



Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



July 29, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you some positive news the Department received earlier this week regarding LEAP 2025 participation rates. According to the LDOE data team, our assessment participation rates will be among the strongest in the nation. We credit educators across the state for supporting students and families, allowing us the ability to capture accurate data.

This achievement is a direct result of your resilience and unwavering commitment to moving the needle in the right direction for our students of today as well as tomorrow. As I have said for the last year, this invaluable data will serve as a guide for our policy and resource allocation decisions as we recover and accelerate from this unprecedented interruption to student learning.

With the new school year approaching, I am more confident than ever that we can tackle any issue that comes our way. It is a true honor to work alongside each of you.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

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 30 at 10:30 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	August 3 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	August 3 at 3:45 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.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	August 18 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	August 18 at 3:30 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.
Education Technology Monthly Call	August 26 at 9 a.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
Bulletin 1903 Implementation Support Webinar	August 4 at 8:30 a.m.
EOP Virtual Office Hours	August 9 at 10 a.m.
Fast Forward Implementation Webinar	August 13 at 10 a.m.
EOP Virtual Office Hours	September 13 at 10 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
School System Response Form	August 2
2020-2021 CDF End of Year Expenditure Report	August 31

Louisiana Scholarship Program

Second Round Placements

Over 400 students were awarded scholarships last week as part of the second round of placements, based upon their priority in the spring application cycle. Schools that were assigned new students have received an email from studentscholarships@la.gov on July 13th with additional information. Not all schools received additional students.

The second round of scholarship awards are now complete and schools must have submitted the registration file by July 26th. If you received additional students please ensure that you have uploaded your completed roster to the FTP. See your email for additional details.

Student Waitlist Process

Beginning on August 2nd, waitlist placements will begin. Based upon availability of scholarship awards, eligible students on the waitlist will be awarded based on their priority in reference to the table below.

The waitlist placements will occur based on priority on the program-wide waitlist, which is not school-specific. Therefore, if an awarded student does not register or drops from a school, the next student on the list will receive an award, regardless of the assigned school. Due to limited funding, the LDOE cannot guarantee that a newly awarded student will receive an award at the school where the vacancy occurred.

Please email studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

The Scholarship lottery process uses the following priorities (listed in order) to make student awards:

1. Students transferring from a closing Scholarship school
2. Current Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development (NSECD) students, if applicable. Only applies to students applying to the same school they attended while enrolled in NSECD.
3. Siblings of current Scholarship students (In order to link students as siblings, all siblings must be listed on each application.) Only applies to children that are applying to a Scholarship school which their sibling already attends on a Scholarship
4. Current Scholarship student applicants that are in a terminal grade
5. Applicants attending a D or F public school or students transferring from a sanctioned Scholarship school
6. Applicants attending a C school
7. Applicants residing in the same parish as the school, if school chose to offer a geographic preference
8. Current Scholarship students who wish to attend a different Scholarship school

While these students receive priority in the lottery process, a Scholarship award cannot be guaranteed.

Student Transfer Process

The student transfer window will open August 2nd. [Forms](#) must be completed and emailed to studentscholarships@la.gov. Please allow 5 business days for processing. Schools will be notified of approval or denial of requests once they have been processed. 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.

Contact studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

New: FY 2020-2021 SSEEP Supplemental Payment

Please forward to all business managers

In FY 2020-21, 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 2020-2021.

The allocation of the additional funds was calculated on a student by student basis. 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 means that some schools did not receive an additional allocation.

Payments for the additional allocation were released for all eligible entities on July 26th, 2021 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 Denise Bourgeois at 225-342-3617 or via email at Denise.Bourgeois@la.gov

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. Notification letters will be mailed to parents on Friday, July 30th.

Please confirm the receipt of your roster and notify the LDOE of any students who will not be claiming their awards by August 6th. Please reply to the email from studentscholarships@la.gov with this information.

Operations

Grants to States for School Emergency Management Program

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Grants to States for the School Emergency Management (GSEM) program funds to the Louisiana Department of Education in partnership with LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education (LSU NCBRT/ACE). The program goal is to provide training and technical assistance to LEAs for the development and implementation of high-quality school Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).

EOP Virtual Office Hours:

Open virtual office hours provide a forum for school crisis teams to engage with a panel of subject matter experts from LSU NCBRT/ACE to troubleshoot issues related to building, maintaining, and implementing their school emergency operations plans (EOPs).

[EOP Virtual Office Hours](#) **August 9 from 10-11 a.m.**

[EOP Virtual Office Hours](#) **September 13 from 10-11 a.m.**

Developing and Enhancing School EOPs Virtual Training

This 4-hour virtual training walks participants through FEMA's best practices for school emergency planning. Key concepts include the 6-step collaborative planning process, the whole community approach to emergency management, and the format and structure of a comprehensive all-hazard emergency operations plan (EOP).

During training, participants will have the opportunity to evaluate their current emergency preparedness practices against the collaborative planning process. Additionally, participants will receive a comprehensive EOP template designed for Louisiana schools.

[Register](#) for **August 2, 2021 8 a.m.-12 p.m.**

[Register](#) for **August 10, 2021 8 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Please contact rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Fast Forward Implementation Webinar

Please share with school system supervisors, principals and counselors.

[Fast Forward](#) is a program which will allow students to earn either a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma or a TOPS University Diploma while dually earning an associate degree or participating in a Louisiana Workforce Commission recognized [pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship](#) that either prepares graduates for career or continuing postsecondary education. There will be an implementation webinar for schools or school systems interested in adopting currently approved pathway frameworks or designing new pathways for annual approval..

- **Webinar Date and Time: August 13 at 10 a.m.**
- **Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93937492645>**
- **Webinar Phone Number: 470-381-2552**
- **Meeting ID: 939 3749 2645**
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Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 1 Released

[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. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to episode 1.

Episode 1 Summary: Em Cooper interviews Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana's state superintendent of education, who was selected to Louisiana's top educational post during the height of the pandemic. His steady leadership guided schools through a global health crisis and one of the most active hurricane seasons on record. He shares what it was like leading the state during this challenging year, what Louisiana believes about education, and leadership lessons he has learned from his various roles in education. Em Cooper also shares how St. Landry Parish Schools have implemented successful summer learning programs.

Share Your Stories: Educators can submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in their school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

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

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)
 - [Communications Reminders](#)
 - [Nutrition Support Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)
 - [Educator Development Reminders](#)
 - [Literacy Reminders](#)

Operations Reminders

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 Reminders

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, 2021** if your system is interested in participating.

Please contact jennifer.tuttleton@la.gov with questions.

Nutrition Support Reminders

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.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

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.

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.

Educator Development Reminders

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	Wednesday, 11/3

	1 p.m.-2 p.m.	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.

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 launched 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

K-2 Literacy Content Leader Training

Teachers and leaders are encouraged to explore a new opportunity to earn distinction as K-2 Literacy Content Leader. 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.