

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



May 07 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
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
Nonpublics that did not submit NPS approval in fall	5/25/20	Complete application for BESE approval	School leaders
TDC	5/31/20	Complete Q3 enrollment	School Tuition Organizations
All nonpublics	7/15/20	Submit textbook reimbursements requests	School leaders or finance directors

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Q4 Enrollment Closes May 8th

The Quarter 4 enrollment verification window for the Louisiana Scholarship Program will close May 8th in [SEE](#). Please complete the enrollment verification process by 5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 8th 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 has sent award notification emails and hard copy letters to all families. 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

New: LEAP Connect and ELPT

- LEAP Connect and ELPT student reports will be available this week and will be accessible to district and school test coordinators in the following reporting systems:
 - LEAP Connect: DRC INSIGHT
 - ELPT: AIRWays Reporting System (AWR)

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: High School Summer Test Administration

- The high school summer test administration schedule has not changed. As listed in the assessment calendar, the administration is scheduled for June 15-19.

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

- Cohort graduation data certification will 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 Monthly Call** will be on **May 12 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 12 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

New: Q4 Enrollment Due May 31st

All STO's must upload the [Q4 enrollment spreadsheets](#) to the FTP by 5/31. The report should also include all students' LASIDs.

This spreadsheet is to be completed by the Student Tuition Organizations, not individual schools.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lindsey.Rhodes@LA.gov.

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 19th. 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
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School Choice Program

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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 Letters for Awarded School Choice Program Students

The Department has emailed all schools the award letters for their students awarded for the 2020 school year. Please distribute these letters to families in a timely manner.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with any questions.

All Nonpublics

New: Expanded SNAP Benefits

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 school facilities were currently open are eligible for benefits. This includes all students attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school.

To receive these benefits, families must complete an application. Without the requested information, the Department of Children and Family Services cannot issue the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and provide benefits.

The anticipated launch of the application is set for the week of May 18. The Department will publicize the eligibility of these benefits, and in an effort to ensure families receive these benefits during this challenging time, school systems will receive communications to share with eligible families the week of May 11.

Please contact kim.nesmith@la.gov with questions.

New: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series

The Louisiana Department of Education is shifting the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit from its in-person format to a series of **free interactive webinars** for as many sessions as possible.

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from **May 28 to June 5**. It will bring together a host of educators and content experts who are focused on creating meaningful growth for every student, every day. Educators will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Due to popular demand, all tickets for The Virtual Series were reserved within 24 hours; however, the Department is excited to announce that the cap has been raised. **[Registration](#) will remain open through June 5.**

Last week, the Department released the [draft session list](#). It includes a variety of sessions for teachers, school and school system staff, and preparation providers. The Department will open up the Teacher Leader Summit app, Shed, on May 13 allowing registrants to build their specific schedules at that time. To ensure the sessions remain interactive, sessions will have capacity limits. As with the in-person event, all sessions will be first come, first served.

Additional information about Teacher Leader Summit can be found in the [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

Please contact ldoevents@la.gov with questions.

New: Complete the Nonpublic School Approval Survey

This announcement does not apply to schools that completed the Nonpublic School Approval process in the fall semester.

The LDOE will be holding a supplemental round for 2020-21 BESE/BvD nonpublic school approval. Schools will receive approval at

the June BESE meeting. In order to receive approval, schools must submit a series of documents to the Louisiana Department of Education. To identify which documents your school must submit, please review the [NPS Approval Checklist](#) and collect the relevant documents. BESE typically approves schools for the subsequent school year at its December meeting.

The LDOE has created an [online survey](#) to collect all required documentation. Schools will no longer need to log in to the FTP to complete the NPS approval process. Completing this survey is expected to take 10-15 minutes. This submission is due by **Friday, May 25**.

Please email nonpublicschools@la.gov with any questions.

New: Board of Regents Dual Enrollment Policy Update **Please share with high school principals and counselors.**

In response to COVID-19, the Board of Regents provided an [updated policy](#) regarding students currently enrolled in Dual Enrollment classes and an updated policy for the minimum entry requirements for students enrolling in Dual Enrollment classes for the 2020-2021 school year. The [webinar slides](#) are available along with an [FAQ](#) regarding the updated policy.

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

New: Advanced Placement Exam Updates **Please share with AP Coordinators, high school counselors, and AP teachers.**

The College Board has released an [updated AP Exam Day testing guide](#). This guide should be distributed to AP teachers and made available for students. It provides details for how to access exams, specific browser requirements for exam day, and other important details.

The College Board has also released an [AP Exam Day Student Checklist](#) for students to reference during the AP Exams.

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

New: Student Opportunities Office Hours **Please share with school system supervisors, administrators, and counselors.**

The Office of Student Opportunities is holding office hours weekly through May 31 to answer questions about student planning and promotion.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Every Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/411290309>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 411 290 309
- **Meeting Password:** 031058

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

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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 with questions about coronavirus, or text the keyword LACOV19 to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

Reminder: 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.

Census Activity Opportunity

The U.S. Census Bureau is hosting a [Get Out the Count Video Prize Challenge](#). This challenge enables individuals, including students, to explain why the census matters in a short (30 seconds to 3 minutes) video, designed for a platform such as YouTube, that uses entertainment, emotion, creativity, and/or humor to motivate people to respond. Cash prizes are available, including \$10,000 for a student prize. The deadline for submissions is **this Thursday, May 7**.

Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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: 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 **May 5th District Newsletter** or the **April 30th 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](#)
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