



September 26, 2019

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublics	9/27/19	Submit <a href="#">BESE approval application</a> for 2020-21 school year	School leaders
TDC	9/30/19	Upload <a href="#">Q1 enrollment</a> to FTP	School Tuition Organizations
All nonpublics	10/1/19	Complete the <a href="#">Information Form</a> for Student of the Year	School leaders or counselors
All nonpublics	10/15/19	Submit <a href="#">NPS</a> annual data submission	School leaders
All nonpublics	11/15/19	Submit nominees for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program	Superintendents or school leaders
All nonpublics	12/2/19	Submit federal grant application	School leaders

## Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

### **Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators**

**Important: Interests and Opportunities Online Principals Survey**

- The Online Principals Survey that will be used to award points for the new Interests and Opportunities index will be distributed via data managers on September 30. Principals will have until November 1 to complete the survey, which is 2.5 percent of the 2020 SCI in schools with grade combinations from the K-8 range and 5 percent for high schools.

## General

- Data certification opening announcements are only sent to accountability contacts who are on file with the Department. Please "create a new contact" for all contacts in the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#). Only contacts added to this form will receive communications from the Department.

## Accountability Release

- 2019 high school Growth-to-Mastery Target Rosters are now available on the secure FTP. Site codes for both grades 3-8 and high school rosters reflect enrollment at the time of testing.
- After the October 1 SIS collection closes, both grade 3-8 and high school rosters will be updated and released with student inclusion based on the October 1 enrollment in SIS.

## ACT and WorkKeys

- September 30: Deadline to submit ACT MOUs. Originals must be mailed with the Estimated Number of Testers form. There are two MOUs posted in the [Assessment Library](#), one for public and charter schools and one for non-public schools receiving state funding. Be sure to use the appropriate forms.
- All test preparations should be completed prior to the opening of the WorkKeys testing window on October 1.
- Resources can be found on the [ACT State Testing](#) site or by contacting the WorkKeys helpdesk, 800-967-5539 (800-WorkKey).

## Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be October 1 at 1:00 p.m.

- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923
- Meeting ID#: 202 189 164

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

Please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: Transfer Window Opened**

The transfer window for the 2019-20 school year is now open. If a student wishes to transfer a Scholarship award to your school, please have the parent/guardian complete the [2019 transfer form](#). If the student is a newly awarded student, the parent must have registered at the awarded school by the May 28th deadline in order to be eligible to request a transfer.

Transfers are at the discretion of the receiving school; however, schools may not exceed new student caps (if applicable). **Schools that received an enrollment sanction for the 2019-20 school year are not eligible to accept transfer students.**

The receiving school should submit the completed transfer form to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov). Transfer forms forwarded from parents will not be accepted.

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## Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

### **New: Annual Report Due 1/1**

As per [Bulletin 134](#), each school tuition organization shall annually provide a public report to the LDE that contains information regarding all scholarships awarded or granted in the previous fiscal year. The report shall be prepared by a certified public accountant and shall be submitted to the department no later than the first day of January each year. **This action item is only for the School Tuition Organizations, not individual schools.**

For more information on the contents of the report, please reference Chapter 7 of [Bulletin 134](#). If you have any questions, please contact [lindsey.rhodes@la.gov](mailto:lindsey.rhodes@la.gov).

### **New: Financial Information Report Due**

According to Bulletin 134, each school tuition organization shall prepare a financial information report that complies with uniform financial accounting standards, to be submitted to the LDE no later than six months after the end of the STO's fiscal year. For most STOs, this means the Financial Information Report is due on January 1st. **The report shall be prepared by a certified public accountant and shall contain a certification from an auditor that the report is free of material misstatements.**

**This report is a requirement for school tuition organizations, not individual schools.** If you have any questions or operate

## **Reminder: Q1 Count Due September 30th**

All STO's must upload the [Q1 enrollment spreadsheets](#) to the FTP by 9/30. The report should also include all students' LASIDs.

This spreadsheet is to be completed by the Student Tuition Organizations, not individual schools.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Lindsey.Rhodes@LA.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Rhodes@LA.gov).

## **Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators**

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Please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information**

Information about the Tuition Donation Credit Program can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart](#). Currently, Louisiana has three School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Credit Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, and Son of a Saint. Schools interested in participating in the TDC program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

School Tuition Organization	Regional Focus	STO Website	Email	Phone
ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.acescholarships.org">www.acescholarships.org</a>	<a href="mailto:TDR@acescholarships.org">TDR@acescholarships.org</a>	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.aretescholars.org">www.aretescholars.org</a>	<a href="mailto:maryhw@aretescholars.org">maryhw@aretescholars.org</a>	225-245-3610
Son of a Saint	Orleans	<a href="http://www.sonofasaint.org">www.sonofasaint.org</a>	<a href="mailto:hello@sonofasaint.org">hello@sonofasaint.org</a>	504-561-7508

## **School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)**

### **Reminder: Transfer Window Opened**

The transfer window for the 2019-20 school year is now open. If a student wishes to transfer a School Choice award to your school, please have the parent/guardian complete the [2019 transfer form](#).

The receiving school should submit the completed transfer form to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov). Transfer forms forwarded from parents will not be accepted.

## **New: Nonpublic School Approval Survey and Scholarship Notice of Intent Due Tomorrow**

All schools must submit a series of documents to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to receive BESE approval for the 2020-21 school year. To identify which documents your school must submit, please review the [NPS Approval Checklist](#) and collect the relevant documents. BESE typically approves schools for the subsequent school year at its December meeting.

