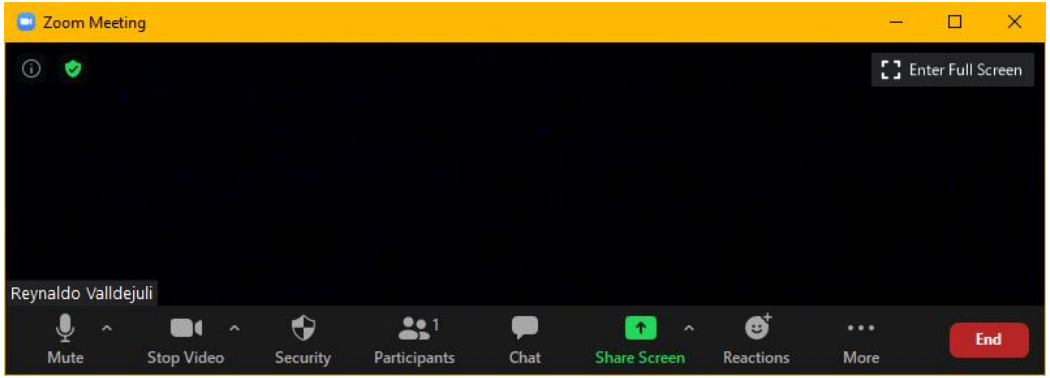
Zoom Meeting Preparation

- 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

September 8, 2020

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Agenda

I. Recovery

II. Strong Start 2020

III. Career and College Readiness

IV. Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity

V. Policy and Governmental Affairs

VI. System Relations

VII. Teaching and Learning

VIII. Important Reminders/Call Summary

Meet the LDOE Team

Recovery

Recovery

What we know now

- Damage to Systems and Schools
- School Closures
- Displaced Students

Disaster recovery guidance was shared with system leaders Friday afternoon

- Enrollment of displaced students
- Damage to facilities and supply needs
- Staffing capacity
- Issues related to the start of the school year
- Charter school specific guidance

Let's all show additional grace and patience as we support schools through disaster recovery and a global pandemic.

STRONG START 2020

Louisiana Department of Health Early Warning System

COVID-19 Early Warning in Louisiana Schools

Louisiana's State Public Health Officer, Dr. Jimmy Guidry, issued an Emergency Order that allowed for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to develop an early warning system for COVID-19 in Louisiana schools.

This system was created to aid schools and public health officials in monitoring and mitigating the potential for school-based outbreaks. Participating in this initiative will provide schools with guidance on what information to collect in the event of a COVID-related illness in their facility, and will also allow them to collect case information in one centralized location with the ultimate goal of keeping our students safe.

Information included in this system will be critical for school-based contact tracing and guiding schools in decision-making. Information reported in this system will also be available to public health officials, allowing for the ability to lend assistance where needed.

Louisiana Department of Health
Early Warning System

How does this benefit systems and schools?

- Streamlines current reporting of positive cases
- Provides health officials with key information to help schools make decisions
- Helps schools understand what information to gather from families
- Gives systems and schools a list of positive cases and important case details

Louisiana Department of Health Early Warning System Resources

- LDH has developed resources for schools to navigate the early warning system:
  - Guide for School Reporting
  - COVID Schools Worksheet
  - Contact Tracing Guide
  - Contact Tracing Worksheet for Parents
- For more information, please visit COVID-19 Resources for Schools.
- Inquiries related to COVID-19 spread in the school setting and the reporting system process should be directed to the following LDH email address: schoolcovidreporting@la.gov.
- LDOE will continue to work in conjunction with LDH to facilitate additional technical support, tools and resources.

