



Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



February 11, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Schools across Louisiana are recognizing the contributions and achievements of African Americans as part of Black History Month. This is happening through special events, classroom lessons, daily announcements and other educational activities designed to bring honor and awareness to African American history and culture. As educators we are also uniquely positioned to make daily contributions to the lives of African American students. Each of us has a responsibility to help shape, and learn from, our students – the next generation of strong leaders.

As we developed *Believe to Achieve*, we were intentional in how we included equity. One of the first foundational belief statements we agreed on agency-wide was “equity matters.” It’s more than a priority. Equity must be infused into every element of our agency, our school systems and our schools. We must remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children. As we work at the Department to cultivate high-impact systems, structures and partnerships, one of our focus areas is to develop equity guidance, tools and resources for systems.

We’re thankful for so much in Louisiana. We also recognize that we must move onward in elevating the voice of every teacher and ensure every child receives the education they deserve. I look forward to continuing this work alongside all of you – my colleagues – as we move forward together.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Super App Office Hours	February 12 at 10 a.m.
Literacy Office Hours	February 18 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	February 23 at 12 p.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	February 23 at 12 p.m.
AE Leadership Community of Practice	February 24 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	March 2 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	February 17 at 3:30 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	February 18 at 10 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	February 22 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	February 23 at 3:45 p.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	February 24 at 1 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	February 24 at 2:30 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	February 25 at 9 a.m.

System Leaders Roundtable	February 26 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	March 4 at 1 p.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	March 4 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	March 5 at 9 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	March 18 at 3 p.m.
*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library . View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Jump Start Summers Overview Webinar	February 22 at 12 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Super App Submission	February 12
ESSER I Funds Reporting	February 26
Jump Start Summers Application	March 5 at 5 p.m.

Operations

Pandemic Relief Funding Planning Support

The Department wants to support school systems and teams in planning for the new pandemic relief funding in a strategic, priorities-based way to ensure every dollar is going toward the highest-impact work.

LDOE is taking this opportunity to stress the importance of spending [within the outlined priorities](#). By doing this, the Department is leveraging funds on high-impact opportunities and is part of a collective, statewide effort. This will also be helpful as LDOE tracks spending based on priority and communicates the thoughtfulness of school systems' use of these one-time funds.

Details about allocation methodology, timelines, and allowable use of funds are [available](#). The Department is in the process of creating new funding FAQs to support school systems as they plan. These FAQs will be added to the [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Library](#).

Below is the allocation release timeline.

Timeline	Action
February 2021	Release ESSERF I balances and ESSERF II estimated allocations
March 2021	Release 50% of ESSERF II formula allocations to LEAs with guidance
April 2021	LEAs use the guidance and assess needs to build out ESSERF II budgets
May 2021	LDOE reviews ESSER II budgets
June 2021	All ESSER II budgets approved (LEAs may start drawing down funds)

Once the application and allocations become available in eGMS in March, the Department will host a launch, providing school systems with pertinent information for creating their budgets in alignment with the priorities and focus areas. More information about connecting expenses to these priorities will be provided in the coming weeks.

LDOE will continue to provide updates to our school systems as new information becomes available. Please look for this information in the [weekly newsletter](#), [Monthly System Leader Call](#), and [Monthly Federal Support and Grantee Relations Call](#).

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Equitable Services

Unlike ESSER I, services and assistance to nonpublic schools funding will be provided through a completely separate funding source that will not flow through LEAs under the new pandemic relief appropriations. ED will award [GEER EANS](#) to each Governor with an approved certification and agreement based on the State's relative share of low-income children. In collaboration with the Governor's Office, the LDOE is working on the design and implementation for the EANS programs to provide non-public school services in accordance with the updated [FAQ from ED](#).

While school systems must continue to provide services under CARES Act funding released last year, they will not have to budget or manage the provision of services or assistance with the new funding.

Additional information — including information about allocation methodology, timelines, and funds allowability — was shared during last week's System Leaders Roundtable and is [now available](#). Updates will continue to be shared via the [weekly newsletter](#), [Monthly System Leader Call](#), and [Monthly Federal Support and Grantee Relations Call](#).

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

GEER EANS

GEER II Funds includes a separate program of Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) for which eligible non-public schools may apply to an SEA to receive services or assistance. The purpose of the EANS program is to provide services or assistance to eligible non-public schools to address educational disruptions caused by COVID-19. ED will award [EANS](#) to each Governor with an approved

Certification and Agreement based on the State's relative share of low-income children. In collaboration with the Governor's Office, the LDOE is working on the design and implementation for the EANS programs to provide non-public school services in accordance with the updated [FAQ from ED](#).

