

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



May 21 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP	5/22/20	Complete new student rosters	School leaders or Scholarship contacts of schools awarded new students
All nonpublics	5/22/20	Place orders for ELA unit texts in order to receive by end of July	School leaders
All nonpublics	5/25/20	Communicate P-EBT deadline and information to families receiving free or reduced lunch	School leaders
Nonpublics that did not submit NPS approval in fall	5/25/20	Complete application for BESE approval	School leaders that did not submit NPS approval in the fall
All nonpublics	5/29/20	Submit Strong Start 2020 application in eGMS	School leaders or finance directors
SCP	5/29/20	Complete application for Teacher Leader Advisor for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities	ELA, math, or SPED teachers
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 Student Rosters Due Friday

New: New Student Rosters Due Friday

All schools awarded new students have received a copy of their 2020-2021 New Student Registration Workbook in their school's FTP site. These completed new student rosters are due by **Friday, May 22nd**. The LDOE cannot re-open the transfer window until all schools have completed their New Student Registration Workbooks.

Instructions for completing the workbook were emailed to schools accepting new students on Wednesday, May 20th. You will use this workbook to identify whether or not newly awarded students registered for the 2020-2021 school year by the May 15th deadline. The students that have not yet registered will be dropped from your SEE roster.

Please upload the completed file back to the FTP. **Please do not email the completed registration workbooks as it contains student-level personally identifiable information that should not be communicated electronically.**

If you believe that a student is missing or have other questions, simply e-mail the name and grade of the student in question to studentscholarships@la.gov.

New: Transfer Window Opens in June

The transfer window to transfer awards for the 2020 school year will open in June once all schools have completed New Student Rosters. Schools will be emailed the updated transfer form once the window opens. In order for newly awarded students to transfer a Scholarship, the student must have registered at the awarded school by May 15th.

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 are 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 June, the Department will request a change in policy to waive the assessment requirement for a high school assessment-eligible course earned during the regular school year in 2019-2020 (not including summer credit recovery) 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 is under review. Revised dates will be released as soon as they are final.

Update: ACT

- The Department posted new [K-12 ACT COVID-19 Preventative Measures Guidance](#) to the [Assessment Library](#). The document outlines actions required to protect the students and adults who will participate in the June 2 state ACT administration. While ACT will issue its own guidance, the Department guidelines supersede ACT guidelines. The ACT Administration FAQ, which includes general information about the June 2 administration, has been updated to include a link to this document.
- 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 in March or June. The Department will cover the cost for one administration per student.

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 26 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 26 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.

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, June 2nd. 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

New: SCP Transfer Window Open

Students wishing to transfer SCP awards from one school to another participating school for the 2020 school year can complete the [SCP transfer form](#). The form must also be signed by a representative of the receiving school.

Please send completed form to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

Reminder: 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 with questions.

Reminder: 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 with questions.

All Nonpublics

New: Strong Start 2020

Strong Start 2020 Applications are due May 29 in eGMS. School systems can use the [Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide](#) and [presentation](#) to support the submission of the Strong Start 2020 application. Resources supporting each priority are located in the [Strong Start 2020 Library](#).

The [recording](#) of the CARES Act Equitable Services Protocols [webinar](#) is now 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 with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020 Instructional Material and PD Vendor Guide Updates

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, professional development coordinators, and purchasing directors.

The Strong Start 2020 plan includes [Instructional Materials Guidance](#) and [Professional Development Guidance](#), and the Department continues to work with publishers and vendors to update each guide as they build and refine their supports.

This week, the following entries have been added:

Instructional Materials Guidance:

- Carnegie Learning High School Math Solutions: Carnegie Learning
- Collections: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Connect 4 Learning: Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA): Amplify
- DIG. Develop. Inspire. Grow: Frog Street Press

- EL Education: LearnZillion
- ELA Guidebooks: LearnZillion
- Eureka Math: Great Minds
- Frog Street Press: Frog Street Press
- Illustrative Mathematics: LearnZillion
- IQWST: Activate Learning
- JUMP Math: JUMP Math
- Learn Everyday: Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Studies Weekly Social Studies: Studies Weekly, Inc.

