



Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



March 18, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, BESE approved additional opportunities for high school seniors to meet the LEAP 2025 and Career Diploma IBC credentialing graduation requirements. I believe we continue to meet the demands of the moment. This is simply an additional regulatory flexibility in an unusual year.

You can learn more about these opportunities by reading this [one-pager](#) or our regularly updated [FAQ](#). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our team. School and system staff may also send questions to highschoolacademics@la.gov.

Thank you for continuing to serve our children. We are rising to the challenges of this year and I am honored to work alongside you and your dedicated team of educators.

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	March 23 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	March 23 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	March 23 at 3:45 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	March 25 at 3 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	April 8 at 9 a.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
AE Leadership Community of Practice	March 24 at 10 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	March 24 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	March 25 at 9 a.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	March 26 at 9 a.m.
Literacy Monthly Call	April 1 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	April 1 at 1 p.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	April 1 at 1 p.m.
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.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	April 14 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	April 14 at 3 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	April 19 at 10 a.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
SPED Fellow Informational Webinar	March 25 at 9 a.m.
Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Informational Webinar	March 25 at 10 a.m.
SPED Fellow Informational Webinar	March 25 at 2:30 p.m.
<i>Believe!</i> Launch	March 30 at 3 p.m.
<i>Achieve!</i> Launch	March 30 at 3:45 p.m.
Individual Graduation Planning (IGP) Webinar	March 31 at 9 a.m.
Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Webinar	March 31 at 1 p.m.
Individual Graduation Planning (IGP) Webinar	April 7 at 9 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
Public School Counts by Month for DCFS	March 19
Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application	March 31
EANS Application Deadline	April 4
Jump Start Construction Scholars Program Applications	April 12

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Title IV, Part A, CARES Act Fiscal Waiver Flexibilities for SY 2020-2021

In addition to the Title IV Waiver Flexibilities currently available for Title IV, Part A Funds for 2019-2020 **prior year** funds, all school systems are encouraged to take advantage of the Title IV Fiscal Waiver Flexibilities for the current year, SY 2020-2021, Title IV award.

These recently extended fiscal waiver flexibilities allow local school systems to apply the following provisions to the current school year 2020-2021:

- Target Title IV, Part A funds directly to specific needs of school systems within the intent of Title IV programming without having to adjust the Title IV Needs Assessment.
- Disregard the Content Area 'Required Percentages' in order to get the maximum fiscal flexibility driven by the school system's current needs. For example, school systems will be allowed to target more funding toward technology infrastructure (i.e. student devices, internet connectivity, etc.) without being limited to the fifteen percent requirement for Infrastructure/TIN in the Effective Use of Technology section.

School systems can access the Title IV fiscal flexibilities immediately by amending their 2020-2021 Super App. The following areas must be amended:

1. Signing off on the Title IV waiver assurances
2. Noting changes on the Amendment Description tab
3. Aligning actual amounts projected on the Title IV Allowable Uses Page
4. Adjusting the appropriate Domain Budget Detail page

Note: These flexibilities apply to Title IV, Part A funds for the prior year 2019-2020 and current year 2020-2021 currently available in the 2020-2021 Super App for each LEA.

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

Nutrition Support

School Meals Waivers Extended Through September 30

On March 9, the United States Department of Agriculture announced the extension of several child nutrition program [waivers](#) through September 30. The extension will allow child nutrition program sponsoring organizations the flexibility necessary to provide children with access to free meals through the summer months.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

NCCER ICTP/Core Instructor Training

Share with CTE supervisors, principals, counselors, and secondary supervisors.

NCCER ICTP/Core teacher certification will be held virtually from April 12-16 and continues April 19-23. NCCER Master Trainer Chance Plaisance will serve as the instructor. The master trainer will work with craft instructors to complete performance profiles.

To receive the registration link, documentation of skill of the requested craft is required. The NCCER card number and any one or all of the following should be submitted to troy.borne@la.gov.

