



Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



September 16, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, I saw firsthand the sheer magnitude of Hurricane Ida's effects when I toured Jefferson, Orleans, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes — roofs torn off, hallways flooded, walls collapsed. Many schools have been devastated from the repeated barrage of high winds, torrential rain, and flash floods, resulting in billions of dollars in damages.



I am so proud of the countless hours our school leaders have put in to safeguard their facilities, helping to get students back into the classroom as quickly as possible. Together, we can begin the process of rebuilding impacted schools, ensuring all Louisiana students have the opportunity to realize their full academic potential.

All the best,
Cade

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
School System Planning Office Hours	September 17 at 10 a.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	September 20 at 3:30 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	September 21 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	September 21 at 3 p.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	September 28 at 12 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	October 14 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
Nonpublic Monthly Call - Rescheduled Date	September 22 at 2 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	September 23 at 9 a.m.

Teaching and Learning Roundtable	October 8 at 11 a.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	October 14 at 2 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
Pre-Educator Pathway Statewide Check-In	September 17 at 12 p.m
Developing and Enhancing School EOPs Virtual Training	September 27 at 11 a.m.
Risk Assessment for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile Virtual Training	September 28 at 11 a.m.
Principal Webinar Series	September 28 at 2 p.m.
Emergency Operations Functional Planning for Schools Virtual Training	September 29 at 11 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
2020-2021 CDF End of Year Expenditure Report	September 16
2021 SPED Leader Survey	September 17
Teacher and Principal of the Year Nominations Portal Closes	September 28
Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan Submission	September 30
Achieve! Formula Budgets in eGMS	September 30
Annual Financial Report (AFR) Submission	September 30

Annual Adopted Budget Submission	September 30
Achieve! Incentive Round 1	October 7
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

Due to Hurricane Ida, the following deadlines have been extended.

EXTENDED DEADLINES		
Due	Previous Deadline	Extended Deadline
Career Development Funds Reporting	August 31	September 16
Ready to Achieve! Reopening Plan Submission	September 10	September 17
Assessment Data Certification Opening	August 30	September 10
BESE-Authorized Charter School Full Applications Due	September 3	September 17
Supplemental Course Allocation Reporting	September 13	October 1
Teacher and Principal of the Year Nominations	September 28	October 8

Louisiana Scholarship Program

A. Nonpublic Webinar Rescheduled

The Nonpublic Webinar, originally scheduled for September 15, 2021, has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 2:00 pm**. Please see the information below to join the call:

One tap mobile: US: +14703812552,,95207641144#,,, *684128# or
+13126266799,,95207641144#,,, *684128#

Meeting URL: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95207641144?pwd=SDJib051bkVEemM3SzExcXRTUEJRUT09>

Meeting ID: 952 0764 1144

Passcode: 684128

Join by Telephone

For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

Dial:

US: +1 470 381 2552 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 470 250 9358 or +1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 952 0764 1144

Passcode: 684128

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 LSP and SCS

The Portal closed at midnight on September 12, 2021. If you have not submitted your Quarter 1 enrollment, please contact our office at [studentscholarships@la.gov](#) for assistance.

Please note that late submissions will delay 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

School System Planning

School System Planning Launch

On Friday, September 10, LDOE released 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 recording, as well as all planning resources, can be found in the [School Improvement Library](#).

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. The first School System Planning Office hours is scheduled for this Friday, September 17th at 10 a.m. and can be accessed [here](#) (access code 969 9856 4595, no sign-in required).

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

Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan

Last week, the Department hosted four informational sessions for school systems and created a [form for question submission](#). This week, an FAQ document will be released in the Pandemic Relief Funding and Guidance Library. School systems should continue to submit their questions using the form.

The Department will also offer one-on-one support office hours as requested. That form will be available in the Pandemic Relief Funding and Guidance Library by the end of this week. As a reminder, plans are due by September 30, however, the Department is putting in place a review and support structure to allow school systems the opportunity to revise their plans based on feedback from reviewers.

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

Emergency Preparedness and Recovery

Disaster Recovery Guidance

LDOE has created a [Hurricane Ida Disaster Recovery Guidance](#) document to assist school systems and system leaders in the assessment and recovery of schools after the event. Please email questions about the guidance to systemrelations@la.gov.

