

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



July 23 , 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
All nonpublics	8/4/20	Attend CHNOLA Virtual Town Hall webinar	School leaders, teachers, nurses, and coaches
SCP	8/7/20	Submit SCP applications and application spreadsheet to FTP	School leaders or School Choice Contacts

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey due July 28th

The summer [Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey](#) will be available for school systems and lead agencies to complete until July 28th. 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.

Reminder: 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 records of all attendance tracking and other efforts to ensure compliance with LDFE requirements in order to receive payment.

maintain accurate attendance tracking and attendance records to provide records to the LDOE upon request in order to receive payment. Please reach out to ldoecovid19support@la.gov with any questions.

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 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 **this Friday, July 24**.
- Accountability codes are not needed for students who are retesting.

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.

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 **July 28 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for Office Hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 28 at 3:45 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

New: Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey due July 28th

The summer [Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey](#) will be available for school systems and lead agencies to complete until July 28th. 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.

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: Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey due July 28th

The summer [Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey](#) will be available for school systems and lead agencies to complete until July 28th. 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.

Reminder: 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

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

New: Strong Start 2020 Reopening Operations and Resources Office Hours

Please share with school system supervisors, administrators and counselors.

Strong Start School Reopening Office Hours will occur each Thursday at 3 p.m. and will run through September 3rd. The same zoom link will be utilized each week. Details are included below.

- Webinar Date and Time: July 30 at 3 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91419461028>
- Webinar Phone Number 301-715-8592
- Meeting ID#: 914 1946 1028
- Meeting Password: 408891

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov.

New: Implementing Strong Start 2020: A Toolkit for Teaching and Learning for Schools

Since implementation of most of the [Strong Start priorities](#) happens at the school level, the [Implementing Strong Start 2020: A Toolkit for Teaching and Learning for Schools](#) is now available and will support school leaders and teachers. It is structured around teaching and learning priorities and includes:

- **School Actions:** The high-level actions that principals and teachers take to implement the priority
- **Resources:** One document that includes samples, models and plans for implementing each priority

The [presentation](#) and [recording](#) of the webinar are posted in the [Strong Start Library](#).

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.

New or updated information will be highlighted in yellow within the document.

This week, the following entries have been added:

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Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
OpenSciEd, High Quality Pilot, Grades 6-8	

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

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
Curriculum Associates, Ready Louisiana Math, Grades K-8	
Carnegie Learning, Middle and High School Math Solutions, Grades 6-12	
LDOE LEAP 360 Diagnostic Guidance Added: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Agile Mind● Bridges in Math● Illustrative Math● Springboard● Jump Math● Zearn● Eureka Math	

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: EdTech Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly EdTech Webinar for Ed Tech Directors and CTO's on **August 20 at 11 a.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 20 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: Jump Start Fact Sheet Update

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

The Department released the first set of newly redesigned [Industry-Based Certification Fact Sheets](#). The redesigned fact sheets appear in the file box labeled **updated fact sheets**.

The fact sheets have been improved or have the following additions:

- Industry-based certification (IBC) STS code and an example of each IBC
- Certification resources to prepare for the exam
- System requirements for computer-based testing
- Direct links to accommodations and language access information (when available)
- Information on costs (when available)

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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 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.

Reminder: 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](#).

For additional information about distance learning, please see the [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks Distance Learning Strong Start: Instructional Materials Guidance](#)

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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: 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 remaining town hall meetings and details needed to join are listed below.

Tips for Teachers, Nurses and Coaches

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 4 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/99297529593>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Webinar ID#:** 992 9752 9593
- **Webinar Password:** 842020

Tips for School Support Staff

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 18 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95976608543>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Webinar ID#:** 959 7660 8543
- **Webinar Password:** 8182020

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

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **July 21st District Newsletter** or the **July 16th 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

