



Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



August 26, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It was an honor to meet with Mrs. Annelise Cassar Tedesco, 2022 Teacher of the Year, and Mr. Marco French, 2022 Principal of the Year, at the BESE meetings last week. Their passion for education and commitment to excellence is truly inspirational. There's nothing more important for a student than a highly effective teacher armed with a robust curriculum. I am so proud of their accomplishments and look forward to watching all they will achieve in the coming years.

**2022 OVERALL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**



Annelise Cassar Tedesco

St. Bernard Parish

Twitter: @AnneliseCassar

**2022 OVERALL
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**



Marco French

Caddo Parish

Twitter: @mdfrench01



Best,

Dr. Cade Brumley

State Superintendent of Education

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I. Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	August 30 at 3:30 p.m.
DCFS: P-EBT Office Hours	August 31 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	August 31 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	August 31 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	August 31 at 3:45 p.m.
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	September 1 at 11 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	September 2 at 3 p.m.
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	September 3 at 11 a.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	September 9 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Literacy Monthly Call	September 2 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	September 2 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	September 3 at 9 a.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	September 15 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	September 15 at 3:30 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	September 16 at 3 p.m.

System Leaders Roundtable	September 17 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	September 20 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	September 21 at 3:45 p.m.
<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>	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Tuition and Fees Webinar	August 27 @ 10 a.m.
Mentor Funding Webinar	August 30 at 1 p.m.
Academic Recovery and Acceleration Guidance Plan Webinar	August 30 at 4 p.m.
Principal Webinar Series	August 30 at 2 p.m.
Accelerate Math Resources Overview Webinar	September 1 at 9 a.m.
Academic Recovery and Acceleration Guidance Plan Webinar	September 1 at 4 p.m.
Gifted and Talented Coordinators Welcome Back to School Webinar	September 2 at 10 a.m.
Academic Recovery and Acceleration Guidance Plan Webinar	September 2 at 4 p.m.
Accelerate ELA Resources Overview Webinar	September 8 at 3:30 p.m.
Student of the Year Recognition Webinar	September 9 at 10 a.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
Tuition and Fee Worksheets	August 31
Undergraduate Mentor Waiver Applications	September 1
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

II. Louisiana Scholarship Program

A.) Student Waitlist Process

The waitlist process has begun as of August 2nd and we are entering Round 4 of the awarding process. Based upon availability of scholarship awards, eligible students from the waitlist.

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.

B.) 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.

C.) 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 their student no longer wishes to participate in the scholarship program OR
- Attendance documentation indicating five 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.

D.) Reimbursement Requests for 2020-2021

Please forward to all Business Managers:

Reimbursement Request Forms for 2020-2021 Required Services Reimbursement Program are currently being accepted. A school must submit a reimbursement request form to the Louisiana Department of Education no later than September 30 each year. **Schools should submit the completed electronic files via email to NonPublicFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov.**

For questions regarding the submission of the reimbursement request form or guidelines, contact NonpublicFinanceHelpDesk@LA.GOV or call School System Financial Services at (225)342-3617.

E.) Tuition and Fees

The Nonpublic Office will host a question and answer session on Tuition and Fee Worksheets via Zoom tomorrow, August 27 at 10am. Below is the information needed to join the call. Looking forward to hearing from you then!

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 27 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9198036620?pwd=Y2hxcU1uWXc5b2xVQXdocEtNc2xtQT09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** +14702509358,,9198036620#,,,,*452331061# US
- **Meeting ID#:** 919 803 6620
- **Passcode:** TeacherPD

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.

