



July 16 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublics	7/28/20	Complete Strong Start Survey	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: Distance Learning Requirements for Nonpublic Schools

In light of COVID19, many schools are opting to offer instruction via virtual distance learning. Please see section 2523 of [Bulletin 741 Nonpublic](#) in regards to distance learning. Instructional minutes still apply; however, minutes may be met via an online platform. In this case, schools should check attendance daily, such as an online sessions log which shows when students have logged in. Funding will not be affected for schools that enact distance learning as long as instructional minutes are met. Schools will be required to maintain accurate daily attendance tracking and produce attendance records to the LDOE upon request in order to receive payment.

Please reach out to ldoecovid19support@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: 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 should be taken into consideration in order to determine the allocation amount. The methodology for the allocation should be

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.

All eligible entities should have received payments. If you have any questions, or need additional information please contact Rey Valdejuli at 225-342-3590 or via email at Reynaldo.Valdejuli@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: LEAP 2025 High School Summer Testing

- District Technology and Test Coordinators should ensure the content for the summer administration is downloaded to the COS prior to testing. Directions on updating testing content can be found in the [Tech User Guide](#).
- The high school summer testing window is now open for LEAP 2025 retesting through July 24.
- Accountability codes are not needed for students who are retesting.

New: ACT Webinar for October Testing

- The Assessment and Accountability Office Hours scheduled for July 21 will include an ACT webinar designed to answer questions about the ACT test administration added in October for 2019-2020 juniors who were not able to test in March or June.
- The Office Hours on July 21 will begin at 3:45 p.m. to better accommodate school system DTCs and accountability contacts.

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

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.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on August 4 at 4:15 p.m. A password will be required beginning with July 14 Office Hours. 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
- **Password:** 2020202!

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 28th. 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 Award Amounts for 2020 Determined

The School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities award amount is equal to 50% of MFP for the parish in which the student resides. MFP amounts per parish as well as award amounts can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

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.

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: Distance Learning Requirements for Nonpublic Schools

In light of COVID19, many schools are opting to offer instruction via virtual distance learning. Please see section 2523 of [Bulletin 741 Nonpublic](#) in regards to distance learning. Instructional minutes still apply; however, minutes may be met via an online platform. In this case, schools should check attendance daily, such as an online sessions log which shows when students have logged in.

Please reach out to ldoecovid19support@la.gov with any questions.

New: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Availability for School Reopening

As school systems plan for operations during the 2020-2021 school year, the Department is working in concert with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (GOHSEP) to address immediate personal protective equipment (PPE) needs.

GOHSEP will provide:

- at least one cloth (reusable/washable) mask for each student and faculty member;
- at least 2,000 disposal masks (for visitors and/or students/faculty that may forget their mask); and
- at least 3 thermometers per each school.

These provision standards are recommended as some individuals/parents will provide their own masks and others may not. However, this should address the PPE needs for nonpublic school systems for school reopening.

School systems should make PPE requests directly to the Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) directors in respective school systems by following the steps outlined below:

1. School systems should compile data that depicts number of students, number of faculty members and number of schools.
2. Each school system will make requests to the respective parish OHSEP based on data specified in number one (above bullet).
3. Requests for this should go to the [local parish OHSEP contact](#).
4. Delivery will be made to the school systems' warehouse for school distribution as systems already have a mechanism to disseminate supplies.

If there are additional PPE needs, please contact OHSEP directors to discuss the circumstances to ensure everyone can work together to address additional needs as circumstances require.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey

The summer [Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey](#) is now available for school systems and lead agencies to complete. School system leadership or early childhood lead agencies should work with their team to develop and review a set of answers to the survey questions in the [fillable PDF version](#) of the survey. Only one response per school system or lead agency can be submitted. A

designated point of contact should submit the survey via [Jot Form](#). School systems and lead agencies must complete the survey by **July 28**.

Please contact em.cooper@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
Brown University, The Choices Program, Supplemental Materials, Grades 9-12

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

Instructional Materials Guidance

LDOE, ELA Guidebooks, Grades 3-12

- **New:** Materials Access and Adapting Materials Information Available

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Louisiana Curriculum Hub: ELA Guidebook Unit Access

The [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#), Louisiana's open-source, digital platform, is live.

