



March 12 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
SCP	3/13/20	Submit returning student applications to the FTP	School leaders or School Choice contacts
LSP, TDC	3/23/20	Attend nonpublic assessment webinar	District testing coordinators
All nonpublic high schools	4/1/20	Submit nominations for the Principal Fellowship Cohort	School leaders

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Assessment Webinar 3/23

The assessment team will host a webinar for new Scholarship schools, schools with new District Testing Coordinators, or schools with any outstanding questions related to assessment/accountability, **The nonpublic assessment webinar will take place Monday, March 23rd at 10 a.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- Webinar date and time: March 23rd at 10:00 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923
- Meeting ID#: 202 189 164

Failure to administer assessments according to law and policy may lead to your school being unable to accept new students in the Louisiana Scholarship Program. It is important that all schools take appropriate action to administer assessments properly.

If you have any questions, please reach out to assessment@la.gov.

Reminder: Transfer Window Closed

Due to testing and the upcoming lottery for Scholarship students, **the transfer window for Scholarship students wishing to transfer for the remainder of the year is closed at this time.** Transfers submitted will not be approved unless due to extenuating circumstances.

Families that wish to transfer their Scholarship award from one school to another due to extenuating circumstances for the remainder of the school year must complete a transfer form. The school leader or Scholarship contact of the student's new school must sign off on the transfer and submit to studentscholarships@la.gov for approval.

Completion of the transfer form is not a guarantee that a transfer will be granted, and schools can not exceed their student enrollment caps. Families should not buy uniforms or other supplies until the Department has approved the transfer.

The transfer window to transfer awards for the 2020 school year will open in the summer.

Please email studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020)

The first round of new Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) will soon be available on Louisiana's open source digital platform.

Please see the updated [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Overview](#) for the most up-to-date information related to:

- text access and purchasing,
- Teacher Leader Summit, and
- professional development opportunities.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

Update: ACT Match/No Match Rosters

- The March updated ACT Match/No Match Rosters are now available on the secure FTP.
 - The updated ACT Match list should be used to identify students who have an ACT score on file with the Department and can only be retested at the expense of the school system.
 - The updated ACT No Match list includes the names of students who do not have an ACT score on file and who will need to either test or have an accountability code applied to excuse them from testing (including students who took LEAP Connect).

LEAP Testing Schedules

- All school systems must submit online testing schedules to assessment@la.gov by the deadlines provided below.
 - March 13: LEAP 2025 Grades 3-8
 - March 27: LEAP 2025 High School

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

- Data certification for the 2018-2019 graduation cohort will open through Louisiana Data Review the week of March 16. All accountability contacts will receive an individual email with login credentials and resources. There will be a webinar immediately following the March 10 monthly call to review cohort graduation policy and to provide directions for using the online data certification system.

LEAP Connect

- The LEAP Connect testing window closes on March 13. All students who are eligible to take alternate assessments should now be identified with documentation in SER.

ACT and WorkKeys

- Standard time paper administration: March 17
- FedEx pre-scheduled pickup for ACT test booklets, answer documents and test administration forms from standard time administration. For alternate pickup, school systems should [contact ACT](#). Answer documents will not be scored if received by ACT after March 24.
- Online Administration: March 17-26
- Recordings of the ACT Test Administration Q&As [1](#) and [2](#) can be accessed using the links provided.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **March 17 at 1:00 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

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Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

New: Assessment Webinar 3/23

The assessment team will host a webinar for new TDC schools, schools with new District Testing Coordinators, or schools with any outstanding questions related to assessment/accountability, Each STO should also ensure a representative attends the call. **The nonpublic assessment webinar will be Monday, March 23rd at 10 a.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

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Reminder: 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 three School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Credit Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, and Son of a Saint. Schools interested in participating in the TDC program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

School Tuition Organization	Regional Focus	STO Website	Email	Phone
ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	225-245-3610
Aspiring Scholars	New Orleans Archdiocese	https://aspiringscholarsla.org/	info@aspiringscholarsla.org	504-513-4140

Son of a Saint	Orleans	www.sonofasaint.org	hello@sonofasaint.org	504-561-7508
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School Choice Program

New: School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities Applications Due Friday

Applications for the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities are due **March 13th**.

