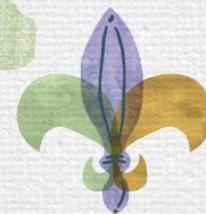


# Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**January 28, 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

This week we publicly released our priorities plan, *Believe to Achieve: Educational Priorities*. [I've linked our plan here.](#)

*Believe to Achieve* includes our new belief statements, state data to help track progress toward Louisiana's six critical goals and the new priorities that will direct our efforts to support you as we work together to achieve our critical goals. Each priority includes focus areas with key actions and initiatives. We believe our priorities (listed below) matter most to moving our children and our state forward.

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

*Believe to Achieve* opens by listing the Department's guiding belief statements.

- Children are our highest priority
- Families are our partners
- Educators are valued professionals
- Graduates must be ready
- Equity matters
- Choice expands opportunities
- Schools are invaluable to communities
- Our future is bright

The plan was months in the making. Much of what is included is based on feedback and conversations we've had with you since I stepped into this role almost eight months ago. Along with the public-facing document I linked above, we're developing an internal workplan that will operationalize these priorities and track progress toward goals. I hope you take some time to read through the plan. The priorities plan is the first look at our updated branding. You will gradually start to see it rolled out as monthly calls take place and new reports are created.

There's a lot happening this week. Along with the release of our priorities plan and the [7th annual Jump Start Convention](#), it's also National School Choice Week. Choice expands opportunities for families and students. From traditional public schools, public charter schools, magnet schools, nonpublic schools, online schools, homeschooling or Louisiana's many other options, I'm proud to serve a state that offers families a choice.

I also want to invite our system leaders to join me this Friday morning for our monthly system leaders roundtable. You can find the link in the "Monthly Calls" section of our "Important Dates for School Systems" in today's newsletter.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

## In This Issue

- [Career and College Readiness](#)
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- [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 2 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
Roundtable for System Leaders	<a href="#">January 29 at 9 a.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 4 at 1 p.m.</a>
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 5 at 9 a.m.</a>
Federal Programs and Grants Management 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>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 24 at 2:30 p.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">March 18 at 3 p.m.</a>
*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.	
Upcoming Events	

Event Title	Zoom Link
Accountability Commission Meeting	<a href="#">February 1 at 1 p.m.</a>
Accelerate Overview Webinar	<a href="#">February 1 at 1 p.m.</a>
<b>Important Deadlines</b>	
<a href="#">Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Application</a>	January 29
<a href="#">Social Studies Standards Review Committee Application</a>	February 1 at 8 a.m.
<a href="#">Diploma and Seal Order Form</a>	February 5
<a href="#">LSP Applications marked as eligible</a>	February 5
<a href="#">Q3 SEE enrollment</a>	February 5
<a href="#">Q3 SCS enrollment</a>	February 5

## Career and College Readiness

### **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**

### **Accelerate Launches February 1**

Accelerate, Louisiana's Tutoring Strategy, will be released February 1 on the Accelerate page. Guidance will consist of how to implement a research-based approach to addressing unfinished learning and the first phase of tutoring resources aligned to high-quality curricula. For an overview of the strategy, school system leaders should attend the webinar on February 1 at 1 p.m.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 1 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93959809671>
- **Meeting ID#:** 939 5980 9671
- **Passcode:** 623511

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

## Academic Content

### **Social Studies Student Standards Revision Process**

**Please share with social studies supervisors and social studies teachers for grades K-12.**

The Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies will be revised in 2021. The [application](#) to participate in the standards revisions committees is live with applications due by **February 1 at 8 a.m.** The standards committees will consist of a steering committee, a grades K-5 elementary content expert workgroup, and a grades 6-12 secondary content expert workgroup. Committees will be composed of Louisiana teachers, higher education representatives, school and school system leaders, parents, students, and community members. The committees will represent all regions of Louisiana as well as the demographic diversity of the state. Committee meetings will be conducted on to-be-determined dates starting in March and continuing through July. All committee meetings will be open to the public. Interested Louisiana teachers, district staff, administrators, parents, students, and community members may [apply](#).

The revised standards are slated to be completed in October. The 2011 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies will still be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year, with opportunities for learning and development on the revised 2021 standards. The revised 2021 standards will be implemented in the 2022-2023 school year.

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

### **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.

## 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 Closes Friday**

The application will close on Friday for Orleans and Statewide. Families may apply 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.

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.

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

The next Assessment and Accountability office hours will be on **February 2 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 2 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

- **(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.

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- The following flexibilities require documentation using the [Permission to Test in Alternate Environments Form](#)
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- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Passcode:** 2020202!

## **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.

<b>School Tuition Organization</b>	<b>Regional Focus</b>	<b>STO Website</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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**
  - **Literacy Reminders**
  - **Educator Development Reminders**

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

#### **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](mailto:jsnider@lsdvi.org).

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

## *Literacy Reminders*

### **Literacy Office Hours**

The Literacy Division will begin holding biweekly office hours starting **February 4 at 10 a.m.** This time will be for sharing updates on initiatives and answering questions from the field. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 4 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97454245168>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 5424 5168

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

## *Educator Development Reminders*

### **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.

As a reminder, the Department is currently accepting applications for a funding opportunity for schools/school systems interested in starting or expanding a Grow Your Own program. The [application](#) should be submitted to [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) no later than **January 29**.

Please reach out to [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.