

# CHARTER SCHOOLS



August 5, 2020

## Superintendent's Message

August 5, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The first week in August has traditionally signaled back to school in Louisiana. That's still true in many systems; however, school will look a little different. As we move through August, more school systems will resume.

I've noticed some outstanding examples of employee and family engagement from systems leading up to the first day. Please maintain a focus on clear, regular communication throughout the school year - especially during these first few months. Your families and staff will be looking for information. Be that trusted source they can turn to for timely, accurate updates.

Here at the Department, we are working to streamline our communications to you. Our goal is to provide information in as timely and useful a manner as possible. We will share more details about these changes in our newsletter in the coming weeks. Some of the shifts include no longer holding the monthly School System Planning Call. Instead, we will hold department-specific office hours and monthly calls. We will also hold monthly system leader calls.

We've already started hosting a weekly office hours call on school reopening operations. If you haven't taken advantage of this resource yet, the next opportunity is [Thursday at 3 p.m.](#) We will share updated information and answer your questions about school reopening. I'm also hosting a Reopening Roundtable this [Friday at 9 a.m.](#) This call will feature a panel of system leaders who will share their lessons learned from starting the new school year. We'll host one of these every Friday this month. You can find information on each of these in this newsletter.

The Department is here to support and guide you through reopening - whatever that looks like in your community. To our system and school leaders, stay the course. This will be a challenging school year. Keep the safety of your students and staff as your top responsibility and improving student outcomes as your top priority. Everything will not go as planned. You will have cases of COVID-19 in your school because it exists in our communities. When that happens, stay calm and follow your protocols. There will be unexpected issues. All of us will make mistakes. That happens when leading through uncharted territory. We must continue to learn and lead throughout this school year. I believe in us.

Dr. Cade Brumley

State Superintendent of Education

## In This Issue:

[Superintendent's Message](#)

[Action Items for Charter Schools](#)

[LEA Support](#)

[Academics](#)

[Assessment and Accountability](#)

[Career and College Readiness](#)

[Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity](#)

[Finance](#)

## Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action	Owner(s)
08/06/20	Attend Secret Service webinar on mass attacks in public spaces	School leaders, CEOs, technology directors
08/07/20	Attend Superintendent Brumley's Reopening Roundtable Webinar Attend Homeless Liaison Webinar	School leaders, CEOs School leaders, CEOs, Homeless Liaisons
09/11/20	Submit <a href="#">Pupil Progression Plan</a> (PPP) to <a href="mailto:ppp@la.gov">ppp@la.gov</a> & <a href="mailto:charters@la.gov">charters@la.gov</a>	School leaders, CEOs
10/31/20	Deadline to submit <a href="#">application</a> for Frontline Workers Rebate	Eligible charter school employees

## Important Dates for Schools

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Strong Start 2020 Reopening Operations and Resources Office Hours	<a href="#">August 6 at 3 p.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	<a href="#">August 11 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Monthly Calls	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 13 at 1 p.m.</a>
Special Education Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 13 at 2 p.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 18 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Ed Tech Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 20 at 11 a.m.</a>

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Strong Start 2020 Follow-up Webinar for Nonpublic Equitable Services Relative to CARES Act Funding	<a href="#">August 5 at 11:30 a.m.</a>
Secret Service Protective Intelligence & Assessment Webinar	<a href="#">August 6 at 12 p.m.</a>
Reopening Roundtable: A Virtual Series for System Leaders	<a href="#">August 7 at 9 a.m.</a>
Homeless Liaison Webinar for New McKinney Vento Cohort	<a href="#">August 7 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and Technical Education Webinar	<a href="#">August 13 at 11 a.m.</a>
Mentor and Resident Data Collection Process Webinar	<a href="#">August 13 at 1:30 p.m.</a>
Mentor and Resident Data Collection Process Webinar	<a href="#">August 14 at 1:30 p.m.</a>
Supporting Mentors and Content Leaders Toward Certification Webinar	<a href="#">August 18 at 10 a.m.</a>
Virtual Town Hall Series for Schools (Tips for School Support Staff)	<a href="#">August 18 at 1 p.m.</a>
ESSA Alternate Assessment Webinar	<a href="#">August 18 at 2 p.m.</a>
Act 206: Dyslexia Definition Webinar	<a href="#">August 20 at 12 p.m.</a>

## **New: Every Child Counts - 2020 Census**

**Audience: CEOs and School Leaders**

Every home has received an invitation to participate in the [2020 Census](#). Louisiana's self-response rate is just under 57 percent, which is below the national average. There are a number of parishes where the rate is in the 30s and 20s. Please consider using your system's communications channels to encourage employees, families and other stakeholders to complete 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 national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#).