F.) New Communication Structure for the Nonpublic Team

Our goal is to expand the effectiveness of our communication and provide more targeted and accurate communication. In order to do this, we will be making the following updates to our communication structure:

- Automatic Replies will now be sent from the general inboxes to let you know that your email has been received. They will also be used to inform you of any issues that may delay response time (Example: office closures due to weather, etc.)
- Estimated response time is 2 business days. However, more complex requests may take longer
- Families are to email studentscholarships@la.gov for any concerns or questions
- Please note that each school/diocese will have one main point of contact and should reach out to that person, unless otherwise directed
- Schools are to email studentscholarships@la.gov for forms, regular submissions, specific student inquiries, and/or additional information about policies and practices
 - Please put individual Portfolio Opportunity team members' names in the email heading for all inquiries (Example: ATTN: D. Gaulden or ATTN: Y. Sanders). **An email will be sent out on Friday, August 27 notifying you of your assigned team member.**
 - Please note you do not have to CC multiple team members on emails. This causes the team to do repetitive work and slows down response time.
 - If your assigned point of contact is unavailable, please be aware that another team member will handle your request. No action is needed on your end.

Contact studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

III. School Choice for Students with Exceptionalities 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.

IV. Operations

UPDATE: Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan and Guidance

To meet [federal](#) and [state](#) requirements to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19, school systems are required to submit plans to their SEA. Last week the Department released data to school systems through the FTP and a [planning template](#). By the end of this week, the Department will release two additional resources: 1) a guidance document, and 2) a rubric. These will be available on the [Pandemic Relief Funding, Planning Guidance, and Resources](#) page.

To support school systems with understanding the plan and resources, the Department is hosting three informational webinars next week. This is open to all school system team members who have a role in developing the LEA plan, including but not limited to: school system leaders, chief academic officers,

federal program directors, business managers, and board members. Please plan to attend one of the sessions.

- [Academic Recovery and Acceleration Guidance Plan 8.30.21 at 4 p.m.](#)
- [Academic Recovery and Acceleration Guidance Plan 9.1.21 at 4 p.m.](#)
- [Academic Recovery and Acceleration Guidance Plan 9.2.21 at 4 p.m.](#)

Please contact LDOEgrantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

A) Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Updated Guidance from ED on ESSER Funding: Screening Testing and Vaccinations

On July 6, Secretary Cardona released a [letter](#) which stated that both the COVID-19 vaccination and testing are critical factors in safely reopening schools. Additionally, ED has released two FAQs ([FAQ-11](#), [FAQ-21](#)) about the use of ESSER funding for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations. Based on the released information, ESSER funds may be used to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccination to teachers, eligible students, and school staff. LEAs should consult with State and local health officials to ensure the adequacy of any SEA or LEA COVID-19 testing program and that testing procedures comply with all applicable laws and requirements, including those related to privacy, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), and the confidentiality of information requirements under Part B and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Allowable vaccination outreach could include activities to create awareness and build confidence, facilitate clinics, and provide incentives such as paid time off for staff to be vaccinated. In cases where administrative fees are required to obtain a vaccination, funds may be used to offset the cost as long as the cost is reasonable.

Further, funds may be used to provide reasonable incentives to students, consistent with state parent or guardian medical consent laws, and members of their households to get vaccinated against COVID19. Any incentives that an LEA provides with ESSER funds must meet the requirements in 2 CFR Part 200, including the requirement that the amount of the incentive be reasonable and may not violate any other applicable laws or requirements (e.g., incentives may not involve alcohol per 2 CFR § 200.423).

An LEA is allowed to host a drawing in which all vaccinated students are entered to win a prize such as a new tablet, a reasonable cash award, College scholarship money, or new school supplies and books. In addition, LEAs might give each vaccinated student a nominal gift card or any other allowable incentive that is reasonable in size and scope and likely to lead to an increase in the rate of vaccinations.

State and local health departments will provide technical assistance to LEAs and schools in establishing COVID-19 testing programs.

For more information visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf.

Virtual Achieve! Technical Assistance Sessions

The Division of Federal Support and Grantee Relations is holding virtual sessions to assist school systems with budgeting the additional funding allocated in the Achieve! Application. Staff will be available to address any programmatic or budget coding questions your school system may have.

If your school system would like to receive assistance, please sign up for one of the sessions using the links below. Please note that only one school system can participate per session. A Zoom link will be provided via email to the registrant prior to the session.

Please contact melanie.mayeux@la.gov with questions.