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](#).

Developing and Enhancing School EOPs Virtual Training (4 hours)

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

[Register](#) for September 27, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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 identify and prioritize threats and hazards of concern to their school sites.

[Register](#) for September 28, 11 a.m. - 3 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.

[Register](#) for September 29, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

LEA/Charters: 2021-22 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application

To assist school systems in preparing for the upcoming release of the 2021-2022 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application, the Division of Grants Management will host two (2) Zoom meetings on Tuesday, September 21. The morning session will begin at **10:30 a.m.** and the afternoon session will begin at **2:30 p.m.** The meeting information included provides access to both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Zoom Meeting Information:

Morning Session

Date and Time: September 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93628215039?pwd=Mng3NmFWK0JlcWFySE1aUGlaVXJRZz09>

Meeting ID: 936 2821 5039

Passcode: 631022

Call In Numbers: 1-312-626-6799 OR 1-470-250-9358

Afternoon Session

Date and Time: September 21 at 2:30 p.m.

Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94081114961?pwd=MjN5cVNrK3YvVFJMMHQva0Q5TEFYQT09>

Meeting ID: 940 8111 4961

Passcode: 263013

Call In Numbers: 1-470-250-9358 OR 1-470-381-2552

Title III Consortiums

[Title III Consortiums](#) are a great strategy for school systems with low EL enrollment to work with other school systems to combine resources and best practices.

If you are interested in joining or forming a Title III Consortium, visit the [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Library](#) to review the Title III Consortium Handbook and to access required forms.

LDOE will hold a Title III Consortium Informational webinar on Friday, September 24 from 10 am – 11 am. [Registration](#) is required to attend the webinar.

If you have, email Please contact alice.garcia@la.gov with questions about Title III Consortiums or anything else related to EL programming.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Humanities

- Window 1 and 2 have been adjusted to allow for additional instructional time that was interrupted by Hurricane Ida. The assessment calendar will be updated to reflect the windows shown below:
 - Window 1: October 18-November 5
 - Window 2: January 24-February 11

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
- October 1-31: School systems will verify grade 3-8 enrollment and indicate their selection of paper-based or computer-based testing for grade 3 in the Enrollment function of DRC INSIGHT. There is no paper-based testing option for grade 4 in spring 2022. Paper tests will remain available in grades other than 3 as a unique accommodation that will require department approval.

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 13-January 7: Request initial ACT approved accommodations in TAA
- [State Testing FAQs](#) is now available
- ACT Customer Care
 - Phone – 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 for standard time and ext. 1788 for accommodations and supports
- 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.

WorkKeys

- The WorkKeys state realms will open for testing on October 6 and remain available through April 29. The assessment calendar will be updated to reflect the dates.
 - The first accommodated testing window is outlined below:
 - Testing Window 1/Initial Testing: October 6-18
 - Testing Window 2/Makeup Testing: November 3-9

Data Certification

- Assessment rosters were released in La Data Review on Friday, September 10. The final date is tentatively set for October 1, but the department is committed to working with districts severely impacted by the hurricane who may need additional time.
 - The virtual field codes are as follows:
 - 1=100% Virtual Learning
 - 2=Half or more, but less than 100%, academic year virtual learning
 - 3=Less than half, but more than 0%, academic virtual learning
 - Blank=100% in person
 - ELPT progress rosters are now posted to La Data Review as downloadable roster files.
 - LEAP progress index rosters will be available within the data certification window and an anticipated date will be communicated to DTCs and accountability contacts as soon as VAM is completed.

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.

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

- The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 3:45 p.m. See information below to join:
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
 - **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
 - **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

Career and College Readiness

Rescheduled - 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. 23 at 3 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94042983500>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 940 4298 3500

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

NCCER Submission Extension

Please share with counselors, NCCER instructors, and CTE supervisors

Due to outstanding submissions from craft instructors, NCCER has granted an extension to LDOE to process and approve submissions. Submissions will be accepted September 29-30 and will be processed on October 1. Late submissions after the deadline will **not** be accepted or approved.

