



Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



August 12, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday, I formally announced the launch of “Louisiana Comeback,” a coordinated campaign to recover and accelerate learning. LDOE will be asking school systems across the state to join the “Louisiana Comeback” by committing to three primary areas:

- Attendance and Well-Being
- Recovery & Acceleration
- Professional Learning

Louisiana school systems have received about \$4 billion dollars of stimulus funds to support efforts like these, and we need to use our one-time resources well. We must utilize the dollars to get us through this tough time and prepare our state to be better post-pandemic. The key Louisiana Comeback commitments center around areas designed specifically to recover and accelerate learning over the next ten months.

For attendance and well-being, we must re-engage students and their families while also recognizing the need for mental and behavioral support.

When we think of recovery and acceleration, we must coordinate massive efforts around tutoring, literacy intervention, graduation planning, and afterschool and summer programs. I hope to see an aggressive effort here, investing as many resources as possible to get students back on track.

Finally, professional learning is something educators need and deserve. We should all be committed to our growth. Instructional leadership teams at every campus should be meeting regularly to discuss needs. Teachers should have access to professional learning opportunities and support from teacher-leaders; peers who want to support their fellow teachers. And, in our earlier grades, we must give additional attention to the “science of reading,” – a back to the basics approach to teach our youngest learners how to read.

I’m excited to see the tremendous progress our students will make as school systems collectively focus their funding, time and effort into areas we know bolster student achievement. This campaign would not be possible without the tireless work of teams throughout the Department of Education and, certainly, without the upcoming efforts of educators during this next school year.

We held the briefing at the Knock Knock Children’s Museum in Baton Rouge on Wednesday at 9 a.m. If you were unable to attend, please be sure to tune into the [live stream](#).

To learn more information, visit the Louisiana Comeback website.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Together, we will mount a Louisiana Comeback.

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	August 13 at 3:30 p.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	August 17 at 12 p.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	August 17 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	August 17 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	August 17 at 3:45 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	August 19 at 1 p.m.
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	September 1 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	September 3 at 11 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
Literacy Monthly Call	September 2 at 10 a.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	September 3 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	September 7 at 1 p.m.
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p>	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Media Link
Fast Forward Implementation Webinar	August 13 at 10 a.m.
REAL School System's Webinar	August 18 at 1 p.m.
Accelerate Overview Webinar	August 25 at 3:30 p.m.
Accelerate Math Resources Overview Webinar	September 1 at 9 a.m.
Accelerate ELA Resources Overview Webinar	September 8 at 3:30 p.m.

EOP Virtual Office Hours	September 13 at 10 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
2020-2021 Evaluation Uploads	August 27
Summer Learning Program Survey	August 27
DCFS P-EBT Summer Benefits Data File Submission	August 27
2020-2021 CDF End of Year Expenditure Report	August 31
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

Louisiana Scholarship Program

Student Waitlist Process

The waitlist process has begun as of August 2nd. 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.

Student Transfer Process

The student transfer window opened on August 2nd. [Forms](#) must be completed and emailed to studentscholarships@la.gov. Please allow 5 business days for confirmation of processing before contacting studentscholarships@la.gov with questions. 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.

Student Drop Process

When requesting to drop a student, please submit one of the following documents in order for the request to be approved.

- Documentation in writing from the parent that the student no longer wishes to participate in the scholarship program OR
- Attendance documentation indicating 5 consecutive days of absence from the beginning of the school year. Quarantine would **NOT** count as an absence OR
- A request for student records from another school for the scholarship student OR
- Notification from the parent (can be an email or text if that is easier)

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.

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

Tuition and Fee Amounts

Tuition and Fee amounts will be provided next week for the Louisiana Scholarship Program and the School Choice Program. Contact studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

School Choice for Students with Disabilities Program

School Choice Amounts by Parish was emailed to all schools on Tuesday, August 10th. Please use column D for the tuition contribution amounts. If you need further assistance please email studentscholarships@la.gov.

Operations

- Click [here](#) to view the Governor's Updated Public Health Emergency Order and Indoor Statewide Mask Mandate.
- Click [here](#) to view the follow-up letter from Governor Edwards to State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley.

