

# Important News for

# NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 14, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I know last week was challenging for all of us. In addition to our normal lives, we continue to be impacted by COVID-19. Further, last week's events at the Capitol were staggering. I will see those images forever.

Let's be mindful of the courageous educators who, while still processing their own emotions, allowed room for students to do the same in safe spaces. This, again, shows how and why our teachers are essential workers.

Regardless of the world outside school walls, inside Louisiana classrooms teachers are rising to meet the needs of children. Educators continue to move students forward. We must do the same by beginning to think of Louisiana education post-pandemic. Last week we [launched a bold initiative](#) with the potential to impact our educational landscape for years to come.

Fast Forward will help improve the career and college readiness of our graduates and satisfy needs in our workforce. It creates opportunities for students to earn an associate's degree or gain meaningful work experience through a high-demand apprenticeship program. It offers three additional pathways along with traditional high school options.

The Jump Start 2.0 Associate's Degree Pathway allows students who plan to enter the workforce after high school graduate with an associate's degree. The TOPS University Associate's Degree Pathway allows college-going students to earn two years of college credit while in high school. The High-Demand Apprenticeship Pathway allows students to enter the workforce after high school with certification in a high-demand field.

Students would spend grades 9 and 10 on their high school campus earning required diploma coursework in core academic areas. Students would then have the opportunity to spend grades 11 and 12 on a postsecondary campus, a high school postsecondary satellite campus or fully immersed in a state-recognized pre-apprentice or apprentice program. While participating high schools would continue to offer current options, this initiative would give additional opportunities for students and families.

[BESE and the Board of Regents both support Fast Forward](#). We released a [request for applications](#) for the development of these new student pathways last week. You can learn more about the initiative [on our website](#).

We must be more deliberate about personalizing high school for our students and preparing them for their next step beyond high school graduation. Over time, this will shift our educational landscape, open opportunities for students and improve Louisiana.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

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## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Super App Office Hours	<a href="#">January 15 at 10 a.m.</a>
Educator Development Office Hours	<a href="#">January 19 at 12 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">January 26 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Office Hours	<a href="#">February 1 at 9 a.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 15 at 9 a.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 19 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 20 at 2 p.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 20 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 21 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 21 at 3 p.m.</a>
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	<a href="#">January 22 at 9 a.m.</a>
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 27 at 1 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 28 at 9 a.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 4 at 1 p.m.</a>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 22 at 10 a.m.</a>

\*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
Pre-Educator Statewide Pathway Launch: Support, Partnerships, and Funding Webinar	<a href="#">January 15 at 11 a.m.</a>
Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Informational Webinar	<a href="#">January 28 at 1 p.m.</a>
Important Deadlines	
<a href="#">Notice of Intent to Participate in School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities</a>	January 22
<a href="#">Diploma and Seal Order Form</a>	February 5

## Operations

### **Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021**

On December 21, 2020, Congress released the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA). This legislation includes a COVID-19 relief package specifying appropriations provisions of \$81.9 billion to Governors, state and local educational agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions. Additionally, the legislation includes several other education-related provisions for childcare providers and internet connectivity.

#### Education Stabilization Funds Summary

- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER 2) - \$4.1 billion
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER 2 Fund)- \$54.3 billion
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER) \$22.7 billion

The K-12 funds amount to an average of just over \$1000 per pupil nationally. Louisiana will receive \$1,160,119 billion in ESSER 2 funds, which can be used for all of those previously allowed under the CARES Act, and additional new uses, including:

- Addressing learning loss such as by administering assessments to assess progress, implementing evidence-based activities
- Purchasing the hardware and software needed to conduct remote and hybrid learning
- Providing services to support student mental health
- Tracking attendance and improving student engagement
- Supporting afterschool and summer learning programs
- School facility repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus
- Efforts to improve indoor air quality
- Purchasing PPE and the supplies needed to clean and disinfect schools. The CDC has provided an [analysis of the costs](#) of such resources.

**The Department will provide more information during the System Leaders Monthly Call this [Friday, January 15](#).** Additionally, the Department will provide regular communication and updates in the

weekly newsletter, school system monthly call, and the Federal Support and Grantee Relations monthly calls and office hours.

Please contact [LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## Career and College Readiness

### **2020-2021 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders**

**Please share with principals, professional school counselors, and data coordinators.**

The [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) is open for school systems to submit orders for 2020-2021 graduates. All diploma requests should be submitted through the electronic form by **February 5**. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

Please contact [megan.thompson2@la.gov](mailto:megan.thompson2@la.gov) with questions.

