



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 2, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

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

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

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

Happy National School Counseling Week.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Literacy Office Hours	February 4 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	February 4 at 3 p.m.
Super App Office Hours	February 5 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	February 9 at 12 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	February 9 at 3:45 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	February 11 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	February 11 at 1 p.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	February 23 at 12 p.m.
AE Leadership Community of Practice	February 24 at 10 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	February 4 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	February 5 at 9 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	February 10 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	February 10 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	February 11 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	February 17 at 3:30 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	February 18 at 10 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	February 22 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	February 23 at 3:45 p.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	February 24 at 1 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	February 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Education Technology Monthly Call	February 25 at 9 a.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	February 26 at 9 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	March 18 at 3 p.m.
<i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i>	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Accelerate Overview Webinar	February 4 at 1 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
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
Diploma and Seal Order Form	February 5
Fast Forward Planning Grant Application	February 10
Super App Submission	February 12
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priorities Survey	February 21

Operations

Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA, 21)

Congress released the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CAA\)](#) on December 21, 2020. This legislation includes COVID-19 relief specifying [appropriations provisions](#) to governors, state and local educational agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions.

Louisiana's Birth to 12th Grade Education Stabilization Funds Summary

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF II)- **\$1,160,119,378**
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF II) - **\$22,134,000**
- GEERF II funds for nonpublic schools - **\$55,000,000**
- CAA funds for childcare - **\$193,000,000**

The Department has engaged with various stakeholders to gather input on how to best utilize the federal stimulus funds based on the needs of students, families, and educators.

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

ESSER II Funds

Louisiana's ESSER I allocation was \$286 million, and ESSER II allocation is \$1.16 billion; approximately four times the amount received last year.

Although the ESSER II uses of funds are similar to those for ESSER, there are important distinctions, including:

- Period of funds availability
- Equitable services to nonpublic schools
- New allowable costs such as:
 - Risk-mitigating facility repairs and improvements
 - Air quality improvements to school buildings
 - Reporting on efforts to measure and address learning loss for students disproportionately affected by coronavirus and school closures, particularly high-need students

Additional information — including information about allocation methodology, timelines, and funds allowability — was shared during last week's System Leaders Roundtable and is [now available](#). Updates will continue to be shared via the [weekly newsletter](#), [Monthly System Leader Call](#), and [Monthly Federal Support and Grantee Relations Call](#).

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

Super App: Office Hours

Additional Super App Office Hours will be held to support school systems as they prepare to submit applications by the February 12 deadline. The next office hours session will be held on [February 5 at 10 a.m.](#) **This session will follow a different format than the previous office hours sessions in that it will be dedicated to answering questions from participating school systems.**

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

Super App: Literacy Coaching and Interventions (WT5.1)

Super App item WT5.1 enables school systems to request optional competitive funding for CIR and UIR-Academics schools to support the salary and benefits of [Literacy Coach positions](#). When requesting funds in Super App, school systems should identify the following information in the Additional Information box on the WT5.1 tab: the name of each CIR/UIR-A site to be supported by a Literacy Coach, and an overall summary of the percentage of time Literacy Coaches will support teachers in grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Note, the total percentage **should equal 100%** and represent the time of all Literacy Coaches.

Example:

Additional Information

CIR/UIR-A Sites: Beignet Elementary, Pelican Middle, Mardi Gras High

Time spent supporting K-5 teachers at all CIR/UIR-A sites: 40%

Time spent supporting 6-8 teachers at all CIR/UIR-A sites: 25%

Time spent supporting 9-12 teachers at all CIR/UIR-A sites: 35%

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

Career and College Readiness

2020-2021 Graduate Diploma and Endorsement Seal Orders

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

The deadline to [submit diploma requests](#) for 2020-2021 graduates is **February 5**. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

Fast Forward

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

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

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

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

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

Perkins Core Indicator Reports

Share with Perkins coordinators and data managers.

The 2019-2020 Perkins Core Indicator Reports are now available. The report is located on the data management FTP. It is labeled as follows: LEA Code_LEA Name_2019-20 Perkins V Core Indicator report. Perkins coordinators should contact the district data manager to download this file.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

NCCER ICTP/Core Instructor Training

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

NCCER ICTP/Core teacher certification will be held virtually from March 1-5 and will continue March 8-12. 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:

- Resume 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. 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.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Identifying and Supporting English Learners (ELs) with Disabilities Guidance

English Learners (ELs) with disabilities present the dual needs of support in acquiring English as well as support for their disabilities. The [Identifying and Supporting ELs with Disabilities Guidance](#) document is designed to assist school systems in the provision of equitable access to high-quality instruction for ELs who are suspected of having a disability. It includes information on guiding principles, EL identification, special education identification, and collaboration to support ELs with Disabilities.

