



Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



September 9, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

You and your family have been in my prayers as a result of Hurricane Ida. Our team comes from various parts of our great state, including parishes most impacted by this storm. In the coming days and weeks, our state faces another set of immense obstacles to get back on its feet — but, as always, we will persevere. Some of you have been displaced from your homes, several have property damage, and others are still lacking basic utilities such as electricity and water. It's not lost on me the challenges you're facing during this time.

I'm proud of the resiliency you have displayed over the past week, and I thank you for your ongoing dedication to those we serve. With both larger scale efforts and small acts of kindness, this agency has been responsive to needs over this last week. This agency is you. I promise you — we will continue to support the impacted communities to the best of our abilities.

Stay Strong,

Cade

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	September 13 at 3:30 p.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	September 14 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Nonpublic Monthly Call	September 15 at 2 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	September 16 at 10 a.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.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	September 22 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	September 23 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
2022-2023 School System Planning Launch	September 10 at 9 a.m.
Mentor Funding Webinar	September 10 at 1 p.m.

EOP Virtual Office Hours	September 13 at 10 a.m
Pre-Educator Pathway Statewide Check-In	September 17 at 12 p.m
Important Deadlines	
Quarter 1 Enrollment Deadline	September 12
2020-2021 CDF End of Year Expenditure Report	September 16
Teacher and Principal of the Year Nominations Portal Closes	September 28
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

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.

Quarter 1 Enrollment Report for Louisiana Scholarship Program and School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities

The Portal is currently open and will remain open until midnight on September 12, 2021. If you have been impacted by Hurricane Ida, we completely understand the need for an extension due to the current circumstances. Please work to submit this information as soon as possible. However, late submissions will affect your Quarter 1 payment disbursement date.

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 Monday, September 13 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.

Operations

Hurricane Recovery

Hurricane Ida Guidance

Please view the Hurricane Ida Guidance document on the LDOE website. To understand the impacts of the storm, the Department is releasing a Hurricane Damage and Recovery Assessment survey. This should be completed for each school impacted.

If you have any questions, please email systemrelations@la.gov.

School System Planning

Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan

Please view the Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan and Guidance documents on the [LDOE website](#). To aid school systems with completing the plan, four support calls will be offered:

- [Wednesday, September 8 at noon](#)
- [Wednesday, September 8 at 4 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, September 9 at noon](#)
- [Thursday, September 8 at 4 p.m.](#)

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions, and put Academic Recovery and Acceleration in the subject line.

2022-2023 School System Planning Launch

On Friday, September 10 at 9am LDOE will release the 2022-2023 School System Planning Guide and associated planning resources to support the completion of the Achieve! Incentive applications and Super App. The launch presentation Zoom can be accessed [here](#) (meeting ID: 921 4915 7144, no password required). The launch presentation deck and recording, as well as 2022-2023 planning resources, will be posted to the Department's [School Improvement Library](#) on September 10.

During September, October, November, December, and January, regularly scheduled team monthly calls and office hours will provide opportunities for school system leaders to learn more about specific sections, ask questions, and receive guidance.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions, and put School System Planning in the subject line.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Overview of the 2021 – 2022 High Cost Services (HCS) Fund

The Department will provide an overview of the HCS Fund for the 2021-2022 school year during the September SPED Leader webinar.

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund supports school systems and schools who serve Louisiana's students with the most difficult needs by providing additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities.

SPED Directors/Supervisors are encouraged to also invite personnel in their LEA responsible for the HCS application to attend this webinar.

Zoom Meeting Information:

Webinar Date and Time: September 22 at 10 a.m.

Webinar Link: : <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96087701770?pwd=ckpLcGtlZk1SZmNjV29kSWZ0YXhwdz09>

Meeting ID: 960 8770 1770

Call In Numbers: 1-470-381-2552 OR 1-312-626-6799

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

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.

Lau Plan Submissions

The Lau Plan Submission form opened on August 19 and closes October 15. To submit Lau Plans use this [form](#).

To view a [sample Lau Plan](#), visit the [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Library](#).

Please contact alice.garcia@la.gov with questions about [Lau Plans](#).