Please make every attempt **not** to autofill dates. Modules should only be submitted for training that took place **before 8/1/2021**. Notify the sponsor representative after a submission to the registry has been made. After sponsor representative approval, the forms will go to the Registry for final approval.

If you have questions or a school that needs to be added to the submission extension, list please contact troy.borne@la.gov.

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.

Rescheduled - CWA Webinar for Directors and Supervisors

Please share with Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) directors, supervisors, and attendance stakeholders.

The previously scheduled webinar for Child Welfare and Attendance Directors and Supervisors has been rescheduled for September 22. This webinar will include information regarding themes for the year (including National Attendance Awareness Month activities), the Louisiana Attendance Alliance, and next steps to support CWAs state-wide.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, September 22 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95389034931>

- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 953 8903 4931

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

Rescheduled - 2022 Student of the Year Recognition Program Guidelines

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

The 2022 Student of the Year Guidelines webinar has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 28.

Review the recently revised [Student of the Year Selection Guidelines](#) for information about the program and the [Student Application Packet for 2022](#). To participate in the program complete the [School System Information Form](#) and email it to marian.johnson@la.gov by October 16. The [Student Application Packet](#) should be made available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

You are encouraged to join the webinar on the Student of the Year Program.

- Webinar Date and Time: Wednesday, Sept. 28 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 or if you need an extension on the deadline.

Rescheduled - Gifted and Talented Coordinators' 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 for gifted and talented programming has been rescheduled. The webinar will discuss the current regulations, resources and opportunities for gifted and talented programming.

Webinar information:

- Webinar Date and Time: Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 10 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99502136906>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1- 312-626-6799
- Meeting ID#: 995 0213 6906

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

Reminder: U. S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, is offering a \$10,000 scholarship opportunity for two outstanding juniors or seniors from Louisiana who will be selected as our state delegates for the U.S. Senate Youth Washington Week, March 5-12, 2022.

Delegates must attend all of the scheduled meetings that will be scheduled either in-person or virtually to receive the scholarship.

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](#). For test security reasons, the test secure essay topics will only be released to school systems. High school personnel should contact marian.johnson@la.gov as soon as a student request is made for the essay topics.

Because so many high schools have been impacted by Hurricane Ida, many students have been displaced and are unable to access the necessary resources for their portfolio. Please assist them with securing the needed recommendations, transcripts and essay topics on their behalf.

The application portfolio is due via e-mail to marian.johnson@la.gov by October 5. Finalists will be notified by October 27, for the final phase of selection process on November 9.

If you need further assistance, please contact marian.johnson@la.gov.

School System Financial Services

New: FY2021-2022 Annual Adopted Budget and General Fund Budget Submission

Please share with business managers and financial officials of city/parish public school systems.

Louisiana R.S.17:88 requires that city/parish school boards submit an adopted balanced budget to the Department no later than September 30 each year. The [FY2021-2022 Adopted Annual Budget Memo](#) and [FY2021-2022 Adopted Budget Submission Instructions](#) provide guidance, documents to be completed and additional resources.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov or call School System Financial Services at (225) 342-3617 with questions.

New: FY2020-2021 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Collection Timelines

Please share with your business managers and financial officials.

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires that local school systems and schools provide financial data to the Department no later than September 30th each year. The LEADS Portal is now open for submission of your financial data. The AFR documents that are needed to assist you in the submission of your data can be found at <https://leads13.doe.louisiana.gov/lug/AFR/AFR.htm>

Please contact staudit@la.gov with questions concerning the preparation of the financial information or account classification and contact SystemSupport@la.gov with questions regarding the electronic submission or online update process.

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 and the deadline has been extended to **October 8**. 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, as this is a wonderful way to acknowledge and honor educators for all that they are doing. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Award’s page](#).

