



Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



April 1, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

This week we turn our calendars to April. Not only have we continued to educate children during this pandemic, but Louisiana has been at the forefront of safely providing in-person instruction. As we enter the final chapters of this pandemic and this school year, I urge you to maintain focus on your mitigation efforts.

Medical experts from the Louisiana Department of Health and Children's Hospital New Orleans joined my monthly System Leaders Roundtable last Friday. They both advised educators to be aware of the COVID-19 variants becoming more prevalent in the U.S. As more people get vaccinated and cases begin to drop, it's natural for some people to let their guard down. Now is not that time. Continue to work the plan that has gotten you and your school family this far. Give your attention to those efforts to ensure we safely land this flight.

National reports are starting to highlight what we've known for some time in our state; daily face-to-face instruction can be safe and effective when following strong mitigation efforts like we have in our state. [The American Enterprise Institute's Return to Learn Tracker ranks Louisiana No. 7 in the nation for the highest number of students participating in face-to-face learning.](#) The success of in-person instruction in our state is due to the heroic efforts of our teachers and leaders.

Another area where our educators are meeting the challenge is in providing enriching summer learning programs to all children. We've included an initial summer learning program survey in this week's newsletter to understand how systems are serving students during the summer and how we can best support their efforts. Please take a moment to [complete the survey](#). If you have any questions, please contact em.cooper@la.gov. The information gained from this survey will be beneficial as I tell your stories and respond to requests.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	April 6 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	April 6 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	April 6 at 3:45 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	April 8 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	April 8 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	April 8 at 3 p.m.
SRCL TA Office Hours	April 12 at 1 p.m.
Teacher Leader Summit Office Hours	April 13 at 3 p.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	April 20 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
SPED Leader Monthly Call	April 8 at 2 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	April 9 at 9 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	April 13 at 3:45 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	April 15 at 10 a.m.

Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	April 15 at 3 p.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	April 16 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	April 19 at 10 a.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	April 21 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	April 21 at 3:30 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	April 22 at 9 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	April 28 at 1 p.m.
*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library . View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
2021-2022 Pupil Progression Plan Webinar	April 6 at 9 a.m.
Individual Graduation Planning (IGP) Webinar	April 7 at 9 a.m.
2021 Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator's Webinar	April 12 at 10 a.m.
2021-2022 Pupil Progression Plan Webinar	April 13 at 9 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
EANS Application Deadline	April 4
Jump Start Construction Scholars Program Applications	April 12
Summer Learning Program Initial Information Survey	April 13
Submit Reimbursement Request for Nonpublic Textbooks, Nonpublic Admin	June 30

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Achieve! Launch

Earlier today, the Department launched *Achieve!* for school systems, providing pertinent information for creating ESSER II and III budgets in alignment with the Department's priorities and focus areas outlined in [Believe to Achieve: Louisiana's Educational Priorities](#). School systems are encouraged to visit the [Pandemic Relief Guidance and Resources landing page](#) and [library](#) to access available guidance and resources. These pages will be updated as more information is released.

FAQ Updates

New items were added to the [ESSER II New Funding FAQ](#) including information on indirect cost rate, allocations to charter schools, and pre-approval regulations and process.

Allowable Use of Funds Resource

The Department released a [new allowable use of funds](#) resource that provides allowable use of funds examples for school systems to support strategic, high-impact planning.

New Planning Resources

Resource	Summary
Achieve! ESSERF Use of Funds Examples	Provides allowable use of funds examples for school systems to support strategic, high-impact planning with the new pandemic relief funding.
Allowability and Cost Guidance Crosswalk for ESSER II Funding	Contains high-impact investment examples with cost estimates systems could consider based on the ESSERF allowabilities in alignment to the Department's priorities.
Achieve! ESSER III Funding Overview	Contains a high-level overview of the new ESSER funding allocated under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) . The document will include information on notable differences between ESSERF I, II, and III, key considerations systems should begin thinking about, and anticipated timelines for allocations and planning.

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

2021 Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator's Webinar

The Department will host a Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator's Webinar on Monday, April 12 from 10-11 a.m. During this webinar, information will be shared on the statewide initiative that will be implemented during the 2021-2022 school year. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 12 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93288015070>
- **Meeting ID#:** 932 8801 5070
- **Dial-In Number:** 312-626-6799

Please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Summer Learning Program Initial Information Survey

Each system should submit the [Summer Learning Program Initial Information Survey](#) by **April 13**. This survey will collect general information about how systems are planning for summer learning. Systems will also complete a survey at the end of summer to submit information about the impact of their program.

