

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



June 18 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP, TDC	6/26/20	Submit updated LEAP 360 MOU	District test coordinators
All nonpublics	6/28/20	Submit school closure forms	Superintendents or school leaders
LSP	7/1/20	Complete Scholarship End-of-Year Survey	Superintendents, School leaders, and Scholarship contacts
All nonpublics	7/15/20	Submit textbook reimbursements requests	School leaders or finance directors
All nonpublics	7/15/20	Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs	School leaders or finance directors
All nonpublics	7/15/20	Submit school change requests	Superintendents or school leaders

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Complete the Scholarship End-of-Year Survey

This week, Superintendents, school leaders, and Scholarship contacts received the annual Louisiana Scholarship Program End-of-Year survey via email. The 2019-20 End-of-Year Survey is designed to help the Office of School Improvement better understand successes and identify the areas of improvement in our work with Scholarship schools. The feedback gathered from this survey will help the Louisiana Department of Education ensure our tools and structures adequately support the work of teachers and schools. Please complete this survey by **July 1, 2020**.

Contact StudentScholarships@LA.gov if you are a Scholarship school principal who did not receive the link in your inbox.

Reminder: Transfer Window Opened

The Scholarship team has been processing a significant number of transfer requests and will continue to do so in the coming weeks. Please remember, in order for newly awarded students to transfer a Scholarship, the student must have registered at the awarded school by the May 15th deadline. If a family is interested in a transfer, please have the family complete the [transfer form](#) and submit it to a school representative. The representative at the school must then sign the form and email it to studentscholarships@la.gov. Forms submitted by parents will not be considered.

Transfers are at the discretion of the receiving school; however, schools may not exceed new student caps (if applicable) based on [accountability results](#) for the 2019 school year.

Please email studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

LEAP 360

- School systems that plan to administer any or all of the assessments in the LEAP 360 suite in 2020-2021 must submit an [updated MOU](#) by June 26 to assessment@la.gov. A copy of the MOU has been posted to the [Assessment Library](#).

High School Summer Test Administration

- The high school summer test administration schedule has changed to July 13-24.
- Testing manuals have been posted in DRC INSIGHT.
- Test setup for high school summer testing will open on June 22.
- Summer testing schedules should be submitted to assessment@la.gov by June 26.
- There is no remote access option.

New: ACT

- All school systems that tested students in June 2020 and/or who plan to test students during the October 2020 makeup for 2019-2020 juniors must sign the ACT MOU Addendum that is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- ACT is postponing the option for students to take a single subject test that was planned for September. A new implementation date has not been released.
- 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 State Administration
 - 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.

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.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

There will be no Office Hours call on June 23. The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on July 7 at 4:15 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 7 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, June 30th. 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.

All Nonpublics

New: Education Excellence Funds Application

The system is currently open and school systems may begin submitting the 6/30 PERs. If the school system or agency received a payment from the 2019-2020 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) this year, please be advised of the following important dates:

- **June 30:** Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds
- **July 15:** Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs

Please note: final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the following year, so EEF recipients that do not submit a final PER by **July 15** may experience delays in accessing EEF funds for 2020-2021.

In order to report the PER as final, check the box for Final Expenditure on the first tab labeled Expenditure Obligation Summary. Otherwise the PER will have to be corrected and resubmitted.

For assistance in preparing the final 6/30 PER for EEF, see the Training section on the eGMS login page. Access the available resource, [Tips & Reminders: Preparing the Periodic Expense Report \(PER\)](#).

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

New: Details Regarding P-EBT Card Distribution

Louisiana's online application for the [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\) program](#) closed on Monday afternoon. All families who successfully submitted an application, and therefore were approved, should receive their benefits by mail by the end of the month.

Benefits, which are pre-loaded onto a debit card, will arrive in a plain white envelope with a return address from Austin, TX. Instructions on how to activate the card will be included. Families who have trouble activating the card or who have not received a card by June 30th can call the [LAHelpU Customer Service Center](#) for assistance at 1-888-524-3578. The hours for the customer service center are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Families can also email LAHelpU.DCFS@la.gov to request a replacement for a missing card. If reaching out by e-mail, applicants should use the subject line "Replacement P-EBT card" and include their name as it appears on the P-EBT application, contact information, date of birth, and if available, the last four digits of their Social Security Number. If a replacement is requested, the original card will be deactivated, and the replacement card will take up to 10 business days to arrive by mail.

P-EBT benefits will be available for 365 days, and the cards may be used at [any store that accepts SNAP](#) to buy SNAP-eligible food items.

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
Amplify, Amplify Science	
LDOE, Social Studies Distance Learning Documents 3-8, US History, Civics	

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: FAFSA Assistance Available

Please share with school counselors and administrators.

Assistance is available for any student still needing to complete the FAFSA to assist with attending a postsecondary institution. Help is accessible via phone or by setting up a Zoom session.

Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov with questions.

New: 2020-2021 Sponsor Site System (SPS)

Please share with data managers.

Sponsor Site requests for the 2020-2021 school year are still being accepted. This includes closure of existing schools/sites, changes to existing schools/sites, and the addition of new schools/sites. Submit requests via the [2020-2021 Sponsor Site Information Forms](#) by **June 28** (for school closures) and **July 15** (for new schools and changes to existing schools).

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series Follow-Up

Thank you for attending the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series.

Download Summit Materials

Educators can find materials from most sessions in the [Teacher Leader library](#).

Watch the Session Videos

If participants missed a session or weren't able to register, most sessions were recorded. The recordings are shared on the Department's [YouTube playlist](#).

Confirmation of Attendance

A full list of registered participants can be found in the [Teacher Leader library](#). The Department did not track individual session attendance. However, a school system may choose to ask participants to login to [Sched](#) and print a copy of their full schedule as proof of attendance, as desired.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Advanced Placement Exam Updates

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Please share with Advanced Placement coordinators, high school counselors, and principals.

AP Exam final invoices will be generated through [AP Registration and Ordering](#). Schools will be emailed when the invoice is available. The postmark deadline for payment is June 26.

To ensure accurate score reporting for Spring 2020 AP Exams, confirm students have the **correct school code** listed on the student roster in [AP Registration and Ordering](#) and help them correct any mistakes. For more information, view a short video on [Student Rosters](#).

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

Reminder: Science Content Leader Training

BESE has approved three providers to begin offering Science Content Leader training:

- University of Texas, Dana Center
- Great Minds, PhD Science
- SchoolKit Group

The training details, including contact information, can be found on page 7 of the [approved provider list](#).

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: COVID-19 Guidance

Louisiana's school facilities were closed in March 2020 through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year to curb the spread of COVID-19.

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 LACOVVID 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 **June 16th District Newsletter** or the **June 11th 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

LDOE Links

LDOE Website

STAY CONNECTED

