

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



April 30 , 2020

In This Issue:

Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

Other Department Newsletters

Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
Nonpublic high schools	5/4/20	Attend nonpublic STS webinar	School counselors
TDC	5/5/20	Submit Prior School Check	School Tuition Organizations
LSP/SCP	5/6/20	Complete Q4 Enrollment	School leaders or Scholarship contacts
All nonpublics	5/7/20	Join Strong Start webinar	Superintendents, school leaders, and administrators
Nonpublic schools	5/8/20	Submit application for Special Education Advisory Panel vacancy	Nonpublic school representative
All nonpublics	5/8/20	Identify students that receive free or reduced lunch	School leaders and operations coordinators at schools participating in the federal School Lunch Program
LSP	5/15/20	Reach out to newly awarded families and provide all new registered students with an enrollment confirmation receipt	Scholarship registration contacts
All nonpublics	7/15/20	Submit textbook reimbursements requests	School leaders or finance directors

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Q4 Enrollment Opens May 4th

The Quarter 4 enrollment verification window for the Louisiana Scholarship Program will be May 4th-6th in [SEE](#). Please complete the enrollment verification process by 5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 6th to ensure prompt payment.

Please remember that your LEADS password may have expired. In order to reset your password, please visit <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

New: Award Notification and Registration of Newly Awarded Scholarship Students

The Department sent award notification emails to families on Monday, April 27th. Families of new awardees will receive a hard copy letter in the coming weeks at the mailing address provided on the application. Scholarship registration contacts should now be reaching out to newly awarded students to confirm whether the student will or will not enroll at their awarded site for the 2020-2021 school year.

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.

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.

Update: ACT

- 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 the 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 **May 5 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 5 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, 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.

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

School Choice Program

New: Q4 Enrollment Opens May 4th

The Quarter 4 enrollment verification window for the Louisiana Scholarship Program will be May 4th-6th in [SCS](#). Please complete the enrollment verification process by 5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 6th to ensure prompt payment.

Please remember that your LEADS password may have expired. In order to reset your password, please visit <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions .

New: Awarding Process for Continuing SCP Students

The Department has reviewed all submitted applications for continuing students in the School Choice Program for the 2020 school year. Schools will receive copies of award letters to distribute to parents in their FTP by close of business Monday, May 4th. Once award letters are received, schools should review their awarded students and notify families as soon as possible.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with any questions.

All Nonpublics

NEW: Strong Start 2020 Webinar for Nonpublic Consultation for CARES Act Funding

A Strong Start 2020 Webinar will be held next **Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**

This webinar will provide information regarding the implementation of the CARES Act funding as it relates to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund and the Governors' Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund for Nonpublic consultation and equitable services. LEAs federal program directors and key personnel, Nonpublic school officials, and charter schools should participate in this webinar.

Webinar details are listed below.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99005940474?pwd=OFE2TXFHLzU3QnBRMUQzM1lLaEx4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 990 0594 0474

Password: 022972

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/u/ab0hS5XKe>

Please contact ldoe.gratnshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Additional Benefit for Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 enables temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Children who would receive free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Act if not for the school closure and who attend schools that participate in the federal School Lunch Program are eligible for benefits that will provide food assistance while they are out of school. This includes students attending a CEP school.

In order for families to receive these benefits, a student's eligibility for free or reduced lunch must be verified. Please complete this [spreadsheet](#) by providing information about students that receive free or reduced lunch at your school(s) or all students that attend a CEP school.

Schools that participate in the School Lunch Program should have received guidance for submitting the linked spreadsheet via email earlier today. This spreadsheet should be completed and submitted **via the nonpublic FTP by May 8th**. If you have questions

related to this additional benefit for your students, please contact Courtney.Neubauer@la.gov.

New: Nonpublic Textbooks and Textbooks Administration

Orders for textbooks must be delivered to (and received by) the eligible nonpublic school during the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, in order to be eligible for reimbursement. The deadline for submitting nonpublic textbook reimbursement requests is **July 15, 2020**.

For further assistance regarding this information, you may email NonpublicFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov or call the Office of State Education Finance & Policy at 225-342-3617.

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.

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

New: Every Child Counts - 2020 Census

By now, every home has received 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.
- Planning, preparedness, and recovery efforts for national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#).

Self-responses, which can be completed [online](#), by phone, or by mail until October 31, **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.

Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

New: State's Designated Central Book Depository

Please share with purchasing directors, curriculum supervisors, and textbook adoption supervisors.

[State law](#) requires that school systems be provided with options to order state-reviewed instructional materials either directly from a publisher or from a central book depository named by the state. [School Book Supply Company of Louisiana](#) has agreed to continue its services as the state's designated book depository for ordering all materials that have been state reviewed. School systems may contact Debbie Tullos at DTullos@schoolbook-la.com or visit the [School Book Supply Company of Louisiana's](#) website for information. Publisher contact information is shown on individual price lists posted in the [Curricular Resources Library](#) webpage.

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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](#).

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.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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: 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**.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **April 28th District Newsletter** or the **April 23rd 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

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