Self-responses, which can be completed [online](#), by phone or by mail until October 31, ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students.

The Department encourages school systems to explore the [2020 Census Toolbox](#) to find general resources and activities specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for each grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

Please contact [ldoecommunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Charter Contact Information for Type 2, 4, and 5's**

**Audience: CEOs/School Leaders, Board Presidents**

In an effort to ensure that we have the most accurate contact information for our charter boards, charter management organizations, and school sites the LDE collects this information annually. A link to the survey will be sent to each of our BESE authorized schools. The link is a contact survey to be submitted by **Friday, August 28th**. In order to prepare to complete the survey, we will outline the information needed for a successful submission via email.

## **New: Updated Guidance for Criminal Background Checks for Service Providers in K-12**

All K-12 essential visitors and contractors, including mental health consultants and special education service providers, must have a child care criminal background check (CCCBC) in order to provide services at an early learning center and a registered in-home or family home provider. The background checks approved by the school systems for K-12 purposes are not acceptable for child care security purposes.

Please contact [LDElicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDElicensing@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: 2020-2021 Reopening and Operations Resource Updates**

The Department and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) have been working together to provide updated resources and guidance for schools relative to Reopening and Operations for the 2020-2021 school year. The most recent updates include:

- [Self-Monitoring Checklist](#)
- [COVID-19 Positive Test Result Process Sample Letters](#)
- [LDH Return to School/Work Self-Certifications](#)
- [LDH Guidance for Common School Scenarios](#)
- Critical Infrastructure Workers

In addition, the Department is holding office hours every Thursday at 3 p.m. for school system leaders and support staff to hear the latest updates on policy implementation, supportive guidance and tool development. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursdays at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91419461028>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID#:** 914 1946 1028
- **Meeting Password:** 408891

Please contact [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program**

**Please share with school counselors**

Due to the many uncertainties posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP)-Washington Week 2021-is currently on hold. Applications nationwide are not being accepted at this time. The Department will post USSYP updates in upcoming newsletters and on the website when available.

Please contact [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: AT&T Teacher Appreciation Discount**

AT&T has [expanded its appreciation](#) offer to now include teachers and their families. Both new and existing AT&T customers that are kindergarten through post-secondary teachers, professors, instructors and their families can [take advantage of this appreciation offer](#), which provides up to 25 percent savings on AT&T's best wireless plans. Interested teachers are encouraged to complete [AT&T's self-assessment](#) to determine eligibility.

Please contact: [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions.

## Academics

### **Strong Start 2020 Instructional Material and PD Vendor Guide Updates**

**Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, professional development coordinators and purchasing directors.**

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

New or updated information will be highlighted in yellow within the document.

This week, the following entries have been added:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
N/A	N/A

This week, the following entries have been significantly **updated**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
Kaplan Early Learning Company, Connect4Learning	
Kaplan Early Learning Company, Learn Everyday: Program for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos	
JUMP Math, Grades K-8	
Kendall Hunt, Illustrative Mathematics, Grades 6-8, Algebra I	
McGraw Hill, Illustrative Mathematics, Grades 6-8	

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: New Definition of Dyslexia**

**Please share with School leaders, school level SPED/IEP/504 coordinators, school psychologists and education diagnosticians.**

The Dyslexia Resource Center is hosting a free webinar regarding recently passed [Act 206](#), which provides a common language definition to define dyslexia using the most current information available. Kayla Reggio, Director of the Dyslexia Resource Center, and Special Guest Representative Joe Marino, who authored the bill, will cover the new definition in law in detail and how this law impacts dyslexic students. The webinar will be held on **August 20 at 12 p.m.** Participants can [register](#) now.