Strong Start Resource Updates

Guidelines: Baseline public health requirements for school systems to follow when reopening school facilities to students in Fall 2020 policy implementation, supportive guidance, and tool development. **updated during the week as needed - remember to clear your cache for the latest version**

Best Practices: Supportive guidance and resources for implementing guidelines

Planning Template and Checklist: A template with questions to guide school systems in planning for reopening, with an accompanying checklist for reopening

FAQ Document: The Department released and is maintaining a dynamic FAQ document for implementation support. **updated during the week as needed**

Self Monitoring Checklist: School system checklist to ensure BESE adopted requirements are being met.

Strong Start 2020 Partnerships and Key Supports

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Hotline for School Wellness and Virtual Care (504-837-7760) offers guidance to school nurses and school administrators.

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Town Hall Series for Schools will continue through September, every other Tuesday with **a new time of 3 p.m.** The Zoom link and information is included in the weekly newsletter.

The Children's Hospital of New Orleans has provided a School Wellness page with resources for school systems to use throughout the school year. These resources include:

- Printable school signage to remind students and visitors of social distancing measures, handwashing hygiene and facial covering use.
- Parent resources for school systems to use for communication needs with parents surrounding a safe and healthy return to the classroom.

2019-2020 P-EBT Benefits

Louisiana is reopening the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program for families who did not apply in May and June. Families of children who receive free or reduced-price school meals are eligible to receive financial benefits for meals missed in 2019-2020 when schools closed due to the pandemic. This includes all students attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school.

This new application window is only for eligible families who did not apply in May and June. 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 application portal is open and will close on September 29 at 5 p.m. A link to P-EBT information and the application portal is available on the Department's COVID-19 webpage. The Department will publicize the eligibility of these benefits, and in an effort to ensure families receive these benefits, school systems will receive communications to share with eligible families in the weekly newsletter. Schools can use this toolkit for sample messages to share with families.

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start 2.0 Updates

In August, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved additions to Jump Start 2.0 pathways including an additional 19 courses such as Customer Service, Foreign Language, STAR, Accounting, Law Studies and Biodefense in the Workforce.

Jump start 2.0 Implementation:

- Jump Start 1.0 course sequences will be available for incoming freshmen through 2020-2021.
- Jump Start 2.0 course sequences will be available for incoming freshmen beginning in 2020-2021 and beyond.

Pupil Progression Plan

The 2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan template is in the School Policy library.

The purpose of this document is to ensure school systems are in accordance with applicable laws and regulations related to student placement and promotion, and are aligned with policy in Bulletin 1566.

BESE approved revisions to Bulletin 741 that relate to credit recovery and LHSAA credit academic policy.

Each school system is required to submit a 2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan to PPP@la.gov by **October 16**.

Community Service Diploma Endorsement

Changes to the hour/grade requirements for the Community Service Diploma Endorsement were passed by BESE and at its August meeting. This change will appear in Bulletin 741.

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, students no longer have to earn specified hours each year to earn the endorsement. The requirement is now that students may earn the endorsement by earning a total of 80 hours of community service at any time during their high school career.

Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity

Strong Start 2020: Special Education Guidance

The Department recently released a comprehensive suite of resources to guide school systems in supporting students with disabilities in the 2020-2021 school year.

- The Strong Start 2020: Reopening Guidance for Special Education Leaders helps school systems and educators prepare for a successful reopening that meets the needs of students with disabilities.
- The Strong Start 2020: Reopening Guidance for Direct Service Providers helps direct service providers ensure students continue to receive special education and related services during traditional or modified operations.
- The Strong Start 2020: Timelines and Documentation for Students with Disabilities guidance provides information to help school systems maintain IDEA compliance and provide continuity of services to students with disabilities.
- The Strong Start 2020: Family Toolbox for Students with Disabilities offers families concrete ways to support their child's learning this school year.

These resources are located on the Department's Strong Start webpage and Students with Disabilities webpage.