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

Staffing and Scheduling Regional Support Series

As part of the release of the [Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices](#) initiative, school systems will be offered a variety of implementation supports this spring, summer, and fall at no cost. A detailed list of supports is located in the [guidance document](#).

System leaders and school leaders that oversee academics, human resources, diverse learners, principal support, and counseling should attend these upcoming trainings. Participants must register using the links below.

Date and Time	Session and Registration Link
May 5 at 1 p.m.	Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Webinar
May 11 at 11 a.m.	Job Alike Session: District Academic Leadership
May 11 at 1 p.m.	Job Alike Session: Diverse Learners Leadership
May 12 at 11 a.m.	Job Alike Session: Counselors and Counselor Leadership
May 12 at 1 p.m.	Job Alike Session: School Leadership

School systems may choose to purchase more strategic implementation support for \$2500. This support includes participation for up to eight individuals to attend three regional technical support sessions and receive three individual coaching calls.

Systems interested must [register](#) by **May 4**. Regional session dates are below.

Session 1	
Date and Time	Session
May 17 from 1-4 p.m.	Spring Regional Technical Support Series: New Orleans (Virtual)
May 18 from 1-4 p.m.	Spring Regional Technical Support Series: Baton Rouge (Virtual)
May 19 from 1-4 p.m.	Spring Regional Technical Support Series: Northern LA (Virtual)
Session 2	
Date and Time	Session
July 26 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Summer Regional Technical Support Series: New Orleans (In person)
July 27 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Summer Regional Technical Support Series: Baton Rouge (In person)
July 28 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Summer Regional Technical Support Series: Northern LA (In person)
Session 3	
Date and Time	Session
September 20 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Fall Regional Technical Support Series: New Orleans (In person)
September 21 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Fall Regional Technical Support Series: Baton Rouge (In person)
September 22 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Fall Regional Technical Support Series: Northern LA (In person)

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

Emergency Broadband Benefit for Families

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched an [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#) to assist eligible households or school systems in paying for home internet services during the pandemic. This program is set to launch in mid to late April.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a single discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service being provided to eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price. In cases where the school system is purchasing home internet services for an eligible student, the school system can utilize the EBB discount to help defray the cost of service.

Households of students who currently attend a school that participated in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) in 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 qualify for this discount. Additionally households of students who attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and are receiving

free or reduced-price meals also qualify. To assist families in determining if they qualify for the EBB program based on NSLP and CEP participation, the Department will be launching an eligibility and information [document](#) and providing updates as they are released by the FCC.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

The [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) has been updated to include a matrix to show the enrichment connections among sample activities and links to one-pagers in these enrichment areas:

- Arts
- PE and health, outside activities
- STEM
- Literacy
- Career and college exploration

System leaders should review the checklist items for this month when planning. February-April checklist items include:

- Create applications for staff hiring
- Create a registration process and timeline for students including the collection of accommodations and medical plans
- Engage with partners for support (local government, organizations, public library, universities, etc.)
- Determine school site locations

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

Educator Development

Louisiana Aspiring Principal Fellowship

In an effort to support the development of school leaders across the state, the Department will be launching a pilot cohort for aspiring principals. The Aspiring Principal Fellowship will prepare individuals that already possess their EDL1 certification with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve in the principal role. This selective statewide fellowship is rooted in Louisiana's five priorities:

1. Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service
2. Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children
3. Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment
4. Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce
5. Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships

APF cohort participants will meet monthly (Orientation at Teacher Leader Summit, commencing monthly in October) and explore best practices with regional experts, school visits, theory, and reflection. Participants will exit this 12-day fellowship with a robust leadership portfolio, the guidance of Louisiana's most successful principals, individualized coaching, and a strong network of lifelong colleagues.

The 2021-2022 pilot cohort will be selected accordingly and represent a cross-section of aspiring leaders throughout the state. Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems need to cover the costs of the \$2500 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than **March 31**.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Scholarship Program News

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

K-2 Formative Assessments

- K-2 formative assessments will no longer be available to school systems beginning July 1.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

- The Division of Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics will convene LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect assessments committees in June and July via teleconference.
- LEAP 2025 Science and Math Content, Bias, and Sensitivity committees will review newly developed assessment items and provide feedback and recommendations on the items.
- LEAP Connect Standards Validation and Standards Setting committees will work on cut scores and achievement levels for ELA, math, and science assessments.
- **May 9 Deadline to Apply:** Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees. Selected participants who are on summer break are eligible to receive a daily stipend. Please share this announcement with general education teachers, special education teachers, teachers of English Learners, school and school system supervisors, and school administrators – all are encouraged to apply.

