Louisiana Believes

School System Updates

May 7, 2020

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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

- Superintendent's Introduction
- Teaching and Learning
- Student Opportunities
- Assessment and Accountability
- Early Childhood
- Fiscal Operations & Federal Support
- Summer Guidance
- Q&A

Superintendent’s Introduction
Beth Scioneaux

Expanded SNAP Benefits

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 enables temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. **Children who would receive free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Act if school facilities were currently open are eligible for benefits.** This includes all students attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school.

To receive these benefits, families must complete an application. Without the requested information, the Department of Children and Family Services cannot issue the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and provide benefits.

The anticipated launch of the application is set for the week of May 18. The Department will publicize the eligibility of these benefits, and in an effort to ensure families receive these benefits during this challenging time, it will also provide school systems with information to distribute to eligible families.

Teaching and Learning
Hannah Dietsch

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.

Registration is now open **and will remain open through June 5.** Please review the draft session list, which includes a variety of sessions for teachers, school and school system staff, and preparation providers. **All sessions will be first come, first served.**

School Support Institutes

In addition to the virtual Teacher Leader Summit, parts of the Leadership Learning Series will be delivered virtually May 26 to May 29.

Principals of CIR/UIR-A schools should have completed the School Support Institute Registration by Friday, May 1. If you did not register but still need to, please email delaina.larocque@la.gov by Friday, May 8.

Additional information on attending the virtual sessions will be emailed directly to registered participants.

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 30 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 visit the ETS Testing Updates webpage for additional updates.

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)

Advanced Placement and CLEP Testing Updates

Advanced Placement exams **begin next week, May 11**. College Board has released an updated AP Testing Guide to be shared with AP Coordinators, AP teachers, students and parents.

For high schools and districts that have either purchased vouchers to cover the costs of CLEP exams and/or are planning to administer exams in the remaining months of the 2019–2020 school year, students have two options:

- Students still have the option to use their registration ticket and test at another CLEP test center **if the center is open and operating**, before June 30, 2020; or
- Students who registered for a CLEP exam using a school voucher code but are unable to test by June 30, 2020, will have their registration tickets automatically canceled, and schools will not be invoiced.

Jump Start Summer PD
Digital Training Opportunities

In lieu of face-to-face training opportunities, trainings are being transitioned to a digital training model. The dynamic 2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities guide provides a list of professional development and training opportunities. This list is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed.

The Super Summer Institute registration costs for the summer 2020 sessions are paid directly to the provider and not to LDOE. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

Jessica Baghian

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**
Friday, May 8 from 11:00 - 12:00	Office Hours - Join via Zoom
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.

Assessment and Accountability Updates

Test Reports

On Wednesday, May 6, the following reports were released for school systems:

- **LEAP Connect** student reports are now available in the DRC INSIGHT secure portal.
- **ELPT** student reports are now available in the AIRWays Reporting System.

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Cohort graduation data certification opened in Louisiana Data Review on Wednesday, May 6 and will remain open through June 5. This is the final opportunity for schools and systems to review data that will be used to calculate 2019 graduation rates.

Early Childhood
Jessica Baghian

ECE Updates

The Department announced it will provide subsidized child care to essential critical infrastructure personnel for an additional 30 days. The extension, which comes a month after the Department opened the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to these workers regardless of income, applies to families already receiving services, as well as to families who continue to seek services. More information, including an application, can be found on the Department's COVID-19 webpage.

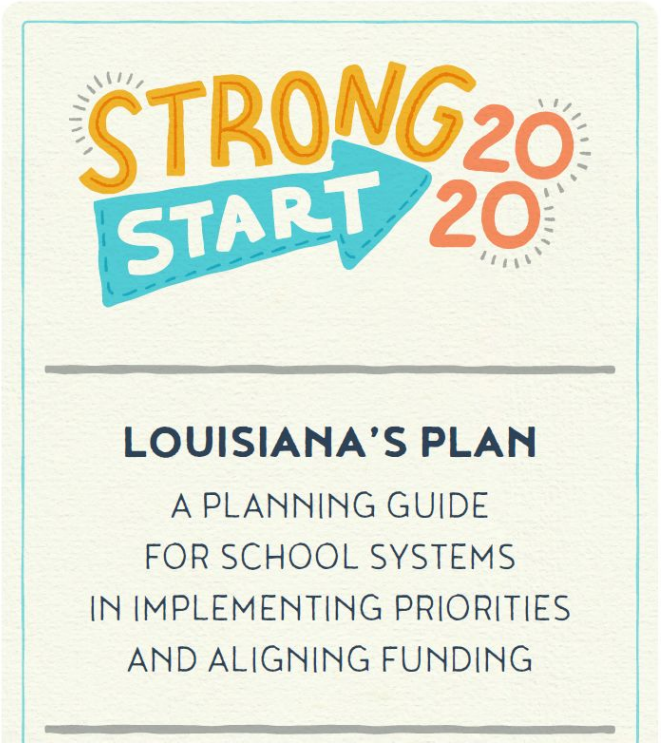
The Department will also continue to pay child care providers who participate in the CCAP based on the number of children enrolled, not the number of children attending each day, through the month of May to help offset the financial impacts of the public health crisis

Fiscal Operations & Federal Support
Catherine Pozniak

Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide

In support of the work that school systems will do to incorporate these new priorities into their plans for the school year, the Department has released the Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide.

The Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide describes the Planning Priorities and is the basis for guidance on elementary and secondary education funding provided by the CARES Act.



CARES Act Education Funding

***Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)**

ESSER Formula Funds

- Each LEA will receive a proportional share based on its proportional share of the 2019-2020 Title I, Part A allocation (note: ESSER is ***NOT*** a Title I program)

ESSER Incentive Funds

- Incentive funds will be available to support some of the Strong Start 2020 Planning Priorities.
- School systems that agree to implement each priority will be eligible to receive incentive funds.
- As in Super App, school systems will have opportunities to make funding requests in the Strong Start 2020 application.

***Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF)**

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

Last Thursday, 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 Tuesday, 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 longstanding 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.*

Given the pending clarification, the calculation of nonpublic equitable share is on hold in the Strong Start 2020 application. We will provide notification when this is available.

Support for Strong Start 2020

The Department will host a informational webinar specific to nonpublic equitable services on Thursday, May 7, at 11 a.m. to provide guidance to both school systems and nonpublic schools about the equitable share process and consultation.

Please direct questions to your network liaison or email: LDOE.GrantsHelpDesk@la.gov and include "**Strong Start 2020**" in the subject line. The Department will address questions in a FAQ.

Timeline

Action	Date
LDOE hosts webinar on CARES Act equitable services	May 7
Strong Start 2020 resources are available*	May 8
Working group interest survey released	May 12
Working groups begin	Wk of May 18
School systems must submit the Strong Start 2020 Application within eGMS to be eligible for Incentive funds	May 29
BESE approves ESSERF Incentive allocations	June 17
ESSERF Incentive allocations uploaded to eGMS	June 19

*** Note: School systems should ensure that they are using the latest available version as there will be updates.**

Summer Guidance
Hannah Dietsch

Serving Students this Summer

The State of Louisiana is developing 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, and that are determined by the Governor.

The Office of Public Health will soon issue guidelines to public and private early learning centers and daycares, and to entities that operate K-12 summer schools, camps, or extracurricular activities once the Governor's Stay at Home order has been lifted and Phase 1 or, later, Phase 2 or 3 of reopening is in effect. The earliest this would occur is May 16.

Guidance for serving students during any phase of reopening must be received by the *Resilient Louisiana* Commission.

Resilient Louisiana Overview

The Resilient Louisiana Commission, charged by the Governor, is "a state commission charged with examining Louisiana's economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic and making recommendations for more resilient business-related activities and commerce in the coming months."

The Commission includes a task force structure dedicated to specific sectors of the economy.

Education is among the critical sectors assigned a task force, the Education and Workforce Development Task Force, led by Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, and Ava Dejoie, Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

This task force includes a subgroup focused K-12 education and a subgroup focused on early childhood education.

The Task Force and subgroup will review guidance before it is issued.

Meetings are public. Details are available here.

Guidelines for Summer School, Camps, and Extracurricular Activities

Today the K-12 subgroup of the *Resilient Louisiana* Commission will review draft guidelines and supplemental guidance for operating summer school, camps, and extracurricular activities.

After the guidance has been fully reviewed by the *Resilient Louisiana* Task Force, the LDE and and the Office of Public Health will post this guidance and offer informational webinars, which will be listed in the weekly Newsletter and weekly school system webinars.

The following slides summarize this draft guidance.

Draft Guidelines: Summary

Protective measures in summer schools, camp settings, or extracurricular activities include:

- Social distancing, achieved by establishing and, for the maximum duration possible, maintaining small groups of individuals that minimally interact with other groups or individuals, including in shared indoor spaces
- Monitoring students and staff for symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat
- Practicing frequent environmental cleaning and hand-washing

For information regarding coronavirus 2019/COVID 19, please visit the LDH website and CDC website: https://www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus and https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

Group Size and Symptom Monitoring

Group Size	• Phase 1: 10, including adults • Phase 2: 25, including adults • Phase 3: 50, including adults
Symptom Monitoring	Assess on arrival and throughout the day, including initial temperature check.

Physical Standards

Physical Standards	

	● Groups convene indoors in rooms enclosed by walls or partitions
	● Groups do not convene in shared indoor spaces unless they are cleaned before and after the group's use
	● Groups are separated outdoors but do not require a physical barrier
	  ○ Phase 1 and 2: refrain from contact sports
	  ○ Phase 3: contact sports are allowable within defined groups
	  ○ Individuals are separated in pools by lane lines or ropes
	● Groups pass singly through entry and exit points

Environmental Cleaning and Personal Hygiene

Environmental Cleaning and Personal Hygiene	• Shared indoor facilities are cleaned after every group's use • High-touch surfaces are cleaned every hour, including bathrooms • Hand-washing at arrival, at least every two hours, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, and at exit • Adults and children, as able, should wear cloth masks. Children under 2 years old and individuals with severe breathing difficulties should not wear masks.

Questions?