SPED Fellow Academy Launch

Fifteen Louisiana special education leaders will begin the SPED Fellow Academy this month. The program provides training, coaching and a community of practice that will instill the knowledge and skills the next generation of leaders needs to lead and sustain change to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.The inaugural cohort represents the following school systems:

- Ascension Parish
- Avoyelles Parish
- Bienville Parish
- Catahoula Parish
- Evangeline Parish
- Iberville Parish
- Richland Parish
- St. Tammany Parish
- Crescent City Schools
- Encore Academy
- KIPP New Orleans
- Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy
- New Harmony High Institute
- Redesign Schools Louisiana
- Young Audiences of Louisiana

Home School Applications

The Department is providing this information and guidance to public school leaders regarding the Home School application process.

Louisiana Families may choose to independently provide an excellent education to their children from their home. Louisiana families typically provide this independent education through a Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved home study program or a nonpublic school (not seeking state approval).

To comply with state attendance laws, parents who want to educate their children in a home study program must apply and be approved annually by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. A child enrolled in an approved home study program is considered in attendance at school.

View the available Guidance on Student Withdrawals to Enroll in Approved Home Study and Non-public Schools.

Student Well-Being

The Student Well-Being team supports the efforts of school systems to provide all students an engaging, safe, supportive and equitable learning environment that promotes positive relationships and develops the social-emotional skills and agency that leads to personal and academic success.

The Department recently released a comprehensive suite of resources to guide school systems in supporting the social, emotional and behavioral health and well-being of students:

- Guide to Supporting the Well-Being to Students and School Staff
- Implementing Student and Staff Well-Being
- Student Engagement and Success Vendor Guide

Policy and Governmental Affairs

Teacher Preparation Program Website

On September 9, the Louisiana Department of Education will launch a new website that will help soon-to-be educators choose the teacher preparation program that fits them best. Prospective educators can visit LouisianaTeacherPrep.com to explore teacher preparation programs and pathways to become a teacher. *Please note: The website link will not be live until the website launches.*

The website will include information and profiles on each approved teacher preparation provider. The site will be updated this winter to include each provider's performance on Louisiana's Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) established the Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System, as required by federal regulations, in June 2017. The rating system is designed to provide preparation providers with meaningful information for improvement, to identify programs of excellence, and to reward providers for meeting Louisiana's educator workforce needs.

Mentor Waiver Update

On August 12, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a waiver of policy*, on a case-by-case basis, regarding the requirement that all undergraduate residents and post-baccalaureate candidates are mentored by a Mentor who holds the Ancillary Mentor Teacher certificate, the Ancillary Provisional Mentor Teacher certificate, or the Supervisor of Student Teaching endorsement. This waiver is for the 2020-2021 school year only.

Each Mentor who **does not hold** one of the credentials listed above must be granted an individual waiver, based upon being highly recommended by their principal or their principal's designee.

System Relations

Milken Educator Awards - Obelisk Delivery

On November 13, 2019, Jennifer Williams, a teacher in Jefferson Parish, was named as the recipient of the national Milken Educator Award. The award announcement was made at a surprise all-school assembly.

On Monday, August 24, Jennifer was honored and celebrated during the virtual *Awards Week* gala.

Congratulations to Jennifer and Jefferson Parish!

Jennifer Williams, pictured with her newly received Milken obelisk

Milken Educator Awards - Obelisk Delivery

On November 13, 2019, Steven Gamache — a teacher in Orleans Parish — was named as the recipient of the national Milken Educator Award. The award announcement was made at a surprise all-school assembly.

On Monday, August 24, Steven was honored and celebrated during the virtual *Awards Week* gala.

Congratulations to Steven and Orleans Parish!

Steven, pictured with his newly received Milken obelisk

2020 Public Interest Fellowship

The Louisiana Department of Education recently announced that 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year Chris Dier and 2020 Louisiana Elementary Teacher of the Year Jessica Borland have been awarded the Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship for the 2020-2021 school year. The program allows recipients to spend a school year advocating for an education initiative of their choosing. Read the full release.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Christopher Dier
2020 Public Interest Fellow

Jessica Borland
2020 Public Interest Fellow

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning Roundtable

During these unprecedented times, it is essential that school systems share best practices, identify system problems, explore and implement solutions and learn from shared experiences.

