

# Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



May 14 , 2020

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublics	5/14/20	Attend Strong Start 2020 <a href="#">webinar</a>	Superintendents and School leaders
LSP	5/15/20	Reach out to newly awarded families and provide all new registered students with an <a href="#">enrollment confirmation receipt</a>	Scholarship registration contacts
Nonpublics that did not submit NPS approval in fall	5/25/20	Complete <a href="#">application for BESE approval</a>	School leaders that did not submit NPS approval in the fall
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: Newly Awarded Students Registration Deadline Tomorrow**

Scholarship registration contacts should have reached 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. Students have until tomorrow, May 15th to verbally accept the placement at the awarded school.

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 for enrollment confirmation. Department of nonpublic schools, May 15th, 2020. "The Scholarship award..."

completed [receipt or 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: 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**

### **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 materials updates were due May 13 in PANext for participating school systems. School systems that do not plan to participate in the June 2 administration of ACT should notify the Department at [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- 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 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 19 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 19 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: 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](mailto: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](mailto:lindsey.rhodes@la.gov) when uploaded.

## **Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators**

### **Update: Waivers for Testing**

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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

### **New: Teacher Leader Advisor for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Applications**

The Department is seeking excellent English language arts, math, and special education teachers to become Teacher Leader

Advisors (TLAs) for the 2020-2021 school year. TLAs will build resources for students with significant cognitive disabilities in both math and English language arts, grades K-12. TLAs will either pilot the design and implementation of lessons from the ELA Guidebook Companion Resources (grades 3-8) or will develop additional supports aligned to the mathematics and ELA Connector standards (grades K-12).

The [application](#) for TLAs for students with significant cognitive disabilities is open until May 29. Please share this opportunity broadly with ELA, mathematics, and special education teachers.

Please contact [kelly.mcclure@la.gov](mailto:kelly.mcclure@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: School-based Medicaid**

Effective for dates of service on or after March 20, 2019, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has approved Louisiana's State Plan Amendment, which amended the provisions governing school-based medical services covered in the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program, and school-based behavioral health services.

The expansion will allow for payment for services that are provided to Medicaid eligible students pursuant to an Individual Health Plan (IHP), an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), a Section 504 plan, or services that are otherwise medically necessary. Payment for services provided pursuant to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will continue to be provided under the expanded program.

The expansion also amended the reimbursement methodology to expand allowable billing providers for direct/therapy and nursing services and added applied behavioral analysis and personal care services.

The Department is in the process of modifying the school-based Medicaid handbook to address these changes.

Please contact [janice.zube@la.gov](mailto:janice.zube@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: 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](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with any questions.

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## All Nonpublics

### **NEW: Strong Start 2020 Follow-up Webinar for Nonpublic Equitable Services for CARES Act Funding**

**A Strong Start 2020 Equitable Services Webinar will be held Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.**

This webinar will provide information regarding the implementation of the CARES Act as it relates to providing equitable services to nonpublic schools with the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. LEA federal program directors and key personnel, and Nonpublic school officials should participate in this webinar.

**Webinar details are listed below.**

Federal Support is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92833120484?pwd=c2Zzb2hhTS81a2hjR0pBcGEvUFNYZz09>

Meeting ID: 928 3312 0484

Password: 564496

One tap mobile

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+16468769923,,92833120484# US (New York)

Dial by your location

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 928 3312 0484

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

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

Please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Strong Start 2020**

The Department released the Strong Start 2020 plan to support school systems in planning for the upcoming school year. The [Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide](#) and [presentation](#) outline the priorities, funding guidance, and resources for school systems to use to complete the Strong Start 2020 application within eGMS by May 29. The webinar [recording](#), including closed captioning, is located in the YouTube Library. The resources supporting each priority are now located in the [Strong Start 2020 Library](#).

