

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



February 11, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Among my favorite memories of the last eight years have been visits to towns like Braithwaite, Calvin, Franklinton, Sicily Island, St. Joseph, and Zwolle, each so unique and so rich in sense of community. These places and so many others I've been blessed to visit represent the extraordinary diversity of Louisiana, in many ways. They are united by their place in rural and often remote communities. Consequently, young people in these communities reap the incredible benefits – the traditions, the customs, and the relationships – of life in small towns. But these towns must also cope with the challenges of a world whose people live more and more in cities, and whose industries are not just mechanized but also automated.

These global trends have an impact on schooling. Fewer jobs in some communities mean fewer students. Fewer students may mean less revenue. Less revenue may mean the inability to maintain services.

But students and families in rural places have every right to the opportunities experienced elsewhere. And so a state like ours is faced with a difficult question: how to maintain opportunity in a changing economy and changing world? We have to answer that question.

I hope that this legislative session Louisiana can do just that. I hope that BESE members and lawmakers support our rural systems, especially those experiencing radical depopulation, with short- and long-term solutions to these vexing issues. I hope these school systems will play a leadership role in bringing creative opportunities to the fore. Most of all, I hope we find a path to preserving the extraordinary good that comes from childhood in rural areas without ignoring changing realities we adults must confront.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Quest for Success Training \(Lake Charles\)](#): February 12-13
- [February Superintendents' Conference Call](#): February 12 at 10:30 a.m.
- [2020-2021 AE School and Program Authorization Webinar](#): February 12 at 3:00 p.m.
- [2020-2021 AE School and Program Authorization Webinar](#): February 13 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Reevaluation Pilot Informational Webinar](#): February 13 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): February 18 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Medicaid Eligibility Verification Program Training](#): February 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Important Deadlines

- [Family Support Survey](#) deadline: February 14
- [TIRC District Test Coordinator Representative Nomination](#) deadline: February 14
- [IDEA Funding Priorities Survey](#) deadline: February 21
- [2019–2020 High Cost Service Round 2 Application](#) deadline: February 25
- [GOLD Winter Checkpoint](#) deadline: February 28

School System Support

New: School System Planning

School systems submitted their Super App last week in eGMS. The process for reviewing Super Apps for approval and funding has begun, and school systems will receive a letter with clarifying questions later this month to be addressed within eGMS by early March.

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

Reminder: Updated School System Planning Calendar

The [2019-2020 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar.

- ECE Collaboration Meetings
- Webinar for Leadership Team Learning Series for CIR/UIR-A schools

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Leadership Learning Series at TL Summit Webinar

School leadership teams play an important role in ensuring teachers plan for and deliver instruction in a way that meets the needs of their students. The Department launched the [School Support Institutes \(SSI\)](#) during the 2019-2020 school year to support school leaders in this role and will continue this learning opportunity for the 2020-2021 school year at the Teacher Leader Summit.

On March 3, the Department will host two webinars to provide additional information on the vision for year two of the SSI and to share more information about the Summit registration process and Leadership Learning Series pathway. School system leaders and principals of CIR/UIR-A schools should plan to join one of the two identical webinars.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 3 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/137786065>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 137 786 065

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 3 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/137786065>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 137 786 065

Please contact delaina.larocque@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2020-2021 Alternative Education (AE) School and Program

Authorization

Please share with administrators and alternative education site leaders.

The Department has released the 2020-2021 authorization [application](#) for alternative education schools and programs. The application should be completed by all school systems that are seeking new alternative schools and programs and/or desire to go through the new authorization process for an existing school for the 2020-2021 academic year. School systems not planning to seek authorization using the new process will be required to [confirm existing alternative education sites](#). The deadline to submit the application is **March 3**.

The Department will host two (duplicate) webinars to review the authorization application and process and answer any questions from school systems.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 12 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3547510189>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 354 751 0189

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 13 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3547510189>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 354 751 0189

Please email studentengagementandsuccess@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: February Superintendents' Conference Call

Superintendents and charter leaders are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White **tomorrow, February 12 at 10:30 a.m.** Participants may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 12 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/717584221>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 877-475-0109
- **Meeting ID#:** 54 994 62

Participants will need to identify themselves in order to be placed into the meeting. Please enter your full name and school system name when logging in.

