



October 8 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	October 13 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	October 15 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	October 15 at 3 p.m.
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	October 16 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	October 19 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	October 20 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	October 21 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	October 21 at 3:30 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	October 22 at 9 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	October 28 at 1 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	November 5 at 1 p.m.

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Early Literacy Commission Meeting	October 15 at 12 p.m.
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	October 28 at 9 a.m.
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	October 29 at 8 a.m.
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	October 29 at 12 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Document Link	Deadline
2020-2021 Midterm Graduate Diploma Form	October 9
BESE Approval Application	October 15
NPS Annual Data Submission	October 15
ELA Guidebooks, Grades 3-5 Louisiana Educator Feedback	October 15
2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan	October 16
CTE Mission: CubeSat	October 16
2021 Student of the Year Application	October 16
2020-2021 Education Excellence Funds Application	October 16
Submit ICQ for LSP Audit	October 23
Submit Scholarship Program budget for LSP Audit	October 23
Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver Request: Public Comment	October 24

All Nonpublics

2020-2021 Midterm Graduate Diploma to Include New Superintendent's Signature

Please share with principals, counselors, and data coordinators.

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2020-2021 midterm graduates. Diploma requests should be submitted by **October 9**. Diplomas ordered will include the signature of Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. Diplomas utilized from this point forward should include the new signature.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Course Registration

Well-Ahead Louisiana, in partnership with Louisiana Department of Education and Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center, has launched a variety of [self-paced virtual trainings](#) to help schools prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Schools can now access the COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies course, developed by the [Children's Hospital New Orleans](#). This course outlines key principals and strategic tools for mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as assessing and isolating students, faculty, and staff. After completing the course, attendees will be emailed a certificate of completion.

[Registration](#) is now open. When enrolling in the course, use "JOIN" as the self-enrollment key.

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Healthy Schools Academy

In collaboration with the Healthy Communities Section, Well-Ahead Louisiana is hosting a free virtual professional development opportunity dedicated to improving student health and academic achievement.

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The virtual Healthy Schools Academy is open to teachers, school nurses, counselors, coaches, administrators, and others looking for ways to help students stay healthy and ready to learn. Participants will gain skills to enhance the educational process by supporting the needs of the whole child.

The virtual Healthy Schools Academy will be held on **October 27 from 8:45 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.** There is no cost to participate. For information on sessions and speakers, and to register, visit [Well-Ahead Louisiana](#).

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

New School WellSpot Benchmarks

The WellSpot Designation program recognizes schools that are implementing policies and practices to support the health of their students and staff. The school wellness benchmarks were recently updated and now align more closely with school health best practices. Becoming a WellSpot lets families and the community know that schools are committed to prioritizing student and staff health.

Well-Ahead representatives are ready to guide schools through the designation process! Well-Ahead will work with schools that are already a WellSpot to help them move up a level. To learn more, visit [Well-Ahead Louisiana](#).

Please contact wellahead@la.gov with questions.

2020-2021 Education Excellence Funds (EEF) Application Release

The 2020-2021 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application is now available in the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) Electronic Grants Management System (eGMS). The submission deadline is **October 16**.

Please review the EEF Application information (EEF slide deck) under the Announcements section on the eGMS login page.

Nonpublic applicants must complete both the EEF Contact Information and EEF Assurances sections of the LEA Central Data for the EEF application to appear.

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

Virtual Instruction Training for Teachers and Leaders

The Department, in partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), is offering all educators in Louisiana the opportunity to participate in three 90-minute sessions to learn more about effective virtual teaching practices.

There are three different tracks for educators to receive training based on their role: one for K-2 classroom teachers, one for 3-12 classroom teachers, and one for school leaders. The sessions will cover:

- **planning** for virtual instruction,
- delivery of virtual **instruction**, and
- strengthening the virtual **environment**.

All educators will receive a variety of templates, tools, and strategies they can use immediately in their schools and classrooms. School leaders will receive more support around coaching, while classroom teachers will receive more content they can use directly in their virtual instruction.

These sessions are completely free and will be offered multiple times each week over the course of 2020-2021, starting the last week of October.

Teacher and school leaders will have a variety of options as they select session times, including after school, in the evening, and on weekends. School leaders will also have options during the school day.

More information about how to register will be shared with system and school leaders via the School Systems Relations Team.

All sessions are taught live (synchronously), and there will be asynchronous modules available beginning in November for those who choose to facilitate through a collaborative setting.

