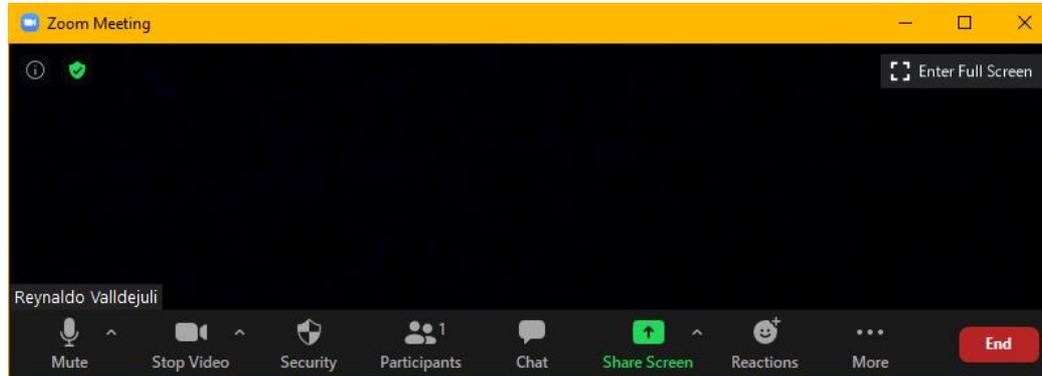


Zoom Meeting Preparation

- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”
- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”
- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.



Louisiana Believes

System Leaders Monthly Call
October 2, 2020

Agenda

- I. [Strong Start 2020](#)
- II. [Super App](#)
- III. [Career and College Readiness](#)
- IV. [Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities](#)
- V. [School System Relations](#)
- VI. [Teaching and Learning](#)
- VII. [Important Reminders/Call Summary](#)

Meet the LDOE Team

STRONG 20
START 20

Strong Start 2020

The emergency rules that BESE adopted were developed by the Louisiana Department of Education in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) using guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These rules are regarding school settings, which are defined as a setting in which educational services are provided to children.

To further clarify, BESE leadership affirms that the aforementioned rules were developed for activities that occur during the instructional day. Decisions concerning activities that occur outside of the instructional day and/or any other local business affair should be determined by LEAs.