## Teaching and Learning

### **Sessions Still Available: Virtual Instruction Training for Teachers and Leaders**

The Louisiana Department of Education has partnered with NIET to help equip teachers and school leaders to plan for and strengthen virtual instruction. Louisiana educators have free access to three, 90-minute professional learning sessions that model effective virtual teaching. These sessions are taught live (synchronously) and offered several times a week this semester.

There are different options for teachers and principals to receive more tailored support based on their role. Sessions for principals and administrators will focus on remote observation and coaching practices, while teacher sessions will provide more content teachers can directly use in their virtual instruction.

Registration is still open, but seats are limited for each district or school system. Educators should connect with their immediate supervisor to see if seats are available to attend. More details and registration information can be accessed via [NIET's website](#).

Louisiana educators [now have free, asynchronous access](#) to these training sessions. The three, 60-minute self-study modules showcase different aspects of effective virtual teaching. Through the asynchronous sessions, which are similar to the live training, educators will learn about tips, templates, and strategies to use immediately in their virtual classrooms.

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

## Louisiana Scholarship Program News

### **Interests & Opportunities Survey for K-12 Accountability**

Beginning in 2019-2020, Louisiana's K-12 accountability system now includes an Interests & Opportunities Index. For the 2020-2021 school year, the index is calculated based on course enrollment in grades K-8 in certain enrichment categories and on completion of a survey. The survey makes up 50% of the K-8 index and 100% of the high school index.

The Interests & Opportunities survey will be released on **January 14** and will be open until **February 22**. Schools will receive an email with information on how to access and complete the survey at their email address listed in Sponsor Site. School system accountability contacts will also receive an email with information for their respective schools.

**Survey completion is requested for all Louisiana Scholarship Program sites. The Interests and Opportunities Index is part of the calculation for the Scholarship Cohort Index.**

Please contact [andrew.shachat@la.gov](mailto:andrew.shachat@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: 2021-2022 Scholarship Program Application Window Now Open**

The application for the Louisiana Scholarship Program is now available for schools located outside Orleans at [www.louisianabelieves.com/scholarship](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/scholarship). Families interested in applying to a Scholarship school in Orleans Parish should do so via the OneApp at [www.EnrollNOLA.org](http://www.EnrollNOLA.org). Both applications will close on January 29, 2021.

Important materials are below:

[Application Webinar PowerPoint](#)- Instructions for marking a student eligible in SEE can be found at the end of the Application Webinar PPT, beginning on slide 19.

[2021-2022 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 and that the family meets income and residency eligibility requirements

For questions about the application, contact [StudentScholarships@LA.gov](mailto:StudentScholarships@LA.gov). For schools located in Orleans that have questions about OneApp, please contact [Enrollment\\_Support@nolapublicschools.com](mailto:Enrollment_Support@nolapublicschools.com).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with any questions.

## **For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts**

### **LEAP Connect**

- January 20: Printed materials delivered to sites. Additional materials can be requested through the DRC INSIGHT portal beginning January 21.
- All students in grades 3-8 and 11 must participate in ELA and mathematics assessments which are operational in 2021 and will be included in 2021 school performance scores. Students in grades 4, 8, and 11 must also participate in the science assessment, which is also operational this year.
- All students who are earning a diploma through the Jump Start pathway designed for students participating in LEAP Connect must take the assessments in order to be eligible for this diploma pathway.
- Due to standard setting that must be completed in the summer, scores for LEAP Connect will not be available before August.
- Teachers will have the opportunity to complete a survey related to administration of the science assessment. Teacher feedback is greatly appreciated as the Department continues to refine and improve administrations.
- Doctors' letters should only be used appropriately for students who are too medically fragile to test. The letters cannot use the disability as the only reason to excuse testing.
- All test administrators must complete the TA Quiz and earn a score of 80% or greater to administer assessments. The TA Quiz is available under the materials tab for the LEAP Connect 2021 administration.

### **ACT Match/No Match Rosters**

- The ACT Match/No match rosters have been posted to the secure FTP with the file name *LEA Code\_LEA Name\_2020-2021 ACT Match\_No Match Roster 01072021*. These rosters are very important to the ACT planning process, and they will be updated one final time prior to testing when the Department receives scores from February national testing.
- ACT Match rosters identify the students in grade 12 who have an ACT score on file with the Department. The student can be tested again at the expense of the school system as long as the ACT MOU has been completed and returned to the Department.
- ACT No Match rosters identify the students in grade 12 who do not have an ACT score on file with the Department and will test at no cost to the school system.
- School systems should not submit requests for changes to the rosters at this time.
- All students enrolled in grade 12 must have an ACT score by the end of the academic year as well as any students graduating from grade 11. The only students who are exempt from testing are students with LEAP Connect high school level scores.
  - The expected cohort graduation year is not considered when identifying students for testing.
  - Students in grade 12 who were included in a prior year SPS (2019 or before) will not be included in the ACT index.

