



March 19 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublic high schools	4/1/20	Submit nominations for the Principal Fellowship Cohort	School leaders

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Covid-19 Guidance

Effective Monday, March 16, all public schools in the State of Louisiana closed facilities to students until April 13. Decisions about whether nonpublic schools remain open and whether staff report to school facilities remains the decision of school leadership teams.

- Schools may offer complete distance learning, as capabilities exist.
- With appropriate social distancing measures, schools may continue to provide meals or other essential services with applicable staff.
- Instructional minute requirements shall be temporarily suspended for distance education courses and for curriculum delivery.
- The instructional minute requirement per year shall also be suspended.
- The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall report to the Governor and the Legislature any further actions necessary to ensure that eligible students achieve successful student grading, promotion, and graduation.
- Q4 payments for school choice programs are distributed in May of each year. At this time, all payments will be issued as scheduled. More details will be communicated via email and/or this newsletter in coming weeks.

Please reference the Department's [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#) webpage for regularly updated guidance. Review the [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is specific to the concerns of school systems for the most up-to-date information.

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 Scholarship Program Award Status

The LDOE is taking steps to finalize the lottery for statewide Scholarship schools. In the coming days/weeks, schools will receive an email asking them to verify rosters prior to sending award notifications to families. Please complete this task as soon as possible once you receive it. At this time, we intend to notify families outside of Orleans parish of their award in late April.

Please email studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

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: For School and District Testing Coordinators

Update: All ACT testing dates have been postponed. Schools should return secure materials using one of the options below.

- Meet FedEx on the regularly scheduled return date of **Thursday, March 19.**
- Contact ACT to reschedule: 1-800-553-6244, ext 2800
- Take materials to FedEx for return to ACT

Update: DRC Deliveries and Opening of Test Setup

- DRC deliveries scheduled for Monday, March 16 and the opening of test setup in DRC INSIGHT, also scheduled for Monday, March 16, have been postponed. DTCs will be notified when revised schedules have been finalized.

Update: Cohort Graduation Data Certification

- The opening of cohort graduation data certification scheduled for this week has been postponed. Accountability contacts will be notified when a new schedule has been finalized.

ACT Match/No Match

- 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).

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **March 24 at 1:00 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 24 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

New: Covid-19 Guidance

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- Q4 payments for school choice programs are distributed in May of each year. At this time, all payments will be issued as scheduled. More details will be communicated via email and/or this newsletter in coming weeks.

Please reference the Department's [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#) webpage for regularly updated guidance. Review the [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is specific to the concerns of school systems for the most up-to-date information. 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: Prior School Check Process Open

The Department is accepting prior school checks every two weeks starting Tuesday, March 24th. Verified prior school checks will be returned to STOs within a week. Please upload the [prior school template](#) to your FTP and email lindsey.rhodes@la.gov when uploaded.

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

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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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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: Awarding Process for Continuing SCP Students

The Department is in the process of reviewing all submitted applications and awarding continuing students to the School Choice Program for the 2020 school year. At this time, parents should receive award notification in late April or early May.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with any questions.

All Nonpublics

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Reminder: 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: 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 12th 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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