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025 Assessment Updates

The [LEAP 2025 assessment guides](#) have been revised and reposted to reflect the following testing updates:

1. Grades 5-8 Social Studies: In the past, a sample of students taking the grades 5-8 social studies assessments were required to participate in a short field-test session. This spring, no field testing will take place at grades 5-8 in social studies.
2. Grades 3-8 Science: See update on the design of the science tests in the grade-level assessment guides.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 360 Updates

LEAP 360 Updates

A [LEAP 360 Interim Guidance document](#) has been created and posted on the [LEAP 360 homepage](#). It describes the updates to the LEAP 360 Interim Assessments for the 2020-2021 school year, provides a list of Interim resources, and includes guidance on how to use the resources to help achieve the goal of integrating the Interims into high-quality ELA and mathematics curricula.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks: Future Development

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 3-5.

The Department is excited to announce a partnership with [The Writing Revolution](#) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks.

This work will be completed by Louisiana teachers and a special team of "Revolutionaries" from [Monroe City Schools](#). The first phase of development will happen for grades 3-5 and will be available for piloting in 2021-2022.

Instructional leaders should encourage educators in grades 3-5 to [submit feedback](#) on current units prior to **October 15**. More details about this partnership and future release dates will be announced via this newsletter.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks Resource Bank

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 3-5.

The Department has created a [form](#) to collect ELA Guidebook resources from teachers to share freely across the state. Examples can be uploaded directly into the form. These resources will be compiled, vetted, and shared by grade-level. Please consider sharing examples of:

- Unit/Lesson Slide Decks
- Unit/Lesson Planning Document(s)
- Unit/Lesson Scope and Sequence/Pacing Examples
- Student and/or Parent Facing Resources

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: School System Planning Calendar

The [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar:

- Super App Office Hours
- Updated Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Meeting dates

Please email ldoecomunications@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: LDH School-Based Flu Vaccination Program

The Louisiana Department of Education is working with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to bring the Health Hero flu vaccination program to school systems. This initiative provides safe, efficient school-located vaccinations, increases immunization coverage, reduces the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, and helps keep children in school.

The Health Hero program provides vaccines in schools to students, teachers, and staff (regardless of insurance coverage) through state licensed nurses. Because many children have limited access to healthcare services, the Health Heroes program ensures that more children can easily get this important vaccination. By offering the flu vaccine at school sites, the program removes barriers for families who might not otherwise be able to take time off work to have their children vaccinated.

For more information, or to schedule a clinic, please contact Liberty Duke from Health Hero at 205-609-0268 or liberty@healthherousa.com. For additional information from LDH, please contact stacy.hall@la.gov.

Please contact LDOECOV19support@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

Please share with high school principals and counselors.

The Louisiana Department of Education and the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#) are pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Virtual United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to virtually participate in a series of online meetings during the week of March 15, 2021. Upon participation of all of these meetings, each delegate will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. The Department requests assistance in selecting these students.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit an [application packet](#). If students are unable to hold leadership positions this year due to the pandemic, they can submit the position they held during the 2019-2020 academic year. Please ensure students understand the rules and

regulations governing this competition. For test security reasons, the test secure essay topics will only be released to school systems and will not be available on our website. High school personnel should contact marian.johnson@la.gov as soon as a student request is made for the essay topics.

U.S. Senate Youth Timeline	
November 16	Submit application portfolio
December 4	Notification sent to finalists
December 15	Final phase selection
March 15-19, 2021	Virtual online meetings

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

Reminder: LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute
Please share with counselors and school system leaders.

Save the date for the 2020 Virtual Fall Counselor Institute! **Attendees are asked to please set aside three hours on the day and time that works best for them.**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 28 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99489510512>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 994 8951 0512

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 29 at 8 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98233548776>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 982 3354 8776

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 29 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97179412692>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 971 7941 2692

Tentative Agenda

- State Assessment Updates
- 2020-2021 LOSFA TOPS Regulatory Flexibilities
- ACT Superscore
- Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, IB, CLEP
- 2020-2021 Financial Aid
- TOPS Weighted GPA and Credit Recovery
- Jump Start 2.0/STEM Pathways
- Jump Start Convention/Educator Leader Summit

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

Reminder: 2021 Jump Start Virtual Convention

Please share with school system leaders, counselors, LCTCS, and workforce development organizations.

Save the date for the 2021 Jump Start Convention! The convention will be held virtually on the afternoons of January 26 and 27. Registration will open in October.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Multiphase Challenge Building Skills for 21st Century Careers

Please share with career and technical education and math/science leaders and educators.

The U.S. Department of Education has launched [CTE Mission: CubeSat](#), a national challenge to inspire high school students to build technical skills for careers in space and beyond. Students from across the country are invited to design and build prototypes of CubeSats (cube satellites), or satellites that aid in space research, bringing space missions out of the clouds and into the classroom. No in-person collaboration or prior experience with CubeSats is required. Teams can use a curated collection of virtual resources in the [CTE Mission: CubeSat resource hub](#) as they develop and submit their mission proposals.