Generally, allowable activities under EANS relate to:

- Safely reopening schools
- Continuing instruction
- Addressing learning loss
- Supporting educational technology
- Reimbursing for certain coronavirus related costs

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Nutrition Support

Nutrition Support Monthly Call

The Division of Nutrition Support will host a monthly call on [March 4 at 1 p.m.](#) to provide Child Nutrition Program operators with current information regarding the National School Lunch Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Child and Adult Care At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

USDA Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operational Costs Funding

On January 26, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published [guidance](#) and [Q&A's](#) regarding the Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operational Costs programs. Under this authority, FNS is offering additional funds to State agencies administering the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide eligible program operators with additional reimbursements for emergency operating costs they incurred during the public health emergency. Eligible program operators will not be required to submit an application to receive the funds, which will be distributed according to the formula prescribed by FNS in the guidance.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Summers 2021

Please share with school system supervisors and leaders.

The [Jump Start Summers](#) program will be available to launch summer training sessions for students to earn Carnegie credit aligned to [Fast Forward pathways](#), Jump Start 2.0 coursework, statewide basic or advanced credentials, participate in work-based learning, and earn a student stipend for participation. The [application](#) to submit as a prospective or returning Jump Start Summers provider is now open. The application will close on **March 5 at 5 p.m.** The encumbered Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) dollars can be used for this opportunity.

The Department will hold an informational webinar about this opportunity.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 22 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97054659910>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 970 5465 9910
- **Meeting Passcode:** 094760

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Pandemic Relief Funding Informational Call

The next Federal Support and Grantee Relations call will take place on [February 18 at 10 a.m.](#) and will include information on the new ESSER II funding. Business managers are encouraged to participate in this call along with Federal Program Directors to learn about this new grant.

Louisiana's ESSER II allocation is over \$1 billion; approximately four times the amount received in the ESSER I allocation.

Although the ESSER II uses of funds are similar to those for ESSER I, there are additional expenses allowed including:

- Risk-mitigating facility repairs and improvements
- Air quality improvements to school buildings
- Reporting on efforts to measure and address learning loss for students disproportionately affected by coronavirus and school closures, particularly high-need students

Additional information — including information about allocation methodology, timelines, and funds allowability — was shared during the most recent System Leaders Roundtable and is [now available](#). Updates will continue to be shared via the [weekly newsletter](#), [Monthly System Leader Call](#), and [Monthly Federal Support and Grantee Relations Call](#).

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Summer Learning Programs

Summer learning programs (SLPs) are designed to provide students with additional opportunities for learning and growing during the summer months. Systems should strive to create opportunities for all students to access an SLP. To support school systems in providing SLPs for incoming K-8 students, [guidance](#) has been released.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series

The Department will release specific details regarding Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series in an upcoming newsletter. The information will include ticketing windows and more information on how to register. The cost to attend the Virtual Series is as follows:

- \$50 for early bird registration
- \$65 for regular registration

The prices above include all aspects of the event and grant access to all days of the Virtual Series. Participants who [register](#) for the in-person Summit will also have access to the Virtual Series, though a separate registration will be required in order to participate. A one-time use code will be sent to those registrants later this spring. Codes will be non-transferable and can only be used by the original educator for which an in-person ticket was purchased. Attending the in-person Summit does not mean participants must attend the Virtual Series; it is an additional option. Participants who register for the Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will only have access to the virtual content.

Please contact LDOEEvents@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Scholarship Program News

Budget to Actual – Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (SSEEP) Expenditures

In October 2020, participating SSEEP schools sent in a proposed budget to LDE showing how their school anticipated using SSEEP funds. The completed budget form and allocation spreadsheet ([Click here](#)) showing actual SSEEP expenditures through January 31, 2021 are due by February 12, 2021.

Submit your budget form and allocation spreadsheet (if applicable) via e-mail to staudit@la.gov

Please make sure that you provide a complete and accurate Listing of Expenditures to the audit firms as of January 31, 2021. Once a sample is selected, you will not be able to update any listing of expenditures and allocation spreadsheets for testing purposes.

Please contact Ronnie.DavisJr@la.gov with questions.

Scholarship Financial Audit Webinar

A webinar was conducted by the Office of School System Financial Services Staff. This webinar provided clarity in completing the allocation spreadsheet and budget form for Phase II testing.

Access a [copy of the PowerPoint](#).

Please contact Ronnie.DavisJr@la.gov with audit-specific questions and studentscholarships@la.gov with Scholarship program-specific questions.

Interests & Opportunities Survey for K-12 Accountability

Beginning in 2019-2020, Louisiana's K-12 accountability system now includes an Interests & Opportunities Index. For the 2020-2021 school year, the index is calculated based on course enrollment in grades K-8 in certain enrichment categories and on completion of a survey. The survey makes up 50% of the K-8 index and 100% of the high school index.