In response to this, the Department will host a series of roundtable discussions focusing on critical and timely topics **with a focus on curriculum and instruction**. The Teaching and Learning Roundtables will be hosted by Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Teaching and Learning and will be held the third Friday of every month, beginning in October.

All curriculum and instructional school system leaders will be invited to attend. Superintendent/Charter leaders will receive additional information regarding the nomination of key personnel.

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

The Pre-K to 3rd Grade Assessment Guidance 2020-2021 has been released. The two approved Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) options are DRDP-K and TeachingStrategies *GOLD®* KEA. The four approved K-3 Literacy Screener options are Acadience Reading (formerly DIBELS Next), DIBELS 8th Edition, STEEP and STEP. This guidance includes information about each assessment and links to the following helpful resources:

- ***UPDATED*** KEA and K-3 Literacy Screener Guidance for Various Learning Environments outlines requirements and resources for administering the KEA and K-3 Literacy Screener in various learning environments; including traditional, virtual and hybrid.
- DRDP-K Overview 2020-2021 outlines requirements and resources for administering the DRDP-K.
- ***UPDATED*** GOLD Overview 2020-2021 has been released for Early Childhood, OSEP, and KEA.
- Early Childhood (pre-K) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments outlines requirements and resources for assessing children in publicly funded seats (birth-age 5) using TeachingStrategies *GOLD®* in various learning environments; including traditional, virtual, and hybrid.
- Birth-Grade 3 Assessments has a suite of resources available to help school systems and early learning centers plan assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.

ESF-REM Grant

The Education Stabilization Fund Rethink Education Models (ESF-REM) Grant is aimed at opening innovative ways for students to access education during the coronavirus national emergency. Louisiana was awarded $17 million over the next three years from this grant.

Funds from Louisiana's award will be used to provide economically disadvantaged pre-K-grade 3 students with remote learning resources such as tutoring, devices and hotspots.

The terms of the grant require that:

- States must give families a list of options (parental choice) for service providers and allow parents to provide input;
- States must pay the service provider directly; and
- States must serve students on a fair and equal basis.

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program Grant

Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grants support creating a comprehensive literacy program to advance literacy skills. Louisiana was awarded a $42 million federal grant to improve literacy outcomes.

The awarded funds will enable school systems to:

- Form Literacy Leadership teams and work with literacy coach coordinators;
- Provide training to implement and support high-quality evidence-based literacy activities;
- Engage early childhood educators, teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, and instructional leaders to support in the literacy development of children; and
- Engage families and provide family literacy activities.

The Department will soon provide more information to school systems about this grant.

K-2 CLASS® Pilot

The LDOE CLASS® pilot is a professional development opportunity for school systems interested in helping teachers improve the effectiveness of their interactions with K-2 students leading to improved outcomes for children.

Scope of the K-2 CLASS® Pilot				
K-2 CLASS® Pilot	**2016-2017**	**2017-2018**	**2018-2019**	**2019-2020**
Number of school systems	5	22	26	33
Number of schools	15	37	73	94
Number of teachers	35	80	280	363

Pilot results have demonstrated three key gains:

1. **Greater collaboration** between teachers;
2. **Better delivery of instruction** through high-quality curriculum; and
3. **Improved outcomes** for children.

For more information on the K-2 CLASS® Pilot, please join an informational webinar today, **September 9 at 2 p.m.**

Early Childhood: LA 4 Pre-K Update

At this time, the Department is implementing the following payment structure for LA 4:

- For the enrollment period August through October 31, 2020, school systems will receive LA 4 payments based on the school system's *allocation* as approved in spring 2020.
  - All systems will continue to report actual enrollment and attendance, as in the past during this period; however, payments will be based on the original allocation amount.
- Beginning in November 2020, a shift will be made so that LEAs will receive LA 4 payments based on *actual enrollment* (including students enrolled in virtual pre-K).
  - Due to funding constraints, school systems are not guaranteed payment for students enrolled in excess of their allocation.