Super App Launch

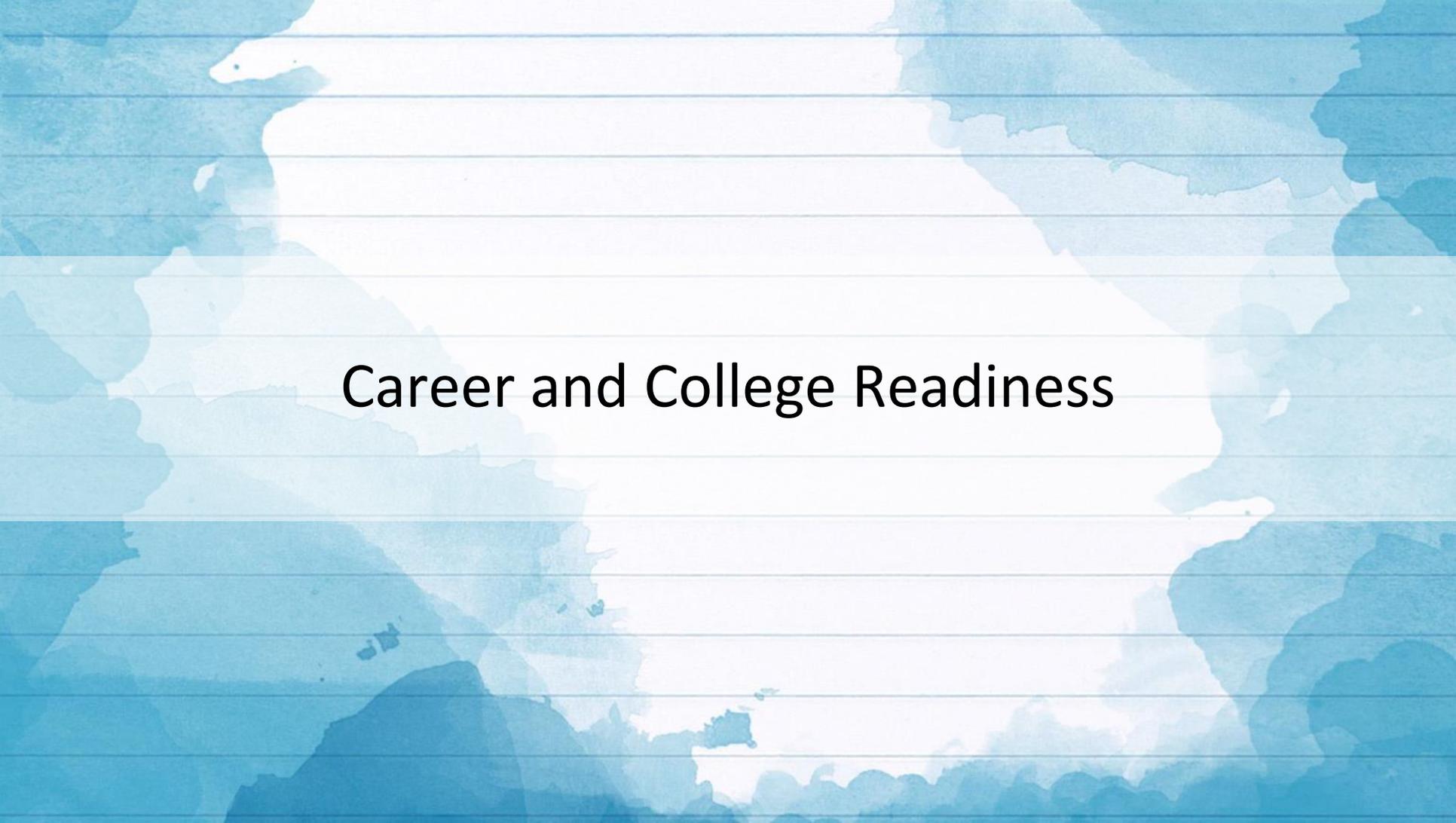
This year's **Super App Launch** is scheduled for **November 6** and will be all virtual. Sessions will be pre-recorded, shared in the weekly newsletter and posted to the Department's [School Improvement Library](#) on **November 6**.

During November, December and January, team monthly calls and office hours will provide opportunities for school system leaders to learn more about specific sections, ask questions and receive guidance.

Additionally, the Department will offer *School System Planning Super App Office Hours* beginning in November where teams can request specific guidance and support with planning, completing the workbook and aligning funding to priorities.

More information will be provided in coming weeks.

Questions should be emailed to LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov. Please include "Super App" in the email subject line.

The background of the slide is a watercolor-style illustration. It features a central white area that tapers to a point at the top, surrounded by various shades of blue and teal. The colors are blended and layered, creating a soft, artistic effect. The overall composition is clean and modern.

Career and College Readiness

2021 Jump Start Convention

Save the date!

The 2021 Jump Start Convention will be held virtually on January 26 and January 27.

Registration will open in October.



LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institutes

The Department is planning for Fall 2020 Virtual Counselor Institutes on October 28 and October 29.

Tentative topics include:

- State Assessment updates
- 2020-2021 LOSFA TOPS Regulatory Flexibilities
- ACT Superscore
- Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, IB, and CLEP
- 2020-2021 Financial Aid and FAFSA Planning
- TOPS Weighted GPA and Credit Recovery
- Jump Start 2.0/STEM Pathways
- Jump Start Convention/Educator Leader Summit

Times and Zoom information have been published in the [latest Counselor Connect Newsletter](#).

Student of the Year

Each year, the Department recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of students through the Louisiana Student of the Year Awards Program. The application for the 2021 Student of the Year program is now available, and all school systems are encouraged to participate.

To participate, please review the recently revised [Student of the Year Selection Guidelines](#) for the program and current [Student Application Packet](#) for 2021 and complete the following steps:

1. Complete the [School System Information Form](#) and email it to Marian Johnson by October 16. This information will enable the Department to determine zone and regional sites and to communicate directly with coordinators on upcoming events and activities related to this program.
2. Make the [Student Application Packet](#) available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

U. S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

The Louisiana Department of Education and the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#) are pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Virtual United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to virtually participate in a series of online meetings during the week of March 15 in 2021. Each delegate will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit a Louisiana [application packet](#). If students are unable to hold leadership positions this year due to the pandemic, they can submit the position they held during the 2019-2020 academic year.