The Interests & Opportunities survey will be released on January 14 and will be open until February 22. Schools will receive an email with information on how to access and complete the survey at their email address listed in Sponsor Site. School system accountability contacts will also receive an email with information for their respective schools.

Survey completion is requested for all Louisiana Scholarship Program sites. The Interests and Opportunities Index is part of the calculation for the Scholarship Cohort Index.

Please contact andrew.shachat@la.gov with questions.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

ACT Match/No Match Rosters

- The ACT Match/No match rosters have been posted to the secure FTP with the file name *LEA Code_LEA Name_2020-2021 ACT Match_No Match Roster 01072021*. These rosters are very important to the ACT planning process, and they will be updated one final time prior to testing when the Department receives scores from February national testing.
- ACT Match rosters identify the students in grade 12 who have an ACT score on file with the Department. The student can be tested again at the expense of the school system as long as the ACT MOU has been completed and returned to the Department.
- ACT No Match rosters identify the students in grade 12 who do not have an ACT score on file with the Department and will test at no cost to the school system.
- School systems should not submit requests for changes to the rosters at this time.
- All students enrolled in grade 12 must have an ACT score by the end of the academic year as well as any students graduating from grade 11. The only students who are exempt from testing are students with LEAP Connect high school-level scores.
 - The expected cohort graduation year is not considered when identifying students for testing.
 - Students in grade 12 who were included in a prior year SPS (2019 or before) will not be included in the ACT index.
 - Students with LEAP Connect scores who are not taking the ACT should not be removed from PANext. They should have an accountability code D (94) applied to them.
 - Students who do not have an ACT score or LEAP Connect high school-level scores for eligible students will be assigned a score of zero in the ACT index, which is 25% of the high school SPS.
 - WorkKeys scores will only be used for students in the ACT index if there is also an ACT score for the students.
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- **January 18-March 5:** Request late consideration for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System](#) (TAA).

- **February 1-26:** Order additional standard time ACT materials for use in Test Window 1, March 9 in [PANext](#).
- **February 1-March 18:** Create and assign students to test sessions for March 9-11, 16-18 online ACT testing.
- **Week of February 8 and 15:** Receive test materials based on the receipt window selected in PANext.
- **After materials arrive-February 23:** Conduct sessions for examinees to complete WorkKeys non-test information on answer documents for paper testing, train room supervisors and proctors, and prepare rooms.
- **January 25-February 12:** Order additional WorkKeys accommodation materials for February 24-March 8.
- **Resources**
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Test Coordinators](#)
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Students](#)
 - [Taking the ACT PDF](#)

LEAP 360

- [LEAP 360 Interim Guidance](#) is available on the [LEAP 360 landing page](#). This guidance includes:
 - updates to the LEAP 360 Interim Assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - list of Interim resources.
 - guidance on how to use the resources to help achieve the goal of integrating the Interims into high-quality ELA and mathematics curricula.
- Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- **February 28:** Winter Checkpoint Early Childhood TS GOLD deadline. Visit the [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) and the [GOLD Overview](#) for additional information.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability monthly call will be on **February 23 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 23 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Passcode:** 2020202!

Tuition Donation Credit Program News

Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information

Information about the Tuition Donation Credit Program can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions and Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart](#). Currently, Louisiana has four School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Credit Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, Aspiring Scholars, and Son of a Saint. Schools interested in participating in the TDC program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

<u>School Tuition Organization</u>	<u>Regional Focus</u>	<u>STO Website</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>ACE Scholarships Louisiana</u>	<u>Statewide</u>	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	<u>504-491-1813</u>
<u>Arete Scholars Louisiana</u>	<u>Statewide</u>	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	<u>225-245-3610</u>
<u>Aspiring Scholars</u>	<u>New Orleans Archdiocese</u>	https://aspiringscholarsla.org/	info@aspiringscholarsla.org	<u>504-513-4140</u>
<u>Son of a Saint</u>	<u>Orleans</u>	www.sonofasaint.org	hello@sonofasaint.org	<u>504-561-7508</u>

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities News

SCP Transfer Window Open

Students wishing to transfer SCP awards from one school to another participating school for the 2020 school year can complete the [SCP transfer form](#). The form must also be signed by a representative of the receiving school.

Please send the completed form to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)

Operations Reminders

Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA, 21)

Congress released the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CAA\)](#) on December 21, 2020. This legislation includes COVID-19 relief specifying [appropriations provisions](#) to governors, state and local educational agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions.

Louisiana's Birth to 12th Grade Education Stabilization Funds Summary

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF II)- **\$1,160,119,378**
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF II) - **\$22,985,320**
- GEERF II funds for nonpublic schools - **\$55,566,230**
- CAA funds for childcare - **\$198,319,710**

The Department has engaged with various stakeholders to gather input on how to best utilize the federal stimulus funds based on the needs of students, families, and educators.

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.