Title III Consortiums

School systems with low EL enrollment can form a Title III Consortium as a strategy and best practice to maximize combined resources.

LDOE will hold a Title III Consortium Informational webinar on September 3 from 10 - 11 a.m. [Registration](#) is required to attend the webinar.

If you are interested in forming a Title III Consortium, visit the [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Library](#). In addition, the Title III Consortium Handbook can be reviewed and required forms accessed.

Please contact alice.garcia@la.gov with questions about the Title III Consortiums or EL programming.

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.

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/16745599839>

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>

Title I, Part A - Annual Comparability Reports

The Department will release the SY 2021-2022 Title I Comparability Report section in eGMS on September 13, 2021.

Title I Comparability requires school systems* to demonstrate that services provided with state and local funds are comparable between both Title I schools and non-Title I schools, or are substantially comparable for school systems with all Title I schools.

School systems should use October 2020 staffing and salary data to complete this report. Please access [Comparability Instructions](#) for further details on how to complete the report. The completed report should be submitted via eGMS no later than November 15.

For assistance with completing this report, access the [Comparability FAQ](#) document or contact Madeline Swift at madeline.swift@la.gov.

*School systems with one school per grade span, and Type 2, 5, and 3B charters, are exempt from this submission.

Nutrition Support

Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program Payments

School Food Service Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program payments to eligible school systems were scheduled to occur on Friday, August 26, 2021, via EFT. Payments will contain the comment "CNP EMERGE COST" in the LaGOV payment system.

Any school system also receiving payments under the CACFP Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program were scheduled to receive those funds on Monday, August 30, 2021. The payments will contain the comment "CNP EMERGE CACFP" in the LaGOV payment system.

Further information regarding these payments may be found in the recent [memo](#) issued by the Division of Nutrition Support.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Local Level P-EBT Administrative Cost Grant Payments

Local level Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Administrative Cost Grant payments to eligible school systems were scheduled to occur on Monday, August 30, 2021, via EFT. The payments will contain the comment "FNS P-EBT LOC ADM" in the LaGOV payment system. Further information may be found in the recent [memo](#) issued by the Division of Nutrition Support.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Childhood Obesity Webinar

September is Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Join the Department and Pennington Biomedical Research Center on **Tuesday, September 14th at 1:30pm** for the [Louisiana Fit Kids: Understanding Childhood Obesity Webinar Series](#). Register for the free webinar [here](#). Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian and Christina Economos, PhD, from the [Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University](#), and R. Glenn Weaver, PhD, from the [Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina](#), will discuss **trends in food sources and diet quality in U.S. children, strategies communities can use to address childhood obesity** using a systems approach, and the **impact of school breaks on children's health**. The webinar will be moderated by Dr. Rani Whitfield of Baton Rouge, also known as "Tha Hip Hop Doc".

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Request to Waive Accountability Reporting for 2020-2021

- The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is seeking public comment on the state’s proposed 2020-2021 school year accountability waiver from the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
 - Due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the United States Department of Education is allowing states flexibility to pause federal accountability for the 2020-2021 academic year. Consequently, LDOE is seeking a waiver because of the catastrophic interruptions to traditional education methods and strategies that have harmfully impacted academic outcomes and achievement, as evidenced by the spring 2021 results from the Louisiana Education Assessment Program (LEAP 2025).
 - As part of the waiver request, LDOE proposes to freeze the current ESSA designations assigned to struggling schools in 2019 for the 2020-2021 school year. For example, systems with schools that are currently identified as “Comprehensive Intervention Required” or “Urgent Intervention Required or Needed” would continue with these designations from the prior year. Furthermore, there would be no additional “Comprehensive Intervention Required” or “Urgent Intervention Required or Needed” labels assigned to schools in 2021-2022 based on the results from the 2020-2021 school year.
 - At this time, 46 states (including the District of Columbia) have received a waiver for accountability from the United States Department of Education.
- The deadline for public comment is September 14, 2021.
- Please send any comments to accountability@la.gov.
- For questions about the waiver, please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov.

KEA and K-3 Literacy Screening

- For school systems that have had closures due to the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, closed days do not have to be included in the first 30 day count. The department will work with affected school systems to determine if the reporting date of October 15 will need to be adjusted.
- 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

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

ELPS/ELPT

- Students who may be newly identified as English learners should be screened as early as possible.
- 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.