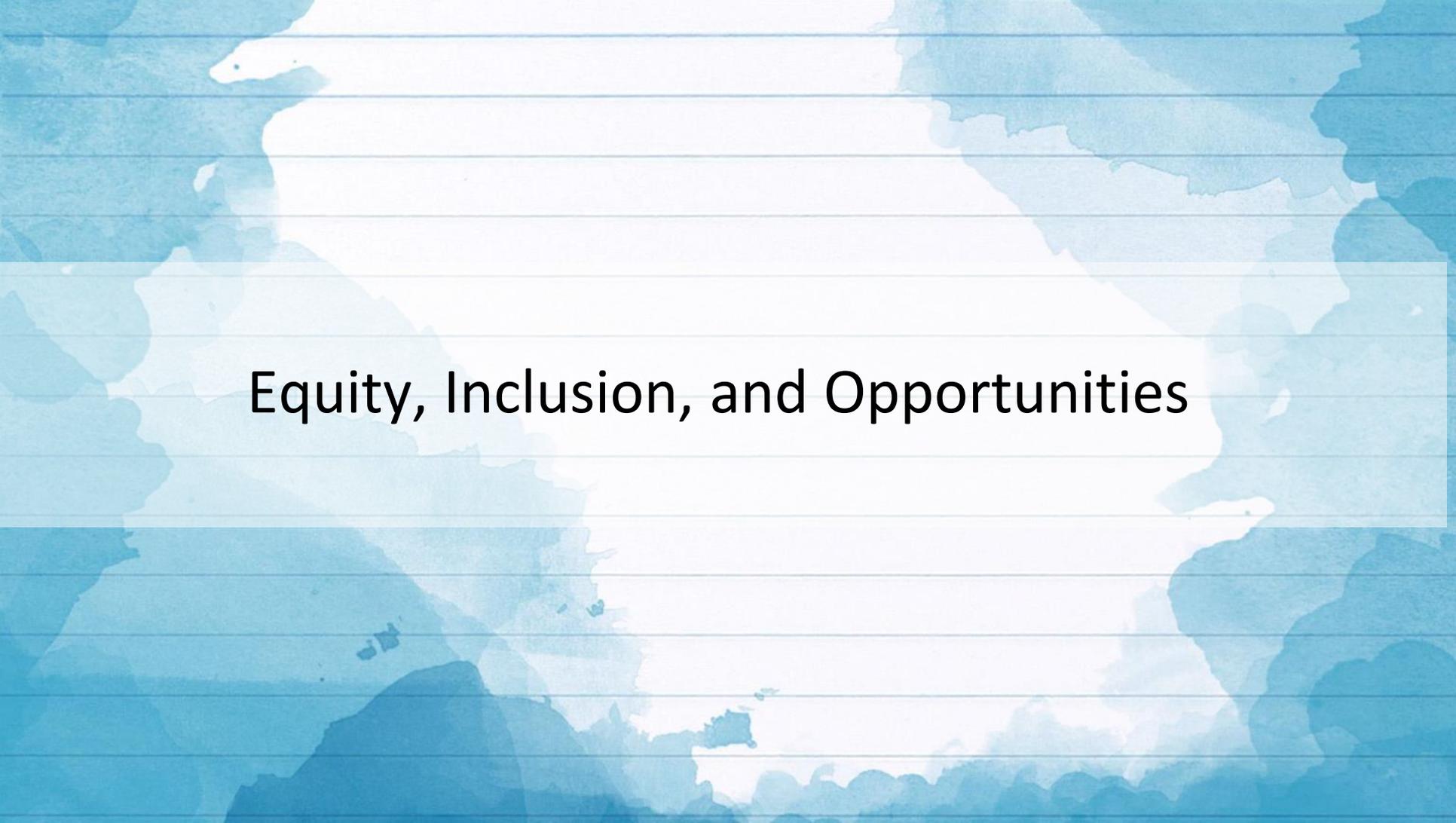
The names of the students selected by each high school and their application portfolios must be received at the email address below no later than November 16. Finalists will be notified by December 4 for the December 15 final phase of selection.