Professional Development Guidance:

- CLASS: TeachStone
- Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA): Leading Educators
- Creative Curriculum: Teaching Strategies
- EL Education: ANet
- Eureka Math: ANet, New Directions Educational Solutions
- Gold: Teaching Strategies
- ELA Guidebooks: ANet, LearnZillion, New Directions Educational Solutions, The Writing Revolution, NIET
- Illustrative Mathematics: New Directions Educational Solutions, Leading Educators, ANet
- JUMP Math: JUMP Math
- Studies Weekly Social Studies: Studies Weekly, Inc.
- Zearn Math: ANet, New Directions Educational Solutions, Zearn

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: ELA Guidebook Text Access to Support Distance Learning

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, and purchasing directors.

The Department has released [Strong Start guidance](#) for implementing Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks in high- and low- tech environments. In order for school systems to implement distance learning in any situation, access for [ELA Guidebook unit texts](#) and unit materials must be secured.

In order to make decisions about the order of units for the 2020-2021 academic year and receive unit texts before instruction begins, please consult the timeline chart in the American Reading Company [purchasing portal](#). In order to receive the first unit the week of July 27, choose a unit with an 8-week turnaround and place orders by **May 22**.

For school systems that require a low-tech, analog, print-only solution, Distance Learning Guidebook Companion documents will be developed for two units per grade level in grades 3-8 and one unit per grade level will be developed in grades 9-12. A release schedule for Distance Learning Guidebook Companions is [available](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

New: July 2020 Math Lesson Broadcasting

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, purchasing directors, and principals.

The Department, in partnership with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), Great Minds, Illustrative Math (IM), and SchoolKit, will broadcast Eureka (K-5) and Illustrative Math (6-Algebra I) lessons. These lessons will air on LPB from July 6 through Friday, July 31 on a regular daily schedule. They will also be available on-demand at the [Great Minds](#) and [Illustrative Mathematics](#) websites.

To ensure accessibility for students with disabilities, live broadcasts will have closed captioning and on-demand videos will be available with closed captioning and audio description.

To support school systems as they plan for summer learning and ensure students are prepared for on grade-level learning by August 1, [this guidance document](#) contains information about the following:

- Purchasing student materials
- Watching live broadcasts
- Watching on-demand
- Lesson details

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New: High School Planning Guide

Please share with high school principals and professional school counselors.

The Department has released the annual 2020-2021 High School Student Planning Guide. The guide is a key resource for counselors and includes information on the key policies and programs that support the needs of all high school students.

The 2020-2021 HSPG includes the following sections with applicable updates:

- Plan for Student Success
- Focusing on Core Academics: 9th and 10th Grades
- Developing Advanced College & Workplace Skills: 11th and 12th Grades
- Student Planning Resources

- Student Planning Resources
- Jump Start Opportunities
- Alternate Pathways to a High School Diploma for Students with Disabilities
- Graduation Requirements Chart
- Sample Individual Graduation Plan Forms

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Expanded SNAP Benefits

Last week [Louisiana received approval](#) for the new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. This program will provide extra help buying groceries for the families who normally receive free and reduced-price meals at school. This includes all families attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school. To receive these benefits, families must be notified of the benefits and must [complete an application by June 7](#).

While there will be a statewide communications campaign to notify parents of their eligibility, USDA requires that schools also reach out to eligible families by May 25. This communication can be made through the school system's normal family communication channels. The Department has created a [digital flyer](#), which links to the application portal and FAQs, that can be used to notify parents of their eligibility for these benefits.

Please contact kim.nesmith@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 with any questions.

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

Please contact info@fastalk.org with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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 with questions.

Reminder: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series

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 [session list](#) in conjunction with the event app. Sessions include a variety of topics for teachers, school leadership, and school system staff. In an effort to ensure as many Louisiana educators as possible are able to attend sessions, on May 22, the Department will release a list of sessions to be broadcasted live on YouTube. The live broadcasts will allow educators across the state to attend the sessions live regardless of event registration. This means that educators who were waitlisted or unable to register will be able to view the sessions on YouTube as they happen.

Though not all sessions will be broadcasted live, all sessions will be recorded and posted to the [Teacher Leader Library](#) shortly following the event.

Please contact ldoeevents@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 with questions.

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 LACOVID 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.

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Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **May 19th District Newsletter** or the **May 14th 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](#)

STAY CONNECTED

