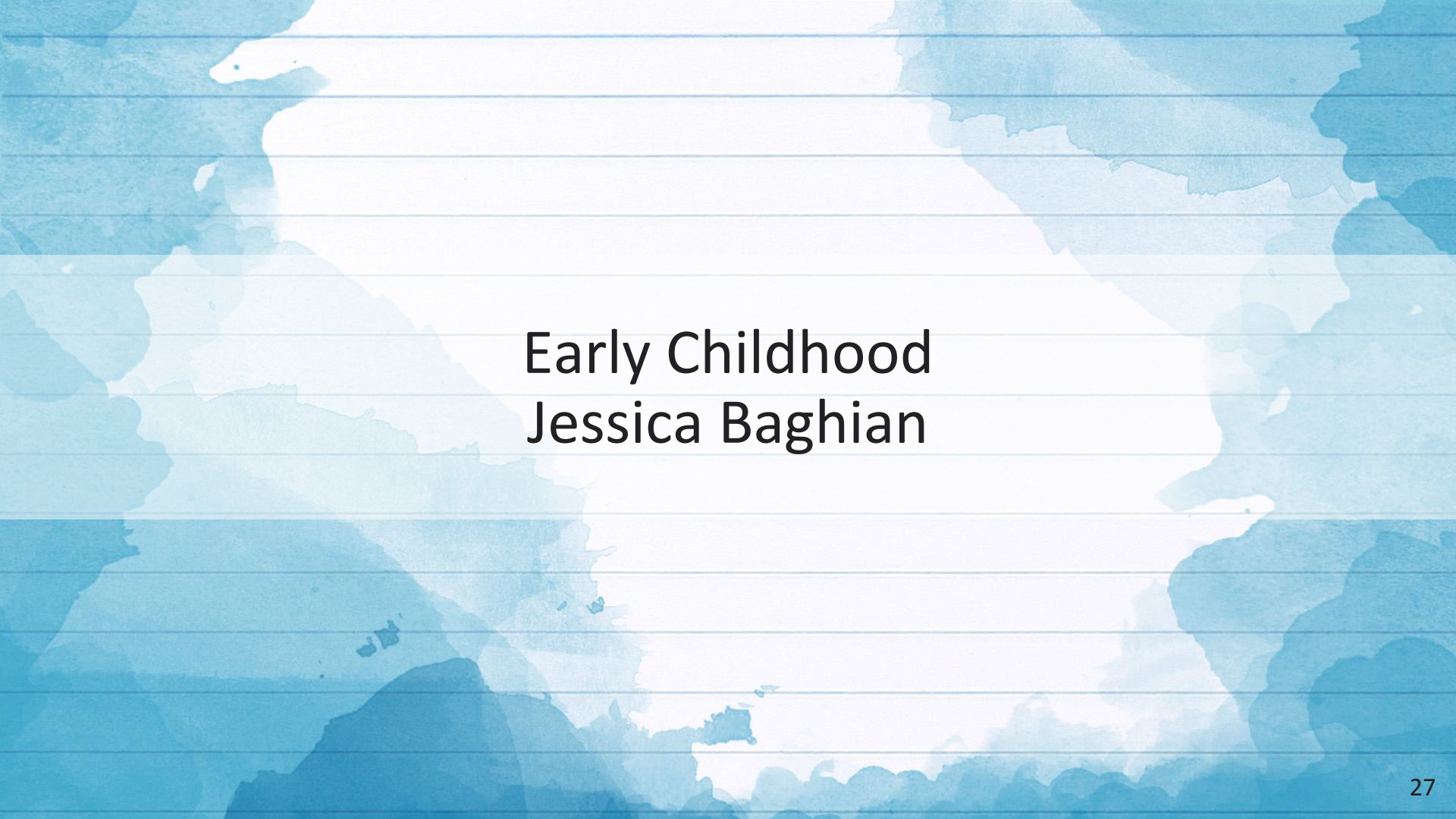
Strong Start 2020

Jessica Baghian

Strong Start Working Groups Update

Working groups in key priority areas of the Strong Start 2020 plan started meeting this week with representatives submitted from ~50 school systems. These groups provide space for school system leaders to review resources, share ideas, and collect feedback on implementation in the areas below.

- Academics
- CTE Instruction
- Supporting Graduates
- Supporting the Well-being of Staff and Students
- Special Education Supports
- District Calendars and Staffing
- Technology and Student Outreach



Early Childhood

Jessica Baghian

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 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 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 are eligible to receive funding based on licensed capacity. Deadline was May 20, 2020 and payments are expected by the 2nd week in June.
- **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

Updates on Equitable Services

Earlier this week, congressional leadership sent a [letter](#) to Secretary DeVos expressing concerns about USED's equitable share guidance and requesting additional information:

We ask you immediately revise your April 30 guidance we request the Department please provide the following no later than June 3, 2020:

....

- The name and number of states and LEAs that have requested information regarding the Department's interpretation of section of the CARES Act.*
- All requests made to the Department to revise, reinterpret, or otherwise reconsider its [April 30, 2020 CARES Act equitable services guidance](#), including the names of the requesting individuals, organizations, or entities.*

Strong Start 2020

School systems applying for ESSERF Incentive grants must submit the Strong Start Application by Friday, May 29.

For the device/connectivity requests, school systems should provide information consistent with the needs expressed in the most recent survey and base costs on information from the [technology guidance](#).

The school system will have a 1:1 student ratio for devices (laptop or tablet) and connectivity for every student grades preK-12 and a plan to issue these devices to students for use at home, if necessary. If Internet access is unavailable, the school system will ensure students have a reliable phone line.

Devices

Student devices needed for 1:1 ratio

LEA Investment

Funding Request

Connectivity

of Students without Internet or phone access

LEA Investment

Funding Request

ESSER Allowability

On April 8, 2020 the U.S. Department (ED) released a Fact Sheet clarifying that grantees and subgrantees may use federal funds to continue to pay employees even if they cannot work on program activities because school is closed. (The Fact Sheet is available [here](#). See Q&A 1.)

- ED encourages grantees and subgrantees to “consider ways that employees paid with grant funds can support continuing activities, including distance learning opportunities for students served by the grant,” although ED is clear the employees can be paid even if they are not working on grant activities full time.
- This is consistent with longstanding ED guidance [here](#) (Q&A A-13), [here](#) (Q&A A-13), and [here](#) (Q&A A-15). It is also consistent with OMB guidance [here](#) (Q&A 6).
- Importantly, to take advantage of the exemption, grantees and subgrantees:
 - Must follow uniform policies that give the same treatment to federal and non-federal funds
 - Must maintain time and effort and other documentation.

ESSER Allowability

Bonus or merit pay is generally unallowable unless connected to COVID-19. Hazard pay to incentivize essential workers who carry out vital operations during the COVID-19 emergency is allowable under the ESSER fund.

How the LEA characterizes the cost is important. If it looks like “double pay,” ED might have concerns. For example, when ED authorized SEAs and LEAs to continue using existing federal grants (like Title I or IDEA) to pay employees during school closures it said this:

However, an employee who is being paid with [ED] grant funds while the program grant activities are closed in whole or in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic may not also be paid for the time during which the program is closed by the organization or another organization for working on other activities that are not closed down.

In other words, ED permits the use of Title I funds to pay a Title I employee who is not working on Title I activities during a school closure, but not if that employee is also getting money from another funding source to do non-Title I activities.



Questions?