



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 9, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Schools across Louisiana are recognizing the contributions and achievements of African Americans as part of Black History Month. This is happening through special events, classroom lessons, daily announcements and other educational activities designed to bring honor and awareness to African American history and culture. As educators we are also uniquely positioned to make daily contributions to the lives of African American students. Each of us has a responsibility to help shape, and learn from, our students – the next generation of strong leaders.

As we developed *Believe to Achieve*, we were intentional in how we included equity. One of the first foundational belief statements we agreed on agency-wide was “equity matters.” It’s more than a priority. Equity must be infused into every element of our agency, our school systems and our schools. We must remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children. As we work at the Department to cultivate high-impact systems, structures and partnerships, one of our focus areas is to develop equity guidance, tools and resources for systems.

We’re thankful for so much in Louisiana. We also recognize that we must move onward in elevating the voice of every teacher and ensure every child receives the education they deserve. I look forward to continuing this work alongside all of you – my colleagues – as we move forward together.

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	February 11 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	February 11 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	February 11 at 3 p.m.
Super App Office Hours	February 12 at 10 a.m.
Literacy Office Hours	February 18 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	February 23 at 12 p.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	February 23 at 12 p.m.
AE Leadership Community of Practice	February 24 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	March 2 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	March 4 at 1 p.m.

Nutrition Support Monthly Call	March 4 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	March 5 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
Jump Start Summers Overview Webinar	February 22 at 12 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Fast Forward Planning Grant Application	February 10
Super App Submission	February 12
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priorities Survey	February 21
ESSER I Funds Reporting	February 26
Jump Start Summers Application	March 5 at 5 p.m.

Operations

Pandemic Relief Funding Planning Support

The Department wants to support school systems and teams in planning for the new pandemic relief funding in a strategic, priorities-based way to ensure every dollar is going toward the highest-impact work.

LDOE is taking this opportunity to stress the importance of spending [within the outlined priorities](#). By doing this, the Department is leveraging funds on high-impact opportunities and is part of a collective, statewide effort. This will also be helpful as LDOE tracks spending based on priority and communicates the thoughtfulness of school systems' use of these one-time funds.

Details about allocation methodology, timelines, and allowable use of funds are [available](#). The Department is in the process of creating new funding FAQs to support school systems as they plan. These FAQs will be added to the [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Library](#).

Below is the allocation release timeline.

Timeline	Action
February 2021	Release ESSERF I balances and ESSERF II estimated allocations
March 2021	Release 50% of ESSERF II formula allocations to LEAs with guidance
April 2021	LEAs use the guidance and assess needs to build out ESSERF II budgets
May 2021	LDOE reviews ESSER II budgets
June 2021	All ESSER II budgets approved (LEAs may start drawing down funds)

Once the application and allocations become available in eGMS in March, the Department will host a launch, providing school systems with pertinent information for creating their budgets in alignment with the priorities and focus areas. More information about connecting expenses to these priorities will be provided in the coming weeks.

LDOE will continue to provide updates to our school systems as new information becomes available. Please look for this information in the [weekly newsletter](#), [Monthly System Leader Call](#), and [Monthly Federal Support and Grantee Relations Call](#).

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

Equitable Services

Unlike ESSER I, services and assistance to nonpublic schools funding will be provided through a completely separate funding source that will not flow through LEAs under the new pandemic relief appropriations. ED will award [GEER EANS](#) to each Governor with an approved certification and agreement based on the State's relative share of low-income children. In collaboration with the Governor's Office, the LDOE is working on the design and implementation for the EANS programs to provide non-public school services in accordance with the updated [FAQ from ED](#).

While school systems must continue to provide services under CARES Act funding released last year, they will not have to budget or manage the provision of services or assistance with the new funding.

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

ESSER I Funds Reporting Deadline

The annual report for ESSER I (Strong Start 2020) is available in the eGMS Strong Start 2020 application. The report must be submitted through eGMS no later than **February 26**. Grantees may access the [ESSER Annual Report eGMS Guidance](#) in the [Strong Start Library](#).

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

Nutrition Support

Nutrition Support Monthly Call

The Division of Nutrition Support will host a monthly call on [March 4 at 1 p.m.](#) to provide Child Nutrition Program operators with current information regarding the National School Lunch Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Child and Adult Care At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

USDA Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operational Costs Funding

On January 26, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published [guidance](#) and [Q&A's](#) regarding the Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operational Costs programs. Under this authority, FNS is offering additional funds to State agencies administering the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide eligible program operators with additional reimbursements for emergency operating costs they incurred during the public health emergency. Eligible program operators will not be required to submit an application to receive the funds, which will be distributed according to the formula prescribed by FNS in the guidance.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Summers 2021

Please share with school system supervisors and leaders.

The [Jump Start Summers](#) program will be available to launch summer training sessions for students to earn Carnegie credit aligned to [Fast Forward pathways](#), Jump Start 2.0 coursework, statewide basic or advanced credentials, participate in work-based learning, and earn a student stipend for participation. The [application](#) to submit as a prospective or returning Jump Start Summers provider is now open. The application will close on **March 5 at 5 p.m.** The encumbered Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) dollars can be used for this opportunity.

The Department will hold an informational webinar about this opportunity.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 22 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97054659910>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 970 5465 9910
- **Meeting Passcode:** 094760

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Pandemic Relief Funding Informational Call

The next Federal Support and Grantee Relations call will take place on [February 18 at 10 a.m.](#) and will include information on the new ESSER II funding. Business managers are encouraged to participate in this call along with Federal Program Directors to learn about this new grant.