Temporary payment based on allocation will provide additional time for LEAs to continue enrolling new students and expand their offerings of virtual pre-K. For more information on conducting virtual pre-K, please see the Department's Strong Start guidance.

Early Childhood: CLASS® Observation Protocol Guidance

The Department is releasing an updated Local CLASS® Protocol Guidance document for fall 2020 with COVID-19 considerations.

- At this time, the Department does not anticipate statewide waivers for early childhood accountability or assessment for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The updated Local CLASS® Observation Protocol Guidance document, an updated planning template, and a new optional planning workbook have been released.
- In partnership with the Office of Public Health, the Department has established criteria that should be used when determining whether in-person observations can safely be conducted by external observers:
  - Community-wide considerations
  - Site-level considerations
  - Observer-level considerations

Assessment Administration: Important Dates

Test Type	Date	Reporting
KEA and K-3 Literacy	Completed first 30 days of school	Submit data to Department by October 31
LEAP 360 Diagnostic	Completed at the beginning of the school year	Reports available for systems, schools and to share with parents in DRC INSIGHT
ACT	October 6 or October 20	Available in November; used in 2021 SPS if highest score for grade 12
LEAP High School Fall Administration	December 1-18 **January 6-26 (new)** *Systems must select one window	Reports available in window in DRC INSIGHT; used in 2021 SPS if initial test

Louisiana Virtual Instruction Guidance

The Louisiana Virtual Instruction Guide is designed for educators and outlines expectations for teaching and learning in a virtual setting.

The guide reviews four components of high-quality instruction for students in grades pre-k-12.

- High-quality, standards-aligned curriculum
- Interactive, engaging instruction
- Monitoring student progress
- Student support

The Louisiana Virtual Instruction Guide for Parents can be used by families to understand what virtual education may look like and how they can best support their child.

Teacher Development

In order to be successful, new teachers need support. Support can take on many forms including but not limited to:

- Individual mentoring
- Targeted professional development sessions
- PLCs
- Sheltered schedules

The Department is interested in learning from school systems across the state who provide support to beginning teachers.

School systems are encouraged to complete this brief New Teacher Induction Survey by **September 18**. The survey should be completed by the leader in each school system who supports new teachers.

Mentor Teachers

Post Baccalaureate Mentoring

In 2019, BESE passed policy requiring that participants in a post baccalaureate program receive five hours per week of mentoring during their residency. For these teachers, this would be during their **first year** on a **Practitioner License.** This policy **has not been waived** for the 2020-2021 school year.

Stipends

In the 2020-2021 school year, Mentors of yearlong undergraduate residents will continue to receive a stipend for their work. Their employing school system will receive $1,000 for the mentor of these residents. The data collection process for this funding kicked off in August. Funding for residents completing a yearlong undergraduate residency will continue to be provided through MFP funds.

Elementary Assessments

In June, BESE adopted a policy change that scales down (from six to four individual assessments) the elementary assessment series.

Student Learning Target Guidance

- Teachers and leaders should develop SLTs by **December 1** in order to understand teaching goals and plan for instruction accordingly.

- SLTs can be based upon data such as:
  - performance data from the first unit or module of this school year
  - formative assessment data
  - diagnostic data

- Guidance for creating student learning targets is available in the Department's COMPASS Library.

- Teachers are encouraged to progress monitor SLTs using student work throughout the year.

Strong Start Resource Updates

Resources to help school systems adapt academic plans for 2020-2021 to include distance learning using high-quality instructional materials have been updated.

- Instructional Materials Guidance documents now include pacing guidance from publishers.
- Grades 3-5: ELA Guidebook Foundation Supports were created to support students in grades 3-5 who struggle to read fluently.
- Knowledge Packs can support students in volume of reading and building knowledge.
- Distance Learning Guidebook Companions are being released on a rolling basis.
- Social Studies Distance Learning Packets for Unit 1 are posted. Unit 2 packets will be released in September.
- K-12 Science Planning Page includes updated distance learning resources and an updated release schedule.