Tuesday September 7th

- 9 - 10 a.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/165145672151>
- 10 - 11 a.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167452349485>
- 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167452700535>
- 1 - 2 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167456742625>
- 2 - 3 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167452955297>

Thursday September 9th

- 9 - 10 a.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167452788799>
- 10 - 11 a.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167452842961>
- 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167454060603>
- 1 - 2 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167454413659>
- 2 - 3 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167454497911>

Tuesday September 14th

- 9 - 10 a.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167454869021>
- 10 - 11 a.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167454997405>
- 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167455169921>
- 1 - 2 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167455689475>
- 2 - 3 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1674559983>

Thursday September 16th

- 9 - 10 a.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167456223071>
- 10 - 11 a.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167456303311>
- 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167456369509>
- 1 - 2 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167457105711>
- 2 - 3 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/167457105711>

Homeless Liaison Webinar

A Homeless Liaison Webinar will be held on August 31 from 9 to 12 a.m. A McKinney Vento 101 session will be held for new homeless liaisons. Additionally, information will be shared on McKinney Vento updates, McKinneyVento.Org, ARP Homeless II funding, and EdLink. The information required to join the Zoom Meeting and the meeting schedule is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 31 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95571398752?pwd=Z01XR0lrTmJGRE1DVEFkb1dTT0k2dz09>
- **Webinar Phone number:** 1 470 381 2552
- **Meeting ID:** 955 7139 8752
- **Passcode:** 793506

Webinar Schedule:

New Homeless Liaisons Only

9 - 10 a.m.

- McKinney Vento 101

All Liaisons

10 - 11 a.m.

- Introductions
- MV Updates
- McKinney Vento.Org
- ARP Homeless II Funding

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- EdLink

Please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions.

V. Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Connect

- LEAP Connect scores were released on Friday, August 20, in DRC INSIGHT. Four levels of performance continue to be reported with new achievement level names: Above Goal, At Goal, Near Goal, and Below Goal.

ELPS/ELPT

- As a result of Cambium's system rollover for the 2021-2022 administration, all students have been deleted from TIDE. Students who have been previously tested will have records in **Reporting**. To determine if data is available for a student, users should enter the student's LASID in the search box at the upper right-hand corner of the screen. One of two messages provides users with next steps.
 - **"Student not active"** indicates that the student has data stored in the reporting system. To retrieve the data, enter the student's demographic information into TIDE, then search for the records in Reporting. Users will have access to all prior records for the student.
 - **"TIDE does not have a student with ID #####"** indicates that the student has never been added to TIDE and has not participated in ELPS or ELPT. If documentation indicates that screening is the appropriate action, users will need to enter the student's demographic information into TIDE before administering the screener.

Please contact bridget.harris@la.gov for assistance or additional information.

LEAP 2025

- September 7-October 1: School systems need to indicate their selection for one of two LEAP fall high school administration windows in DRC INSIGHT as part of enrollment verification. School

systems may only participate in one window. School systems that do not select a window in DRC INSIGHT will be placed in Window B as shown below. All makeup testing must be completed during the selected window.

- Window A: November 30-December 17
- Window B: January 5-24

ACT

- August 17: [WorkKeys Fall Administration Webinar](#) from 10 - 11 a.m. Use the same link to register and attend.
- Now-August 27: deadline to verify enrollment counts in PANext for Fall Paper WorkKeys. The instructions to complete this can be found on the WorkKeys webpage 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. Instructions can be found on the WorkKeys webpage 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 FAQs](#).
- September 30: ACT MOUs for 2021-2022 are now available in the assessment library and should be completed and returned.

Please contact patricia.newman@la.gov with questions.

Data Certification

- August 25 (New Date): Complete requests for changes to data for ACT and DCAI in La Data Review. All accountability contacts should have received login information as well as resources to complete requests. Please send all questions to jennifer.baird@la.gov.
- No later than week of August 30: Assessment rosters will be posted to La Data Review. The progress points rosters and ELPT progress rosters will also be posted to La Data Review during the assessment data certification window.