- Grades 9-12, ELA Guidebooks (2020), units are available in digital format via the online platform.
- Grades 3-8, ELA Guidebooks (2018), units are available in downloadable format via the bulk downloader tool.

The bulk downloader tool allows users to download full, customizable units of content from the ELA Guidebooks, grades 3-8, to a personal Google Drive. By clicking "Authorize," users give permission to the bulk downloader to download a new copy of ELA Guidebooks unit material into a folder in a personal Google Drive.

Once downloaded, the units are organized into folders and all the files are editable, rather than view only. This allows users to make any needed changes to the ELA Guidebook materials without having to download each individual lesson and document. This also allows users to upload the unit content into Google Classroom more easily to better support distance learning, as users will have an organized unit on a personal Drive from which they can create assignments and quizzes in Google Classroom.

Directions for using the bulk downloader tool are [available](#). Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

New: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum

Through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, all public and private schools and students will be provided free access to Edgenuity's online Purpose Prep content library which includes:

- Character & Leadership Development
- College & Career Readiness
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Personal Development
- Social & Emotional Success
- Unlock Your Purpose

School systems and schools can sign-up to participate in this program by completing an addendum with the State and working directly with Edgenuity's sales representative [Roe Wilkinson](#) to implement and manage their student's access to the content library. The agreement and addendum can be found on the Department's [Data Sharing Agreement](#) webpage.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

New: Teacher Leader Advisor Applications Coming Soon

The Department is searching for **highly-motivated educators** to support the mission and vision of the state's academic content team. Educators **do not** need to be a school-site Teacher Leader in order to apply.

Becoming a Teacher Leader Advisor (TLA) not only allows educators to expand their positive impact by influencing over 750,000 students and over 50,000 Louisiana educators, but it also provides an opportunity to deepen and refine their leadership skills, learn about key priorities and projects at the Department and develop their understanding of curricula and teacher training.

There is a specific need for expert educators in the areas of **early literacy, intervention specialist, Early Childhood (birth to 3 and pre-K) and K-12 science and STEM**. The Department is also in need of **K-12 teachers across ELA and math** content areas. **Special education teachers** who specialize in these areas are also encouraged to apply.

Application links are available in the [Teacher Leader Advisor Flyer](#).

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

New: October Content Leader and Mentor Teacher Training Provider Application Deadline

Applications to provide Mentor and/or Content Leader training should be submitted by **July 31**. Every applicant must submit all required application components in the [WizeHive application portal](#).

BESE will first consider applications for Science Content Leader and Intervention Content Leader programs in April 2021. This is to ensure updates to the training design are finalized.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

New: Frontline Workers

[Act 12 of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session](#) provides for a one-time rebate for eligible workers earning \$50,000 per year or less, who spent at least 200 hours working during the COVID-19 crisis from March 22, 2020 through May 14, 2020.

The Louisiana Department of Revenue will accept applications from July 15 through October 31 from workers employed in essential critical infrastructure jobs on or after March 11, 2020, including:

- Government, private and non-governmental organizations' workers essential for food assistance programs, including school lunch programs
- Bus drivers and workers who provide or support intercity, commuter and charter bus service in support of other essential services or functions, including school bus drivers
- Workers providing dependent care services, including childcare, eldercare, and other service providers necessary to maintain a comprehensive, supportive environment for individuals and caregivers needing these services

The Louisiana Department of Revenue will accept applications online or on a downloadable printed form. Due to limited funding for the rebate program, eligible workers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible using the online application portal at FrontlineWorkers.la.gov.

For more information, read [Revenue Information Bulletin 20-020](#).

Please contact leslie.hill@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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](#).

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

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Reminder: Virtual 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.

Scheduled topics for the July 21 town hall meeting include janitorial best practices, environmental hygiene and open Q&A. Details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 21 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95199319090>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 929-205-6099
- **Webinar ID#:** 951 9931 9090
- **Webinar Password:** 7212020

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

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **July 14th District Newsletter** or the **July 9th 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