Important Reminders and Call Summary

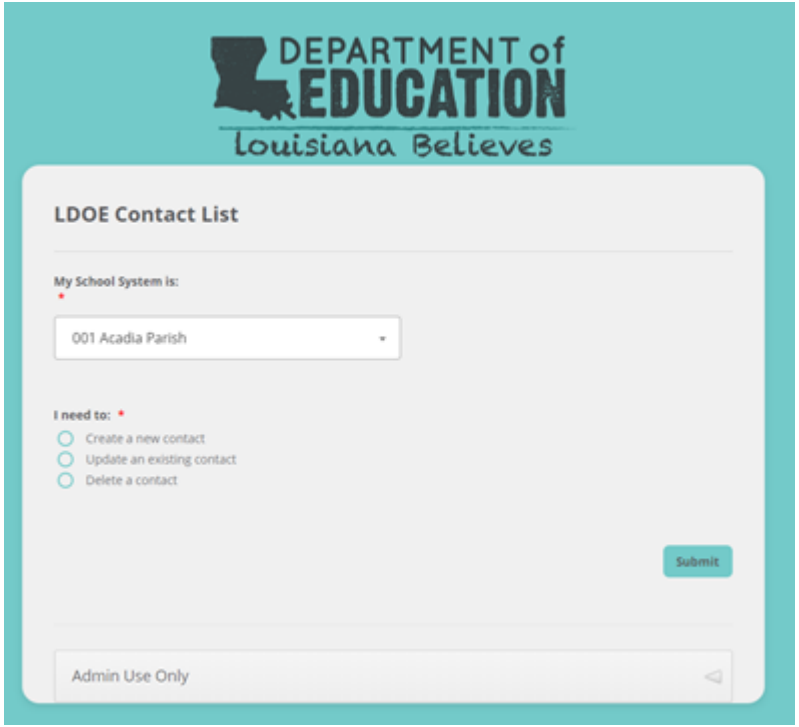
Department Contact Form

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.



Every Child Counts: Census 2020

Every home has received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children, such as:

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology.
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches.
- Maternal and child health programs.
- Planning, preparedness, and recovery efforts for all types of national emergencies, including COVID-19.

Self-responses, which can be completed online, by phone, or by mail until September 30, **ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students**. The Department encourages school systems to explore the 2020 Census Toolbox to find activities specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for each grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

Census 2020: Statistics in Schools

Statistics in Schools (SIS) is a U.S. Census Bureau program that uses census data to create free and engaging activities and materials for pre-K through 12 classrooms to enhance learning in a variety of subjects, boost students' statistical literacy and data finding skills, and prepare students for a data-driven world.

To support teachers using these resources now and during further school years, the U.S. Census Bureau created the Statistics in Schools (SIS) Ambassador Program, which aims to:

- Engage educators with SIS materials and empower them to champion the SIS message.
- Share SIS materials with teachers, students, and households with children.
- Spread awareness of the 2020 Census to increase self-response.

To apply for the SIS Ambassador Program, email CLMSO.SISambassador@census.gov. To learn more, review the SIS Brochure, the SIS Letter to Superintendents, and visit www.census.gov/schools.

Call Summary

Month	Monthly Calls
September	• BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call: September 9 • Charter Authorizers Monthly Call: September 9 • Data Coordinator Monthly Call: September 10 • SPED Leader Monthly Call: September 10 • Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: September 15 • Nonpublic Monthly Call: September 16 • Student Engagement and Success Monthly Call: September 16 • Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call: September 17 • Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: September 17 • Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders: September 18 • Policy and Governmental Affairs Monthly Call: September 21 • Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call: September 23 • Education Technology Monthly Call: September 24

Reference the 2020-2021 School System Support Calendar or weekly newsletter for additional information.