DCFS Pandemic-EBT Program

- **Summer Benefits File Submission**

School systems should begin submitting summer benefit data files to DCFS through the new [P-EBT Administration Portal](#). Summer files should be submitted by August 27, 2021. Data Managers will need to create a [MyLA.Gov account](#) tied to their official school email for accessing the system. This account can be the same account used to access EdLink. Once your MyLA.Gov account is created please complete the [P-EBT Administration Portal - Public School Access Request](#) form.

Summer benefits will be provided to all students who attended school in May 2021 and either attended an approved CEP school in 2020-21 or a newly approved CEP school for 2021-22 or applied for free and reduced lunch prior to July 31, 2021 and is deemed eligible.

- **School-level P-EBT Family and Student Support**

DCFS has developed a script and form to assist schools in supporting families with P-EBT questions and benefit updates. Data Managers can download these resources from the [P-EBT Data Manager's Toolbox](#). It is highly recommended that school-level staff assigned with assisting with P-EBT benefit updates also have access to the [P-EBT Administration Portal](#). School level administrators will need a [MyLA.gov account](#) and request access via the [P-EBT Administration Portal - Public School Access Request](#) form. DCFS will confirm with District Data Managers on access rights to be granted.

- Data Managers and new school-level staff who will be supporting the P-EBT program should attend the weekly [P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours](#) on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. to get updates on the P-EBT Program, assistance with issues, and answers to questions.

Please contact DCFS.PEBTSupport@la.gov with questions.

Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plans

Each Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to submit a plan for how they will use their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) formula funds during the 2021-2022 school year to support Louisiana's students, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This plan must satisfy the requirements of ACT 294 of the 2021 legislative session. Within this plan, LEAs must indicate how they will support students who failed to achieve mastery on the statewide assessments. LEAs will submit plans with the dollar amount they are budgeting for each key investment by September 30, 2021. LDOE will review and approve plans by December 2021.

To provide a feedback opportunity, LDOE is releasing a draft of the [planning template](#). The final planning template and guidance document will be available August 17, 2021. Please use this [form](#) to submit feedback and/or questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP 2025

- **August 10:** Two new files will be available in DRC INSIGHT
 - Grades 3-8 Growth to Mastery Target files will provide new growth targets for students based on 2021 LEAP scores and site code at the time of testing
 - Grades 3-8 Subgroup Summary Rosters
 - High School Subgroup Summary Rosters
- **Pending:** High school growth to mastery target files will be released in the fall to allow for the application of new site codes based on 2021-2022 enrollment.
- **NOW:** DRC updated DRC INSIGHT to block functioning on devices running versions of Windows 10 that Microsoft is no longer supporting. After that release, INSIGHT will run as expected on versions 1909, 2004, 20H2, and 21H1, but not on older versions such as 1903. This is consistent with DRC's policy to end support for operating systems when the OS vendor ends its support.

Data Certification

- **August 20:** Deadline for all requests for changes on ACT or DCAI rosters
- **Week of August 23:** Assessment rosters, ELPT and LEAP progress rosters released in La Data Review

ACT

- **August 17:** [WorkKeys Fall Administration Webinar](#) will be from 10 - 11 a.m. Use the same link to register and attend.
- **Now-August 27:** This is the deadline to verify enrollment counts in PANext for Fall Paper WorkKeys. The instructions to complete this can be found on the WorkKeys web page under [Configuration](#).
 - Verify that all students who will be testing on paper are listed in PANext. Confirm students' grade level and other identifying information is accurate. Make changes if needed. The instructions to complete this can be found on the WorkKeys web page under [Preparation](#).
 - *Note: Data for students testing online must be uploaded to Validus. More information about Validus will be coming from ACT in a separate email.*
 - See the Preparing for [State Testing FAQ](#).
 - The ACT Customer Care phone number is 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 for standard time and ext. 1788 for accommodations and supports.
- ACT MOUs are now available in the library.
 - MOUs must be completed for systems who plan to retest grade 12 students under state contract, for students who are taking a retest for WorkKeys or for any students who are not on the Jump Start diploma pathway.

Cohort Graduation Data Files

- The 2020 Graduation cohort files are posted to the ftp. The files include final post-certification graduation rates for schools, systems, and subgroups. A separate student-level file provides the final graduation status and points awarded for each student that will be used in the calculation of the strength of diploma index.