ACT

- September 30: ACT MOUs for 2021-2022 are now available in the assessment library and should be completed and returned. School systems that have closed due to the hurricane should contact assessment@la.gov to request additional time.

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

Data Certification

- Due to the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, assessment roster release has been delayed. The department will send notifications to accountability contacts when a release date has been finalized.
 - ELPT progress index rosters will also be posted to La Data Review during the assessment data certification window.
 - LEAP progress index rosters will be available within the data certification window the week of September 20, 2021.

NAEP

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will proceed with administration of the mandated mathematics and reading assessments. For 2022, at the state level, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will be administered in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8. The NAEP 2022 school sample will represent the 2022 student population while also maximizing overlap with the NAEP 2021 school sample. Maximizing the overlapping school samples between NAEP 2022 and

2021 opens up the possibility of studying student performance, as measured by NAEP, within the unique context provided by the two NAEP studies that were administered in the 2020–2021 school year.

- The NAEP 2022 administration will include three assessment programs:
 - **January 10 to March 18, 2022:** National long-term trend mathematics and reading assessments: age 9
 - **January 24 to March 4, 2022:**
 - State-level mathematics and reading assessments: grades 4 and 8
 - National civics and U.S. history assessments: grade 8
- Superintendents of selected school systems will receive a letter through email in early September.
 - School systems will play an important role by supporting participation.
 - NAEP will continue to adapt to new processes and procedures as the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve.
 - As in previous years, NAEP representatives will provide significant support to schools by administering the assessment and bringing all necessary materials and equipment, including sanitized tablets, on which students take the assessment.
 - NAEP representatives' top priority is to protect the health and safety of students and school staff.

Career and College Readiness

Postponed - 2022 Student of the Year Recognition Program Guidelines

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

The webinar scheduled for September 9 will be rescheduled. An update will be placed in the newsletter.

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

Postponed - 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.

The webinar scheduled to take place on September 2 will be rescheduled. An update will be placed in the newsletter.

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

LDOE Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Meeting - Postponed

The webinar scheduled to take place on September 8 will be rescheduled. An update will be placed in the newsletter.

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

School System Relations

Searching for Louisiana's Next State Teacher and Principal of the Year

Please forward to stakeholders, including principals and teachers.

The Department recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a nominations portal was created.

The nominations portal is open now and will close on September 28. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share this [nomination portal link](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Award's page](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episodes 6 and 7 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 6 Summary - Relationships are Key with 2021 LA State Teacher of the Year Nathalie Roy:

Nathalie Roy will share how she became interested in STEM integration, how being a Girl Scout and a Troop leader influenced her life, and that building relationships with students is essential to student success. Alexandria Middle Magnet School in Rapides Parish makes Em Cooper smile this week with their successful summer learning program.

Episode 6 Summary - Transforming the High School Experience with Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Kim Hunter Reed: Dr. Kim Hunter Reed talks about the innovative strategies the Board of Regents is implementing to move Louisiana towards being a more prosperous state. She will talk about dual enrollment efforts across Louisiana which are providing opportunities for students to enroll

in college and career courses while in high school to give them a head start to post-secondary plans. Tangipahoa Parish Schools made Em Cooper smile this week with pictures of their extraordinary summer learning program.

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.

Canceled - Teaching and Learning Roundtable

The Teaching and Learning Roundtable scheduled on **September 10, 2021 has been cancelled.** The October roundtable will be held Friday, October 8 at 11:00 a.m.

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

Rescheduled - Principal Webinar Series

The LDOE will hold a monthly webinar series for current school leaders. The September webinar will highlight our 2022 State Principal of the Year, Marco French, and Division Level Honorees Ronnie Harvey, Karen Robertson, and Jeremy Muse. These celebrated principals will take part in a panel discussion focusing on strong back to school practices.

Webinar Date/Time: September 8 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>

Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379

Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaeaders@la.gov with any 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.