The deadline to submit proposals is **October 16 at 5:59 p.m.**

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: New Website Launched - Louisiana Teacher Preparation Providers

The Department - in collaboration with the Board of Regents - launched a new [website](#) that allows prospective educators to explore teacher preparation programs. The website includes information on Louisiana's 29 teacher preparation programs, including certification areas offered, testimonials, and the demographics of their program completers and retention data. Each provider's performance on Louisiana's [Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System](#) will be added to the website this winter. Prospective educators can use the website to select teacher preparation programs that best meet their needs, and school systems can use the information to address their educator workforce needs.

Please contact sara.delano@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Louisiana Farm to School Launches Seeds to Success Website

The Louisiana Farm to School Program's new website, [Seeds to Success](#), launched today. The website houses information about how to grow fruits and vegetables in Louisiana and apply these skills to learning, how to start and maintain school gardens (including classroom container gardens), and how to turn student interests into budding careers. Lesson plans and activities are available and organized by grade, group, or by crop interest. Create an account to save crop guides and lesson plans and use the Louisiana Resource page to discover places, events, and organizations related to Farm to School. Louisiana teachers are encouraged to request free growing materials for classroom education.

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

Reminder: CARES Act Interim Final Rule Invalidated

On July 1, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published an [Interim Final Rule \(IFR\)](#) regarding equitable services under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. On September 4, in NAACP v. Davos, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued an [opinion](#) and an [order](#) vacating the IFR. Accordingly, the IFR is no longer in effect.

The LDOE has received the Secretary's response ([ED's Response to Interim Final Rule Invalidations](#)) to the IFR guidance invalidation and it is important to note:

- ED will not appeal the court's decision to invalidate the IFR.
- ED will not take any action against states or local school systems that followed the initial guidance and/or the IFR prior to notice of the court's decision.
- ED will use its enforcement authority to ensure districts comply with the Equitable Services requirements provided in Section 1117(a)(4)(A) of the ESEA of 1965. (calculating equitable services based on student low income data)

As a reminder, the agency is recommending school systems consider the following next steps as they prepare to move forward in providing equitable services to eligible private schools.

- School systems should conduct meaningful consultations with private schools acknowledging the judge's ruling regarding invalidating ED's IFR guidance.
- School systems are to calculate CARES Act equitable services funding levels using student low income data only.
- Services and devices already delivered to participating private schools above the student low income equitable services level are to remain with the private schools so that there is no interruption of services for students.
- Back orders for devices, materials, and supplies should be provided up to the low income equitable services level. The remaining devices, materials, and supplies should remain with the school system.
- Private schools with no low income student counts should not be afforded CARES Act equitable services.

During the Federal Programs and Grants Management next Monthly Call scheduled for October 15 at 10 a.m., the Department will review frequently asked questions received from school districts as they move forward with implementing CARES Act equitable services according to ED's response to the courts' rulings.

Please contact bernell.cook@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: NPS Annual Data Submission Now Open

All BESE-approved nonpublic schools are required to submit the Nonpublic School Annual Data Submission in the NPS data system. The Nonpublic School Annual Data 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, 2020.

To complete the Nonpublic School Annual Data Submission, please consult the [Nonpublic Annual School Report User Guide](#).

Please remember, LEADS passwords expire every 30 days and must be reset at <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>. Additionally, pop-up blockers must be off in order to access NPS.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: BESE Approval and Brumfield vs Dodd Documents due October 15th

Every year, all schools must submit a series of documents to the Louisiana Department of Education to receive BESE approval for the following school year. To identify which documents your school must submit, please review the [Nonpublic School Approval Checklist](#).

The Department once again 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. Completing this survey is expected to take 10-15 minutes. **Submissions are due by October 15th.**

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Guidance for BESE Approval/NPS Data Submission

The Department of Education held its first monthly call specifically for nonpublics on September 16th. The call gave guidance on completing BESE/BvD approval action items as well as the annual data submission. A copy of the slides can be found in the District Support library [here](#).

Calls will be the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00. The next call will be on **October 21st**. Please see login information below:

- Webinar Date and Time: Every third Wednesday at 2 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92282614317>
- Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799
- Meeting ID#: 922 8261 4317

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

Scholarship Audit - Internal Control Questionnaire

Participating Scholarship schools are required to complete the [Internal Control Questionnaire](#). This information is provided to assist in evaluating that financial operations are effective and efficient and that schools have a reliable financial reporting system and comply with applicable laws and regulations.

The completed questionnaire is due by **Friday, October 23, 2020** via e-mail to staudit@la.gov.

Scholarship Audit Engagement Letters

Pursuant to Section 1303 of Bulletin 133, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education requires the Department to audit the financial performance and capacity of Scholarship schools as a criterion for continued participation in the Scholarship program.

Beginning **Monday, October 12th**, the audit firms conducting the financial audits will begin contacting schools via an engagement letter. The letter will include audit dates and an in-depth description of the process and school responsibilities.

