

Important News for

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 21, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

One of our key beliefs at the Louisiana Department of Education is that all graduates must be ready for a career or college. Students across the state benefit from our innovative career and technical education program, [Jump Start](#). This program prepares students to lead productive adult lives, capable of continuing their education after high school while earning certifications in high-wage career sectors.

Next week (January 26-27) marks our annual [Jump Start Convention](#). This event gives us an opportunity to reflect on the progress of the state's career and technical education program, build knowledge, share resources and strategize for the future. We've shifted to a virtual convention to ensure we can still serve educators across the state. This year's theme is Inspire. Innovate. Impact, and I'm excited to present a State of CTE in Louisiana address as part of the opening session Tuesday. The convention will also be an opportunity to learn more about our bold, new [Fast Forward](#) initiative that allows high school students to get a head start on a career or college.

Thank you to our team at LDOE as well as our partners in K-12, higher education, business and industry for creating this opportunity to build capacity in our educators as they prepare our students for life after high school.

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	January 22 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	January 26 at 3:45 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	January 28 at 3 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	February 1 at 9 a.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	February 23 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	January 27 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	January 28 at 9 a.m.
Roundtable for System Leaders	January 29 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	February 4 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	February 5 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	February 22 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	February 23 at 3:45 p.m.
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p>	
Upcoming Events	

Event Title	Zoom Link
Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Informational Webinar	January 28 at 1 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Diploma and Seal Order Form	February 5
Notice of Intent to Participate in School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities	January 22

Career and College Readiness

Spring Semester 2021 PPE Supplies

The LDOE, in collaboration with the Special School District, has face coverings available for all public, private, and charter school systems that need to replenish their supply for the spring semester. Each school system may request an appropriate number of masks equivalent to their student and faculty census.

School systems will be responsible for coordinating the pick-up of PPE supplies between 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Special School District Warehouse located at 2888 Brightside Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Requests for face coverings should be made directly to jsnider@lsdvi.org. Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Update: BinaxNOW Rapid COVID Testing Kits Survey Extended

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits available upon request for school systems to access when a CLIA Waived Certificate Number or community health provider has been identified. In order to access these test kits, school systems will need a designated point of contact to complete a survey.

The survey will request the following information:

- Name of the delivery location
- Point of contact (Need name, email, phone number)
- Delivery address
- CLIA Waived Certificate # or the community provider who will be testing so LDH can obtain all the same information on the number of BINAX tests requested (recommend estimating number based on 20 percent of school system's census)

School systems that would like to request BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits are encouraged to [complete this survey](#).

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

2021 Spring Virtual Counselor Institutes

Please share with school counselors.

The 2021 Spring Virtual Counselor Institutes are scheduled to take place during National School Counseling Week.

For the past several years, the Department has hosted regional school counselor institutes (formerly called counselor collaborations) every fall and spring. In 2020, the Office of Career and College Readiness hosted the Fall Counselor Institute online, and the Spring 2021 Counselor Institute will be offered in the same format.

Please encourage school counselors to register for one of the sessions by following the corresponding hyperlink below. Registrants will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

- [Register](#) to attend on February 2 at 9:30 a.m.
- [Register](#) to attend on February 3 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Advanced Placement Exam Ordering Updates

Please share with AP coordinators, curriculum supervisors, high school principals, and counselors.

AP® coordinators should submit new exam orders and ensure all students who intend to test have an order exam status of yes in [AP Registration and Ordering](#) by **March 12**.

Second-semester class sections should be created in AP Registration and Ordering for all AP courses at each school that began after the fall ordering deadline and join codes have been shared with students.

Ensure students enroll in the class sections for the AP courses they're taking. See the [2020-2021 AP Coordinator's Manual, Part 1](#) for information about creating class sections, distributing join codes, student enrollment, and ordering exams.

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Advanced Placement Course Audits Updates

Please share with AP coordinators, curriculum supervisors, high school principals, and counselors.

The last day to complete the initial submission of course materials for 2020-2021 AP course authorization is January 31. Course authorization for the 2020-2021 school year ensures access to AP Score Reports when they become available next summer and that the course is listed on the [AP Course Ledger](#).

Important: Course authorization also ensures teachers maintain access to AP Classroom in 2021. Teachers who don't have a current year authorization by January 31 will lose access to AP Classroom and other resources.

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

Educator Development

Pre-Educator Pathway Webpage

The Department is excited to announce the launch of the [pre-educator pathway webpage](#). This webpage and library will house information and resources for high school students, teachers, preparation providers, and system leaders interested in Grow Your Own programs.

Please reach out to believeandprepare@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 with questions.

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. Families interested in applying to a Scholarship school in Orleans Parish should do so via the OneApp at www.EnrollNOLA.org. Both applications will close on January 29.

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. For schools located in Orleans that have questions about OneApp, please contact Enrollment_Support@nolapublicschools.com.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP Connect

- **(New) January 26:** DTCs apply date that LEAP Connect materials were received on the Receipt Notice found under the Materials tab in DRC INSIGHT.
- **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 D (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](#).
- **January 22**

- Deadline to verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student files if needed. January 22 is the deadline to receive barcode labels.
- Deadline to request reconsideration for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System \(TAA\)](#).
- Deadline to complete site readiness, including mock administration, proctor cache installation, and setup for online testing.
- **January 18-March 5:** Request late consideration for 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 Master 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 office hours will be on **January 26 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 26 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!

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 questions.

Tuition Donation Credit Program News

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

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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

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**. Please email completed NOI as well as required documentation (only for schools new to SCP) to 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.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

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.

Reminders

- **[Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)**
- **[Operations Reminders](#)**
- **[Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)**

Career and College Readiness Reminders

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 with questions.

Operations Reminders

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 regular communication and updates in this newsletter, school system monthly call, and the Federal Support and Grantee Relations monthly calls and office hours.

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

Teaching and Learning Reminders

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 with questions.