Compass Evaluations

Standards of effectiveness for evaluations will return to those outlined in Bulletin 130 for the 2021-2022 School Year. A 2021-2022 CIS timeline can be found in the [Compass Library](#). The rater reliability training will be available in the [Compass library](#) after Labor Day. Components of Evaluation Scores:

- Professional Practice
 - 2 Observation Scores (50% of total score)
- Student Outcomes
 - Value-Added Model (VAM) + 2 Student Learning Targets (50% of total score)
 - Non-VAM teachers: SLTs = 50%, VAM teachers: SLTs = 15%, VAM = 35%

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Statewide Check-In

All system leaders, school leaders, CTE coordinators, and college counselors connected to Grow Your Own work are encouraged to attend this check-in as we'll discuss and share updates related to the pathway and continue to highlight best practices for establishing a strong regional Grow Your Own Program.

Webinar Date and Time: Friday, September 17 at 12 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.

Mentor Funding Webinar Re-scheduled

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.

On September 10, the Department will host a webinar to review the data collection and verification process which will begin in early September.

Webinar date and time: September 10, 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.

Acceleration Professional Development

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

The series includes six trainings that are designed to help educators target their instruction and coaching on the most effective strategies:

- Analyzing and Using Data to Meet the Needs of Students
- Maximizing Collaborative Structures to Support Acceleration
- Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning
- Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in Math
- Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in ELA
- Setting-up Effective Summer Learning Opportunities

Educators interested in attending the [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) trainings may use this [link](#) to register.

Participants that registered for trainings through September 7 will need to select a later date in the window as those dates have been cancelled due to Hurricane Ida.

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

Summer Learning Program Checklist

School systems should use the planning checklist available in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#).

Planning Checklist: August -October
Host a debriefing session to review and analyze program data collected from students, teachers, parents, and school leaders
Establish core planning team for next year
Establish core planning team for next year
Create a SLP meeting schedule for the year
Begin planning your SLP

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

Assessment Content

ACT Alignment Study

The School of Education at LSU, in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education, will conduct a study to determine the degree of alignment of the ACT assessment with Louisiana's Student Standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. A panel of 45 Louisiana educators will

be recruited to participate as expert panelists for this study. Panelists should be extremely knowledgeable in one of three content areas: Mathematics, English Language Arts, or Science. The participants selected for this study will be asked to participate in a 3-day virtual meeting in which they will review and score the ACT for its level of alignment with the Louisiana Student Standards. The meetings will occur on October 28, 29, and 30.

School systems will be reimbursed for participants who require substitutes. A stipend of \$350.00 will be paid to each panelist for the meeting on Saturday, October 30, 2021. To be considered, panelists must commit to being present at all three meetings.

If you are interested in applying, please complete the [survey](#) by September 17, 2021. Applicants will be informed of selection as a participant or alternate after superintendent approval is secured.

If you have questions about this study, please feel free to contact Alissa Kilpatrick (alissa.kilpatrick@la.gov) at the Louisiana Department of Education or Eugene Kennedy (ekennedy@lsu.edu) at Louisiana State University.

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.

Literacy

New Family Literacy Engagement Resources

There are newly added Grab & Go activities under Family Literacy Engagement in the [Literacy Library](#). The new activities focus on skill development including vocabulary, sentence formation, and synonyms and antonyms. Teachers can use these resources in their classrooms and share them with families.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Sound Wall Guidance

The Literacy Division is excited to provide teachers with explicit, in-demand guidance on how to set up and use sound walls in their classrooms. The [Sound Wall Instructions and Template](#) is available in the [Literacy Library](#) and provides the rationale for sound walls, how to set them up, phoneme/grapheme correspondence, and ready-to-use templates for sound wall implementation and instruction. Teachers can print and use this resource right away in their classrooms. Teachers are encouraged to view the recorded K-2 Teacher PD sessions in the Literacy Library to learn more about the science of reading and how sound walls can fit into their curriculum and instruction. [Session 10](#) specifically shares information about sound walls and other classroom best practices.

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

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.

Reminders

- **Operations**
 - **Nutrition Support**
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - **Educator Development**
 - **Literacy**

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 September 16, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Register](#) for September 29, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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.

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 October 1 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.

Rescheduled - 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.

The webinar scheduled to take place on September 2 has been rescheduled to a later date.

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.

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 support students with disabilities.

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

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

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.

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.