- Resumé with industry experience including professional contacts to verify experience in requested craft area(s)
- Diploma with transcript from postsecondary institution in requested craft area(s)
- Registered apprenticeship in requested craft area(s)

The cost of the certification class for ICTP/Core is \$600.00. Instructors that only need ICTP or Core should reach out to troy.borne@la.gov. Registration costs will be paid via the registration link provided. Perkins and/or CDF funds may be utilized for training costs.

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

2021 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Catalogue

Please share with CTE supervisors.

The dynamic [2021 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Catalogue](#) provides a list of professional development and training opportunities available this summer. This list is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed. School systems can submit training opportunities and/or training requests to jumpstart@la.gov for review.

Registration costs for the summer sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025 Graduation Regulatory Flexibility Options for 2020-2021

Please share with secondary supervisors, high school administrators, district test coordinators, and counselors.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has granted a [LEAP 2025 graduation regulatory flexibility options](#). This option will allow opportunities for high school seniors to meet the LEAP 2025 and Career Diploma IBC credentialing requirement. The aforementioned opportunities are available to high school seniors who meet the following qualifications:

1. Met all other graduation requirements
2. Attempted all LEAP 2025 assessments at least one time
3. Were enrolled during the spring 2021 semester and are graduating by August 31, 2021

All high school seniors who meet the qualifications listed above have the option to substitute the following in lieu of the LEAP 2025 high school assessment requirement and/or Career Diploma credential requirement:

LEAP 2025 Substitution Opportunities

1. An ACT composite score of 17 or higher for all students; or
2. An ACT subject score of 17 or higher in the corresponding LEAP 2025 high school assessment; or
3. A score of Silver or better on ACT WorkKeys for students pursuing a Career Diploma; or
4. The student participates in 20 or more extended learning hours per LEAP 2025 high school assessment subject pair for which the student has yet to achieve level 2 (approaching basic/fair) or above, with such instruction provided by a qualified teacher. A template will be provided to LEAs to document the extended learning hours and the level of achievement.
 - a. School systems will determine the number of extended learning hours needed (minimum 20) and the assessment method used to determine whether or not the student is performing at the equivalent of Approaching Basic
 - b. Qualified teacher is defined as holding a valid and current teaching certification or a final COMPASS evaluation of Effective: Emerging or better

Career Diploma IBC Credentialing Requirement Opportunity

1. WorkKeys Silver and above can also substitute for an IBC credential for the purpose of meeting graduation requirements for Career Diploma students.

Please review the [dynamic FAQs](#) for additional information.

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Financial Aid Awareness

Please share with secondary supervisors, high school administrators, and counselors.

The Louisiana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (LASFAA) and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) partnered with other institutions from across the state to host a two-day, virtual event to help students with the college-going process.

Many students have a significant need for information related to the college process from both the admissions and financial aid perspective. On **March 17 and March 18, from 6-7:30 p.m.**, LASFAA, LOSFA, and other higher education and college access professionals will provide critical admissions and financial aid information for those students.

Please share the registration link for this two-day event with students to help make their college admission process more accessible.

- March 17: <https://admissions.lsu.edu/register/LOSFA31721>
- March 18: <https://admissions.lsu.edu/register/LOSFA31821>

Please contact rhonda.bridevaux@la.gov at LOSFA with questions.

Individual Graduation Planning (IGP) Webinar

Please share with school counselors.

All middle and high school counselors are encouraged to attend the (rescheduled) 2021 IGP Webinar on either **March 31 or April 7 from 9 until 11 a.m.** The LDOE will provide attendees with an overview of Louisiana IGP policies and recent updates to Act 238, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) will demonstrate how school counselors can use related LWC resources. A Zoom recording and deck will be available to those unable to attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 31 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95873761113>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 958 7376 1113

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 7 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95873761113>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 958 7376 1113

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

Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support

Healthy Communities

How to Introduce Mindful Movement into the Classroom Webinar

The Department, in partnership with LDH-Well Ahead, is hosting a webinar on How to Introduce Mindful Movement into the Classroom.

