

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



January 5, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are excited to finish our important work for students this school year.

Last week, Governor Edwards announced that early childhood centers (birth to age four) and school employees are included in Phase 2 of the state's vaccine rollout. It was welcomed news that shows the essential role our educators play to not only their schools, but to our society. We are working with the Louisiana Department of Health and will share more details with you as soon as possible.

While it is more important than ever for us to continue following our mitigation efforts, know that we are entering the final chapters of the pandemic. Thank you for serving children and families during these difficult circumstances. Together, we will defeat this virus and ensure our children continue to receive a quality education.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Education Technology Office Hours	January 7 at 9 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	January 7 at 3 p.m.
Super App Office Hours	January 8 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood CLASS® & K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	January 12 at 12 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	January 12 at 3:45 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	January 14 at 1 p.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	January 19 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	January 7 at 1 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	January 11 at 10 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	January 13 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	January 13 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	January 14 at 2 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	January 15 at 9 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	January 19 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	January 20 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	January 20 at 3:30 p.m.
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	January 21 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	January 21 at 3 p.m.
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	January 22 at 9 a.m.

Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	January 27 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	January 28 at 9 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
Fast Forward Planning Grant Webinar	January 11 at 2 p.m.
Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Webinar for Candidates	January 11 at 4 p.m.
Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Call for Coordinators	January 13 at 9:30 a.m.
Pre-Educator Statewide Pathway Launch: Support, Partnerships, and Funding Webinar	January 15 at 11 a.m.
Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Webinar for Candidates	January 25 at 4 p.m.
Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Informational Webinar	January 28 at 1 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Louisiana's Title IV A Waiver Request for Public Comment	January 8
SEAP Vacancy Application	January 8
ESEA Consolidated State Plan Addendum Request for Public Comment	January 22
Newcomer and Beginner English Learner Curriculum RFA	January 29
Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Application	January 29
Teacher Leader Summit Resource Fair Application	February 2
State-Level Teacher and Principal of the Year (TPOY) Application	February 4
2021 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design	February 5

School System Support

ESEA Consolidated State Plan Addendum

In October 2020, the United States Department of Education (ED) released a Template for Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan due to the COVID-19 National Emergency under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. The template allows state education agencies to amend certain sections of their State Plans relative to the 2020-2021 school year that may be impacted as a result of COVID-19. The template addresses State Plan topics such as school accountability; timelines for identification of schools requiring comprehensive and/or urgent intervention; and timelines for meeting measurements of interim progress (MIPs) and long-term goals due to COVID-19. All addendum requests must be submitted by February 1.

Louisiana has opted to pursue this opportunity to amend its State Plan. Relevant personnel should review this [addendum request](#) and submit questions or comments to Kathy Noel, Director of Accountability, at 225-342-3629, the Department's toll-free number at 877-453-2721, or via email at assessment@la.gov by **January 22**.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

School Reopening Dashboard

The Louisiana Department of Education is updating the [School Reopening Dashboard](#) to include additional information and a more user-friendly experience. LEAs are asked to update the modality and connectivity data in their dashboard by **January 11**. The updated dashboard will be presented during the January 19 BESE meeting. LEA Data Coordinators should update their modality information in Sponsorsite and LEA technology director's will submit the connectivity data via their TRT spreadsheets.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions and/or attend the Education Technology Office hours on [Thursday, January 7 at 9 a.m.](#)

LDOE Website Survey

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

Please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov with questions.

Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)

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

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

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

Please contact earlyliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Fast Forward Planning Grant Webinar

Please share with high school and CTE supervisors, counselors, and principals.

The Louisiana Department of Education will release an RFA on January 6 for the [Fast Forward Planning Grant](#). The purpose of this grant is to expand student access to meaningful dual enrollment opportunities, enable students to leave high school prepared for career or continue advanced postsecondary pursuits, and allow students to receive funded college experiences or employment in high wage/high demand occupations. Planning grants up to \$50,000 will be awarded to a lead regional secondary school system and its higher education partner in each Regional Labor Market Area.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 11 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93645380002>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 936 4538 0002

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

SCA Fall Semester Reporting

Please share with school system administrators, school leaders, and school counselors.

