



December 12, 2019

In This Issue:

Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

Other Department Newsletters

Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublic	12/18/19	Submit 2020 Jump Start Convention Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions Application	School leaders
All nonpublic	12/20/19	Complete School Health Survey	School leaders
TDC	1/1/20	Submit Annual Report	School leaders
TDC	1/1/20	Prepare and submit financial information report	School leaders
All nonpublic high schools	1/3/20	Register for 2020 Jump Start convention	School leaders

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: 2020-2021 Scholarship Program Application Window Now Open

Families interested in applying to a Scholarship school in Orleans Parish should do so at www.EnrollNOLA.org beginning on November 22nd. The EnrollNOLA application opened on November 22nd and will close on January 31st. The application window for schools located outside of Orleans Parish opened December 10th and will also close on January 31st. Families applying for schools located outside of Orleans Parish should go to www.LouisianaBelieves.com/Scholarship. This represents a shift from previous years, when the application opened in early to mid-January. Please note that the application system cannot open until all schools have submitted their Q2 enrollment.

The Louisiana Department of Education held an application webinar on December 5th detailing key information and dates related to the 2020-21 Louisiana Scholarship Program application process. Important materials from the webinar are linked here:

- [Application Webinar PowerPoint](#);

- [2020-21 Scholarship Application Guide](#)--recommended that schools familiarize themselves with this document and print a copy to have on hand for anyone interacting with families;
- [LSP Application Receipt form](#)--provide a completed form to parents after verifying that the application is in SEE/SchoolForce and that the family meets income and residency eligibility requirements
- Instructions for marking a student eligible in SEE can be found at the end of the Application Webinar PPT, beginning on slide 28.

For questions about the application, contact StudentScholarships@LA.gov. For schools located in Orleans that have questions about SchoolForce, please contact Enrollment_Support@nolapublicschools.com.

New: LEAP Connect Meeting

The Department will host a LEAP Connect meeting for district test coordinators on December 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the East Baton Rouge Professional Development Center on North Sherwood Forest Blvd in Baton Rouge. The meeting will provide information on assessment design, test administration, resources, and inclusion in accountability.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: LEAP 2025 Science Assessment Stimuli Reviews

Please share with content supervisors.

The Department is now recruiting participants for LEAP 2025 science assessment stimuli review committees. Committee participants, representing a variety of perspectives, will review stimuli to ensure the materials that will be used to develop item and task sets are fair and appropriate for all students and will allow an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in science.

Stimuli review committees are convening in two locations on different dates to accommodate and reduce travel for participants from north and central Louisiana. Any interested teachers and content supervisors should complete an interest survey, linked below.

- Baton Rouge, January 21: [Biology](#)
- Baton Rouge, January 27: [Grade 4 Science, Grade 6 Science](#)
- Bossier City, January 28: [Biology](#)
- Bossier City, January 29: [Grade 4 Science, Grade 6 Science](#)

Please do not sign up for both locations, as committees will be reviewing the same content. Please note that participants will not be reimbursed for travel expenses, meals, or lodging. Input from educators is critical to sound assessment development and support in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

LEAP 2025

- **The fall high school testing window will close on December 18.** All students who have not met graduation requirements must be provided with every opportunity to retest.
- If initial testers do not test, an accountability code must be applied in the testing window. Retesting students who do not test during this administration do not need a code.
- Report any testing violations to assessment@la.gov.

ACT and WorkKeys

- Now-January 31: Request accommodations and/or supports for eligible ACT examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations Systems](#) (TAA).
- The schedule of events for both ACT and WorkKeys spring 2020 are now posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site. Please refer to these documents for all important dates and deadlines for both ACT and WorkKeys.
- The [ACT State Testing](#) site has an [Orientation](#) tutorial for ACT and [Configuration](#) tutorial for WorkKeys available.
- Resources can be found on the [ACT State Testing](#) site or by contacting the WorkKeys helpdesk at 800-967-5539 (800-WorkKey).

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be December 17 at 1:00 p.m.

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

Please email 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. Transfer forms forwarded from parents will not be accepted.

Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

LEAP 2025

- **The fall high school testing window will close on December 18.** All students who have not met graduation requirements must be provided with every opportunity to retest.
- If initial testers do not test, an accountability code must be applied in the testing window. Retesting students who do not test during this administration do not need a code.
- Report any testing violations to assessment@la.gov.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be December 17 at 1:00 p.m.

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

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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 NonpublicSchools@LA.gov.

Reminder: 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 on a fiscal year that would merit the report due on a date other than January 1st, please reach out to NonpublicSchools@LA.gov.

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 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	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	225-245-3610

Son of a Saint	Orleans	www.sonofasaint.org	hello@sonofasaint.org	504-561-7508
----------------	---------	--	--	--------------

All Nonpublics

New: December School System Planning Call

The [December School System Planning Call Presentation](#) is now available in the [School Improvement Library](#).