The LDOE has created an [online survey](#) to collect all required documentation. Schools will no longer need to log in to the FTP to complete the NPS approval process, and hard copy documents do not need to be mailed to the LDOE. . Completing this survey is expected to take 10-15 minutes. This submission is due by September 27th.

Please email [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with any questions.

## **New: Complete the Nonpublic School Annual Data Submission**

All BESE-approved nonpublic schools are required to submit the Nonpublic School Annual Data Submission in the [NPS data system](#). This submission (previously called the "annual report") requires schools to submit basic enrollment and school information, and is submitted electronically using the data system known as LEADS. Submissions must be completed by October 15, 2019. Please note that this is a different process than the Nonpublic School Approval Survey, and is also required for all nonpublic schools.

If your school serves SPED students, please see the [attached screenshots](#) for information on how to enter Special Education student data.

If you need NPS access, please complete [this form](#).

Please email [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with any questions.

## **New: 10th Annual Louisiana Elementary Math Olympiad**

The [10th Annual Louisiana Elementary Math Olympiad](#) is a free, paper-and-pencil test of mathematical skills open to 5th grade students. Students will compete for prizes, including gold medals, a 3D printing pen, and an iPad Mini. The winning students' teachers also will receive gift cards. The event will take place on November 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Kenilworth Science and Technology School (7600 Boone Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70808) and includes workshops that parents can attend while students are taking tests. The deadline to [register](#) is October 31.

Please visit the [Louisiana Elementary Math Olympiad webpage](#) for additional information and contact [lfischer@kenilworthst.org](mailto:lfischer@kenilworthst.org) with questions.

## **New: USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)**

Applications for the 2019-2020 FFVP will be available for returning sponsors via the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage, beginning on October 1. **Applications must be submitted by October 18.**

Please contact [trandra.scott@la.gov](mailto:trandra.scott@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant**

The USDA has awarded Louisiana \$602,468.00, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6), to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFA's) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and expand access to school meals. Priority will be given to schools where fifty percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals and have not received equipment grant funding in 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, or 2018. Grant related information is [now available](#).

The **online application period starts October 1 and ends on October 31**. Applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Please contact [helen.folks@la.gov](mailto:helen.folks@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: U.S. Presidential Scholars Program**

The U.S. Department of Education has invited chief state school officers to nominate outstanding students for the [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#). This year, states are allowed to submit nominations for up to twenty-five outstanding students who would otherwise not qualify under the program's traditional academic component (automatically qualified based on ACT/SAT scores) or arts component. Nominations may also include students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in career and technical education (CTE).

The Department invites school systems to submit nominations for up to three outstanding students. The nominations must include a male and female student for the general category, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in CTE. Students must be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January and August of 2020. Please review the [additional program requirements](#) to learn more.

Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total) signed by the local superintendent or school leader, and emailed to [leslie.hill@la.gov](mailto:leslie.hill@la.gov) no later than **November 15 at 4:30 p.m.** Please include the student's name, home mailing address, gender, and email address, as well as the high school name, mailing address, and CEEB code. Selected nominees will be sent through a secure online form to the U.S. Department of Education. Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

Please contact [leslie.hill@la.gov](mailto:leslie.hill@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: Louisiana School System Contact Form Updates**

Please share with personnel directors.

Last month, the Department released the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#) as a way to streamline the process of collecting contact information for key school system-level supervisors. Personnel directors can email [doecommunications@la.gov](mailto:doecommunications@la.gov) to request a current list of contacts. If any contact information is missing from the contact list, please add the information to the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#) by October 1.

Based on feedback from school systems, the Department has updated the [guide](#) for personnel directors to provide definitions for certain roles collected in the form and offers the following tips for completion:

- All contacts should be entered as "new contact" initially. No contact information from any previous collection process will be carried over into the new form.
- The new contact form will replace all other processes for collecting contact information for school system supervisors starting October 1.
- If any school or school system is not listed in the form, please email [doecommunications@la.gov](mailto:doecommunications@la.gov).

Please email [doecommunications@la.gov](mailto:doecommunications@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: AP Coordinator Exam Order Training Dates**

Please share with administrators and AP coordinators.

The preferred AP exam ordering deadline is October 4. Please register for one of the nine remaining [Preparing and Submitting the Exam Order](#) sessions for AP coordinators to prepare for the changes. The sessions will be offered at varying times on the following dates.

- October 2 at 8:00 a.m.
- October 10 at 6:00 p.m.
- October 31 at 3:00 p.m.
- November 6 at 11:00 a.m.
- November 12 at 8:00 a.m.

The final deadline for submitting AP exam orders is **November 15**.

For more information, please contact [collegereadiness@la.gov](mailto:collegereadiness@la.gov).

## **Reminder: 2019-2020 Jump Start Updates**

Please share with CTE supervisors, counselors, and principals.

The Department has released several [Jump Start](#) updates, listed below, that provide detailed information for implementing various Jump Start programs.

- [2019-2020 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#)
- [2019-2020 Jump Start Funding Guidance](#)
- [2019-2020 List of CDF Qualifying Courses](#)
- [2019-2020 Jump Start Pathway Updates](#)

For more information, please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

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## **Other Department Newsletters**

To view the **September 24th District Newsletter** or the **September 19th Nonpublic Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

*To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).*

## LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

877.453.2721 (toll-free)

Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

## LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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