The audit firm assigned to your school is based on the district in which your school is located. Please click [here](#) for the list of districts covered by each firm.

If your school has not been contacted by the assigned audit firm by **October 16th**, or if you have any questions, please contact Ronnie.DavisJr@la.gov or 225.342.3621.

2020-21 Scholarship Financial Audit Information

The LDOE finance team has prepared a presentation on the financial audit which include instructions on how to ensure your school is prepared for this year's financial audit. You can access a copy of the PowerPoint [here](#).

Please contact Ronnie.DavisJr@la.gov with audit-specific questions and studentscholarships@la.gov with Scholarship Program specific questions.

Scholarship Program Budget

The initial Scholarship Program budget is due **Friday, October 23, 2020**. Schools should provide specific details in this budget demonstrating how the total estimated SSEEP revenue will be allocated and spent for the 2019-2020 school year.

Things to know

1. No actual expenditures should be reported in the expenditures column at this time.
2. The total enrollment on the budget should exclude Pre-K students

Submit your [budget form](#) via e-mail to staudit@la.gov.

Please contact Ronnie.DavisJr@la.gov with any questions or concerns about the audit process.

Reminder: Transfer Window Opened

If a family is interested in a transfer, please have the family complete the [transfer form](#) and submit it to a school representative. The representative at the school must then sign the form and email it to studentscholarships@la.gov. Forms submitted by parents will not be considered.

Transfers are at the discretion of the receiving school; however, schools may not exceed new student caps (if applicable) based on [accountability results](#) for the 2019 school year.

Please email studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

ACT

- **Important:** Test coordinators are reminded to only use ACT test materials sent for the October test. Answer documents from spring 2020 will be rejected if used in October, as well as any spring 2020 answer documents that are returned with barcode labels from October placed over the spring barcode labels.
- October 6-April 30: The 2020-2021 WorkKeys testing window is open.
 - Please refer to the *Quick Start Guide for Assigning TTS to a Single Examinee* for WorkKeys. The document will be posted to the ACT State Testing site in the [WorkKeys](#) section.
 - The Department will cover the cost for one WorkKeys administration for students who are on the Jump Start pathway and are in grade 11.
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).

LEAP 2025 Enrollment Verification and High School Window Selection

- Now-October 31: School systems should log into DRC INSIGHT and complete the enrollment information for third and fourth grade that is required no later than October 31.
 - Schools testing third or fourth grade on paper should also indicate the number of test booklets needed.
 - School systems need to verify the number of braille tests necessary for testing grades 3-8 for both paper-based or computer-based testing formats.
- Now-October 9: Within the Grade 3 and 4 Enrollment Verification function, systems should also complete the enrollment information indicating their choice of LEAP 2025 high school fall window.
 - Systems may select only one of the two testing windows: December 1-18 or January 6-26.
 - School systems should keep in mind that LEAP 2025 high school test scores must be factored into the final grade per policy when selecting the window.
 - Schools that do not complete this information will automatically be added to the January testing window.

LEAP 2025 Grades 3-8 Spring Test Administration

- At the request of many school systems that have had especially difficult challenges to the opening of school, the LEAP 2025 spring testing for grades 3-8 has been rescheduled as follows:
 - April 26-May 26: CBT
 - April 28-30 ELA and Math: PBT
 - May 3-4 Science and Social Studies PBT
- The [2020-2021 Assessment Calendar](#) has been updated and additional key dates will be released in the coming months.

2020-2021 Growth Target Rosters

- The 2020-2021 growth target rosters are now posted to secure FTP. The rosters include a target scale score for eligible students. Students are assigned to schools based on the 2019-2020 site code. The rosters will be updated with this year's site codes in November. For information about how the targets were calculated without scores from 2020, please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov.

Interests and Opportunities Index Results

- School systems recently received a roster file with their schools' results on the 2019-2020 Interests and Opportunities Index via their secure FTPs. As a reminder, these results will not be used in official accountability calculations, as school performance scores will not be produced for the 2019-2020 school year. The Department has compiled a list of [frequently asked questions](#) around the 2019-2020 accountability release. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **October 13 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 13 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Passcode:** 2020202!

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

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Reminder: 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 four School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Credit Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, Aspiring Scholars, 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	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	225-245-3610
Aspiring Scholars	New Orleans Archdiocese	https://aspiringscholarsla.org/	info@aspiringscholarsla.org	504-513-4140
Son of a Saint	Orleans	www.sonofasaint.org	hello@sonofasaint.org	504-561-7508

School Choice Program

Reminder: SCP Transfer Window Open

Students wishing to transfer SCP awards from one school to another participating school for the 2020 school year can complete the [SCP transfer form](#). The form must also be signed by a representative of the receiving school.

Please send completed form to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **October 6th District Newsletter** or the **October 1st Nonpublic Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

LDOE Contacts

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education
877.453.2721 (toll-free)
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