NAEP

- Although NAEP has not begun the recruitment of schools for participation in NAEP 2022, some Louisiana schools are likely to be selected for the NAEP sample. Schools that were selected in the sample previously published before the suspension of NAEP testing are likely to be selected for 2022 and should make plans to prioritize NAEP testing.
 - Assessment Window: January 24 to March 4, 2022
 - Long-term Trend Assessment Window: January 10 to March 18, 2022.

KEA and K-3 Literacy Screening

- KEA and K-3 screening in the fall will remain the same as in the prior year. The options are below.
 - KEA administration: DRDP-K or GOLD-KEA
 - K-3 literacy: Acadience Reading, DIBELS 8th, STEP, and STEEP
- Assessments must be administered within the first 30 school days of the academic year.
- The reporting deadline is October 15.

VI. Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

- The Division of Assessment Content will convene LEAP Connect assessments committees in October via teleconference.
- LEAP Connect Math and Science Content, Bias, and Sensitivity committees will review newly developed assessment items and provide feedback and recommendations on the items.
- September 6 Deadline to Apply: Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meetings details, and links to apply to participate. School systems will receive substitute reimbursement for committee participants. Please share this announcement with special education teachers, school and school system supervisors, and school administrators – all are encouraged to apply.

Please contact leah.boulton@la.gov with questions.

VII. Career and College Readiness

NCCER Updates for Craft Instructors Webinar

Please share with counselors, NCCER instructors, and CTE supervisors

A back to school webinar has been scheduled to discuss information relevant to NCCER updates for craft instructors for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. This webinar will include information on Accredited Training and Education Facility Management, requirements for credentialing trainees, craft instructor training and NCCER reminders.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Sept. 9 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94042983500>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 940 4298 3500
- **Passcode:** 493284

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

Fall 2021 Counselor Institutes

Please share with middle and high school counselors.

The LDOE Fall 2021 Counselor Institutes are scheduled to take place on October 19 through 21. Although these regional events are best suited for middle and high school counselors, all are welcome to attend. These institutes will provide policy updates, resources and communications that are pertinent to middle and high school counselors. A full agenda will be released by mid-September. Participants should plan on attending one event.

Date	8-11 a.m.	1-4 p.m.
October 19	Bossier City	West Monroe
October 20	Alexandria	Youngsville
October 21	New Orleans	Livingston

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

LDOE Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Meeting

The LDOE will host its first Louisiana Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisors and Directors meeting on September 8 at 11 a.m.

The purpose of these monthly meetings will be to address enrollment, engagement, and encouragement of students and families around the state. All attendance stakeholders are welcome to attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 8 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9612747272>
- **Webinar Phone number:** +1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID:** 961 2747 2721
- **Passcode:** 507351

Please contact shelneka.adams@la.gov with questions.

2022 Student of the Year Recognition Program Guidelines

Please share with Student of the Year School System coordinator, school administrators, and school counselors

Each year, the Department recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of our students through the Louisiana Student of the Year Awards Program. The application for the [2022 Student of the Year](#) program is now available along with the [Student of the Year Selection Guidelines](#). To participate in the program, please complete the [School System Information Form](#) and email it to Marian Johnson by October 16.

A webinar has been scheduled to provide an overview of the program.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92786427342>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 927 8642 7342

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions

VIII. Teaching and Learning

A) Educator Development

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 5 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 5 Summary - Keep on Going with Grammy-winner Mickey Smith, Jr.: Em Cooper interviews music teacher and Grammy-winner Mickey Smith, Jr. about the importance of arts education, his journey to the Grammys, and how his growth mindset has shaped his career. The Bossier Parish School System made Em Cooper smile this week as they celebrated over 30 students at their commencement ceremony this summer.

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.

Accelerate

[Accelerate](#), Louisiana's pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal-access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students. School system and school leaders should be planning implementation of Accelerate in their schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Resources and trainings are available in the [Accelerate Library](#).

Webinars will be held to support system and school teams in implementation.