2020-2021 SPS Calculator

- The 2020-2021 SPS calculator is posted in the Accountability Resources library. Cohort graduation data are all final and can be applied to the calculator. Data for all other indices will be reviewed in data certification through the month of August.

Birth to Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- The Birth-Grade 3 Assessments have a [suite of resources](#) available to help school systems (and early learning centers) with assessment administration for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **October 15:** Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) reporting due

- The two approved [Kindergarten Entry Assessment \(KEA\)](#) options are [DRDP-K](#) and [TeachingStrategies GOLD KEA](#).
- **October 15:** K-3 Literacy Screener reporting due
 - The four approved [K-3 Literacy Screener](#) options are [Acadience Reading](#) (formerly DIBELS Next), [DIBELS 8th Edition](#), [STEEP](#), and [STEP](#).
 - KEA and K-3 literacy screeners must be administered in the first 30 school days.

NAEP

- NAEP has not begun to recruit schools for NAEP 2022, but as in the past, Louisiana schools are likely to be selected for the NAEP sample. Because of this likelihood, NAEP is providing the state with early notice so that the NAEP assessment date can be scheduled tentatively. A school is likely to be selected if they were in the sample last year before NAEP testing was suspended. The NAEP 2022 Assessment Window will be January 24 to March 4, 2022, and for the Long-term Trend, the Assessment Window will be January 10 to March 18, 2022.

Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov or assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Fall 2021 Counselor Institutes

Please share with middle/high school counselors.

The LDOE Fall 2021 Counselor Institutes are scheduled to take place October 19 - 21. Although these regional events are best suited for middle and high school counselors, all are welcome to attend. Participants should plan to attend **only one meeting**.

	8 - 11 a.m.	1 - 4 p.m.
October 19	Bossier City	West Monroe
October 20	Alexandria	Youngsville
October 21	TBD (NOLA Region)	Livingston

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

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Key Dates for Authorizers

The deadline for all districts to consider charter applications as part of the 2020-21 charter RFA process was July 16th. If a district has not made a decision about a charter application by that point, the applicant is eligible to appeal to BESE. Please remember to notify your relevant state legislators regarding charter school application determinations. See Bulletin 126 for more information.

All districts must submit the final recommendations relating to the charter RFA process to charters@la.gov by August 13th, 2021.

Please contact kristine.barker@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 3 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 the latest episode.

Episode 3 Summary: Em Cooper interviews time management expert Anna Dearmon Kornick who shares strategies for goal-setting, time management, and habit-building that any educator can incorporate into their life. She shares tips on how to set and achieve goals, build strong habits, and be more productive at work and home. Em Cooper spotlights St. Charles Parish's summer professional development.

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

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

Bulletin 1903 Resources

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 provided an informational webinar to support schools and systems with implementation of the updated guidelines. The presentation, along with the updated [Guide to Dyslexia in Louisiana](#) and [Dyslexia FAQ](#), has been posted in the [Academics Library](#) under Dyslexia.

CLSD UIN Communities of Practice

The Department is providing CLSD UIN recipients a collaborative opportunity to participate in monthly Communities of Practice (CoPs). Grant fund recipients should plan to attend the monthly session on the second Friday of each month at 11 a.m. beginning September 10, 2021. Information for the first CoP is listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 10 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/93019040336>
- **Meeting ID:** 930 1904 0336
- **Passcode:** 7Pb3Dc

Please contact catasha.edwards@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)
 - [Communications Reminders](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)
- [Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders](#)
- [School System Financial Services Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)

Operations Reminders

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](#) **September 13, 2021 10-11 a.m.**

Communications Reminders

Judges in the Classroom Program

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has partnered with the Louisiana Supreme Court to expand the acclaimed “Judges in the Classroom” program in schools across the state. The program connects judges with educators to facilitate greater understanding about the judicial system through interactive classroom presentations with real judges. Louisiana Chief Justice John Weimer has prioritized education outreach and encouraged judges to connect with schools on this enhanced civics and law-related learning opportunity. With Constitution Day approaching on September 17, “Judges in the Classroom” presentations offer a great way to highlight the importance of civics education and give students access to the real-world, practical insight of Louisiana judges and first-hand information about the legal system.

