



# Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**February 4, 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

This week is National School Counseling Week. As a lifelong educator, I know the invaluable role school counselors play for students, families and coworkers. I've always made a point to celebrate counselors — especially during this national recognition week.

Counselors are central to a strong school culture and individual student success. This is even more true now. They've stepped into the gaps to serve students and their families from the moment this pandemic began. We will be post-pandemic soon, but counselors know their work during this crisis is far from over.

The theme of National School Counseling Week 2021 is *School Counselors: All In For All Students*. That is a true and fitting statement. Thank you counselors for supporting your entire school family. Thank you for the many public and private victories you achieve for your students. Thank you for helping students explore their interests, find their passion and graduate ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Happy National School Counseling Week.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

## **In This Issue**

- [Career and College Readiness](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
  - [Academic Content](#)
- [Louisiana Scholarship Program News](#)
- [Tuition Donation Credit Program News](#)
- [School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities News](#)
- [Reminders](#)

## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">February 9 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Office Hours	<a href="#">February 11 at 9 a.m.</a>
Educator Development Office Hours	<a href="#">February 23 at 12 p.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 5 at 9 a.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 17 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 18 at 10 a.m.</a>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 22 at 10 a.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 23 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 24 at 1 p.m.</a>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 24 at 2:30 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 25 at 9 a.m.</a>
System Leaders Roundtable	<a href="#">February 26 at 9 a.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">March 18 at 3 p.m.</a>
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the <a href="#">School Improvement Library</a>. View the <a href="#">School System Support Calendar</a> to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p>	

Important Deadlines	
<a href="#">State-Level Teacher and Principal of the Year (TPOY) Application</a>	February 4
<a href="#">Diploma and Seal Order Form</a>	February 5
<a href="#">Fast Forward Planning Grant Application</a>	February 10
<a href="#">Super App Submission</a>	February 12
<a href="#">Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priorities Survey</a>	February 21

## Career and College Readiness

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

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

The deadline to [submit diploma requests](#) for 2020-2021 graduates is **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.

### **Fast Forward**

**Please share with principals, professional school counselors, and high school supervisors.**

[Fast Forward](#) will fund a lead regional secondary school system in each Regional Labor Market Area to serve as the fiscal agent for a \$50,000 planning grant (\$25,000 Louisiana Department of Education/\$25,000 Board of Regents). Final [applications](#) are due **February 10**.

The grant awardee would facilitate the design of a regional Associate Degree and/or fully immersed internship program framework for universal adoption.

These programs will allow students to earn either a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma or a TOPS University Diploma while dually earning an associate degree or participating in a Louisiana Workforce Commission recognized pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship that either prepares graduates for career or continuing postsecondary education. Additional [information and resources](#) are available.

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

## Teaching and Learning

### **Summer Learning Programs**

Summer learning programs (SLPs) are designed to provide students with additional opportunities for learning and growing during the summer months. Systems should strive to create opportunities for all students to access a summer learning program.

To support school systems in providing summer learning programs for incoming K-8 students, [guidance](#)

was released this week that includes:

- Structure and elements of a summer program
- Resources for implementing elements
- Staffing and scheduling considerations
- Sample schedules
- Checklists for action steps during the spring and summer
- Funding information

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

## Academic Content

### **International Associate Teachers of World Languages and Immersion**

**Please share with K-8 administrators interested in hosting an International Associate Teacher of French or Spanish.**

The Department's annual international teacher recruitment for K-8 world languages and immersion has begun. Schools and school systems interested in participating in the [International Associate Teacher Program](#) for the 2021-2022 school year should submit their [projected needs request forms](#) as soon as possible to [language.acquisition@la.gov](mailto:language.acquisition@la.gov).

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

## Louisiana Scholarship Program News

### Q3 Count February 3-5

The Quarter 3 enrollment verification window for the Louisiana Scholarship Program will be February 3-5 in [SEE](#). Please complete the enrollment verification process by COB on Friday, February 5 to ensure prompt payment.

Additionally, student absences and suspensions can be reported in [SEE](#). The Scholarship Cohort Index includes a Progress Index that measures student growth using the value-added model. Student attendance and discipline are used in the model. If no data are reported, absolute values will be used (zero absences and zero discipline incidences) and your school's SCI may be negatively impacted. Reporting this data is optional.

Please remember that your LEADS password may have expired. In order to reset your password, please visit <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>.

