



July 9 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

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|-----------------------|---------|---|--|
| LSP | 7/15/20 | Submit Tuition and fees | School leaders or 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 |
| SCP | 8/7/20 | Submit SCP applications and application spreadsheet to FTP | School leaders or School Choice Contacts |

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Submit 2020 Tuition and Fees by July 15th

All Scholarship schools are required to submit to the LDOE the tuition and mandatory fees for each grade served at the school for the 2020-2021 school year. To input the tuition and mandatory fees charged to all non-Scholarship students, please click on the link below or copy and paste the URL into your browser:

<https://form.jotform.com/201777134677160>

Please include tuition and fees for all grades even if you do not have Scholarship students enrolled in that grade. Please see the [help guide](#) for completing survey.

As part of the Tuition & Fees submission process, participating Scholarship schools are required to complete the following assurance forms and submit them via [the online form](#) hyperlinked above:

- [Educational Purposes Assurance Form](#): should be completed by each school administrator
- [Individual Enrichment Assurance Form](#): should be completed by each school administrator and board member

Please reach out to studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

New: FY 2019-2020 SSEEP Reallocation and Final Audit Adjustments

Please forward to all business managers.

In FY 2019-20, the SSEEP appropriation generated a remaining balance after 4th quarter payments were calculated and released. Regulations governing the program allowed a distribution of the remaining balance to increase the tuition amounts schools were authorized to receive at the beginning of 2019-2020.

The allocation of the additional funds was calculated on a student by student basis. Any caps on tuition required by applicable laws or policies were taken into consideration in order to determine the allocation amount. The methodology for the allocation also had to take into consideration final audit adjustments generated from the results of the independent audits. The combination of the additional allocation with negative audit adjustments or other specific scenarios means that some schools did not receive an additional allocation.

Payments for the additional allocation will be released for all eligible entities on July 9th, 2020 and entities will receive payments within 3-5 business days later, based on their banking institution.

If you have any questions, or need additional information please contact Rey Valldejuli at 225-342-3590 or via email at Reynaldo.Valldejuli@la.gov

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

New: BESE Testing Exemption

- Revision to Bulletin 111 policy was approved by BESE that removes the assessment graduation requirement for certain subject assessments for students who meet the following requirements:
 - The student earned the high school assessment-eligible course in the spring of 2020
 - The student has never taken the LEAP 2025 high school assessment for the course

High School Summer Test Administration

- District Technology Coordinators should ensure that DRC COS devices and DRC Insight are correctly installed and working on all devices that will be used for summer testing prior to July 13.
- 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 is now open.
- 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 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.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on August 4 at 4:15 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- Webinar Date and Time: August 4 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, July 14th. 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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- Webinar Phone Number: 64

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: School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities Applications Available for New Students

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is now able to accept applications for new students to the School Choice Program (SCP) for the 2020-21 school year. Applications can be found [here](#) and will be accepted until **August 7th**.

Students should submit their paper application and supporting documentation to the school in advance of the August 7th deadline. Once schools have collected applications from all students who wish to apply, school contacts should upload the applications and supporting documentation to the FTP. Applications and supporting documentation should be uploaded as an individual PDF for each student saved as the student's name. The applications should be uploaded to the 2020-21 SCP folder in the FTP.

Student saved as the student's name. The applications should be uploaded to the 2020-21 SCP folder in the FTP. Schools will also be required to enter applicant information into [this spreadsheet](#). A completed spreadsheet that includes all new applicant information should be uploaded to the FTP along with scanned copies of paper applications and supporting documentation. This spreadsheet is also due on August 7th.

Only schools that previously submitted a Notice of Intent to Participate for the 2020-21 school year may submit applications for new awards.

Please reach out to nonpublicschools@la.gov with any questions.

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: Strong Start 2020

The Strong Start 2020 Incentive Funding webinar [presentation](#) and recording are now posted in the [Strong Start Library](#).

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

New: EdTech Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly EdTech Webinar for Ed Tech Directors and CTO's on **July 16 at 11 a.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 16 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/575223228>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 575 223 228

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

New: Opportunity for Free Professional Development for Social Studies Teachers

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators and social studies teachers.

[The OER Project](#) is presenting a free, virtual PD opportunity for K-12 social studies teachers called the [OER Conference for Social Studies](#). This will be a three-day, virtual conference and professional development opportunity taking place August 5-7.

At the OER Conference for Social Studies, attendees will:

- Hear from authors, historians, educators, and expert moderators.
- Watch Track Talks (TED-style, 10-minute videos) created by expert educators from diverse backgrounds, grade levels, and specializations.
- Collaborate with fellow educators in moderated live discussions aligned to the eight conference tracks.

Visit the [conference website](#) to register, review the schedule, track topics and preview videos of talks.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series Now Available

In December 2019, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series (LLAS) as an alternative to the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) for those seeking the Educational Leadership Certificate (EDL1). This exam is now available on the Bloomboard Platform and access to more information can be found in the [LLAS User Guide](#).

Educators aspiring to become assistant principals or principals choose between the SLLA Praxis and the LLAS to fulfill the exam component of all leadership pathways leading to the EDL1 Certificate.

The assessments for the LLAS are portfolio-based and are aligned to the competencies the state requires through Bulletin 125 for the role of a building level leader.

Additional information is available on [BloomBoard's website](#).

