

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



May 28 , 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
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

Reminder: Transfer Window Opens in June

The transfer window to transfer awards for the 2020 school year will open in June once all new student rosters have been processed. 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: High School Summer Test Administration

- The high school summer test administration schedule has changed to July 13-24.
- There is no remote access option.

Update: Waivers for Testing

To date, the only students who have received a waiver from the assessment are students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to take the assessment.

- 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: 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 Monthly Call** will be on **June 9 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 9 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

Reminder: 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.

All Nonpublics

New: Strong Start 2020

The [recording](#), including closed captioning, 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	Professional Development Guidance
Big Day for Pre-K: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Agile Mind Louisiana Mathematics: Agile Mind
Creative Curriculum: Teaching Strategies	Eureka Math: Great Minds, Gordon A. Cain Center for STEM Literacy, UnboundEd, Teach 4 L.I.F.E. Enterprise, LLC
Geometry Common Core: Geometry Common Core	Geometry Common Core: Geometry Common Core
	Illustrative Mathematics: Gordon A. Cain Center for STEM Literacy
	IQWST: Activate Learning

This week, the following entries have been significantly **updated**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
DIG Develop. Inspire. Grow: Frog Street Press	ELA Guidebooks: LearnZillion
Frog Street Press: Frog Street Press	ELA Guidebooks: LDOE

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Updated Summer Guidance on Athletics and Transportation Released

Tuesday, the Department released updated guidelines and guidance on summer programming to include more specific information on transportation and additional information on athletics and activities. The new and updated information includes the following:

1. Updated [Initial Public Health Guidelines for K-12 Summer School and Extra-Curricular Programs](#)
2. Updated [K-12 Summer Camp, Summer School, and Extracurricular Activities Supportive Guidance](#)
3. New [K-12 Athletics Guidance](#)

Please contact ldoecovid19support@la.gov with questions.

New: 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.

Unfortunately, due to limitations with the size of Zoom rooms, additional seats cannot be added at this time. However, the Department is diligently working to accommodate as many Louisiana educators as possible and has provided a few options to ensure access to the content.

The Department has released a [list of sessions](#) that will be broadcasted live on YouTube. Anyone interested can view these live broadcasts, including those on the waitlists. The YouTube broadcast will not be moderated and will be view-only. Those who have questions after the simulcast are encouraged to reach out the presenters directly.

All sessions are also being recorded. Look for the recordings to be posted a week after the session concludes in the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Once registration is confirmed, participants have been granted access to Sched to select preferred sessions. The evening before each session, participants will be sent a message detailing how to connect to the session via Zoom.

The Department is looking forward to delivering seven days of high-quality professional development.

Please contact LDOEEvents@la.gov with questions.

New: NCCER Releases Module Testing Update

Please share with CTE Supervisors and professional school counselors.

The [National Center for Construction Education & Research \(NCCER\)](#) updated information about its Module Testing on May 21. To that end, NCCER will be discontinuing paper tests beginning August 1, 2021.

The Department will provide guidance to support schools and NCCER Craft Instructors with implementing the online testing for craft module assessments. As per guidance from NCCER, Performance Profiles will continue to be done in person and submitted as Registration of Training Modules through the registry.

School systems interested in piloting online testing for the 2020-2021 school year are encouraged to contact jumpstart@la.gov.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Consult the timeline chart in the American Reading Company [purchasing portal](#) to make decisions about the order of units for the 2020-2021 academic year and receive unit texts before instruction begins.

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](#).

Updates to the [guidance](#) have been made to include:

- a list of digital text access availability for ELA Guidebook required trade books;
- guidance for supporting diverse learners during distance learning, including accessibility options to support students with disabilities; and
- sample Distance Learning Guidebook Companions.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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
- 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: Student Opportunities Office Hours

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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 26th District Newsletter** or the **May 21st 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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