Webinar	Date and Time	Link
Accelerate Overview	August 25 at 3:30 p.m.	Link
Accelerate Math Resources Overview	September 1 at 9 a.m.	Link
Accelerate ELA Resources Overview	September 8 at 3:30 p.m.	Link

Contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Acceleration Professional Development

Starting this month, all teachers will have access to the 2021-2022 [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) to support their efforts to accelerate learning.

The [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) includes 6 trainings that are designed to help educators target their instruction and coaching on the most effective strategies.

These trainings will be provided by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). All teachers, teacher leaders, school leaders, and district leaders are invited to attend these focused learning opportunities. Each training is a full day and the sessions will be offered virtually and in-person several times a week over the course of the 2021-2022 school year.

Educators may use this [link](#) to register for one or all of the first three sessions. Registration for the other sessions will open later this month.

August 30 - October 5	Analyzing and Using Data to Meet the Needs of Students
October 11 - November 11	Maximizing Collaborative Structures to Support Acceleration
November 10 - December 16	Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning
December 15 - January 13	Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in Math
January 10 - January 31	Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in ELA
January 31 - March 10	Setting-up Effective Summer Learning Opportunities

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

Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

The Staffing and Scheduling initiative launched in March provides system and school leaders robust [guidance](#) and implementation support on developing strong staffing and scheduling models aligned to the best practices below. School schedules should look different in the 2021-2022 school year in order to address unfinished learning.

1. High-quality core instruction is the foundation.
2. Effective literacy instruction is central to student success.
3. Students with unfinished learning and diverse learners need extra instructional time to catch up.
4. Both core instruction and acceleration must be provided by content strong staff.
5. Meeting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students supports academic achievement.
6. Equity should be at the forefront of all these strategies.

The implementation supports are available this fall. Participants must register to attend.

Webinar	Date and Time	Link
Best Practice Webinar	August 25 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for District Leaders	August 31 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Diverse Learner Leaders	August 31 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Counselors and Counseling Leadership	September 1 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for School Leaders	September 1 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Q&A Session	September 15 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Q&A Session	September 29 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link

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

Assessment Content

Science Practice Tests

Selected items in the [LEAP 2025 Biology and Grades 3-8 Science Practice Test Answer Keys](#) have been updated with student responses and annotations. The annotations describe how the items are scored and the reasoning represented in the selected items. Teachers should use these annotations to better understand the types of responses that students provide and how to incorporate this understanding into their own scoring practices.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

- The Division of Assessment Content will convene LEAP Connect assessments committees in October via teleconference.
- LEAP Connect Math and Science Content, Bias, and Sensitivity committees will review newly developed assessment items and provide feedback and recommendations on the items.
- September 6 Deadline to Apply: Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meetings details, and links to apply to participate. School systems will receive substitute reimbursement for committee participants. Please share this announcement with special education teachers, school and school system supervisors, and school administrators – all are encouraged to apply.

Assessment Guides and Guidance Documents

The LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect assessment guides, as well as the ELPS and ELPT guidance documents, for the 2021-2022 school year have been released and are available in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#).

Please contact Assessment@la.gov with questions.

2022 Teacher Leader Summit

Save the Date! The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit will be held the week of **May 31, 2022** at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional development conference which brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts who inspire, innovate, and impact meaningful growth for every student. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2022-2023 school year.

Additional details regarding registration and session topics will be available this winter.

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

B) Literacy

K-2 Writing Series

A new professional development series for teachers and leaders focused on [K-2 writing](#) instruction will be recorded and released on Tuesdays beginning September 7, 2021. Look for recordings and slide decks in the [Literacy Library](#).

Please contact sarah.stohlman@la.gov with questions.

IX. Reminders

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A) Operations

Federal Relief Funding Dashboard

As a result of a global pandemic, \$4 billion are being infused into the state of Louisiana for PreK - 12 academic recovery efforts. These funds are part of the three stimulus recovery packages approved by Congress, and over 90% of these funds flow directly to school systems. LDOE pledged to keep stakeholders up to date and informed throughout the process of the Achieve! program implementations which utilize these relief funds, including transparency of funds. LDOE is excited to launch the [dashboard](#) for public use today, please send any questions regarding the dashboard to ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with "Federal Relief Funding Dashboard" in the title.