Midterm Diploma Orders

There are some school systems that have midterm graduates. Surplus diplomas ordered last year for this purpose are now outdated.

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2020-2021 midterm graduates. Diploma requests should be submitted by **October 9**. Diplomas ordered will include the signature of Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. Diplomas utilized from this point forward should include the new signature.

Orders should only be placed for midterm graduates. Spring orders will be placed during the normal time frame.

The background is a watercolor-style illustration in various shades of blue and teal, with a white rectangular area in the center containing the text.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Strong Start 2020: Guidance to Support English Learners (ELs)

In September, the Department released the [Strong Start 2020: Guidance to Support English Learners](#) to help school systems ensure that ELs continue to have equitable access to high-quality instruction across virtual, hybrid, and traditional learning scenarios.

The guidance includes specific considerations for providing ELs with language support services across learning scenarios including preparation and delivery of supportive instruction, accommodations, and frequently asked questions.



STRONG START 2020 GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT ENGLISH LEARNERS (ELs)

During the 2020-2021 school year, school systems are delivering instruction across three possible scenarios: virtual, hybrid and traditional. Across learning scenarios, English Learners (ELs) must continue to receive language support services to ensure equitable access to high-quality instruction.

School system leaders and educators should support the needs of ELs by continuing to:

- **Identify** all newly enrolled ELs within 30 days using the [EL Identification Flowchart](#), [EL Program Handbook](#) and, if necessary, the [Provisional EL Identification Guidance](#).
- **Communicate with parents** using the [EL Parent Notification](#) letter to notify them of their child's EL status and to outline language supports.

In addition, school systems and educators must follow specific considerations for providing ELs with language support services across learning scenarios, including:

- [Preparation for Supportive EL Instruction](#)
- [Delivery of Supportive EL Instruction](#)
- [EL Accommodations](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

PREPARATION FOR SUPPORTIVE EL INSTRUCTION

To ensure EL program service delivery continues across learning scenarios for students at all levels of language acquisition, school systems and educators should follow best practices for preparing for supportive EL instruction.

- ✓ Follow [Strong Start Instructional Materials Guidance](#) for support in providing high-quality, content-based instruction.
- ✓ Administer diagnostic assessments to determine learning gaps in content using [Diagnostic and Screener Guidance](#).
- ✓ Review proficiency levels using the [EL Language Check-up](#) and adjust [language supports](#) as needed.
- ✓ Support content teachers in using the [EL Accommodations Guidance](#) to deliver content-based instruction across learning scenarios.
- ✓ Schedule regular face-to-face or virtual meetings to provide EL Specialists and content teachers time to [co-plan](#), identify language objectives and [adapt instruction](#) for ELs. Refer to the [Supporting ELs During Distance Learning](#) for additional guidance for virtual and hybrid learning scenarios.
- ✓ Communicate any changes to instruction to the parents of ELs in a mode and language they can access. See [EL Toolkit: Chapter 10](#) for more guidance.

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Louisiana Believes

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 | LEARN MORE AT [LOUISIANABELIEVES.COM](https://www.louisianabelieves.com)

High Cost Services (HCS) Application

The Department has established a High Cost Services (HCS) grant to support school systems and schools that serve students with the most challenging needs. This grant provides additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities and is funded through the state's IDEA allocation and Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula.

The 2020-2021 High Cost Services Round 1 application opens on **October 5** in eGMS. The submission deadline is **November 10**. To learn more about the HCS grant, please see the [grant overview](#) and [state plan](#).

Charter Authorizers Monthly Call

The Charter Authorizers Monthly Call creates a space for statewide authorizers to collaborate on authorization best practices, provide meaningful feedback to the Department, discuss relevant charter topics, and provide real time challenges and successes of the charter system. Designated district personnel that oversee charter school accountability and the charter application process are encouraged to participate.

Call dates are included in the [School System Support Calendar](#). Monthly call decks are available in the [School Improvement Library](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Second Wednesday at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93889507075>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 938 8950 7075

School System Relations

2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Winners

Last month, the Department — in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) — celebrated the 2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year state-level honorees at the 14th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, which was held virtually this year. On this evening, the Teacher and Principal of the Year division-level and statewide winners were also named.

[View the 2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners.](#)

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!