Educators know that children learn best when they are comfortable, safe, and relaxed. Mindfulness is a practice of self-awareness that helps to relax the body and mind and reduce stress. Join the How to Introduce Mindful Movement into the Classroom Webinar, scheduled for **March 31 from 1:30-3 p.m.**, to gain skills to lead students through simple mindfulness exercises, including breathing techniques and mindful movement that can be used to boost classroom physical activity. During this 90-minute webinar, attendees will practice planning how to integrate bite-size mindful movement lessons into daily routines.

[Register in advance.](#) After registering, attendees will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action

The Department, in partnership with LDH-Well Ahead, is promoting The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' Take Down Tobacco program empowers youth to stand up and speak out against the tobacco industry.

This year's Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action will be held virtually on **April 1**. The Department and LDH-Well Ahead encourage teachers, students, families, and student organizations to participate in Take Down Tobacco Day by:

- Planning a [Take Down Tobacco event](#)
- Displaying or sharing event [resources](#) such as fact sheets, data, and campaign promotional materials
- Connecting students to [information](#) on youth initiatives and training opportunities for youth groups or youth leaders
- Supporting high school students in entering the Louisiana High School Next Era Take Down Tobacco Day Short Video contest. Selected entries will earn a stipend prize. For details, visit [Next Era's](#) website.
- Joining the virtual night of comedy and empowerment against Big Tobacco on April 1 from 6-7 p.m. Registration and event details [are now available](#).

The Department and LDH-Well Ahead encourage schools that participate to register their events on the [Take Down Tobacco website](#) and post on social media platforms using the #TakeDownTobacco hashtag. For additional information on Take Down Tobacco Day or resources for helping youth stay or geaux tobacco-free, visit [wellaheadla.com](#).

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions

Teaching and Learning

Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Guidance

The Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Guidance will be released **March 30**. This guidance will provide systems and school leaders best practices, staffing and scheduling models, cautions and tips for implementation, and information on ongoing implementation support available. A webinar will be held on March 31 to walk through the guidance and provide information on ongoing implementation support available. System leaders that supervise special education, English Learners, academics, human resources, and elementary and secondary schools should attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 31 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95029666833>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 950 2966 6833
- **Passcode:** 952068

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

Accelerate

[Accelerate](#), Louisiana's pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal-access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students. Grounded in the most impactful research-based practices, Accelerate is a just-in-time tutoring model that addresses unfinished learning by building knowledge and connecting it to skills in current lessons.

March 15: Phase 4 release of ELA resources

- Final set of the [knowledge packs](#) for grades 3-8 released

May 14: Summer guidance released

For more support on unfinished learning, leaders and teachers can use the School Support Institutes: Addressing Unfinished Learning Series Day 1 [ELA](#) and [Math](#) Community of Practice presentations on the [Accelerate website](#).

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

Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)

[Real-time Early Access to Literacy \(REAL\)](#) provides early literacy support for students in pre-K through grade 3. Funding allocations were provided to school systems to support pre-K through grade 3 students enrolled in CIR and UIR-A schools with tutoring from an approved [LDOE Tutoring Service Provider](#). The first tutoring cycle is underway and will end on May 8. The deadline for eGMS application submission has been **extended to April 1**. More information will be communicated about additional funding for the summer tutoring cycle in April.

For more information about REAL, visit the [REAL](#) landing page.

Please contact catasha.edwards@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program

The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) needs assistance in providing data on families participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP). DCFS intends to implement Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program benefits and provide P-EBT to eligible Louisiana families via an EBT card for the 2020-2021 school year.

To ensure all qualified students for this school year are reached, DCFS plans to implement P-EBT by utilizing direct certification through data matching, allowing direct issuance of benefits to eligible households. With direct certification, there is no application process and does not require any action by families.