Please contact [kreggio@dyslexia1n5.com](mailto:kreggio@dyslexia1n5.com) with questions.

### **New: Continuous Learning Updates for Social Studies**

**Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators and social studies teachers**

For unit 2 distance learning packets, the teacher materials and student materials sections will be separated. The teacher materials have been [password protected](#) to help ensure only teachers have access to the answer keys. For more information on distance learning packets, see below.

In an effort to provide standards-aligned content experiences and enable continuous learning in the event of school facility closures at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, [distance learning packets](#) are being developed for each course in grades 3-8 and US History for units 1 and 2. The packets do not cover the entire content of the unit but instead focus on a key topic. Teachers can use the packets as a cornerstone to build materials for additional content coverage. The materials are designed to be low tech but can be adapted for schools using an online learning platform. The Department will evaluate the need for more distance learning support throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Unit 2 packets will be released on a rolling basis from now until September and will be posted on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) page when completed.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: World Languages Strong Start Guidance**

**Please share with School Leaders**

The Department recently published the [Louisiana World Languages Resources Guidance](#) and the [World Languages Blended and Asynchronous Learning Guidance](#) to help teachers and school systems prepare for the upcoming school year. This guidance contains information on World Languages best practices and tools for teachers as well as alternative scheduling suggestions for schools with immersion. For school systems that host International Associate Teachers (IATs), the Department published [StrongStart 2020 for International Associate Teachers](#). This guidance includes tips for welcoming and onboarding new IATs as well as the new [International Associate Teacher Exchange Planning Document](#).

Please contact [languageacquisition@la.gov](mailto:languageacquisition@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessment and Accountability

### For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

#### High School Assessment Student Reports in DRC INSIGHT

- Student reports for the LEAP 2025 high school assessments administered in July will be available in DRC INSIGHT no later than **July 31**.

#### ACT

- **New: ACT Webinar Opportunities**
  - **August 11:** Attend a Q&A session about WorkKeys online test administration. [Register here to attend](#).
  - **August 18:** Attend a Q&A session about ACT accommodations and supports and test administration for the October testing. [Register here to attend](#).
- All school systems that tested students in June 2020 and/or who plan to test students during the October 2020 makeup for 2019-2020 juniors **must sign the ACT MOU Addendum** that is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- **ACT State Administration**
  - October 6 and October 20 paper-based administration only for students who were juniors in 2019-2020 and were unable to test in March or June. The Department will cover the cost for one administration per applicable student.
  - **Important:** Materials will be shipped separately for each administration.
  - Currently, ACT does not offer remote administrations for any scheduled testing dates.
  - [The Schedule of Events](#) for the October ACT administration is posted on the [ACT State Testing site](#).
  - [The Schedule of Events](#) for the 2020-2021 WorkKeys administration is posted on the ACT State Testing site.
  - [PearsonAccessNext](#) (PANext) is open through August 28 to manage participation and verify secure district shipping addresses for both the ACT October administration and the 2020- 2021 WorkKeys assessments.

#### Pre-K-3 Assessment Guidance

- The Department recently released a [suite of guidance documents](#) to help school systems (and early learning centers) plan assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - [2020-2021 Pre-K to Third Grade Assessment Guidance](#) 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.
  - [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) outlines requirements and resources for assessing publicly-funded children (ages 3-5) using TeachingStrategies GOLD® in various learning environments including traditional, virtual and hybrid.
  - [K-3 Assessment 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.
  - [2020-2021 TeachingStrategies GOLD® Guidance](#) has been released for Early Childhood, OSEP and KEA.

#### Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **August 11 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for Office Hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 11 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Password:** 2020202!

## Educator Development

### Supporting Mentors and Content Leaders Toward Certification

#### Audience: CEOs and School Leaders

On **August 18 at 10 a.m.**, school system leaders Rebecca Freeland of Richland Parish and Chandler Smith of Central School System will discuss how to support Mentors and Content Leaders to drive student achievement as they work toward certification.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 18 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 345 504 8179
- **Meeting passcode:** RTC51420

Please contact [andrew.palermo@la.gov](mailto:andrew.palermo@la.gov) with questions.