Louisiana's ESSER II allocation is over \$1 billion; approximately four times the amount received in the ESSER I allocation.

Although the ESSER II uses of funds are similar to those for ESSER I, there are additional expenses allowed including:

- 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 the most recent 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.

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 tutoring model that addresses unfinished learning by building knowledge and connecting it to skills in current lessons. In addition to guidance on implementation, LDOE has begun releasing ELA and math tutoring materials.

The Accelerate Kick-off Webinar [presentation](#) is located on the [Accelerate landing page](#). A recording of the presentation will be posted by the end of the week.

School systems can use funds from their General Fund, Title I, CARES, CAA, 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](#).

A pre-recorded Accelerate Math Resources webinar will be added to the [Accelerate page](#) Thursday, February 11. This webinar will provide leaders and educators with a deep dive into the Accelerate approach for mathematics, including research-based best practices and an orientation to the suite of resources available.

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 an SLP. To support school systems in providing SLPs for incoming K-8 students, [guidance](#) has been released.

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

Academic Content

National Youth Science Camp: Application Open

Applications are being accepted for the [2021 Virtual National Youth Science Camp \(NYSCamp\)](#). The application deadline is **February 28**. This program is for graduating high school seniors in the United States (two from each state and Washington, D.C.) and students 16-18 years of age in selected other countries. NYSC 2021 dates are planned virtually for June 28-July 21. Even with the virtual nature of the camp, students are expected to participate daily in camp activities for the duration of the camp.

[Applications](#) are available for students. For more information about the program, please visit the NYSCamp's [website](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

2020-2021 Assessment and Accountability Systems Statement

This extraordinary year requires us to revisit how we traditionally understand our assessment and accountability systems. Several actions have already taken place relative to the assessment and accountability system for this school year:

- [Act 53](#) of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Legislative Session has prohibited the use of statewide student assessment data for the purposes of evaluating teacher performance or making placement decisions for fourth- and eighth-grade students.
- [Act 47](#) of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Legislative Session directs BESE to examine the results of assessments and to make allowances in calculating school and district performance scores as BESE may deem necessary and appropriate. In addition, the law also requires BESE to prepare a petition to the United States Department of Education (ED) for a waiver of the requirement to publish letter grades and submit the petition if it is the opinion of the state superintendent of education that issuance of letter grades would be detrimental to the state of Louisiana.
- The LDOE submitted an addendum to the state's ESSA plan with two modifications for the 2020-2021 school year: utilizing the "skip-year" formula for calculating student growth and allowing schools without a CIR or UIR label to not receive a new label unless they meet the criteria and opt-in.
- For the 2020-2021 school year, BESE revised Bulletin 130 to state that only one qualitative measure observation is required for those teachers and administrators who earn a Highly Effective or Effective Proficient rating. Any teacher or administrator who earns an observation rating of Ineffective or Effective: Emerging shall be observed a second time. This will allow school leaders to prioritize their time accordingly.

- In order to support early childhood lead agencies to target their efforts where it is most needed, BESE has approved a one-time emergency rule change to Bulletin 140 that allows classrooms that received a fall local observation score, after third party replacement, of 4.50 or higher to be exempt from a spring local observation. Lead agencies should communicate with eligible program partners and document whether these sites would like to opt in or out of receiving a spring local observation in exempt classrooms.

The Department will continue to monitor educational circumstances in Louisiana to inform future decisions and will review any guidance that becomes available from the new ED administration.

Access the complete [State Assessments and Accountability for School Year 2020-2021 statement](#) for system leaders.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with assessment administration questions and accountability@la.gov for accountability-related questions.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Assessment Calendar

- The [Assessment Calendar for 2021-2022](#) is now posted to the [Assessment Library](#).
- Paper-based testing for LEAP 2025 grade 4 and ACT will no longer be available in the spring of 2022.

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 1-26:** 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 8 and 15:** Receive test materials based on the receipt window selected in PANext.
- **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](#)

LEAP 360

- [LEAP 360 Interim Guidance](#) is available on the [LEAP 360 landing page](#). This guidance includes:
 - updates to the LEAP 360 Interim Assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - list of Interim resources.
 - guidance on how to use the resources to help achieve the goal of integrating the Interims into high-quality ELA and mathematics curricula.
- Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

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](#) and the [GOLD Overview](#) 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 monthly call will be on **February 23 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

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

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series

The Department will release specific details regarding Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series in an upcoming newsletter. The information will include ticketing windows and more information on how to register. The cost to attend the Virtual Series is as follows:

- \$50 for early bird registration
- \$65 for regular registration

The prices above include all aspects of the event and grant access to all days of the Virtual Series. Participants who [register](#) for the in-person Summit will also have access to the Virtual Series, though a separate registration will be required in order to participate. A one-time use code will be sent to those registrants later this spring. Codes will be non-transferable and can only be used by the original educator for which an in-person ticket was purchased. Attending the in-person Summit does not mean participants must attend the Virtual Series; it is an additional option. Participants who register for the Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will only have access to the virtual content.

Please contact LDOEEvents@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)
- [Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders](#)
 - [Special Education Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)
 - [Academic Content Reminders](#)
 - [Educator Development Reminders](#)

Operations Reminders

[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) - **\$22,985,320**
- GEERF II funds for nonpublic schools - **\$55,566,230**
- CAA funds for childcare - **\$198,319,710**

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 the most recent 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: 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 Reminders

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 Reminders

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 Reminders

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 Reminders

Academic Content Reminders

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.

Educator Development Reminders

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.