2021 Louisiana State Teacher and Principal of the Year

The Louisiana Department of Education is proud to announce the overall **2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year winners**. These educators are making exceptional gains with students, guiding them to achieve at the highest levels in the state. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.



[Nathalie Roy, 2021 Louisiana State Teacher of the Year](#)

Twitter: [@MagistraRoy](#)



[Alnata Dione Bradford, 2021 Louisiana State Principal of the Year](#)

Twitter: [@ADBrad1](#)

2021 Teacher of the Year Division-Level Winners



2021 Principal of the Year Division-Level Winners



Calling All Excellent Educators Nominations Portal

The Department recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a nominations portal was created.

The nominations portal is open now and will close on **October 16**. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share this [nomination portal link](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders.

Teaching and Learning

2019-2020 School and District K-12 Accountability Results

Due to the lack of 2020 assessments, BESE policy, and state and federal waivers, school performance scores and letter grades will not be produced for the 2019-2020 school year. The Department has released an [FAQ](#) to answer common questions related to the pandemic's effect on the release of 2020 accountability data.

K-12 accountability data in the [Louisiana School Finder](#) will be kept static with 2018-2019 results. Available data from the 2019-2020 school year (such as cohort graduation rates) are posted in the [LDOE Data Center](#). The Department plans to refresh the Louisiana School Finder in fall 2021 with accountability data from the 2020-2021 school year.



2019-2020 Early Childhood Performance Profiles

On September 30, the Department released 2019-2020 [Performance Profiles](#) (on [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#)), which include both a **Performance Score and Performance Rating** (based on CLASS® observations) as well as **Informational Metrics** (such as curriculum quality, child/teacher ratios, and teacher credentials).

Due to COVID-19, the Department implemented a “hold harmless” approach for 2019-2020 Performance Profiles:

- Sites with a higher 2019-2020 Performance Score were given the opportunity to opt-in to receiving an updated Performance Profile based on 2019-2020 results.
 - For all other sites, the Department is extending 2018-2019 Performance Scores.
- The 2018-2019 Network Performance Profiles were extended for all early childhood community networks.

The Department released resources for lead agencies and sites to interpret the 2019-2020 Performance Profiles:

- [Site Performance Profile Key](#) and [Guide](#); [Network Performance Profile Key](#) and [Guide](#)
- [Performance Profile FAQs](#)

Early Childhood Child Count

As established in Bulletin 140, community networks and sites are required to count all publicly-funded children served in an early childhood program as of October 1 and submit to the LDOE by October 31.

Child count provides essential information to multiple stakeholders to improve access across the state, and is utilized by everyone from community networks and the Department to advocates and legislators.

- The Department has released a toolkit with guidance and resources to support lead agencies and program partners in capturing an accurate snapshot of early childhood enrollment.
- This guidance also includes specific instructions for counting children given changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

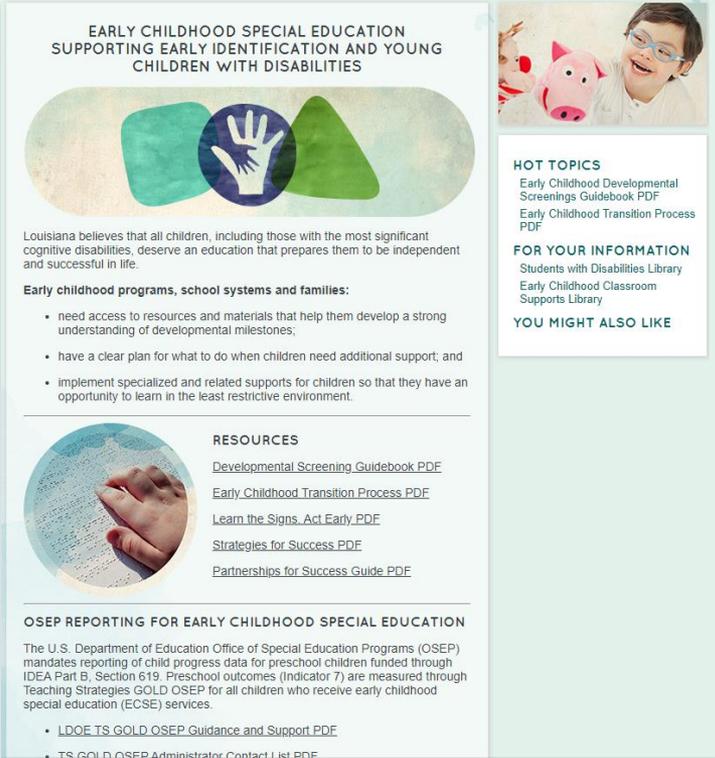
Find the toolkit and the Child Count Template for Lead Agencies in the network FTP Child Count folder. Complete the template using provided guidance and return it to the Department via the FTP by **October 31**.