“Judges in the Classroom” is administered by the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. Resources and a brief introductory video [are available online here](#), and materials have been developed to assist teachers and judges to design lesson plans and topics appropriate for all class levels. An enrollment form is available on the [LCLCE website](#). School leaders may complete the form and return it to LCLCE staff, who will match their classroom objectives with one of the participating judges in their area. BESE urges schools, administrators, and teachers to consider participating in the “Judges in the Classroom” program to add a unique new dimension to the civics learning experience and make a lasting impact on students throughout the state. For complete details on the program or to discuss implementation, please contact the [LCLCE office](#) at 504-619-0134.

Please visit the [LCLCE website](#) for more information.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

Pupil Progression Plan Update

Please share with Superintendents and school system administrators.

[ACT 53](#) (SB 31) of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session provides that notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for the 2020-2021 school year, the results from student assessments shall not be used for making placement decisions for fourth and eighth grade students.

The [2021-2022 Pupil Progression Plan Guidance document](#) is located in the [School Policy Library](#).

Please contact jerrick.hornbeak@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Meeting

Please share with Child Welfare and Attendance Offices.

The Louisiana Attendance Alliance will be hosting its August Statewide Monthly Meeting on Thursday, August 19 from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

The purpose of these monthly meetings will be to review enrollment trends, to share best practices/evidence based practices that increase enrollment and to engage in quality improvement planning. These statewide meetings are open to all districts and participation in these meetings will be valuable to the Louisiana Attendance Alliance.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 19 at 7:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/93027951274#success>

Please contact jerrick.hornbeak@la.gov with questions.

Ready to Achieve! 2021-2022 School System Operations Plan Submission

Please share with school system leaders.

A school system that receives ARP ESSER funds must, within 30 days of receiving the funds, make publicly available on its website a **Ready to Achieve! plan** for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. School systems can also meet the 30 day requirement by seeking public comment and updating their Strong Start 2020 plans to reflect the [Ready to Achieve 2021-2022 guidance](#).

School systems will [submit a link](#) to their plan to LDOE no later than September 10.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program

Please share with school system superintendents and leaders.

LDH is offering schools COVID-19 testing options supported with funding, resources, educational materials, testing teams and the LDH K-12 Team for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Interested school systems should complete the [K-12 COVID Testing Program Interest survey](#). There is no deadline for signing up for the K-12 COVID Testing Program.

Please contact k-12covidtesting@la.gov with questions.

U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

Please share with high school principals and counselors.

The Louisiana Department of Education and the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#) are pleased to announce the launch of the 2022 United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to participate virtually or in-person in a series of meetings from March 5-12, 2022. Upon participation in all of the required meetings, each delegate will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit a Louisiana [application packet](#). The application packet includes program deadlines.

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

Career Development Fund End of Year Reporting

Please share with CTE Supervisors

The [2020-2021 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End of Year Expenditure Report](#) is available for school systems to complete. The deadline to report on 2020-2021 CDF expenditures is August 31. Schools systems should reference the [2020-2021 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#) when completing the form.

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

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**

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders

Reevaluation Data Review Enhancement in SER

School systems now have access to the new Reevaluation Data Review link in SER. The Add Triennial Waiver tab under the Evaluation link is no longer available. In June, the Department notified special education staff who work with reevaluation and waiver processes in SER of these enhancements. The Department also -hosted informational webinars and office hours for these enhancements in March and April. The [slides](#) and [recording](#) of the informational webinar are posted in the Students with Disabilities library on the Louisiana Believes website, along with new [guidance](#) for the tab, a [sample printout](#), and the [slides](#) and recording from the Teacher Leader Summit presentations.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services Reminders

New: FY2021-2022 Initial MFP - Career Development Fund (CDF) Payments

Please forward to business managers.

Initial MFP - CDF payments for FY 2021-2022 were released by the Department on July 26, 2021. Funds should appear in School Systems' bank account within one to three business days depending on the banking institution with which a School System conducts business. Additional details regarding these payments are available in the [CDF Memo](#) and in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: FY 2020-2021 Fiscal Risk Assessment

Please forward to business managers.

The FY2020-2021 Fiscal Risk Assessment has been prepared for each school system to include the latest available data. Information about the Fiscal Risk Assessment is provided in the [FY2020-2021 Fiscal Risk Assessment Memo](#).