In order to receive Teacher and Principal of the Year updates and information, school systems should enter their coordinator’s contact information in the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator’s File](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Standards Review Update

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-12 social studies teachers

Louisiana’s social studies standards are currently under review. The Social Studies Standards Review Steering Committee will convene in a public meeting on September 25 at 9 a.m. at the Claiborne building in Baton Rouge. An agenda for this meeting along with a copy of the revised draft standards will be posted by September 20. Access the latest working draft of the standards as well as materials from prior steering committee meetings in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). All stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on individual standards using an online form during the month of October. The form will be available in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#) on October 1.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast:

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 8 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 8 Summary - Investing in Louisiana's Youngest Learners with Dr. Libbie Sonnier: Dr. Sonnier talks about the importance of early childhood education and unpacks the three strategies Louisiana is using to move the needle for our youngest learners: access, quality, and local governance. Sarah Arceneaux from Lafayette Parish Schools is highlighted in the What's Making Me Smile segment this week.

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.

Teacher and Leader Evaluation Update

Due to Hurricane Ida, Teacher Evaluation Scores were able to be entered for the 2020-2021 school year until September 13, 2021. The CIS system will be available for 2021-2022 roster entry on September 14, 2021 at which point no further teacher evaluations from the previous school year will be accepted in the system.

Leader evaluation scores will be entered from the 2020-2021 school year later this fall when SPS scores become available.

The 2021-2022 Rater Reliability training can be found in the Compass Library. This annual training must be completed by new and returning evaluators prior to any formal evaluations.

Please contact compass@la.gov with any 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](#).

Educators may access the recent Accelerate Overview and ELA Resources Overview trainings using the following links:

- [Accelerate Overview PowerPoint \(August 25, 2021\)](#)
- [Accelerate ELA Resources Overview PowerPoint](#)
- [Accelerate ELA Resources Overview Recording](#)

Due to Hurricane Ida the Accelerate Math Resources Overview webinar has been postponed.

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

Acceleration Professional Development

The recent weather event has further disrupted the education of students throughout Louisiana. As school systems continue with instruction, they must address the unfinished learning their students experienced as a result of the pandemic, as well as Hurricane Ida. As part of LDOE’s work to provide continuous guidance and support to our educators, the department will continue to offer professional development to school systems as they work to address unfinished learning through acceleration.

All teachers 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.

September 13 - 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

School systems may need to make staffing and scheduling adjustments to accommodate for the unfinished learning that resulted from Hurricane Ida school closures.

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.

To culminate the second round of [staffing and scheduling supports](#), system and school leaders are encouraged to attend the Staffing and Scheduling Q&A session on September 29, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Participants may register using this [link](#).

The final round in the series of [staffing and scheduling supports](#) will continue this fall. Participants must register to attend.

Webinar	Date and Time	Link
Staffing and Scheduling Q&A Session	October 6 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Best Practice Webinar	October 13 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for District Leaders	October 19 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Diverse Learner Leaders	October 19 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Counselors and Counseling Leadership	October 20 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for School Leaders	October 20 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with 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 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.

Please contact [Alissa Kilpatrick](#) at the Louisiana Department of Education or [Eugene Kennedy](#) at Louisiana State University with questions about this study.

Literacy

K-2 Writing Series

A new professional development series for teachers and leaders focused on [K-2 writing](#) instruction is underway. The first session is available in the [Literacy Library](#). Sessions will be added weekly on Tuesdays. Please note that there may be a delay in this week's posting due to the impact of office closures as a result of Hurricane Ida.

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

Reminders

- **Operations**
 - *Hurricane Recovery*
 - *Federal Support and Grantee Relations*
 - *Nutrition Support*
- **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**
- **School System Relations**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - *Diverse Learner Supports*
 - *Educator Development*
 - *Literacy*

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.

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

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. 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 about 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 Consortia

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 Consortia or EL programming.

Title I, Part A - Annual Comparability Reports - New Release Date

The Department will release the SY 2021-2022 Title I Comparability Report section in eGMS on September 23, 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.

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

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

Diverse Learner Supports

2021 SPED Leader Survey

The Louisiana Department of Education is seeking input about the current structures that support students with disabilities engaging in high-quality instruction from Louisiana's special education leaders. The information gathered from this [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. Please note that this survey is anonymous and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Special education leaders should complete the survey by **Friday, September 17**.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Canceled - Teaching and Learning Roundtable

The Teaching and Learning Roundtable scheduled on **September 10, 2021 has been cancelled**. The October roundtable will be held October 8 at 11 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 28 from 2 - 4 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 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.

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.

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.

Literacy

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.