### **Mentor and Resident Data Collection Process**

**Audience: CEOs and School Leaders**

In the 2020-2021 school year, Mentors of yearlong undergraduate residents will continue to receive stipend for their work. Their employing school system will receive \$1,000 for the Mentor of these residents. Funding for residents completing a yearlong undergraduate residency will continue to be provided through MFP funds. The data collection process for this funding will kick off this month. Two webinars detailing the data collection process will be held. Webinar information is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 13 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/7328306617>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 732 830 6617
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- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 14 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/7328306617>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 732 830 6617

Please contact [toriano.hayward@la.gov](mailto:toriano.hayward@la.gov) with questions.

## **Career and College Readiness**

### **New: Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Resumption of Training**

**Please share with school system secondary supervisors, career and technical education supervisors/coordinators and CNA instructors.**

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) regularly updates the [health standards section of their website](#) with information regarding effects of COVID-19 on Nurse Aide Training programs. Several key updates are available for Nurse Aide Training programs relative to the resumption of training.

- Prior to beginning a new class, written verification from the nursing home that students will be allowed to complete clinical training during the COVID crisis should be acquired and submitted to [HSS-CNA-DSW-Request@la.gov](mailto:HSS-CNA-DSW-Request@la.gov).
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has mandated that nursing homes conduct weekly COVID testing of all residents and employees. Students are considered employees and will, therefore, require weekly testing.
- Please notify the LDH Program Desk of nursing facilities that are unable/unwilling to accommodate students. While it is certainly the right of the facility to restrict students, the LDH would like to ensure the reason is not due to misinformation regarding current recommendations related to the pandemic.

Please notify the program manager of any decisions to place the program on hold or close at [ash-leigh.garcia@la.gov](mailto:ash-leigh.garcia@la.gov).

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: Career and Technical Education Webinar**

**Please share with CEOs, school leaders and CTE leaders.**

The Department will host a Career and Technical Education Webinar on **August 13 at 11 a.m.** The webinar will include updates on the following:

- Jump Start 2.0 implementation
- Quest for Success
- Industry-Based Certification Fact Sheets
- Supplemental Course Academy/Course Choice

Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 13 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93182712471>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 931 8271 2471
- **Password:** 536014

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: Pupil Progression Plans Deadline: September 11**

**Please share with School Leaders, CEOs and counselors.**

The 2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) template is available 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

aligned with policy in Bulletin 1566. New to the template are sections related to BESE approved credit recovery policy and non-traditional coursework accepted by the NCAA. The approved PPP should be submitted to [PPP@la.gov](mailto:PPP@la.gov) by **September 11**.

Please contact [PPP@la.gov](mailto:PPP@la.gov) with questions and extension requests.

### **Reminder: NCCER Module Assessments and Performance Profile Evaluations**

**Please share with School Leaders, CEOs, CTE Supervisors/Coordinators and professional school counselors.**

NCCER remote proctoring will continue to be available through December 31 should circumstances prevent classes from meeting in person at accredited training and education facilities. If using the online testing system for written assessments, craft instructors are reminded to continue to submit performance profiles through the registry by creating a registration of training modules using actual dates for the performance profile evaluations. To access the online testing system, contact the sponsor representative, [martha.moore@la.gov](mailto:martha.moore@la.gov).

Please contact [martha.moore@la.gov](mailto:martha.moore@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: Jump Start Fact Sheet Update**

**Please share with CTE supervisors/coordinators, school leaders and professional school counselors.**

The Department released the first set of newly redesigned Industry-Based Certification Fact Sheets. The redesigned fact sheets appear in the file box labeled updated fact sheets. The fact sheets have been improved or have the following additions:

- Industry-based certification (IBC) STS code and an example of each IBC
- Certification resources to prepare for the exam
- System requirements for computer-based testing
- Direct links to accommodations and language access information (when available)
- Information on costs (when available)

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) with questions.

## **Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity**

### **Special Education**

#### **New: ESSA Alternate Assessment Files on FTP**

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any school system with more than 1.0 percent of students participating in the ELA, math or science alternate assessment must take certain actions. By today, August 5, the Department will have provided all school systems with an alternate assessment package via FTP with the file name: **LEA Code\_LEA Name\_AA\_2020**. School systems should review their alternate assessment participation data and take the actions outlined in the package. School systems should contact their FTP coordinator to retrieve their alternate assessment package after August 5.