The deadline for reporting fall SCA grades to LDOE on December 16 has been extended due to COVID-19 and natural disasters impacting school calendars. The reporting flexibility will allow SCA course completions for the 2020-2021 school year to be consistent with the local school system's calendar.

Fall 2020 grades will be due to LDOE based on the local school system calendar.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Calls

State-level Teacher and Principal of the Year (TPOY) applications are due on **February 4**. All applications and materials have been added to the Department's [Awards Library](#).

To assist with the Teacher and Principal of the Year process, informational webinars will be held this month. Candidates creating a state-level application and TPOY coordinators should plan to join a call. Call details are listed below. Additional information is also [available](#).

During the calls, general information about the process and guidance for using the online portals will be shared. Additionally, tips and pointers for creating strong state-level applications will be provided. There will also be time for questions.

Webinars for Candidates

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 11 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94273062851>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 942 7306 2851

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 25 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93254864914>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 932 5486 4914

Call for Coordinators

- **Conference Call Date and Time:** January 13 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Conference Call-In Number:** 515-604-9094
- **Meeting ID#:** 851193756

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Early Childhood & K-2 CLASS® Office Hours

The Early Childhood CLASS® and K-2 CLASS® Pilot are teaming up to provide streamlined communications for school systems. The next Early Childhood CLASS® and K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours will be on **January 12 at 12 p.m.** This will be a time for updates and questions related to Early Childhood CLASS® and the K-2 CLASS® Pilot for the 2020-2021 school year. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 12 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94481873180>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 944 8187 3180

Please contact sydney.anderson@la.gov for Early Childhood CLASS® or lisa.holliday@la.gov for the K-2 CLASS® Pilot with 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. Surveys must be validated by the school system superintendent in order to be counted for accountability.

Please contact andrew.shachat@la.gov with questions.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Growth to Mastery Rosters

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

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- A small number of EL students may qualify for an exemption of the listening and/or speaking domains of the ELPT. The Department will not approve exemptions from the reading or writing domains.
- The ELPT progress rosters that were distributed during data certification have now been updated with the new goals for students. The roster can be found on the secure FTP with file name LEA Code_LEA Name_ELPT Progress Roster Post DataCert.

LEAP 2025 Fall High School Administration

- **January 8:** Deadline for DTCs to submit to assessment@la.gov the list of students — by LASID and limited PII — who had excused absences that prevented them from testing in December and will need to make up the high school assessment on January 27-28.
- **Important:** It is extremely important that no accountability codes be applied this fall for any reason other than code 81 for EL. An accountability code applied to a student record in December will prevent the student with an opportunity to participate in the January makeup window. Please make sure all test coordinators know that codes should not be applied for **any** students (initial or retester) who do not test during the fall 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.

LEAP 2025 Spring High School Testing

- The LEAP 2025 spring high school testing window has been extended by one week. The spring window is now April 15-May 21 and the assessment calendar has been updated.

ACT

- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- Now-January 22: Verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student files, if needed. January 22 is the deadline to receive barcode labels.
- January 12: ACT will load all eligible 11 and 12 grade students into [PANext](#).
- Now-January 15: Request ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System](#) (TAA).

- Resources
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Test Coordinators](#)
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Students](#)
 - [Taking the ACT PDF](#)

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- **February 28:** Winter Checkpoint Early Childhood TS GOLD deadline. Visit the [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) for additional information.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **January 12 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 12 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!

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit Resource Fair Application Now Open

The Department invites organizations providing professional development on high-quality curricula and nonprofit organizations aligned to the Department's strategy and priorities to apply to participate in its Resource Fair at the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit, taking place on **Wednesday, May 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The Resource Fair is designed to connect Louisiana educators with high-quality curriculum providers, professional development partners, and nonprofit organizations outside of scheduled sessions for Q&A opportunities, relationship building, and the sharing of best practices.