Grants to States for School Emergency Management Program

LSU NCBRT/ACE and the Louisiana Department of Education offer free virtual training to K-12 schools in Louisiana through the [Grants to States for School Emergency Management \(GSEM\) Program](#).

Risk Assessment for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile (4 hours)

This training explores how a school profile and risk assessment are used to direct the development and maintenance of a comprehensive school emergency operations plan (EOP). Attendees will walk through the process of identifying and prioritizing the threats and hazards of most concern to their school sites. Participants will also examine the elements of a school profile and identify relevant sources of data to inform their risk assessment.

[Register](#) for August 24, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Register](#) for August 25, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Emergency Operations Functional Planning for Schools (4 hours)

This virtual workshop introduces a process for addressing critical emergency functions within a school's emergency operations plan (EOP). Participants will define EOP functional annexes and identify emergency functions relevant to their schools. Additionally, participants will identify the roles, responsibilities, and courses of action required to perform a given function at their school site. At the end of the training, participants will have the framework for building and maintaining comprehensive functional annexes for school EOPs.

[Register](#) for August 26, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Register](#) for August 27, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

i. Communications

See last Wednesday's [press conference](#) where State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley, and Chief of Staff and Operations, Dr. Quentina Timoll, addressed recently released LEAP 2025 data and discussed the 2021-2022 "Louisiana Comeback" Commitment.

ii. Nutrition Support

School Meals Applications and P-EBT

The school meal application is used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-priced meals. By extension, eligibility for school meals is used to determine eligibility for P-EBT. Non-CEP SFAs and schools must make school meal applications available as needed to certify children for free and reduced-priced meals and that information may be used to qualify newly eligible children for SY 2021-2022 and summer 2022 P-EBT benefits. School Food Authorities should also continue to conduct direct certification as required by 7 CFR 245.6(b)(3). For more information, please

refer to the recent [memo](#) released by the Division of Nutrition Support.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

P-EBT Suggested Communication for Schools

To assist school systems with responding to questions from parents/guardians related to P-EBT, DCFS developed a [sample communication and Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

Please see this [PEBT flyer](#) or visit pebt-la.org for more information.

B) Career and College Readiness

2021-2022 Course Choice/SCA Catalog

Please share with CTE Supervisors, Counselors, and School System Leaders

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training and dual enrollment course providers. The [SCA Portal](#) is now open for 2021-2022 reporting.

The 2021-2022 [Course Choice Provider Directory](#) is now available. Schools register students directly with the course provider college and/or university. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Procedures](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the Course Choice Reporting System.

The [SCA Portal](#) closes at 5 p.m. on September 13 for Private Provider fall and full year enrollments. Postsecondary enrollments should be reported by October 8 at 5 p.m. The portal will reopen for spring enrollments on November 22.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Jump Start Funding Guidance

Please share with CTE Supervisors and School System Leaders

The Department has released updated guidance for the 2021-2022 school year. This guidance includes:

- [2021-2022 Jump Start and Fast Forward CDF Qualifying Courses](#)
- [2021-2022 Guidelines for CDF Funds](#)
- [2021-2022 Jump Start Funding Guidance](#)
- [Work Based Learning Guidance](#)

Please contact jessica.vallelungo@la.gov with questions.

Gifted and Talented Coordinators Welcome Back to School Webinar

Please share with Special Education Directors, Pupil Appraisal Coordinators, G/T Supervisors and G/T points of contacts for each school system.

A back to school webinar has been scheduled to discuss information relevant to gifted and talented programming for the 2021-2022 school year. The webinar will provide an overview of the school system information form, regulatory resources, waivers, identification procedures and upcoming talented evaluator and protocol trainings.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, Sept. 2 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99245242216?pwd=QjhlbW8xUnkwMXFpUmVHelBpUU8vUT09>
- **Passcode:** [102420](#)
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** [992 4524 2216](#)

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov if you have any questions.

