



April 2 , 2020

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
TDC	4/7/20	Submit prior school checks to FTP	STO's
LSP	5/15/20	Deadline for newly awarded students to confirm intent to enroll	Scholarship contacts

## Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

### **New: Registration of Newly Awarded Scholarship Students**

Earlier this week, Orleans parish families were notified of their child's award status via OneApp. In an effort to ensure correct student placements are communicated, the Department will send award notifications to statewide families after schools complete roster verifications this month. Schools will receive further details on completing roster verifications in the near future. It is imperative schools promptly complete the roster verification so that we can send statewide families accurate award notification in a timely manner.

Due to school closures, families receiving a new Scholarship award for the 2020-21 school year may accept award placements via phone or email with the school's registration contact. The school's registration contact or designee will then send the family a completed [receipt of enrollment confirmation](#). Parents must confirm intent to enroll by May 15th; otherwise, the Scholarship award will be lost. Parents do not need to sign forms or provide eligibility documents until the stay-at-home order is lifted. Future guidance will be provided by the Department when these action items are required.

More details about the registration of new scholarship students will be forthcoming via email and in future newsletters. If you have any questions, please reach out to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov).

## **New: ACT Spring Testing**

**ACT spring testing has been rescheduled for June 2.** This administration is not mandatory for students, since there is no accountability reporting this fall; however, it does provide juniors, as well as seniors with no ACT score on record, with an opportunity to take the assessment free of charge. The Department is also planning for an ACT administration in early fall for juniors who become seniors in 2020-2021.

**Schools should return secure ACT materials that were shipped for March testing using one of the options below.**

- Contact ACT to reschedule at 800-553-6244, ext 2800.
- Take materials to FedEx for return to ACT.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with 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](mailto: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](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with any questions.

## **Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators**

### **Update: Waivers for Testing**

- To date, the only students who have a waiver from the assessment graduation requirements are graduating seniors who were enrolled at the time of school closing. The Department continues to review potential waivers for other students, and guidance will be provided as soon as possible.
- The current waiver does not apply to students who were not enrolled in school or students who are not yet eligible to graduate.

### **Update Cohort Graduation Data Certification**

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

### **Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours**

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **April 7 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 7 at 4:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://doe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

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## **Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News**

### **Reminder: Prior School Check Process Open**

The Department is accepting prior school checks every two weeks. The next prior school check will be accepted Tuesday, April 7th. 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](mailto:lindsey.rhodes@la.gov) when uploaded.

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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	<a href="http://www.acescholarships.org">www.acescholarships.org</a>	<a href="mailto:TDR@acescholarships.org">TDR@acescholarships.org</a>	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.aretescholars.org">www.aretescholars.org</a>	<a href="mailto:maryhw@aretescholars.org">maryhw@aretescholars.org</a>	225-245-3610
Aspiring Scholars	New Orleans Archdiocese	<a href="https://aspiringscholarsla.org/">https://aspiringscholarsla.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:info@aspiringscholarsla.org">info@aspiringscholarsla.org</a>	504-513-4140
Son of a Saint	Orleans	<a href="http://www.sonofasaint.org">www.sonofasaint.org</a>	<a href="mailto:hello@sonofasaint.org">hello@sonofasaint.org</a>	504-561-7508

## School Choice Program

### Reminder: 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](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with any questions.

## All Nonpublics

### New: Covid-19 Guidance

In response to the ongoing health crisis, all public schools in the state of Louisiana are currently closed. **Decisions about whether nonpublic schools remain open are the decision of school leadership teams.**

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. For education-specific information, contact the Department at [LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov).

Please contact the Louisiana 211 Network by dialing 211 with questions about coronavirus, or text the keyword LACOV19 to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

### New: COVID-19 Cyber Risk Management Bulletin

In addition to the health concerns and significant disruption to businesses currently being experienced, there is an increase in phishing and malware campaigns exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic, which the state's Emergency Support Function-17 (ESF-17) is monitoring. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), ESF-17, and the Department encourage school systems to guard against COVID-19-related phishing attacks and disinformation campaigns by taking precautions detailed in the

Please report any cyber incident related to COVID-19-themed emails, attachments, or scams to the Louisiana FUSION Center at [lafusion.center@la.gov](mailto:lafusion.center@la.gov).

## **New: Teacher Leader Summit**

In light of ongoing COVID-19 health concerns and at the direction of local and national authorities, the in-person, **2020 Teacher Leader Summit will not occur this May, as scheduled.**

In keeping with the Department's commitment to supporting educators, there will be a shift to a virtual session presentation platform for as many sessions as possible. Additional details, including the list and schedule of these sessions, will be announced soon in upcoming newsletters.

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

## **New: Student of the Year Update**

**The 2020 Student of the Year final selection process will be postponed.** School systems that were unable to submit student writing samples by the March 24 submission deadline will have the opportunity to resubmit. The Department will reschedule in-person interviews at a later, to be determined, date. More information will be released in forthcoming newsletters.

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

## **New: 2020 Jump Start Summer Institute Digital Training Model**

In light of ongoing COVID-19 health concerns and at the direction of local and national authorities, the 2020 Super Summit Institute will not occur in June and July via a face-to-face model, as scheduled. This was a difficult decision and one that was not taken lightly, but the health and safety of educators, presenters, staff, and the community as a whole are paramount. The Department urges everyone to follow the guidelines and protocols put forth by public health officials.

In lieu of face-to-face training opportunities, trainings are being transitioned to a digital training model. The dynamic [2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities](#) guide provides a list of professional development and training opportunities. This list is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed.

[A list of FAQs](#) regarding Jump Start Super Summer Institute is available in the [All Things Jump Start](#) web portal.

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

## **Reminder: Distance and Home Learning Supports**

The Department [posted](#) distance and home learning supports for educators, students, and caregivers including:

- [Academic resources](#) for math, ELA, social studies, science, and early childhood including increased access to digital content and virtual lessons.
- Resources to teach young children about COVID-19.
- Guidance and tools to support school systems and teachers as they establish continuous learning structures and routines, and
- Updated [availability of materials](#) from curriculum vendors.

Also, the Department is working with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) to do the following:

- Ensure their "[At-Home Learning](#)" website includes links to Department-produced guidance.
- Assist them in choosing educational programming that is most closely connected to Louisiana student standards, whenever possible. Access the [LBP broadcasting schedule](#).

The Department will announce further availability of these resources through all upcoming school system planning calls and newsletters.

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## **Other Department Newsletters**

To view the **March 31st District Newsletter** or the **March 26th Nonpublic Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

**To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).**

## LDOE Contacts

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## LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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