



Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



July 22, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations to all of the [outstanding educators](#) that were honored this past Friday at the 15th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Gala Celebration. During that virtual ceremony, the Department of Education, in partnership with Dream Teachers, announced that **Annelise Cassar Tedesco** of St. Bernard Parish is the 2022 State Teacher of the Year, and **Marco French** of Caddo Parish is the 2022 State Principal of the Year.

In addition to announcing the overall state winners, the Department honored [all finalists](#) and named the 2022 State Elementary, Middle, and High School Teacher and Principal of the Year winners. This inspiring celebration serves as a reminder of the great work being done by talented educators in every corner of the state, every day.

Whether it's announcing these talented educators or highlighting amazing schools on social media, the Department strives to share positive stories about education in Louisiana. In that spirit, I hope you will join me in subscribing to our new podcast, [Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#), which launches next week. Throughout the series, host Em Cooper will share inspiring and informative interviews from leaders in Louisiana and across the country and give listeners a little something extra to stay inspired, motivated, and connected.

I hope you enjoy the first episode on Tuesday, July 27. Em and I discuss our state priorities, and I also answer some questions about myself. Subscribe through apps such as [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#), and check out the [preview episode](#) on the [Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) web page.

Happy listening,

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	July 23 at 10:30 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	July 27 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	July 27 at 3:45 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	July 29 at 1 p.m.
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	August 4 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	August 6 at 11 a.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	August 12 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	August 3 at 1 p.m.
Literacy Monthly Call	August 5 at 10 a.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	August 6 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	August 12 at 1 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	August 12 at 2 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	August 16 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	August 17 at 3:45 p.m.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	August 19 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	August 19 at 3 p.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	August 20 at 9 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	August 25 at 1 p.m.
*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library . View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Leader PD Session 8 - Increasing Equity through Culturally Responsive Literacy Classrooms	July 26 at 9 a.m.
K-2 Teacher PD Session 11 - Small Groups	July 27 at 2 p.m.
K-2 Teacher PD Session 12 - Diagnostic Assessment	July 28 at 2 p.m.
Bulletin 1903 Implementation Support Webinar	August 4 at 8:30 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
Strong School Systems Notice of Interest Survey	July 27
Balanced Calendar Notification	July 30
Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Application	July 30
Emergency Connectivity Fund Application	August 13
Second Round Placement Student Registration (if applicable)	July 23rd
Second Round Registration upload to FTP	July 26th

Louisiana Scholarship Program

Second Round Placements

Over 400 students were awarded scholarships last week based upon their priority in the spring application cycle. Schools that were assigned new students have received an email from studentscholarships@la.gov this week with additional information. Not all schools received additional students.

These students must register by July 23rd, 2021 and files must be uploaded back to the FTP indicating registration status by July 23rd. See your email for additional details.

Student Transfer Process

The student transfer window has closed and requests are currently being processed. Schools will be notified of approval or denial of requests by Friday, July 26, 2021. Schools will be required to notify the parents of the outcome of the request. Transfers are only allowed to schools that meet accountability standards and who have Department approved available Scholarship seats.

An additional transfer window will open in August and additional information will be available in next week's newsletter.

Contact studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

School Choice for Students with Disabilities Program

Awards for the 2021-22 school year have been made. Schools were notified via email that rosters are available. Thank you for your patience as we finalize placements.

Operations

Strong Start Spring Survey

The [Strong Start Spring survey for school systems](#) is open. Each school system should identify one team member to complete the survey by July 26.

The Department will develop a report of the data collected from the survey and utilize the information to determine the effectiveness of support provided to school systems during the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, school systems will identify key actions they are taking to address instructional loss, social emotional learning, and other COVID-related factors for the 2021-2022 school year. The Department is asking all school systems to complete the survey to best understand how to serve and support education leaders for the upcoming year.

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

Balanced Calendar Notification

If your school system (LEA) has adopted a balanced calendar with built-in periods of intersession for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, please notify Assistant Superintendent Trey Folsie via [email](#) by **Friday, July 30**.

Note: "balanced calendar" is a school year with the following characteristics:

- deviates from the traditional nine-month school calendar
- redistributes the minimum instructional days over eleven months
- includes intersession periods that may be used to support student learning and well-being.

Please email trey.folsie@la.gov with any questions.

Communications

Department Names 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Winners

On Friday, July 16, the Department — in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) — celebrated the 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year state-level honorees at the *15th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala*, which was held virtually this year. On this evening, the Teacher and Principal of the Year division-level and statewide winners were also named.