Office of State Fire Marshal Updated COVID Fire Drill Memo

Please share with Superintendents and school administration.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has issued updated guidance related to conducting emergency drills in the school setting during COVID. The [memo](#) outlines the procedures that schools should take when practicing fire drills and other emergency drills this school year.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Department of Health School COVID Reporting Guidelines

Please share with superintendents and school administration.

The Louisiana Department of Health is continuing the statewide reporting system for all school-associated cases of COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 school year. This system is intended to record COVID-related illness in schools and provide schools a platform to document case information, assisting in their ability to mitigate potential for school spread. School systems should continue to report positive COVID-19 cases in the school reporting system. LDH has provided a [School Reporting Guide](#), along with [other resources](#).

Please contact schoolcovidreporting@la.gov with questions.

BINAX Now Testing Resources

Please share with superintendents and school nurses.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits available upon request for school systems to access when a CLIA Waived Certificate Number or community health provider has been identified. In order to access these test kits, school systems will need a designated point of contact to complete a survey. School systems that would like to request BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits should [complete this survey](#) to indicate interest.

Please contact Arundhati.Bakshi@la.gov at LDH with questions.

Ready to Achieve! School Operational Plans Submission Update

Please share with superintendents.

An LEA 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 should be updating their Ready to Achieve! Plan with the latest LDH and CDC guidance as outlined in [Louisiana's Ready to Achieve! Guidance](#). All updates within Louisiana's Ready to Achieve! 2021-2022 Guidance are highlighted in yellow.

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

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

C) Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Special Education Leader Survey

The Louisiana Department of Education is seeking input about the current structures that support students with disabilities engaging in high-quality instruction. The information gathered from the [Special Education Leader Survey](#) will inform the LDOE's understanding of how to best support LEAs in providing specialized supports and capacity building of leaders who can support students with disabilities.

Special Education leaders should complete the survey by **September 10**.

Please contact rachel.brown@la.gov with questions.

D) Teaching and Learning

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.

Content Leader Training

Content Leaders provide content expertise and training in ELA, math, K-2 Literacy, and science to support teachers as they prepare to deliver high-quality lessons. CIR schools must have:

- One trained **K-2 Literacy** Content Leader (For CIR schools serving grades K-2)
- One **ELA** and one **math** Content Leader who will receive, or have previously received, training

School systems should contact an approved provider of Content Leader training to learn more information

about training timelines and costs. Approved vendors for Content Leader training can be located in the [approved provider list](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

i. Educator Development

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 4 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 4 Summary - Reflecting on Last Year's COVID Response with Dr. Leron Finger and Kimberly Buckingham: Em Cooper interviews Dr. Leron Finger and Kimberly Buckingham from Children's Hospital New Orleans. They share the efforts they led since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that led Louisiana to the top of the country in reopening schools safely for students and educators. Em Cooper spotlights Iberville Parish and their efforts to showcase students at school board meetings. Note: This episode was recorded on June 14, 2021.

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.

Mentor Funding

The Department continues to provide **\$1,000** for the **mentors** who support year-long undergraduate residents. In addition, through the teacher pay increase approved by the Legislature in 2019, the Department will allocate funds for school systems to pay \$1,000 to yearlong undergraduate **residents** who hold a resident certificate and are completing their residency in a public school.

At the end of August, the Department will host a webinar to review the data collection and verification process which will begin in early September.

Webinar date and time: August 30, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

Meeting ID: 345 504 8179

Phone number: 1-470-381-2552

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

ii. Literacy

School Librarians Workgroup

A workgroup is being formed to explore the possibilities and impacts of school libraries and the important role school librarians play in the literacy development of all learners. School leaders are

invited to send recommendations for participants, which can include librarians, media specialists, teachers, leaders, and advocates, to catasha.edwards@la.gov. Recommendations should include name, role, and specific qualifications that would make the candidate a valuable workgroup participant.

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