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

### Budget to Actual – Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (SSEEP) Expenditures

In October 2020, participating SSEEP schools sent in a proposed budget to LDE showing how their school anticipated using SSEEP funds. The completed budget form and allocation spreadsheet ([Click here](#)) showing actual SSEEP expenditures through January 31, 2021 are due by February 12, 2021.

Submit your budget form and allocation spreadsheet (if applicable) via e-mail to [staudit@la.gov](mailto:staudit@la.gov)

Please make sure that you provide a complete and accurate Listing of Expenditures to the audit firms as of January 31, 2021. Once a sample is selected, you will not be able to update any listing of expenditures and allocation spreadsheets for testing purposes.

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

### Scholarship Financial Audit Webinar

A webinar was conducted by the Office of School System Financial Services Staff. This webinar provided clarity in completing the allocation spreadsheet and budget form for Phase II testing.

Access a [copy of the PowerPoint](#).

Please contact [Ronnie.DavisJr@la.gov](mailto:Ronnie.DavisJr@la.gov) with audit-specific questions and [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with Scholarship program-specific questions.

## 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.

## 2021-2022 Scholarship Program Application

The application closed on January 29 for Orleans and Statewide. All applications for schools outside of Orleans must be marked as eligible in SEE by Friday, February 5. Please see the webinar linked below for information about marking applications as eligible.

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).

## For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

### 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 18-March 5:** Request late consideration for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System](#) (TAA).
- **January 25-February 12:** Order additional WorkKeys accommodation materials for February 24-March 8.
- **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](#):
  - The 30-day requirement is waived for these flexibilities.
  - 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.

## 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	<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

### Q3 Count February 3-5

The Quarter 3 enrollment verification window for the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities will be February 3-5 in [SCS](#). Please complete the enrollment verification process by COB Friday, February 5 to ensure prompt payment.

Please remember that your LEADS password may have expired. In order to reset your password, please visit <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>.

Please contact [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with any 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](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).

## Reminders

- [\*\*Career and College Readiness Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Teaching and Learning Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Academic Content Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Literacy Reminders\*\*](#)

## ***Career and College Readiness Reminders***

### **Jump Start Construction Scholars Program**

Please share with high school counselors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF), Louisiana's Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) are now accepting [applications](#) for the Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program. This scholarship is dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates who have earned a Jump Start credential and a Louisiana high school diploma and subsequently enroll in an LCTCS Construction Pathway Program or Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) training program the summer or fall immediately following graduation. Applications are due **March 15**.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

Any high school senior who has a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential, will earn a Jump Start Career Diploma, and enrolls in an LCTCS construction pathway program or an ABC training program in the summer or fall semester immediately following high school graduation is eligible to apply.

#### **Scholarship Award**

Up to forty, one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded to students enrolling at an LCTCS program or an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

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

## **Louisiana COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution for Educators**

Please share with school system leaders.

Louisiana's vaccine distribution plan is designed to ensure that all communities have just and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine and information about the vaccine. The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has been working closely with the private and public sector — including pharmacies, hospitals, and nursing homes — in making the vaccine available at locations in both urban and rural communities throughout the state. There are still many unknowns about the quantities of vaccine that will come to Louisiana and the timing of those deliveries.

At this time, each school system should consider devising a vaccine distribution plan in order to ensure all school system employees have equitable access to information and the COVID-19 vaccine. In order to be ready when the state reaches Phase 1B Tier 2, school systems could prepare by:

- Coordinating with a vaccination partner such as a hospital, clinic, pharmacy, Public Health Office, etc.
- Identifying the total number of vaccinations that will be needed.

As a courtesy, LDOE will pass school system information along to LDH when a partner is secured and school systems have an estimated number of vaccines needed. Please submit one plan per school system to [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov).

Please contact [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov) with questions.

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

### ***Academic Content Reminders***

#### **Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews**

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

The Department conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [Annotated Reviews](#) webpage.

<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Title and Grade Levels</b>	<b>Core Subject</b>	<b>Tiered Rating</b>
Amplify Education, Inc.	<a href="#">Amplify Science Louisiana, Grade 6</a>	Science	Tier I

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

### ***Literacy Reminders***

#### **Real-time Early Access to Literacy**

[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.

School systems interested in receiving additional support with student enrollment through the REAL portal and eGMS applications are encouraged to join the informational webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 11 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 [catasha.edwards@la.gov](mailto:catasha.edwards@la.gov) with questions.