The Nonpublic Consultation for CARES Act Funding [webinar](#) is located in the [Strong Start 2020 Library](#) and provides guidance to school systems and nonpublic schools about the calculation of equitable share and consultation related to Strong Start 2020. Please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

Beginning this month, optional Strong Start working groups will be held in key priority areas for school system leaders to share ideas and collect feedback on implementation. School systems may complete the [Strong Start 2020 Working Group Interest Survey](#) by this Friday, May 15 to select one school system level leader per area to participate. Participants will be notified Monday, May 18.

Please contact [em.cooper@la.gov](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Webinar on Curriculum and Family Engagement Tools to Support Families**

Given the recent announcement of school closures across the state of Louisiana for the remainder of the school year, Family Engagement Lab is offering two cost-effective tools to increase students' academic readiness: [FASTalk Summer](#) and [FASTalk](#).

- [FASTalk Summer](#) is a new family engagement tool designed to compensate for lost learning time. Texting parents literacy activities during the summer months has been shown in academic research to more than compensate for lost learning typically experienced by students. FASTalk Summer is a simple, accessible, text message-based learning tool to support families with limited access to devices and the internet, as well as those facing language barriers.
- [FASTalk](#) is an easy tool that sends families weekly text messages with curriculum-aligned and standards-aligned learning activities in PK-5 supporting academic, social, and emotional skill development. FASTalk is preloaded with practical tips for parents to support high-quality instructional materials, aligned with ELA Guidebooks, EL, CKLA, Wit & Wisdom, and more. FASTalk supports two-way communication between parents and teachers with automated translation in more than 100+ languages.

School systems interested in finding out more about FASTalk and FASTalk Summer are invited to join an informational webinar followed by a live Q&A. This webinar will be offered on multiple dates. Details needed to join the webinar are listed below.

FASTalk and FASTalk Summer Informational Webinar		
<a href="#">May 15 at 1:00 p.m.</a>	<a href="#">May 21 at 1:00 p.m.</a>	<a href="#">May 28 at 11:00 a.m.</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Webinar Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7073754147">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7073754147</a></li><li>• Webinar Phone Number: 669-900-6833</li><li>• Meeting ID#: 707 375 4147</li><li>• Password: 227729</li></ul>		

Please contact [info@fastalk.org](mailto:info@fastalk.org) with questions.

## **New: Education Excellence Funds (EEF)**

The 2019-2020 EEF payments are scheduled to be paid on May 14 to approved recipients. Inquiries may be sent to [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov).

Please review the [Education Excellence Fund FAQ May 2020](#) for additional EEF information.

## **New: Remote Praxis Exams**

ETS is launching a solution that will allow educators to take a Praxis exam at home while test centers are closed due to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Tests will be proctored remotely by a trained specialist
- The 30 most frequently used tests will launch on May 18
  1. Tests in the first wave include Praxis Core and most content tests
  2. Registration for these exams will open May 15
- PLTs and school leadership assessments are expected to launch June 1

Visit the [ETS Testing Updates webpage](#) for additional updates.

## **New: Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities**

**Please share with CTE supervisors and teachers of CTE coursework.**

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.

The Super Summer Institute registration costs for the summer 2020 sessions are paid directly to the provider and not to the Department.

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

### **New: Attendance Awards**

The Department, in collaboration with the local school systems, is pleased to recognize students with exemplary attendance during the current school year. Each school system establishes criteria for the attendance awards and may use the [Meritorious Attendance Award](#), the [Perfect Attendance Award](#), or the [Excellence in Attendance Award](#) to recognize their students.

Please contact [janice.zube@la.gov](mailto:janice.zube@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: 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](mailto:kim.nesmith@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: 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.

The Department recently 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. All registered participants will receive an email from Sched when the app opens. 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](mailto:ldoevents@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: 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](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with any questions.

### **Reminder: 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](mailto:meredith.mcgovern@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: 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](mailto:meredith.mcgovern@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

# Other Department Newsletters

To view the **May 12th District Newsletter** or the **May 7th 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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