Given the current level of funding, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is unable to accept applications for new students to the School Choice Program (SCP) for the 2020-21 school year at this time. However, the LDOE will continue to fund awards for all current School Choice students that submit an application at an eligible school for the 2020-2021 school year. **As a reminder, all current students must reapply each year to keep their award.**

School contacts should upload the applications to the FTP in the 2020-21 SCP folder by **March 13th**. **Please upload each student's application as a separate pdf saved as the child's name.**

For more information, please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov.

All Nonpublics

New: Covid-19 Guidance

On Monday, March 9, the Governor announced that the Louisiana Department of Health reported [the state's first presumptive positive case of COVID-19](#), commonly referred to as coronavirus, in Jefferson Parish. On Tuesday, the Governor announced [two new presumptive positive cases](#), bringing the total presumptive positive cases in the state to three. At this time, all three cases are in the New Orleans area. The Governor's [COVID-19 Task Force](#) continues to convene to discuss further planning efforts in response to this development.

As school systems further prepare responses to COVID-19, **please adhere to existing policies that forbid the exclusion of any student for any reason**, including on the basis of immigration status. Such actions do not further efforts toward managing the challenges related to COVID-19. Rather, such actions are counter to the shared purpose of providing a safe and inclusive educational environment for all children and students. The Department appreciates the continued efforts to support staff and students. For more information, please refer to the Office for Civil Rights [letter to education leaders on preventing and addressing potential discrimination associated with COVID-19](#), from the U.S. Department of Education.

For information regarding the coronavirus itself, reference the [Louisiana Department of Health](#) website, which has regularly updated information about the disease, prevention, and any occurrences in Louisiana.

The Department has created a brief [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is specific to the concerns of school systems and that will be regularly updated as the coronavirus impact becomes better known. Child care providers should refer to the [Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions](#) for specific guidance.

Please contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health at 1-855-523-2652 from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with questions.

New: Louisiana Fit Kids Photo Contest

Louisiana Fit Kids is hosting the "Eat Right, Bite by Bite" photo contest to celebrate National Nutrition Month. Schools are invited to submit photos that showcase Louisiana school meals programs in their school system. The deadline to submit photos is March 30. Submission details and additional information can be found on the [Louisiana Fit Kids](#) website.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Jump Start Super Summer Institute

Please share with administrators and CTE supervisors.

Registration for Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) is open and will close on May 11. Please reference the available [2020 Jump Start Summer Institutes](#) document for a list of host sites, sessions offered, and registration links. The Department is pleased to announce a new session added to the Bossier host site July 13-16: Adobe Certified Associate Visual Design Specialist.

Registration costs must be paid through Eventbrite at the time of registration by credit card only. Lunch will be provided for

Registration fees must be paid through Eventsite and include registration by credit card only. Lunch and materials provided for educators attending SSI. School systems are responsible for all travel expenses, textbooks, and the registration fee of \$250 per session. School systems may use their Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2019-2020 Carl Perkins Funds to pay the fee.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Jump Start Construction Scholars Program

Please share with counselors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF) [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program](#) is now accepting applications for a \$1,000 scholarship. **The deadline to submit applications is March 13.** The scholarship is geared toward students who have earned the Jump Start Diploma, earned a National Center for Construction Education and Research credential, and enrolled in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

This is the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates. This effort is a collaboration of the Louisiana Construction Education Foundation, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the Department.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Every Child Counts - 2020 Census

Census Day is observed nationwide on April 1 . By this date, every home will receive 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.

Completion of the census ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students. The Department encourages school systems to explore the newly available [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. **School systems are encouraged to organize a [Statistics in Schools \(SIS\)](#) week this month to help students learn more about the importance of a complete count in the 2020 Census.**

Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **March 17th District Newsletter** or the **March 5th Nonpublic Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)
State Superintendent of Education
877.453.2721 (toll-free)
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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