View the [2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners](#).
Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Strong School Systems Strategic Planning Initiative

The Department is launching the second cohort of pilot participants for the Strong School Systems Initiative. The 3-year pilot will strengthen school system leaders' and school board members' capacity in strategic planning, implementation, and progress monitoring through cohort-based professional development, technical assistance, participation in a network of peer leaders, and the provision of tools and resources.

Participants will collaborate on the creation (or refinement) of the following deliverables outlined in a three- to five-year strategic improvement plan: 1) leadership norms, 2) stakeholder engagement plan, 3) diagnostic reporting strengths and gaps, 4) vision statement, 5) outcome goals, 6) strategic priorities and initiatives, 7) aligned budget, 8) monitoring dashboard, and 9) communication and implementation plan.

Please complete this [Notice of Interest survey](#) by COB on **Tuesday, July 27** if your system is interested in participating.

Please contact Jennifer.Tuttleton@la.gov with questions.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Louisiana's Elementary and Secondary Education Act Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request

Due to the continued extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented challenges students, educators, staff and schools faced during the 2020-2021 school year, the U. S. Department of Education has offered each State an opportunity to request waivers that will afford additional fiscal flexibilities for certain funds received under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).

LDOE is requesting the waiver, pursuant section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). View the waiver request linked here: [ESEA LA Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request](#).

Federal program directors, business managers, financial officials and relevant personnel of public school systems should review this waiver request and submit any questions, comments, or feedback by Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

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

Nutrition Support

Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Applications

In anticipation of federal approval of Louisiana's Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is asking for parents who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches (but do not currently receive them) to apply for those benefits with their schools or school systems by **Friday, July 30**.

Students who are already receiving free or reduced-priced lunches do not need to apply for P-EBT. This includes any student in a school that provides free meals to all students under a special rule called Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The P-EBT program only applies to students who receive free or reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program or because they attend a CEP school.

Please ensure that eligible families are aware that they must take the following steps by July 30 in preparation for Summer P-EBT:

1. Contact the school or school system for the application.
2. Submit completed applications back to the school or school system.

Please visit <http://pebt-la.org/> for more information.

Career and College Readiness

NCCER Paper Test Final Submission Deadline

Share with CTE Supervisors, Principals, Counselors, Secondary Supervisors, Testing Coordinators, and NCCER Instructors

As NCCER completes its move to online testing, all paper tests must be submitted and approved by the LDOE Sponsor Representative by **July 23**. NCCER recommends that instructors submit what has been completed now. In the Registry System, instructors can:

- **Create the submission form now and save as you go.** To find the saved form, look under "My Submissions" and then "Registration of Training Modules."
- **Use the auto-fill date feature.** This feature lets you add dates for all modules at one time. The "Auto-Fill Dates" button is located at the top right of the form.
- **Review your submissions.** Check both the "In Progress" and "Training Sponsor Returned to Instructor" options to ensure all of your submissions are completed and approved.

For more information, please contact troy.borne@la.gov.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Perkins

Share with CTE Supervisors, Perkins Coordinators

The Louisiana Career and Technical College System has extended the Department's Grant Award Notification for fiscal year 2020-2021 until July 31, 2021. As such, school systems can continue to draw down funds until July 31. Claims submitted after July 31 will not be accepted.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov for Perkins-specific questions; email LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov for eGMS-related questions.

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Perkins - Carry Over Funds

Share with CTE Supervisors, Perkins Coordinators

The Louisiana Career and Technical College System has extended the Department's Grant Award Notification until September 30 for 2019-2020 carry over funds. If school systems **did not expend all allocated funds on or before June 30**, the remaining balance of the 2019-2020 carry over funds will roll forward into the 2021-2022 Super App.

- The Final PER must be submitted in a timely manner in order to prevent a delay in the rollover funding being available in the 2021-2022 Super App.
- In order for a school system to be in a posture to draw down the additional prior year funding before the September 30 expiration date, an amendment of the 2021-2022 Super App will be required.
- The 2021-2022 Amendment must be submitted in enough time to allow for the approval of the Amendment and the submission of any reimbursement claims on or before the deadline for these funds.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov for Perkins-specific questions; email LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov for eGMS-related questions.

Teaching and Learning

Update: Emergency Connectivity Fund and Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Window Open; Deadline to Apply August 13, 2021

The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is a \$7.17 billion program administered by the Federal Communication Commission to help schools and libraries provide the devices and broadband services for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. The ECF Program will cover up to \$400 for laptop and tablet computers; up to \$250 for Wi-Fi hotspots; modems; routers; as well as broadband connectivity for off-campus use by students and school staff who lack or can demonstrate a need for providing broadband and devices to support remote learning and instruction. The application process utilizes USAC's E-Rate EPC filing portal and forms. The deadline for applying is August 13, 2021. For more information and updates, schools can attend the Monthly Education Technology webinars and office hour calls. The next call will be this Thursday, July 22 at 9 a.m.