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: School System Planning

This month, school system planning teams should be preparing for an approved and funded Super App by:

- collecting feedback from school leaders,
- holding planning team meetings to select strategies, and
- conducting planning team meeting(s) to develop a funding proposal and complete the Super App Workbook.

Super App Office Hours will be held on **December 16 at 11:00 a.m.** for planning team members to review budgeting indirect costs, actions school systems should be taking during the month of December, questions from teams. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 16 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/405281497>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Webinar ID#:** 405 281 497

Presentations from past Super App Office Hours can be found in the [School Improvement Library](#).

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Teacher Leader Summit 2020 Registration

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 27-29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The Department has published an [overview document](#) to address the most frequently asked questions. [Early Bird Registration](#) opens on January 10 for the Summit with the two phases below to follow:

- Regular registration (March 2 through May 11)
- On-site registration for those who do not register by May 11

To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, the Department will charge a small registration fee for the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit. This fee will cover:

- admission to conference,
- conference sessions, and
- lunch May 27 and May 28.

Description	1-Day Ticket	3-Day Ticket
Early Bird Registration (January 10-March 1)	\$35	\$80
Regular Registration (March 2-May 11)	\$45	\$100
On-site Registration (May 27-29)	\$60	N/A

Educators can receive a discount by registering early and registering for all three days at once. Educators can choose to not opt

Educators can receive a discount by registering early and registering for all three days at once. Educators can choose to not eat the lunch provided, but may not opt-out of the registration fee.

New for 2020 - Group Registration: School system supervisors may now purchase tickets for up to 10 of their educators in one transaction. School system supervisors who elect this option should be prepared to answer questions specific to each registrant (e.g. email address, content area) at the time of purchase. The supervisor will receive a receipt showing 10 ticket purchases, and each individual registrant will receive an email confirmation with their ticket information.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

New: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest

Please share with teacher leaders.

The Department is seeking inspiration for 2020 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by February 7 to ldoecommunications@la.gov. The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold. Last year's school, Montegut Middle, was awarded \$968 from The Inkwel Press.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

New: Registration Requirements under the Military Selective Service Act

The Department, U.S. Selective Service System, U.S. Department of Education would like school systems to remind students of the registration requirements under the [Military Selective Service Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3801-3820](#).

Males are required to register beginning 30 days prior to their 18th birthday and extending 30 days thereafter. Late registration is accepted up to the 26th birthday. Failure to register prior to reaching age 26 may result in unfortunate life consequences, including:

- ineligibility for employment by the federal government, U.S. Postal Service, and many state and local governments;
- ineligibility to receive federal and, in some cases, state student financial aid;
- ineligibility to receive job training under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;
- ineligibility for security clearances; and
- delay in citizenship proceedings.

Registration can be completed [online](#), or by completing a hard copy of the Selective Service System registration form available at any U.S. Post Office, or available for downloading from the [Selective Service System](#) website. Additional registration [details](#) and [resources](#) are available.

Please contact dmcsupport@sss.gov with questions.

New: Updated School System Planning Calendar

The [2019-2020 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar.

- Super App Office Hours
- Teacher Leader Summit Registration Opening Dates
- Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Meeting Dates

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: National School Counseling Week

Please share with administrators and counselors.

Today's school counselors are an integral part of a school's education team. They support academic achievement, career development, and social/emotional development, ensuring students become productive, well-adjusted adults. National School Counseling Week (NSCW) is a time for school systems to highlight the tremendous impact school counselors have on students. Sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), NSCW is always celebrated the first full week of February. **NSCW 2020 is February 3-7.**

Please visit the ASCA National School Counseling Week [website](#) for ideas and inspiration and download additional resources from the [Counselor Support Library](#).

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

Reminder: Early Literacy Commission

[Senate Resolution 182](#) and [House Resolution 222](#) established the Early Literacy Commission to study and make recommendations on developing and implementing an aligned system to provide effective evidence-based reading instruction for children from birth through third grade. In January of 2020, the Early Literacy Commission will make its final recommendations to BESE and the Legislature.

The final Early Literacy Commission open meeting will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on [December 16](#) (Full Panel Meeting).

Meeting materials and recordings are available on the [State Advisory Council](#) page.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2020 Jump Start Convention Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions Application

Please share with CTE supervisors, administrators, and counselors.

The 3rd Annual Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions will be held during the 2020 Jump Start Convention on January 28. Due to limited space, approval for the 2020 Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions participants will be through a short application process sent to school systems who demonstrate:

- engagement for a wide diversity of students, in terms of background, interest, and disability;
- alignment to workforce needs with job placement for students;
- dedication to helping students attain culminating statewide credentials (IBCs);
- commitment to blurring the line between high school and post-secondary; and
- potential benefit of your Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions to other schools.

Those interested in applying to become a 2020 Galleria Walk/School Exhibition participant are asked to please complete the [online application](#) by December 18.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **November 19th District Newsletter** or the **December 5th 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

[John White](#)
State Superintendent of Education
877.453.2721 (toll-free)
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