The Teacher Leader Summit brings together educators and content experts who inspire, innovate, and impact meaningful growth for every student. Educators will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

The following organizations are encouraged to apply:

- Organizations providing professional development on high-quality curricula, as listed in the [PD vendor guide](#)
- Vendors of texts for high-quality curriculum
- Teacher and principal associations
- Arts organizations
- Education resources
- Digital and virtual learning resources
- Universities with online degree programs
- Prep providers
- Advocacy groups
- National Boards (certifications)

To participate in the Resource Fair, all exhibitors are required to submit an application. To apply, please complete the [online application](#). With a limited number of booth spaces available, it is important to submit the application for review by the **February 2** deadline. More information is published in the [Resource Fair FAQ document](#).

Applicants will be notified on February 12 of their application decision. The Department reserves the right to refuse any application for any reason, including but not limited to, the applicant not being aligned with the Department's strategies and the priorities of the event.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Seat Allocation and Virtual Series

The [2021 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will take place **May 25-27 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans**. Both the Department and the Convention Center are taking measures to promote the health and safety of all participants and as a result we will have a reduced overall capacity.

Due to social distancing parameters, the Department has allocated a specific allotment of seats to each school system and each early childhood lead agency for the in-person event. The Department has notified each system of their total number of seats and each school system has been issued a unique registration code for all tickets during the registration process. It is up to each school system or each early childhood lead agency to determine the best path for disbursing seats across their schools, sites, and educators.

It is also a school system or lead agency's choice to take advantage of early bird registration or wait until the session lists are publicly released on April 9, which is during the regular registration window. All allocated seats must be used to purchase tickets by April 12. Should any unused seats remain, the Department will and open a first come, first served registration window on April 13.

Additional seats will be disbursed for the following groups of educators at a later date by specific Department teams:

- Environmental Education
- World Languages
- Instructional Coaching
- Aspiring School Leaders
- Aspiring Educators
- Systems Leaders
- Human Capital Leaders
- Teacher Preparation Faculty and Leads
- Ready Start Networks
- EdLinks Report Focus Group
- CTE Supervisors
- Literacy Coordinators

Information on the above ticket types will be shared with the appropriate groups of educators as logistics are finalized.

In addition to the in person Teacher Leader Summit, the **Department will offer a Virtual Series June 1 through June 3**. Specific information regarding registering for the Virtual Series will be released later in the spring via normal communication channels.

To best assist schools systems and school leaders in determining to whom they should distribute their allocated seats, the Department has released a [one-pager](#) outlining which content will be delivered in-person and which content to expect to be delivered virtually. General Summit information can be found in the [overview document](#) posted to the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Registration

[Registration](#) for the Teacher Leader Summit opens January 8 and will occur in three phases:

- Early bird registration via allocation (January 8 through March 1)
- Regular registration via allocation (March 2 through April 12)
- First-come, first-serve registration for any remaining tickets (Opens April 13)

Note: Due to capacity constraints, there will be no onsite registration this year. All registrations must be completed in advance of arriving at the event.

During the registration process, the code sent to school systems and early childhood lead agencies must be entered. Once the code has reached its maximum number of uses, no other registrations will be accepted for that code. Should an educator register for the event and it is later determined the educator is no longer able to attend, a refund should be requested via Eventbrite.

The Department is unable to transfer tickets automatically from one educator to another. The school system or early childhood lead agency will need to reach out to the Department at ldoeevents@la.gov to determine the best next steps for registering the educator who is “taking the place” of the educator who can no longer attend, which may include increasing the number of uses on their particular registration code.