Resources for Young Children with Disabilities

The Department has updated the Louisiana Believes website to include the [Young Children with Disabilities landing page](#), which can be located under the Early Childhood Tab.

The following guidance documents have been updated and can now be located on the new landing page:

- [Developmental Screening Guidebook](#)
- [Early Childhood Transition Process](#)



**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION
SUPPORTING EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND YOUNG
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

Louisiana believes that all children, including those with the most significant cognitive disabilities, deserve an education that prepares them to be independent and successful in life.

Early childhood programs, school systems and families:

- need access to resources and materials that help them develop a strong understanding of developmental milestones;
- have a clear plan for what to do when children need additional support; and
- implement specialized and related supports for children so that they have an opportunity to learn in the least restrictive environment.

RESOURCES

- [Developmental Screening Guidebook PDF](#)
- [Early Childhood Transition Process PDF](#)
- [Learn the Signs. Act Early PDF](#)
- [Strategies for Success PDF](#)
- [Partnerships for Success Guide PDF](#)

OSEP REPORTING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) mandates reporting of child progress data for preschool children funded through IDEA Part B, Section 619. Preschool outcomes (Indicator 7) are measured through Teaching Strategies GOLD OSEP for all children who receive early childhood special education (ECSE) services.

- [LDOE TS GOLD OSEP Guidance and Support PDF](#)
- [TS GOLD OSEP Administrator Contact List PDF](#)

HOT TOPICS

- [Early Childhood Developmental Screenings Guidebook PDF](#)
- [Early Childhood Transition Process PDF](#)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- [Students with Disabilities Library](#)
- [Early Childhood Classroom Supports Library](#)

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

Growth to Mastery Targets

The Department posted the 2020 student growth to mastery targets and continued growth targets rosters to school system FTPs on September 30.

As a reminder, these targets are used in the first step of the Progress Index.

- Students who meet or exceed their targets earn 150 points in the index.
- Students who do not meet their targets are considered in the second step of the Progress Index, which assigns points based on the a comparison of students using the value added model (VAM).
- The Progress Index comprises 25 percent of the K8 SPS formula and 12.5 percent of the high school SPS formula.

Teacher/Leader Evaluation Support

The **rater-reliability training** required for all evaluators will be available in the [Compass Library](#) as a self-guided virtual training beginning October 9 under the Observation and Feedback subheading. It will be labeled 2020-2021 Rater Reliability Training for Evaluators.

This training:

- can be completed at the convenience of the evaluator;
- should be completed per [policy](#) prior to any formal evaluations;
- is for both new and returning evaluators; and
- will take into account a blended learning format.

In addition, the Department will be providing:

- [three training options](#) in October targeting virtual/hybrid teaching practices ([access additional information](#)).
- synchronous/asynchronous training for utilizing virtual Compass companion and virtual coaching protocols for walkthroughs and observations.

Academic Content Resource Updates

- [Instructional Materials Guidance documents](#) are being updated regularly to include new resources from publishers. Resources include pacing guidance, parent information, and information to support unfinished learning.
- [Social Studies Distance Learning Packets](#) are available for units 1 and 2 for grades 3-8 and U.S. History. View the [Social Studies Distance Learning Webinar](#) for information on how to use these resources. All unit 3 packets will be posted by November, and unit 4 packets will be posted by January.
- [K-12 Science Planning Page](#) includes updated distance learning resources and an updated [release schedule](#) for middle school and Biology.
- The recently published [Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Handbook](#) contains guidance for schools and school systems who host or anticipate hosting International Associate Teachers.