Please contact ERate@la.gov with questions.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EBB program provides a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. Families can apply directly via a participating broadband provider or at GetEmergencyBroadband.org. Schools can utilize the flyers and resources within the FCC's Consumer Outreach Toolkit to publicize this program to students and families. Through outreach from schools as well as state and local agencies and leaders, over 107,960 families in Louisiana have taken advantage of the EBB program.

Please contact ERate@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Congratulations to all of the hardworking district test coordinators who worked endlessly to conduct more test administrations in a single year than in any other year in Louisiana. Their commitment and devotion to students is amazing and we are honored to support their work.

ACT and WorkKeys

ACT/WorkKeys invoices were sent on June 30.

- Past Due: July 15 was the deadline to submit payments. School systems should send any outstanding balances as soon as possible.
- July 30: Refunds, if applicable, will be sent to school systems.
- Payments should be sent to the address below with "2020-2021 ACT/WorkKeys" on the memo line of the check.

Louisiana Department of Education
Division of Appropriation Control
PO Box 94063
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

LEAP Grades 3-8 Test Results

July 23: By end of day, Spring 2021 Grades 3-8 LEAP scores will be released in DRC INSIGHT.

- Schools will receive individual student reports, school roster reports and data (csv) files.
- Summary data will be released in the coming weeks.

- Superintendents and school leaders will receive email notifications prior to media release.

LEAP 2025

July 20: Last day to submit requests for high school summer rescores

Other Test Results

- Available Now: ELPT test results for all grades
- Available Now: Individual student reports for LEAP high school assessments, in-window data (csv) files.
- Late August: LEAP Connect all grades

KEA and K-3

- Kindergarten Entry and K-3 Literacy Screening must be administered within the first 30 days of school for all students per state law and BESE policy, including students who select virtual learning.
- Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) options: [DRDP-K](#) and [TeachingStrategies GOLD KEA](#).
- K-3 Literacy Screener options: [Acadience Reading](#) (formerly DIBELS Next), [DIBELS 8th Edition](#), [STEEP](#), and [STEP](#).
- Screening data must be submitted by October 15.

ELPS

The 2020-2021 ELPS window closed on Friday, July 16. The 2021-2022 ELPS window will open on August 3.

LEAP 360

- Available Now: Test Setup for diagnostic and interim assessments
- Remote administration will be available for LEAP 360 diagnostic and interim assessments in 2021-2022.

NAEP 2021

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) wants to thank the Superintendents, the District Test Coordinators, the School Test Coordinators, and all of the educators who worked with the NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey and the NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire Special Study. Results from these special studies will be used to inform future NAEP assessments. Our teams rely on the guidance of school coordinators to collect accurate information, plan assessment sessions, and engage students. Thank you for all your hard work and for making the 2021 administration a success.

Educator Development

Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices

The [Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Guidance](#) document has been updated to include dates for the summer and fall webinars, Q&A sessions, and job alike sessions. Due to feedback on the timing of the dates, we have pushed back all of these sessions to be held after the school year starts. The rescheduled dates are below. Participants must register using the links provided.

Session Name and Registration Link	Summer Sessions	Fall Sessions
District Academic Leadership	Tuesday, 8/31 11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Tuesday, 10/19 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Diverse Learners Leadership	Tuesday, 8/31 1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Tuesday, 10/19 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Counselors and Counseling Leadership	Wednesday, 9/1 11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Wednesday, 10/20 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
School Leadership	Wednesday, 9/1 1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Wednesday, 10/20 1 p.m.-2 p.m.
Q&A Session	Wednesday, 9/15 1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Wednesday, 11/3 1 p.m.-2 p.m.
Q&A Session	Wednesday, 9/29 1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Wednesday, 11/10 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

K-2 Literacy Content Leader Training

Teachers and leaders are encouraged to explore a new opportunity to earn distinction as K-2 Literacy Content Leaders. The purpose of [K-2 Literacy Content Leader training](#) is to promote deep understanding of the components of effective literacy instruction and the foundations of reading and implementation through high-quality curriculum, provide opportunities for students to learn through intentional interactions, and apply best practices of adult learning and content expertise to redeliver training. K-2 ELA teachers who are instructional leaders in their buildings and are ready to assume greater responsibility by increasing the effectiveness of early literacy instruction for K-2 teachers. CIR-designated schools are required to have at least one K-2 Literacy Content Leader trained. School systems should access the [Mentor and Content Leader Approved Providers List](#) to schedule training. More information can be found in the [Content Leader Library](#).