DCFS is asking for assistance in obtaining monthly data by school site from the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year in August 2020 through the remainder of the school year.

1. Total days on-site school closed to all students by month
2. Total (or average) on-site days attended by hybrid students per month

Please enter this aggregate data by site in [Jot Form](#) by **March 19**.

This data is to assist DCFS with their initial application to USDA. Please note that they will also need individual student data for all children eligible for free/reduced priced meals in order to issue P-EBT benefits. A separate communication will be sent requesting this data once DCFS is prepared for that data.

Please contact Amanda Skinner, Division of Family Support at 225-342-1634 or amanda.skinner.DCFS@la.gov with questions about the application DCFS is submitting or plans DCFS has in implementing P-EBT.

Please contact kaylie.loupe@la.gov with questions concerning the data being collected or the Jot Form.

February 2021 Economically Disadvantaged Student Rosters

The Department released the February 2021 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system for the purposes of informing grants, funding, and subgroup determinations. The single Excel file, LEA Code LEA Name Feb 2021 Economically Disadvantaged, is available through June 1 on the Data Management FTP site. FTP coordinators should locate their individual school system file and share it with their federal program and finance staff.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Special Education

Reevaluation Pilot Office Hours

The Department will host informational office hours on reevaluation and waiver changes in SER. Pupil Appraisal staff, special education coordinators and directors, data coordinators, SER managers, SER clerks, and any other staff who work with reevaluation and waiver processes in SER should plan to attend.

Region	Date and Zoom Link	Region	Date and Zoom Link
1: Orleans, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. Bernard	Tuesday, March 23 at 10:30 a.m.	6: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, Winn	Thursday, March 25 at 2:30 p.m.
2: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana	Tuesday, March 23 at 1 p.m.	7: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster	Tuesday, March 30 at 10:30 a.m.

3: Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, Terrebonne	Thursday, March 25 at 9:30 a.m.	8: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll	Tuesday, March 30 at 1 p.m.
4: Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermillion	Thursday, March 25 at 11 a.m.	9: Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington	Tuesday, March 30 at 2:30 p.m.
5: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis	Thursday, March 25 at 1 p.m.		

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program

Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program

The Emergency Assistance for Non-Public School Fund (EANS) is a \$55 million grant that was awarded to Louisiana through the Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA) signed into law on December 27, 2020.

A school is eligible to participate in this program if it is Academically Approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for school year 2019-2020 and has a *Brumfield v. Dodd* approval. [A list of eligible schools](#) is available and can be found in the Department's [Nonpublic Schools Library](#).

The EANS eligibility application and program informational resources are available in the [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Library](#). Please review the program resources before filling out the application.

A second informational webinar will take place on [March 25 at 10 a.m.](#) **With only two weeks left to apply, all eligible schools are encouraged to attend.** The eligibility application **deadline is April 4.** Please note this deadline may be during spring break. All eligible schools are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 25 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9198036620>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 919 803 6620

Call 1-833-575-1727 or email info@LDOE-EANS.com with questions.

Louisiana Scholarship Program News

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.

LEAP 2025

- March 22: Test setup in DRC INSIGHT will open for high school LEAP testing
- March 29: Test setup in DRC INSIGHT will open for grades 3-8 LEAP testing
- March 29: DTCs should submit all test schedules

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](#).
- **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 17-26, 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; the date has not yet been announced. A principal may assign the questionnaire to another school administrator. Questionnaires must be completed by **March 26**.

- All states are awaiting official approval from the OMB to start this questionnaire.
- 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 office hours will be on **March 23 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 23 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.