- Students with LEAP Connect scores who are not taking the ACT should not be removed from PANext. They should have an accountability code of 94 applied to them.
- Students who do not have an ACT score, or LEAP Connect high school level scores for eligible students, will be assigned a score of zero in the ACT index, which is 25% of the high school SPS.
- WorkKeys scores will only be used for students in the ACT index if there is also an ACT score for the students.
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- Today, January 12: ACT will load all eligible 11- and 12-grade students into [PANext](#).
- Tomorrow, January 13 at 11 a.m.: ACT Test Administration Q & A [Registration link](#) and [Powerpoint](#)
- Now-January 22: Verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student files if needed. January 22 is the deadline to receive barcode labels.
- Now-January 15: Request ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System](#) (TAA).
- Resources
  - [Non-Test Instructions for Test Coordinators](#)
  - [Non-Test Instructions for Students](#)
  - [Taking the ACT PDF](#)

#### **LEAP 2025 Fall High School Administration**

- The following flexibilities require notification to the LDOE:
  - Use of January 27 and 28 makeup dates (need to send LASIDs)
  - Use of weekend testing (need to send LASIDs)
- The following flexibilities require documentation using the [Permission to Test in Alternate Environments Form](#)
  - Individual testing of students who do not have the accommodation on an IEP or IAP
  - Testing off-site
- Schools that are testing should plan to allow for state monitors. Schools can follow protocols for safety but should not prevent them from observing testing.

#### **Growth to Mastery Rosters**

- The growth to mastery rosters have been updated using the enrollment site code from the October 1 submission. The rosters can be found on the secure FTP with file name *LEA Code 2020-2021 Grade 3-8 or HS Growth to Mastery Student Roster Update*.

#### **Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours**

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on January 19 at 3:45 p.m. A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- Webinar Date and Time: January 19 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

### For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

#### **LEAP Connect**

- **January 20:** Printed materials delivered to sites. Additional materials can be requested through the DRC INSIGHT portal beginning January 21.
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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	<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
Aspiring Scholars	New Orleans Archdiocese	<a href="https://aspiringscholarsla.org/">https://aspiringscholarsla.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:info@aspiringscholarsla.org">info@aspiringscholarsla.org</a>	504-513-4140
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 News

### School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities Notice of Intent Available

The [Notice of Intent to Participate in the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities](#) is now available. In order to be eligible to participate schools must meet the following criteria:

- located in either Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, or St. Tammany parish
- provided SPED services to students for at least the past two years
- employs teachers that hold appropriate certification in special education

The NOI application has been extended until **January 22, 2021**. Please email completed NOI as well as required documentation (only for schools new to SCP) to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).

**As a reminder, all current students must reapply each year to keep their award. The application for families will be released after the conclusion of the NOI process.**

If you have any questions, please email [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).

## **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 the completed form to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).

## **Reminders**

- [\*\*School System Support Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Teaching and Learning Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Literacy Reminders\*\*](#)

## ***School System Support Reminders***

### **LDOE Website Survey**

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The LDOE is planning a redesign of its current website — [louisianabelieves.com](http://louisianabelieves.com) — and seeking stakeholder input on how well the current website serves their needs, what current structures can be improved upon, and what new features can be added. Please take a few minutes to offer honest feedback via the [website feedback survey](#).

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

### **Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)**

[Real-time Early Access to Literacy \(REAL\)](#) provides individualized support for students in pre-K through grade 3 to make progress in their literacy development, with a focus on support for virtual learning. REAL provides devices, connectivity, and tutoring services to eligible students in pre-K through grade 3. In December, eligible school systems received funding to authorize students for tutoring services.

School systems interested in becoming a tutoring service provider and/or systems that need additional information about the REAL Program are encouraged to join an informational webinar. Details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 28 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 441 892 1159

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

## ***Teaching and Learning Reminders***

### ***Literacy Reminders***

#### **Literacy Initiatives**

The Department's Literacy division believes all Louisiana students will have improved literacy outcomes through high-quality instruction and interactions by effective teachers supported by leaders and families. The team's initiatives, which will be launched at the Teacher Leader Summit, focus on:

- Ensuring students receive high-quality instruction from effective teachers,
- Supporting teachers and school and system leaders through ongoing professional development opportunities, and
- Providing diverse opportunities for family literacy engagement.

One initiative currently underway is the Family Literacy Engagement Workgroup, tasked with generating ideas for a family portal of resources and guidance. The workgroup, which kicked off on December 16, will develop a strategic plan to improve communication with families around literacy. Additional information about the Family Literacy Engagement Workgroup and additional literacy initiatives will be communicated in future newsletters.

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