



April 9 , 2020

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublics	4/15/20	Complete <a href="#">distance learning survey</a>	School leaders
LSP	4/18/20	<a href="#">Verify</a> SEE rosters	School leaders or Scholarship contacts
LSP	5/15/20	Deadline for newly awarded students to confirm intent to enroll	Scholarship contacts

## Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

### **New: Complete Roster Verification**

The 2020-21 Scholarship rosters are now available in SEE. You can view your rosters by logging into [LEADS](#). Please remember to turn your pop-up blockers off. You can review the attached [Accessing Rosters in SEE guide](#) if you need assistance accessing your rosters.

If you are unable to log in to LEADs, please reset your password at <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>.

Please review the award rosters in SEE and complete this [Google Form](#) by close of business **Friday, April 18th**. **All schools, even those that did not accept new Scholarship students for 2020-21, should complete this form to confirm that rosters are correct or to notify LDOE staff of potential roster errors.**

Please reach out to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with any questions.

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

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 on Monday, April 13th. 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.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov).

## **New: Assessment Development Educator Review Committees, Summer 2020**

All LEAP 2025 Social Studies, LEAP 2025 ELA, and LEAP Connect Item Content and Bias Review committees will convene virtually. Review the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees](#) document in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#) for more information and to access links to complete interest surveys. All LEAP 2025 Rangefinding, Data Review, and Alignment Review committees are postponed until summer 2021.

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

## **Reminder: 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 Monthly Call** will be on **April 21 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 21 at 4:15 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

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

The Department is accepting prior school checks from School Tuition Organizations every two weeks. The next prior school check will be accepted Tuesday, April 21st. 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.

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## All Nonpublics

### **New: Complete Distance Learning Survey**

The state's stay-at-home order and the closure of public school facilities has been extended until at least April 30.

The LDOE continues to provide regular updates for schools, which are [linked here](#) and can also be found on the LDOE's [COVID-19 resource page](#). Schools are also encouraged to continue to review the [Early Childhood](#) and [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) documents, which are updated regularly.

The LDOE is asking all schools to please complete a [brief survey](#) by close of business on **Wednesday, April 15th** so that the we can continue to serve schools to the best of our ability. Please note that there are questions related to grades PK-12 in the survey. If your school does not serve those grades, you can simply leave the responses in that section blank.

If you have any questions that are not included on the [COVID-19 resources page](#), please do not hesitate to reach out to [nonpublicschools@LA.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@LA.gov).

### **Reminder: 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 [COVID-19 | ESF-17 Cyber Risk Management Bulletin](#).

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).

### **Reminder: 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.

### **Reminder: 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.

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## Other Department Newsletters

To view the **April 7th District Newsletter** or the **April 2nd 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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State Superintendent of Education

877.453.2721 (toll-free)

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## LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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