<u>School Tuition Organization</u>	<u>Regional Focus</u>	<u>STO Website</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>ACE Scholarships Louisiana</u>	<u>Statewide</u>	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	<u>504-491-1813</u>
<u>Arete Scholars Louisiana</u>	<u>Statewide</u>	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	<u>225-245-3610</u>
<u>Aspiring Scholars</u>	<u>New Orleans Archdiocese</u>	https://aspiringscholarsla.org/	info@aspiringscholarsla.org	<u>504-513-4140</u>
<u>Son of a Saint</u>	<u>Orleans</u>	www.sonofasaint.org	hello@sonofasaint.org	<u>504-561-7508</u>

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities News

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. Applications are now available for the 2021-2022 school year. A confirmation email will be sent to participating schools once applications are reviewed.

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

Nonpublic Webinar PowerPoint - March 17th - Please click here

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)
 - [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders](#)
 - [Nutrition Support Reminders](#)
- [Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders](#)
 - [Special Education Reminders](#)
- [School System Financial Services Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)
 - [Academic Content Reminders](#)
 - [Educator Development Reminders](#)

Operations Reminders

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders

Believe! Launch

On [March 30 at 3 p.m.](#), the LDOE will be hosting a *Believe!* launch webinar to share guidance documents to support school systems and early childhood lead agencies as they begin planning for and budgeting new funds under the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CAA\)](#).

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

Achieve! Launch

Last year the Department released [Strong Start 2020](#), which included planning guidance and resources, along with a specific application in eGMS for school systems to plan and budget CARES Act funds. To support school systems with planning for and budgeting new funds under the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CAA\)](#), LDOE will be launching *Achieve!*.

On [March 30 at 3:45 p.m.](#), LDOE will host an official *Achieve!* launch webinar to share guidance documents to support LEAs with planning for and submitting budgets in eGMS.

School systems will also have access to an *Achieve!* resource library through the [Louisiana Believes website](#).

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

Nutrition Support Reminders

Nutrition Support Resources

The Department created the following Child Nutrition Program Prospective New Sponsor Checklists to streamline the application process for organizations that wish to sponsor one or more of the federal child nutrition programs:

1. [National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program](#)
2. [Summer Food Service Program](#)
3. [Child and Adult Care Food Program - Day Care Centers](#) (includes the At-Risk After School Meals Program)
4. [Child and Adult Care Food Program - Family Day Care Homes](#)

Visit the [Nutrition Support landing page](#) for additional information on [USDA Child Nutrition Programs](#), including the [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program](#), as well as partnerships with [Seeds to Success](#) and [Louisiana Fit Kids](#).

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders

Special Education Reminders

Statewide Deaf Education Chat

The Special School District (SSD) and Louisiana School for the Deaf (LSD) will host a statewide Deaf Education Open Chat on **March 24 at 6 p.m.** The chat will provide the opportunity for teachers of the Deaf, educational interpreters, educational audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and other related professionals serving Deaf and hard of hearing children to learn about support offered from the SSD.

Interested participants should [pre-register](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Please contact ndelgado@lsdvi.org with questions.

School System Financial Services Reminders

FY 2020-2021 Agricultural Science Allocation and Additional Guidance

The FY2020-2021 Agricultural Science allocation payments have been processed according to HB1 of the FY20 First Special Session.

The Department is providing additional guidance related to the Agricultural Science [allocation](#) that was recently released to school systems. Please refer to the attached [FAQ](#) to answer some of the commonly posed questions.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Academic Content Reminders

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers: Applications for Summer and Fall 2021 Open Now

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the summer and fall 2021 semesters are open now through **April 9**. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact STEM@la.gov.

Educator Development Reminders

Teacher Leader Summit Office Hours

To best support Louisiana educators, the Department has scheduled six office hours where our team will be on hand to offer guidance and support related to the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit and 2021 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series. The office hours will have no set agenda but will function as a question-and-answer opportunity. The next office hours will take place on **April 13**. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 13 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92284785653>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 922 8478 5653
- **Passcode:** 332148

Please contact LDOEEvents@la.gov with questions.