Data Certification

- Cohort graduation data certification is tentatively scheduled to open on Wednesday, March 31, and remain open until April 23 in LA Data Review for 2019-2020 graduates. Individual emails will be sent to accountability contacts to confirm dates and provide user access and support materials.
- Please be sure contacts are updated. Access to the system will only be provided to official accountability contacts.
- Audits will be conducted on students who exited as out-of-state transfers, nonpublic school transfers, and BESE-approved home study transfers. FAFSA parental opt-outs will also be audited.

ACT Match/No Match Rosters

- **Important Update:** Access MyACT to enter student codes using the [Information for Examinees webpage](#).
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- After materials are received: Distribute non-test instructions and Taking the ACT to all students. Students must complete the non-test information in MyACT.
- **March 19-April 1:** Precache test content for the makeup window (if utilizing proctor caching)
- **March 29-31, April 1-2:** Administer the ACT on paper with accommodations and/or **supports (test only on weekdays)**
- **March 30-31, April:** Administer the ACT online with standard time or accommodations and/or supports (tests only available Tuesday-Thursday)
- Prescheduled FedEx picked up at the district office to return test booklets, used answer documents, and test administration forms from the March 23 standard time test date (Receipt deadline at ACT is March 30; late arriving answer documents will not be scored)

- **April 2:** Purge cached test content from all proctor caching computers (test content must be purged after each testing window)
- **April 5:** Prescheduled FedEx picked up at the district office to return test booklets, used answer documents, and test administration forms from the March 23-26, 29-31, and April 1-2 accommodations and/or supports or online testing to ACT (Receipt deadline at ACT is April 9; late arriving answer documents will not be scored)
- **Now-March 23:** Verify and, as needed, correct each examinee's grade level and other identifying information in [PANext](#) for Test Window 2.
- **Resources**
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Test Coordinators](#)
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Students](#)
 - [Taking the ACT PDF](#)

NAEP 2021

- **Additional Monthly Survey**
 - By Executive Order, a NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey will be collected from approximately 90 schools in Louisiana to understand the impact of COVID-19, including the status of in-person learning.
 - Nationally, the survey will collect data from approximately 3,500 schools that enroll fourth-graders and an equal number of schools that enroll eighth-graders.
 - The submission windows have been extended to accommodate spring break (March 17-30, April 14-23, May 24-28, and June 21-25).
 - The status of in-person learning will be disaggregated by student demographics, including race/ethnicity, disability, English Learner status, and an economic disadvantage indicator.
 - The public will have access to data about school reopenings for in-person instruction and how students are learning.
 - For questions or additional information, please email jennifer.baird@la.gov or rebecca.frederick@la.gov.
- **Student and Teacher Questionnaire**
 - The NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire will be open in MyNAEP for principals and teachers from selected schools beginning soon.
 - All states have official approval from the OMB to start this questionnaire.
 - A principal may assign the questionnaire to another school administrator. Questionnaires must be completed by **April 23**.
 - Results will be released in the fall of 2021 and include state and national-level data dependent on participation.
 - For questions or additional information, please contact Rebecca Frederick at 225-963-8197 or email rebecca.frederick@la.gov.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability monthly call will be on **April 6 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 6 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!

Tuition Donation Credit Program News

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 for Students with Exceptionalities News

Students wishing to transfer SCP awards from one school to another participating school for the 2020-21 school year can complete the [SCP transfer form](#). The form must also be signed by a representative of the receiving school.

Please send the completed form to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)
 - [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)
- [School System Financial Services Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)
 - [Educator Development Reminders](#)

Operations Reminders

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders

Pandemic Relief Funding Allowability Correction

The Department is releasing corrected language regarding the use of pandemic relief funding. This information has also been updated in the [FAQ](#).

Can ESSER II funding be used to provide stipend pay for employees?

The Department generally does not consider the following to be an allowable use of ESSER funds, under any part of 18003 of the CARES Act:

- Subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs, or
- Expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations.

ESSER funds generally will not be used for stipends, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19.

