

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



April 23 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
Nonpublic high schools	4/24/20	Submit AP exams technology needs form	Test coordinators
Nonpublic high schools	5/4/20	Attend nonpublic STS webinar	School counselors
TDC	5/5/20	Submit Prior School Check	School Tuition Organizations
Nonpublic schools	5/8/20	Submit application for Special Education Advisory Panel vacancy	Nonpublic school representative
LSP	5/15/20	Deadline for newly awarded students to confirm intent to enroll	Scholarship contacts

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Award Notification and Registration of Newly Awarded Scholarship Students

The Department intends to send award notification emails to families the week of April 27th. At that time, the Scholarship team will also notify schools when it is acceptable to begin contacting families of awarded students. Families of new awardees will receive a hard copy letter in the coming weeks at the mailing address provided on the application.

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 contact the [Student Scholarship Office](#).

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

Reminder: 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: Assessment Development Educator Review Committees, Summer 2020

The Department is now recruiting for Item Content and Bias Review committees. Committee members will review items developed for future field testing. All LEAP 2025 Social Studies, LEAP 2025 ELA, and LEAP Connect Item Content and Bias Review committees will convene virtually in June and July. Access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#) for updated information and for links to complete interest surveys. Participants are eligible to receive a daily stipend.

Please contact 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 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: 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.

ACT

- **Update**
 - ACT announced new flexibilities for summer testing and new test-at-home options that will become available in the fall and winter. Information about at-home testing with remote proctoring will be shared as it becomes available.
- **ACT National Test Date**
 - Although students are only able to register for June 13 and July 18 for national test administrations in summer, testing sites can request a one-week delay in administration (June 20 and July 25)
- **ACT State Administration**
 - June 2 standard paper
 - June 2-4 online
 - June 2-8 accommodated window
 - October 6 and October 20 paper-based administration only for students who were juniors in 2019-2020 and were unable to test

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 6 and will remain open until June 5. Accountability contacts will be notified prior to the official opening date.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **April 28 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 28 at 4:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>

- **Webinar Link:** <https://doe.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, May 5th. 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.

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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

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 with any questions.

New: COVID-19 Guidance

On April 15, Gov. John Bel Edwards [signed a proclamation](#) to extend the closure of public school facilities to students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, to curb the spread of COVID-19. School systems are currently engaging students in distance education.

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.

New: 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Semifinalists Announced

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) recently announced the 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Semifinalists. Nine students, from both public and nonpublic schools, from Louisiana are among them. They represent the following schools:

- Episcopal School of Acadiana
- Destrehan High School
- Baton Rouge Magnet High School
- Jesuit High School
- Ruston High School
- Baton Rouge Magnet High School
- Captain Shreve High School
- Baton Rouge Magnet High School

The achievements of these outstanding students deserve acknowledgment. ED and the Department encourage school systems to assist with providing further honors, media coverage, and contacts for the semifinalists. Recognition of these students will bring wider awareness and understanding of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program to a greater number of the Nation's citizens, encourage countless others like them to challenge themselves and achieve, highlight the education success stories, and most importantly, emphasize the country's most precious resource-its talented young people.

Visit the [ED's website](#) for the complete list of semifinalists. The 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be announced in May. To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and its history, visit [ED's U.S. Presidential Scholars Program page](#).

New: Student Transcript System (STS) Training

Please share with data managers.

The Department will hold trainings for nonpublic and public school data managers who submit transcript data to the Student Transcript System (STS). The webinars will include a review of the process for submitting transcript and IBC data to STS for the end of year data collection.

Student Transcript System (STS) Training for Nonpublic Schools

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 4 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/275509071>
- **Meeting ID#:** 275 509 071

Please contact barrett.adams@la.gov with questions.

New: Advanced Placement Exam Information

Please share with AP coordinators.

Advanced Placement exams will be administered online by the College Board from May 11-22 and June 1-5 (makeup exams) for those opting to take the exams. Students will receive a link to the exam via the email used to register for the exam. **School systems should ensure that students using district-provided emails are capable of receiving emails from the collegeboard.org.**

More information about AP testing can be found on the [College Board AP COVID Response page](#).

If school systems or students have technology needs, please [fill out this form by April 24](#).

The College Board is offering subject-specific webinars regarding AP Exams for AP teachers beginning next week. Registration is required and the [full listing of webinars is now available](#).

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

New: Jump Start Construction Scholars Program

Please share with high school counselors.

The deadline for submitting applications for the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates has been extended to **May 1**. The [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program](#) is a \$1000 scholarship for students who have earned the Jump Start Diploma, earned a National Center for Construction Education and Research credential, and plan to enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

New: Updated Dual Enrollment Minimum Requirements Policy

Please share with high school counselors and secondary supervisors.

The Board of Regents has released an updated policy for Dual Enrollment Minimum Requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. A [webinar](#) was held on April 9, and the recording of the webinar has been posted on [the Board of Regents YouTube Channel](#).

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Career and Technical Education Continuous Learning

School systems are encouraged to maintain efforts to provide student learning opportunities for the remainder of the regularly scheduled academic year, inclusive of career and technical education (CTE). In that light, CTE-focused resources for continuous learning and remote testing options are available in the [Louisiana Continuous Education Toolkit](#).

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2020 Jump Start Summer Institute Digital Training Model

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 with questions.

Reminder: 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 megan.thompson2@la.gov.

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

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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 by **May 8**.

Reminder: 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 as soon as possible.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **April 21st District Newsletter** or the **April 16th 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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