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

Special Education

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priorities Survey

Each year, the Department submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the Department is seeking feedback from members of the special education community on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete this [survey](#) by **February 21**.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

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, pre-teaching model that addresses unfinished learning by building knowledge and connecting it to skills in current lessons. In addition to guidance on implementation, LDOE will release Pre-K-12 ELA and math tutoring materials in phases during 2021. Recorded webinars will be also located on the Accelerate [landing page](#).

School systems can use funds from their General Fund, Title I, CARES, and Direct Student Services allocations. In addition, school systems received a Strong Start Tutoring allocation February 1, 2021 to support the launch of Accelerate this spring. For more details on funding sources, reference the [Federal Funding Guide](#).

For an overview of the strategy, school system leaders should attend the webinar on **February 4 at 1 p.m.**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 4 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 with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

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

To support school systems in providing summer learning programs for incoming K-8 students, [guidance](#) was released this week that includes:

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

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

Academic Content

International Associate Teachers of World Languages and Immersion

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

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

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP Connect

- The Department hosted a LEAP Connect webinar on January 20. A copy of the PowerPoint is available in the [Assessment Library](#).
- To request LEAP Connect Graphic Files or Suggested Materials Lists, please send a request, including grade levels and subjects, to assessment@la.gov. The files must be considered secure and can only be provided via FTP.
- 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.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The ELPT progress rosters that were distributed during data certification are now updated to include students based on the October 1 site code. The roster can be found on the secure FTP with file name *LEA Code_LEA Name_2019-20 ELPT Progress Roster Post DataCert.update*.
- Students who transfer from one school system to another can only be transferred by the LDOE team. Please send any transfer requests to assessment@la.gov.

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).
- **February 1-19:** Order additional standard time ACT materials for use in Test Window 1, March 9 in [PANext](#).
- **February 1-March 18:** Create and assign students to test sessions for March 9-11, 16-18 online ACT testing.
- **Week of February 1:** Receive WorkKeys paper materials for Testing Window.
- **After materials arrive-February 23:** Conduct sessions for examinees to complete WorkKeys non-test information on answer documents for paper testing, train room supervisors and proctors, and prepare rooms.
- **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](#)

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.

NAEP 2021

- The NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire will be open in MyNAEP for principals and teachers from selected schools beginning February 15. A principal may assign the questionnaire to another school administrator. Questionnaires must be completed by **March 26**.
- 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 **February 9 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 9 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

Entering SLTs and Assigning Evaluators

Administrators are required to enter SLTs into CIS and assign evaluators to each educator on their roster. At this time, many schools have not yet met this requirement. While some schools have previously chosen to upload all information via a spreadsheet at the end of the year, this is not a best practice and should be avoided. This requirement is outlined in the [CIS Timeline](#) and had a deadline of December 1.

When assigning evaluators to educators, school systems will likely find educators on their rosters that they no longer employ. Those educators should be deleted from the roster. If an administrator runs into complications with this process, they should contact compass@la.gov for additional support.

School systems will find the [CIS User Guide](#) helpful in completing these processes.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Literacy Office Hours

The Literacy Division will hold its first office hours on **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 contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

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

Operations Reminders

Super App: Early Childhood Quality CLSD Grant

Funding opportunities in Super App provide school systems and/or early childhood lead agencies with ways to support the early childhood work in their local communities. Grant awards supporting early childhood quality are available through the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant. The purpose of the CLSD grant is to award competitive funding opportunities to school systems to advance literacy and pre-literacy skills for all children from birth through grade 12. In order to track improvement utilizing CLSD funding, early childhood requests must exceed \$10,000 per school system. By providing this baseline request, the LDOE encourages systems to fully develop a comprehensive strategy of supporting early childhood classroom quality in order to assess the effectiveness of these grant funds.

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

Career and College Readiness Reminders

Jump Start Construction Scholars Program

Please share with high school counselors.

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

Eligibility Requirements

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

Scholarship Award

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

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov 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.
- Identifying [local Regional Medical Region](#).

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.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Academic Content Reminders

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

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

Publisher	Title and Grade Levels	Core Subject	Tiered Rating
Amplify Education, Inc.	Amplify Science Louisiana, Grade 6	Science	Tier I

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@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 contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Real-time Early Access to Literacy

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

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

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 11 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 441 892 1159

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