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

#### **New: ESSA Alternate Assessment Webinar**

The Department will host a webinar for school system directors, supervisors and coordinators of special education on **August 18 at 2 p.m.** to help school systems exceeding 1.0 percent participation complete the alternate assessment review process. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 18 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92293524383>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 9922 9352 4383

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

#### **New: 2019-2020 Seclusion and Restraint Draft Data Available**

The Department is required to collect and annually report the use of seclusion and restraint data for students with disabilities. The 2019-2020 seclusion and restraint data verification report is now available to provide school systems the opportunity to verify their data before the final report is published. School systems must make updates in SER, if needed, and submit new or revised seclusion and restraint policies to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) by **August 14** to be reflected in the final report.

Please contact FTP coordinators to retrieve the report with the file name *LEACode\_LEAName\_2019-2020\_Seclusion and Restraint Data Verification Report*.

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

## August SPED Leader Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors and coordinators of special education on **August 13 at 2 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, guidance and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 13 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92135951551>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 921 3595 1551

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

## Reminder: SER Calendar Update

The Department has updated the business day calendar in the special education reporting (SER) system. All school systems should run the updated calendar as soon as possible to access the most current evaluation due dates.

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

## Operations

### Homeless Liaison Webinar for New McKinney Vento Cohort

A Homeless Liaison Webinar will be held this **Friday, August 7 at 10 a.m.** This webinar will provide information on the new McKinney Vento Cohort, discuss the COVID-19 impact on the homeless programs and provide updates regarding EdLink, needs assessment, 2020-2021 planning worksheet, Kickstand/McKinney Vento.Org, homeless numbers, unfinished learning, etc. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 7 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93456500908>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 934 5650 0908
- **Password:** 136059

Please contact [antiqua.hunter@la.gov](mailto:antiqua.hunter@la.gov) with questions.

## Finance

### **Online Fiscal Monitoring of Federal Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2020**

**Please share with business managers.**

Fiscal monitoring of federal grant programs allocated for FY 2019-2020 will be conducted via the eGrants Management System (eGMS). The Office of State Education Finance and Policy audit staff will contact business managers of selected school systems from **August through October** to discuss the scope of the fiscal monitoring audit.

Each business manager and federal programs coordinator should act as liaison between the auditing staff and any other school system personnel involved in the monitoring process. It will be necessary that business managers and the appropriate federal program staff be available to the auditors throughout the monitoring process. Please remember that failure to provide needed documentation will result in questioned costs and the possible need to refund grant awarded dollars to the Department.

Due to COVID-19 limitations, all monitoring will be conducted as desk reviews that will require school system staff to upload supportive documentation to the eGMS system. The audit staff will provide guidance for managing the fiscal monitoring application in eGMS during the official engagement.

Please contact [nakia.jason@la.gov](mailto:nakia.jason@la.gov) with questions.

# Safe and Healthy Schools

## **Reminder: School-based Medicaid Program**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) - Medicaid has released a general update memo and covered services update related to the School-based Medicaid Program (SBMP) for the upcoming school year. These updates include information concerning Medicaid program expansion subsequent to the recently approved Education State Plan Amendment (SPA). LDH and the Department are working to streamline SBMP processes and update guidance documents to assist local school systems in the Medicaid reimbursement process.

Please contact [michael.comeaux@la.gov](mailto:michael.comeaux@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded Louisiana \$597,050, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94), to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety and expand access to school meals in the NSLP and School Breakfast Program. Priority will be given to schools where the greatest percentage of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Reference the 2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants document for additional grant-related information. Online applications will be accessible at the Child Nutrition Programs website on October 1. A School Food Service (SFS) Memo will be forthcoming to inform SFAs of dates for the open application period.

Please contact [helen.folks@la.gov](mailto:helen.folks@la.gov) with questions.

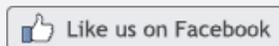
### LDOE Contacts

(toll-free) 877.453.2721  
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

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