School systems can use ESSER funds to provide stipends for faculty and staff if those are related “to preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus.” Below are additional compensation examples:

One-time stipends to address pandemic-related recruitment or retention challenges

- Additional compensation to teachers and other staff that work in-person
- Additional compensation to teachers and other staff that have assumed new duties because of pandemic
- One-time stipends to incentivize effective teachers to move to schools with vulnerable students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic
- Additional pay to substitute teachers where there are shortages

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

ESSER II Funding Guidance for Stipend Pay

The Louisiana Department of Education generally disclaims consideration of the following as an allowable use of ESSER funds, under any part of 18003:

1. Subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs, or
2. Expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations.

ESSER funds generally will not be used for bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures **unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19**.

Additional information regarding Stipend Pay can be referenced in the [Achieve! - ESSER II Funding Guidance FAQ](#).

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

Career and College Readiness Reminders

2021-2022 Pupil Progression Plan Webinar

Please share with district administration.

The Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) is the comprehensive plan developed and adopted by each school system, based on student performance. The plan also addresses student placement, promotion, retention, and specific policy decisions of the school system.

The Department will hold two webinars to address the submission of the 2021-2022 PPP. These presentations are being offered on two dates with the same content. Please select the session that works best. The PPP template will be posted in the school policy library in early April.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 6 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93454423348>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 934 5442 3348

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 13 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97684188992>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 976 8418 8992

Please contact ppp@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services Reminders

Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Mid-Year Adjustments

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The transmittal memo, in addition to the March 2021 Budget Letter, have been updated to include the October and February mid-year adjustments for students and the final local per-pupil amount for charter schools. The supporting documentation is provided in the Department's [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 MFP

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The BESE adopted MFP resolution and formula was submitted to the Legislature on March 15. The proposed MFP documents for FY 2021-2022 are available in the Department's [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Educator Development Reminders

Teacher Leader Summit: T-shirt Sales

The Department announces with great pleasure for the first time a student has won the Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design contest. Ayla Voitier, an eleventh-grade student at Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts in St. Landry parish and a student of Kimberly Nelams-Becnel, won the contest open to both students and educators.

T-shirts are now available for [purchase](#). The vendor producing the t-shirts will donate \$1 from each t-shirt sold back to Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts. The t-shirt design is inclusive of both the in-person Teacher Leader Summit and the Virtual Series. One does not have to be registered for either event to purchase a t-shirt.

T-shirts will be available for purchase on the website until early May to account for shipping to ensure all t-shirts arrive in advance of the in-person event. It has not yet been determined if the t-shirt vendor will be able to be onsite during the mornings of the in-person event and thus those interested in purchasing a t-shirt are encouraged to do so via the website.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit (In-person) Session Scheduling

[Registration](#) for the in-person Teacher Leader Summit is underway. The session schedule and app will be released to early bird ticket holders on April 7 and April 9 for regular registration ticket holders.

Session scheduling will be done via the same method the Department has utilized in the past - Sched. To ensure ease of scheduling, registrants are encouraged to delete the 2020 app from their phones. A new version of the app will need to be downloaded to register for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. A newsletter entry will be forthcoming when the new app is available for download.

New this year, educators have the opportunity to download graphics to share across their social media platforms to celebrate attending the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. The graphics can be found in the “I’m Going Passes” section of the [Summit Materials page](#). Be sure to use the #LATeacherLeaders in social posts.

More information regarding the in-person Teacher Leader Summit can be found in the [Overview](#).

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series Registration

To maximize the [delivery of content](#) and educator development, The Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from June 1-11, and sessions will be accessed remotely. The format will be similar to the Virtual Series offered during spring 2020.

There will be a max overall registration limitation of 8,000 for which the Department is not allocating seats. [Registration](#) for the Virtual Series will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Paid ticket holders of the Teacher Leader Summit in-person event will receive an access code allowing them to register for and participate in the Virtual Series at no additional cost. These codes will be sent in advance of registration opening on April 1 and weekly thereafter. Each code will be one-time use and must be used only by the original ticket holder. Codes are not transferable.

[Registration](#) for the Virtual Series will occur in two phases:

- Early bird registration (April 1 through April 25)
- Regular registration (April 26 through sellout)

Ticket Type	Purchasing Window	Ticket Price
Early Bird Registration	April 1-25	\$50.00
Regular Registration	April 26 - sell out	\$65.00

Tickets are inclusive of all days of the event. The session schedule and app will be released to early bird ticket holders on May 10 and May 12 for regular registrants. More information on the Virtual Series can be found in the [Overview](#).

Please contact ldoevents@la.gov with questions.