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Bulletin 1903 Implementation Webinar

Bulletin 1903, *Louisiana Handbook for Students with Dyslexia*, was recently revised by a statewide workgroup of diverse stakeholders to streamline the policy in an effort to ensure that the guidance within the policy was focused, accessible, and usable for schools to implement. In response to the revised policy, the Department is offering an informational webinar to support schools and systems with implementation of the updated guidelines. After the live webinar, the presentation, along with the updated [Guide to Dyslexia in Louisiana](#), will be posted in the [Academics Library](#) under Additional Disability Related Resources - Dyslexia.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 4 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96725306072>
- **Webinar Phone number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 967 2530 6072

Please contact lisa.holliday@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)
 - [Communications Reminders](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)
 - [Educator Development Reminders](#)
 - [Literacy Reminders](#)

Operations Reminders

Communications Reminders

[New P-EBT Resources Available for Parents and Data Managers](#)

Toolbox for Data Managers

The new [P-EBT Data Managers Toolbox](#) has been established to provide a single secure location where data managers can access files, slide decks, recordings, and additional information about the P-EBT Program. Data Managers who completed the security form have automatically been given access to this toolbox. If additional staff within the LEA needs access to this toolbox, the main P-EBT contact should email EdTech@la.gov to request the additional staff to be added.

New Parent Portal

Tuesday, July 13, DCFS launched a new [P-EBT Online Parent Portal](#) that allows parents to view their child's P-EBT case. Information submitted by schools (name, date of birth, local student ID, school name, zip code, benefit amounts, and learning mode) are included within the portal once benefits are processed. A [video and instructions](#) on how to register, access, and navigate the portal are available on DCFS's PEBT webpage.

New Benefits Issuance Dates

Wednesday, July 14, the second set of P-EBT benefits were loaded onto cards for eligible students. This set of benefits cover November 2020 to January 2021. The third set of benefits will be loaded onto cards beginning August 4 and covers February 2021 to May 2021. Sample messages for families follow:

- *Missing issuances: If you don't receive benefits on July 14 and/or August 4, it is possible that your child was not reported as eligible. Please direct any eligibility questions to your school. Please note that benefit amounts are dependent on your child's learning situation on a month-by-month basis and can change if their learning situation changes.*
- *Combined issuances: If you receive your child's P-EBT card after the above dates, it is possible that there will be multiple sets of benefit months already loaded onto the card.*
- *Learning mode changes: If you believe that there is an error in your child's learning mode for a particular month, please contact your child's school or school district to request a review. While there will be a delay, supplemental benefits will be issued if a correction is made.*
- *Address changes: If you need to request an address change, please contact your child's school or school system. While there will be a delay, benefits will be issued once the correction is made.*

DCFS is continuing to distribute P-EBT benefits to eligible children for the 2020-2021 school year as new

and updated information is provided by schools and districts.

Please visit <http://pebt-la.org> for more information.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

Career and College Readiness Office Hours

Please share with School Superintendents, High School Administrators, and School Counselors

The Office of Career and College Readiness will hold office hours on the first and third Thursday of each month during the 2021-2022 academic year. This will start with the third Thursday of July with a call on July 15. The Zoom login information has been updated to the following:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** first and third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99278385724>
- **Webinar Phone number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 992 7838 5724

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

Fall 2021 Counselor Institutes

Please share with middle and high school counselors.

The Fall 2021 Counselor institutes will take place from October 19-21. The events will occur at various locations around the state from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration, location and additional information will be shared in early August. The institutes will provide updates on topics relevant to middle and high school counselors.

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

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Educator Development Reminders

LDOE Launches Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You'll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Make sure you subscribe to the [podcast](#), promote to colleagues, and listen to the [preview episode](#) currently available. The podcast will launch its first episode on July 27 with an interview with Dr. Brumley. Submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

Contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Literacy Reminders

Professional Development Redelivery Guidance

In an effort to support the ongoing professional growth of teachers and leaders, guidance on redelivering sessions from the [K-2 Teacher PD Series](#) and [Leader PD Series](#) will be posted in the [Literacy Library](#), along with recordings and slide decks. Please allow 5-7 days after the live webinar for resources to be available.

New Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours

The Literacy Professional Development team will host weekly office hours aimed at supporting effective implementation of strategies and practices based in the science of reading. Ready-to-use examples will be provided, and there will be time to submit questions. Office hours will be weekly on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Next office hours will be:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 23 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96153652200>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 961 5365 2200
- **Passcode:** literacy

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.