Description	1-Day Ticket	3-Day Ticket
Early Bird Registration (January 10-March 1)	\$55	\$108
Regular Registration (March 2-April 12)	\$71	\$140
First Come, First Served* (April 13-May 10)	\$71	\$140

**should any seats remain*

Participants who [register](#) for the in-person Summit will also have access to Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series, though a separate registration will be required in order to participate. Participants who register for the Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will only have access to the virtual content. General Summit information can be found in the [overview document](#) posted to the Teacher Leader Library.

Note: When registering, the access code must be entered for available tickets to populate. Without entering the access code, no tickets will show as available.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

2021 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest

The Department is seeking inspiration for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators and students with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by **February 5** to ldoecommunications@la.gov. The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Opportunity

The Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway launched across the state of Louisiana in order to provide a K-16/pre-education program for both TOPS University and TOPS Tech diploma seeking high school students. This pathway is designed to expose and recruit talented students to the teaching profession while cultivating the next generation of Louisiana's educational leaders. In the 2021-2022 school year, the LDOE will lead a series of support structures for systems and schools interested in launching or expanding the availability of the pathway.

Limited funding is available to support curriculum adoption, professional development, initial training, and student organization or credentialing costs related to the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway in the 2021-2022 school year. To apply, systems should complete and submit the [Funding Application](#) to believeandprepare@la.gov by **January 29**. The application will be available on **January 12**.

For more information about the launch of the pathway please join the Pre-Educator Statewide Pathway Launch: Support, Partnerships, and Funding Webinar on **January 15 at 11 a.m.** Information needed to join this webinar is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 15 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 345 504 8179

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Literacy Initiatives

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

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

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

Additional information about the Family Literacy Engagement Workgroup and additional literacy initiatives will be communicated in future newsletters.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [**School System Support Reminders**](#)
- [**Career and College Readiness Reminders**](#)
- [**Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders**](#)
 - [**Special Education Reminders**](#)
- [**Legislative, Policy, and Workforce Support Reminders**](#)
- [**Operations Reminders**](#)
 - [**Food and Nutrition Reminders**](#)
- [**Teaching and Learning Reminders**](#)
 - [**Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders**](#)
 - [**Educator Development Reminders**](#)

School System Support Reminders

Louisiana's Title IV A Waiver Request

The US Department of Education (ED) is offering flexibility under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program (Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [ESEA]) in light of the continued disruption to learning caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) during the national emergency declared by President Trump under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

ED is inviting states to request a waiver, on behalf of their local educational agencies (LEAs), of one or more of the following requirements in Title IV, Part A of the ESEA:

- Section 4106(d) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, related to LEA needs assessments for the 2020-2021 school year
- Section 4106(e)(2)(C), (D), and (E) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to content-area spending requirements for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2020 Title IV, Part A funds
- Section 4109(b) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to the fifteen percent spending limitation for technology infrastructure for FY 2020 Title IV, Part A funds

Please note that all other requirements in Title IV, Part A of the ESEA would continue to apply.

Louisiana received a waiver of these provisions for the 2019-2020 school year and FYs 2018 and 2019 Title IV, Part A funds. The Department plans to submit its request for all of the flexibilities offered on behalf of LEAs; however, as required prior to submitting the waiver request, the agency must provide the public and interested LEAs notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment. The agency has allotted thirty days to receive comments, therefore please review [Louisiana's Title IV A Waiver Request](#) and provide any comments by **January 8**.

Public feedback can be sent to LDOEcommunications@la.gov.

January System Leaders Monthly Call Rescheduled

The January System Leaders Monthly Call date has been rescheduled and will now take place on **January 15 at 9 a.m.**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 15 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97982207566>
- **Passcode:** @Ax4Q3
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 979 8220 7566
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 744001

Please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

2021 Quest for Success Trainings

Please share with career and technical education leaders and school systems.

Quest for Success is a career exploration course designed to prepare graduates for career and life success. Training opportunities for educators to teach this course will be available throughout the school year. Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Registration is now open for two training sessions in early 2021.