Digital Learning

Professional Development Opportunities: Google

The Department has partnered with [Google](#) and [FriEd Technology](#) to provide a series of Facilitated Online Learning Experiences (FOLE) that will enhance teachers' Google skills and best practices for digital learning.

- Teachers can register for all three FOLEs or single events.
- Three session topics will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 500 registered participants.
- Training dates range from October 7 to October 29. Registration is now [available](#).

Digital Learning Professional Development Opportunities: LaCUE

Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LaCUE) is offering **free** virtual professional development opportunities to support digital learning. Go to LaCUE's website to [register](#) for any of the LaCUE Cares sessions.

- October 17 from 8 a.m. until noon - Tech Talk with NSU
- November 13-14: Headliner Weston Kieschnick with sessions focused on Blended Learning
- December 4-5: Headliner Eric Sheninger - "Celebrating Teachers and Technology"

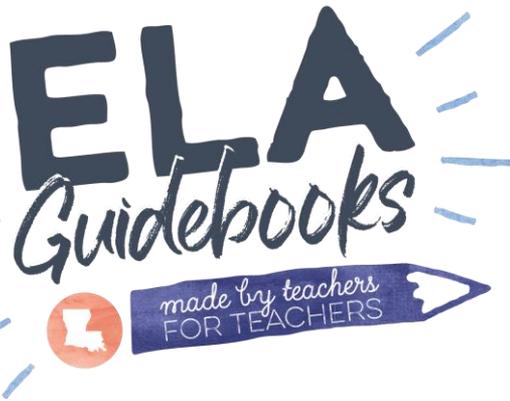


Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks: Future Development

The Department is excited to announce we have partnered with [The Writing Revolution](#) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks.

- The first phase of development will happen for grades 3-5 and will be available for piloting in 2021-2022.
- This work will be completed by Louisiana teachers and a special team of “Revolutionaries” from [Monroe City Schools](#).
- Instructional leaders should encourage educators in grades 3-5 to [submit feedback](#) on current units prior to **Thursday, October 15**.

More details about this partnership and future release dates will be announced via this call and future newsletter communications.



2019-2020 Data Collection Closeouts

In order to close out the 2019-2020 school year, data managers should ensure potential dropout corrections are completed by using accurate exit reasons and proper backup documentation is available. This collection is important for auditing purposes and directly affect cohort graduation rates and multiple indices used in accountability calculations. **Corrections to dropouts will not be accepted during accountability data certification.**

Action Item	Deadline
Submit potential dropout corrections by using accurate exit reasons and ensuring the proper backup documentation is available.	December 4

2020-2021 Data Collections

Data managers should submit planned district and school calendars, student enrollments, free/reduced lunch data, homeless and other student data as well as teacher and student schedules for all classes including CTE/CDF and interest and opportunities for 2020-2021. These data impact economically disadvantaged calculations/funding, federal reporting, assessments and accountability.

Action Items	Deadlines
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Submit school calendars and student data to SPC and SIS● Submit staff data and teacher and student schedules for all classes including CTE/CDF and interest and opportunities to PEP and SIS	October 23 December 11 (staff data & class schedules) January 8 (student class schedules)

2020-2021 Data Collections

Data managers should submit student enrollment updates for 2020-2021 to eScholar. Data cannot be submitted to any of the student systems (SIS, STS, TSDL, SER) until student data have been updated in eScholar for 2020-2021. This impacts Direct Certification for free lunch (and ultimately economically disadvantaged calculations/funding) and eDirect non-summative assessments as student school/location is based on eScholar data (incorrect assignments remove students from testing classrooms).

Action Item	Deadline
Submit, match and maintain current students in eScholar Unique ID and DirectMatch	Ongoing for new enrollments and student demographic updates

Virtual Instruction Training for Teachers and Leaders

The Department, in partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), is offering all educators in Louisiana the opportunity to participate in three 90-minute sessions to learn more about effective virtual teaching practices.

There are three different tracks for educators to receive training based on their role: one for K-2 classroom teachers, one for 3-12 classroom teachers, and one for school leaders. The sessions will cover:

- **planning** for virtual instruction,
- delivery of virtual **instruction**,
- and strengthening the virtual **environment**.

All educators will receive a variety of templates, tools, and strategies they can use immediately in their schools and classrooms. School leaders will receive more support around coaching, while classroom teachers will receive more content they can use directly in their virtual instruction.