New: 2020 Legislative Update

The Louisiana Legislature adjourned the 2020 Regular Legislative Session on June 1. Please review the overview of the [2020 Regular Legislative Session](#).

Please contact leslie.hill@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 |
|--|--|
| Early Childhood: Savvas Learning Company, Opening the World of Learning (OWL), PreK Ages 3-4 | |

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: USDA Child Nutrition Program Waivers for SY 20-21

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of multiple COVID-19 emergency feeding waivers for the 2020-2021 School Year. The waivers are listed below:

- [Nationwide Meal Times Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Non-congregate Feeding Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility in Senior High Schools](#)

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Town Hall Series for Schools

Please share with school system leaders, administrators, school nurses and teachers.

COVID-19 guidance experts from Children's Hospital New Orleans (CHNOLA), in partnership with the Department, will host an upcoming virtual town hall series. During this virtual series, guidance experts will:

- provide updates on the current state of COVID-19 pandemic across Louisiana, specifically in regard to children under ages 18;
- speak to frequently asked questions that will be collected in-between town halls through the [Children's Hospital New Orleans' website](#) in the [Return to School FAQ Entry Form](#);
- provide education/guidance training on targeted topics relevant to schools; and
- facilitate open Q&A.

Virtual series dates and topics are listed below.

| Date and Time | Topics Addressed (additional to general overview & FAQ) |
|----------------------|--|
| July 21 at 1 p.m. | Sports |
| August 4 at 1 p.m. | Teacher & Nurse Guidance Training |
| August 18 at 1 p.m. | TBD based on feedback gathered in late July |

July virtual town hall series information is included below. August town hall series information will be communicated in the coming weeks.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 21 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95199319090>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 929-205-6099
- **Password:** 7212020

Please contact school-wellness@LCMChealth.org with questions.

Reminder: 2020-2021 School System Planning Calendar

The [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#) is now available and will be updated monthly. It details training sessions, virtual support, tools and resources and communication streams designed to support educators.

Please contact doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Strong Start Math Planning Resources

To support school systems, schools and teachers in strategically diagnosing and addressing unfinished learning in math due to school closures and communicating student readiness for on grade-level learning with parents, the Department has released the following resources:

- [Using LEAP 360 Diagnostic Assessments](#): Guidance on administering and interpreting results of the LEAP 360 Diagnostic assessment
- [LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping](#): Unit-by-unit mapping of LEAP 360 Diagnostic items for all of Tier 1 Math Curricula posted under LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping on the [K-12 Math Planning page](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Intensive Algebra I School Guidance

To support school systems in strategic planning for the 2020-2021 school year, the Department has released [Intensive Algebra I Guidance for Schools](#), a research-based course designed to support students who persistently struggle in math with passing Algebra I in their first year of high school.

The document linked above includes information on all of the following:

- Course Overview
- Enrolling Students
- Scheduling Recommendations
- Selecting a Curriculum

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Science Distance Learning Support - OpenSciEd and Inquiry Hub

To support school systems, schools and teachers in ensuring continuous learning in science in the event of school closures, the Department will release guidance for implementing high-quality, open-source science curricula in a remote learning setting. Distance learning plans for OpenSciEd Grade 6-8 and Inquiry Hub (Biology) will be available on the following schedule:

| Resource | Release Date |
|--|---------------|
| Sample Unit (OpenSciEd Grade 7 Weather) | Available now |
| Recorded Webinar: Overview of Distance Learning Units | July 15 |
| Beginning of Year OpenSciEd Lessons for Grades 6, 7, 8 Inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1 | August 1 |
| Full OpenSciEd Unit for Grades 6, 7, 8 Inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1 | August 15 |

The guidance documents will contain the following:

- Links to OpenSciEd remote learning resources
- Unit guidance
- Detailed lesson-by-lesson guidance, including activities and slides for virtual classes
- Printable lesson documents to send home with students as needed

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Science Professional Development

Inquiry Hub Biology

Registration for Inquiry Hub [virtual professional learning](#) sessions is now open. Biology educators should [register](#) to attend the trainings.

| Date | Course | Location |
|------------|-------------------------|----------|
| July 13-17 | Inquiry Hub Biology 101 | Virtual |
| August 3-7 | Inquiry Hub Biology 101 | Virtual |

Please contact inquiryhub@colorado.edu with questions.

Great Minds, PhD Science K-5

Registration for Great Minds virtual professional development on PhD Science, a Tier 1 curriculum for grades 3-5 is now open. Elementary school educators should [register](#) to attend the trainings.

| Course and Grade Level | Dates |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Launch PhD Science K-2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 7, 14, 16 • August 4 |
| Launch PhD Science 3-5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 14 • August 4 |
| Focus on Instructional Techniques 3-5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 7 and 16 • August 4 |

Please contact phdscience@greatminds.org with questions.

Reminder: Strong Start: July 2020 Math Lesson Broadcasting

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

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

[The math broadcasting guidance document](#) contains information about purchasing student materials, watching LPB broadcasts, watching on-demand and lesson details.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities

Please share with CTE supervisors/coordinators, school system leaders and counselors.

The dynamic [2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities](#) guide has been updated to include additional Quest for Success, Emergency Medical Responder Initial, CPR Instructor and NCCER training opportunities. This training opportunities document will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed.

Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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:

- **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.

Reminder: 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 **July 15** (for new schools and changes to existing schools).

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: COVID-19 Guidance

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 **July 7th District Newsletter** or the **June 25th 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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