- [January 11-14](#) from 5-9 p.m.
- [February 8 -11](#) from 5-9 p.m.

Additional training sessions will be held as the need arises.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Virtual Spring 2021 Counselor Institutes

Please share with middle and high school counselors.

Thanks to everyone who joined the first-ever [LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute](#) on October 28 and 29. The Department is in the process of developing another set of institutes, which are slated to take place during National School Counseling Week, **February 1 through 5**. Registration details and a tentative agenda will be forthcoming.

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

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders

Newcomer and Beginner English Learner Curriculum RFA

The Department recently released a [Request for Applications](#) for inviting local and national organizations to be added to the *Supporting Newcomer and Beginner English Learners Curriculum Guide*. Partners in the guide will collaborate with Louisiana schools to support the complex learning needs of newcomer and beginner English Learners through targeted curriculum. The [application](#) is open until **January 29**.

Please contact alice.garcia@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Reminders

Release of ELA Guidebooks Companion Resources for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

This week, the Department released the Companion Resources for the ELA Guidebooks for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SWSCDs). These resources were developed in collaboration with a team of ELA and special education practitioners across the state to support teachers of SWSCDs. They are designed to facilitate the access and success of students with the most significant needs to a high-quality curriculum, improve professional learning partnerships between special education teachers and content-area specialists, and increase opportunities for students with significant cognitive impairments to participate in inclusive, least restrictive environments.

The Companion Resources, case studies, exemplary lesson plans, and unit unpacking overviews can be found in the Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities [Library](#).

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Advisory Panel Vacancy

The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) advises the Department on the provision of free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for children with disabilities and provides guidance on special education programs and services. The panel is now accepting [applications](#) for a parent of a child with a disability to serve until July 2022.

The Department asks school systems to please encourage interested parents to apply. Prospective members should email applications to specialeducation@la.gov by **January 8**.

Legislative, Policy, and Workforce Support Reminders

Practitioner License Policy Reminder

Practitioner Licenses (PL) are issued to candidates admitted to and enrolled in teacher preparation programs. Teacher preparation providers and employing school systems are responsible for applying for practitioner licenses on behalf of candidates enrolled in preparation programs. School systems and preparation providers must apply for candidates' practitioner licenses as soon as they are employed and enrolled in a teacher preparation program.

Beginning this year, candidates who have a practitioner license must receive five hours of mentoring to be eligible for a Level 1 certificate. The chart below provides an overview of policy requirements outlined in Chapter 313 of Bulletin 746.

License Type	Description	Application Submission
PL 1	The PL 1 is issued to candidates enrolled in practitioner teacher preparation programs.	Teacher preparation provider
PL 2	The PL 2 is issued to candidates enrolled in certification-only alternative certification programs.	Employing school system
PL 3	The PL 3 is issued to candidates enrolled in master's degree alternative certification programs.	Employing school system

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Operations Reminders

Food and Nutrition Reminders

Free/Reduced Price Meal Applications in Non-CEP Schools

School Food Authorities should continue to accept Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications throughout the 2020-2021 school year at all Non-Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) participating schools. Although schools may have transitioned to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), school meal applications may establish eligibility for Pandemic EBT (P-EBT). School Food Authorities should encourage families, through public outreach, to complete and submit these applications.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders

File Available via FTP – October 2020 Quarterly Home Study Reports

The Quarterly Home Study Report for October 2020 is available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named "LEACode_LEAName_Oct2020HomeStudy" and will remain on the FTP through March 2021. Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in Home Study program
- Statewide enrollment number of Registered Nonpublic Schools, Not Seeking State Approval
- Each student's home study approval notification letter

Please contact sue.millican@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development Reminders

Educator Development December Office Hours Canceled

The [Educator Development Office Hours](#) scheduled for December 15 have been canceled. The Department will resume these office hours after the holidays on **January 19**. As a reminder, attendees can submit topics for office hour calls using this [survey](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.