Virtual Instruction Training for Teachers and Leaders

Timeline and Registration:

- These sessions are completely free and will be offered multiple times each week over the course of 2020-2021, starting the last week of October.
- Teacher and school leaders will have a variety of options as they select session times, including after school, in the evening, and on weekends. School leaders will also have options during the school day.
- More information about how to register will be shared with system and school leaders via the School Systems Relations Team.

All sessions are taught live (synchronously), and there will be asynchronous modules available beginning in November for those who choose to facilitate through a collaborative setting.

Important Reminders and Call Summary

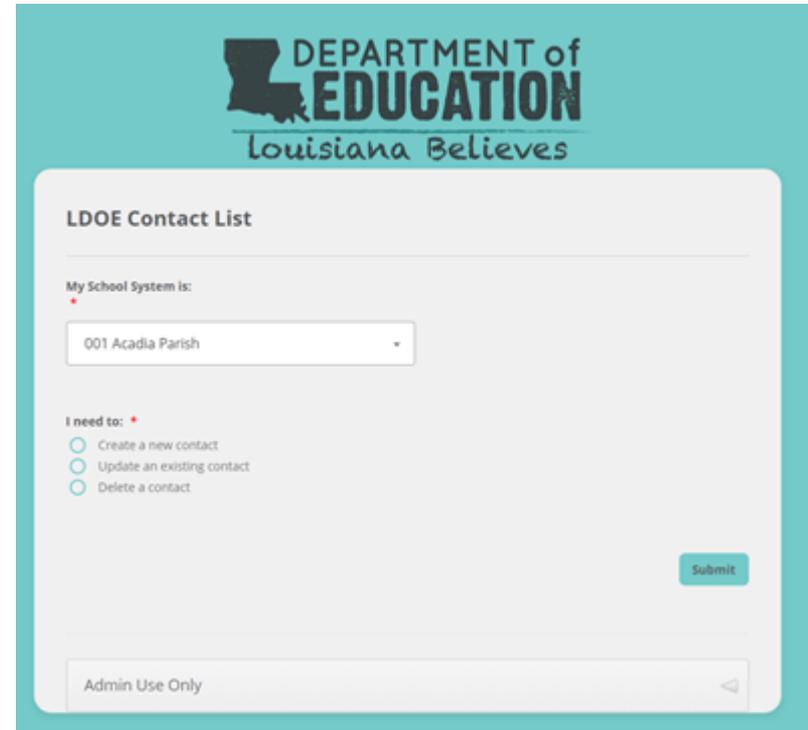
Department Contact Form

In order to streamline the process of collecting contact information from school system supervisors and ensure timely information is sent to school systems throughout the year, the **Department will continue to use the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#).**

As a reminder, **personnel directors serve as the key point of contact for the form within school systems and are responsible for entering and updating contacts.** Please make sure that all contacts entered in the form are up-to-date.

Please note: In order to ensure an accurate contact list, all contacts, new and pre-existing, must be uploaded into this form. Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov for a list of current contacts in the form.

Access this [guide](#) for more information.



The screenshot shows the 'LDOE Contact List' form. At the top, it features the Louisiana Department of Education logo with the text 'DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION' and the slogan 'Louisiana Believes'. The form title is 'LDOE Contact List'. Below the title, there is a section for 'My School System is:' with a dropdown menu currently showing '001 Acadia Parish'. Underneath, there is a section for 'I need to:' with three radio button options: 'Create a new contact', 'Update an existing contact', and 'Delete a contact'. A 'Submit' button is located on the right side of the form. At the bottom, there is a field labeled 'Admin Use Only' with a dropdown arrow.

Call Summary

Month	Monthly Calls
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SPED Leader Monthly Call: October 8• BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call: October 14• Charter Authorizers Monthly Call: October 14• Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call: October 15• Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: October 15• Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders: October 16• Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call: October 19• Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: October 20• Nonpublic Monthly Call: October 21• Student Well-Being Monthly Call: October 21• Education Technology Monthly Call: October 22• Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call: October 28• Data Coordinator Monthly Call: November 5• System Leaders Monthly Call: November 6

Reference the [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#) or [weekly newsletter](#) for additional information.