Preliminary Fiscal Risk Assessment data is now available on each school system's "edfin" FTP site. Please review and submit comments on the [School System Response Form](#) no later than Monday, August 2. Responses received by this date will be used to update each school system's data (if necessary) prior to release of the report in the August BESE agenda. Please submit responses or questions to SchoolFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov.

New: 70 Percent Instructional Expenditure Requirement

Please forward to business managers.

Per the MFP Resolution, school systems must ensure that 70 percent of the local school system general fund expenditures are in the areas of instruction and school administration at the school building level. Compliance with this expenditure requirement is calculated annually and results are now available. Please refer to [70 Percent Instructional Requirement Process and Results](#) for more information.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 2 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 2.

Episode 2 Summary: Superintendent of Caddo Parish Schools in Louisiana, Dr. Lamar Goree, shares how he prioritized vision and values as he started his role, his priorities around teaching and learning, and how Caddo is investing pandemic relief dollars in their students. Em Cooper shares how Redesign Schools Louisiana is implementing Accelerate.

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

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions

Deadline: School Plan Family Presentation Survey

Per state law, CIR and UIR schools must present families with their state-approved school improvement plan within 60 days of the start of the school year at a school meeting. The School Plan Family Presentation [template](#) is located in the [School Improvement Library](#). Schools are required to communicate the following to families in these meetings:

- school and student performance data that caused the Department to identify the school as being in need of improvement;
- detailed overview of the improvement plan;
- timelines for implementation of the plan and attainment of performance goals; and
- implications of the plan for students, families, and educators.

Families shall be notified at least one week prior to the date of the meeting. Meeting dates must be reported to the LDOE no later than December 1 via the [School Plan Family Engagement Survey](#).

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

Science of Reading Training Providers

To meet the requirements of [Act 108](#) and the needs of Louisiana's K-3 teachers and administrators, the Louisiana Department of Education is releasing the list of professional development course providers that have been approved to deliver the required training based on the science of reading. The [Literacy Foundations Training Approved Provider list](#) can be found under Hot Topics on the [Literacy landing page](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Summer Learning Program Survey

The Summer Learning Program survey will collect information about school systems' implementation of summer learning programs. The [survey](#) should be completed by one system-level leader; systems should submit only one survey. Surveys are due **August 27, 2021**.

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

2020-2021 Evaluation Uploads

All teacher and staff evaluations should be uploaded into the Compass Information System (CIS) no later than **August 27, 2021**. It is strongly recommended that all evaluations are uploaded prior to this deadline to ensure proper and timely uploads.

After August 27, 2021, CIS will not accept scores from the 2020-2021 school year. To assist you, an [evaluation upload guide](#) can be found in the Compass Library. Additionally, office hours with the Compass team will be held via zoom in 15-minute increments between 12 p.m.-1 p.m. daily from August 2, 2021 to August 27, 2021. Please request a time slot if needed via compass@la.gov, at which time a zoom link will be provided.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)

Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) provides early literacy support for students in pre-K through grade 3. Through REAL, school systems are allocated funding to provide students in pre-K through grade 3 with technology and tutoring services.

School systems receive funding to establish literacy tutoring microgrant accounts for eligible students. Tutoring for REAL participants is provided by LDOE-approved [Tutoring Service Providers](#). Funds are allocated to school systems with CIR/UIR-A schools.

Attend the 2021-2022 REAL School System's webinar for more information.

Webinar Date and Time: August 18, 2021 @ 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94784733674?pwd=OGgvaDVkRURBL3QyamNjVTNnczIQZz09>

Meeting ID: 947 8473 3674

Passcode: 299007

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Expanding the Cadre of Mentor Teachers

At the April BESE meeting, the board approved changes to Bulletin 746 regarding mentor credential requirements. These updates include honoring previous training and experience, reducing the required assessments, and creating an add-on mentor endorsement. These revisions were approved under emergency rule and are currently in effect. Please contact certification@la.gov with any questions about applying for the mentor credential.

Additionally, at the March BESE meeting, the Board approved an extension of the waiver of policy regarding mentor credentials. Mentor teacher waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDOE and at no fee to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation provider. The [application](#) is currently available to school systems.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.