

# Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



April 16 , 2020

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP	4/17/20	<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 due Friday**

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/>.

All schools must review the award rosters in SEE and complete this [Google Form](#) by close of business **Friday, April 17th**. **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.** A failure to complete this action item by Friday, April 17th may delay the award notification process for Louisiana Scholarship Program families.

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

### **New: Louisiana Scholarship Program Accountability Update**

Student achievement on LEAP 2025 assessments is used to determine the status of a school's continued participation in the

Louisiana Scholarship Program and the school's ability to enroll new students each year. Louisiana schools will not administer the spring LEAP 2025 assessment in the 2019-2020 school year due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Given this unprecedented situation, the Department is enacting alternate accountability standards for Louisiana Scholarship Program schools for the 2019-20 school year that will impact a school's ability to accept transfer students in 2020-2021 and participate in the lottery for the 2021-2022 school year. To view how this alternate framework will impact your school and its ability to accept new students moving forward, please review [this document](#). A summary of accountability data from 2018 and 2019 can be found [here](#).

## **Reminder: 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 received details on completing the roster verification process via email 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).

## **Reminder: 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 Ranging, 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: 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 and were in the February 1 enrollment report.
- The current waiver does not apply to students who were not enrolled in school or students who are not yet eligible to graduate.
- In May, the Department will request a change in policy to waive the assessment requirement for a high school assessment-eligible course earned in 2019-2020 for students who would have been initial testers in spring 2020. Students who failed a subject test in a prior administration will not be eligible for the waiver of the assessment requirement.

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

- Pending the duration of the stay-at-home order, the opening of cohort graduation data certification is scheduled to open on May 13. Accountability contacts will be notified when plans are 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.

## All Nonpublics

### **New: Advanced Placement Exams**

Please share with AP Coordinators, school counselors, and teachers.

Advanced Placement Exams will be administered this year at home, for those who opt to participate, from May 11 to 22 or June 1 to 5 (make-ups). The College Board has released [guidance for AP Exams](#) for school systems and educators. School systems or students that need assistance regarding technology or connectivity need to fill out this [form](#) by April 24.

The Department has reconciled a set of [AP Assessment Updates](#) and [AP Exam FAQs](#).

For more information please contact [meredith.mcgovern@la.gov](mailto:meredith.mcgovern@la.gov).

### **New: Diploma Orders**

**Please share with school system administrators and school counselors**

Diploma printing is currently on track and diploma seal shipments are scheduled to arrive on time. Receipt of the diploma shipment requires a signature. If the original order address requires a change, contact [meagan.thompson2@la.gov](mailto:meagan.thompson2@la.gov).

The Department also published [guidance](#) for schools that opt to hold virtual graduation ceremonies.

Please contact [megan.thompson2@la.gov](mailto:megan.thompson2@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Vacancy**

The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) advises the Department on the provision of free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for children with disabilities and provides guidance on special education programs and services. The panel is seeking [applications](#) for members to serve 3-year terms beginning July 1 in the following roles:

- Parent of a child with a disability
- Teacher
- Administrator of a program for children with disabilities
- Representative of a private school
- Representative of an institution of higher education that prepares special education and related services personnel
- Representative of the State juvenile or adult corrections agency

Prospective members should email applications to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) by **May 8**.

### **New: Guidance on ESF-17 Cyber Management During COVID-19**

As individuals continue the transition to online Zoom meetings, the State's ESF-17 team strongly recommends everyone to [take the following steps](#) to ensure Zoom meetings are properly secured:

- **Require passwords for all Zoom meetings.**
- **Never post Zoom links over public platforms\social media.**
- **Set screen sharing to "Host Only."**
- **Update all Zoom applications.**
  - (iOS/MacOS/Windows10)
- **Use the "Waiting Room" for Zoom meetings open to public participation.**
  - A virtual staging area that stops your guests from joining until you're ready for them.
  - Meeting hosts can customize Waiting Room settings for additional control and [personalization](#).

Victims of a teleconference hijacking or "Zoombombing," are strongly encouraged to report the event to the State's Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU) at Louisiana State Police Fusion Center by phone at 800-434-8007 or via email at [lafusion.center@la.gov](mailto:lafusion.center@la.gov) as soon as possible.

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## Other Department Newsletters

To view the **April 14th District Newsletter** or the **April 9th 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

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

### LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)  
[Contact Us](#)

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