Assessment and Accountability

New: LEAP 360 – EAGLE Items

EAGLE items will continue to be available to teachers in the online platform for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. To support the use of the EAGLE system as an instructional resource, the platform is being phased out and all items from the EAGLE system will be exported and made available on the [Department's website](#) no later than **July 1**. A subset of the item bank is [available now](#), and additional grades will be posted as available.

These items may be used by Louisiana educators for educational purposes. To access items, a password key will be required to open the file. Please [share these instructions](#) with all educators.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Updated Growth to Mastery Student-Level Rosters

- The growth to mastery student-level rosters are being updated to route students to the site code reported for them during the October 1 SIS collection. Updated rosters were made available on the secure FTP on February 7.

Important: ELPT Exemptions

- The ELPT testing window is February 3–March 13. **All** students who are identified as English Learners in SIS must test and be included in accountability calculations in 2020.
- Requests for exemptions from the ELPT listening and/or speaking domains are past due to the Department. Please send completed requests to assessment@la.gov.
- The additional materials window is now open. Reminder: There is no K-1 writing supplement used in ELPT this year.
- Please review the [ELPT Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) as plans are made for students with accommodations.
- Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

English III EOC School System Administration Materials

- An English III test materials folder is available on the secure FTP, which includes all materials needed to administer and score English III assessments provided three times yearly through a process determined by the school system. Included in the folder are manuals that include specific directions.
- Requests for braille forms of the test are provided as needed by the Department and should be addressed to assessment@la.gov. Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect

- The LEAP Connect testing window is now–March 13. All students who are eligible to take alternate assessment should now be identified with documentation in SER.

ACT and WorkKeys

- Recordings of the ACT Test Administration Q&As [1](#) and [2](#) can be accessed using the links provided.

Birth to Pre-K

February 28: Deadline to submit finalized GOLD winter checkpoints.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **February 18 at 1:00 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 18 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

Reminder: Nominations for TIRC District Test Coordinator Representative

The Testing Irregularity Review Committee (TIRC) is responsible for the review of appeals made by schools for test scores that were voided due to testing irregularities. The Department is seeking nominations from superintendents for a district test coordinator representative to serve on this committee. Please send nominations with a copy of the nominee's resume to assessment@la.gov by **this Friday, February 14.**

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: Save the Dates for Spring Counselor Institutes

Please share with counselors.

The Department is asking that school systems encourage middle and high school counselors to save the dates for upcoming Spring Counselor Institutes.

- **Southern Network: week of March 30**
- **Northern Network: week of April 6**

Agenda items, registration information, and specific locations will be announced in future communications.

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

Reminder: 2019-2020 Graduate Diploma to Include New BESE President's Signature

Please share with principals, counselors, and data coordinators.

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2019-2020 graduates. Diploma requests should be submitted through the [Diploma Order Form](#) by **March 6**. Diplomas ordered will include the signature of the new BESE president. Diplomas ordered from previous years are no longer valid.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov for more information.

Educator Preparation

Reminder: 2020 Principal Fellowship Nomination Form

The [nomination form](#) for the 2020 Louisiana Principal Fellowship facilitated by the National Institute of School Leadership (NISL) is now available and will remain open until April 1. This 12-month Executive Development Program will begin with an orientation in May and continue through the school year. Participants can include aspiring and current principals and school system leaders. Please complete the linked form to nominate a participant for the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information, please visit the [Louisiana Principal Fellowship](#) page or contact jennie.moctezuma@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: IDEA Funding Priorities

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.

New: Reevaluation Pilot Informational Webinar

The Department will hold an informational webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education **this Thursday, February 13** at 2:00 p.m. School systems interested in applying to participate in the Reevaluation Pilot should attend. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 13 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/553759355>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 553 759 355

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Family Support Survey

The Department is conducting a [Family Support Survey](#) to better understand the types of assistance families of students with disabilities need to support the educational experience of their child/children. The information gathered from this survey will inform the Department's understanding of how to best support families across the state.

Please share the survey with families of students with disabilities. Participants will have until **this Friday, February 14** to complete the survey.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Data

New: Medicaid Eligibility Verification Program

Beginning in March, the process by which school systems receive student Medicaid eligibility information for Medicaid billing will change. Training on the new Medicaid Eligibility Verification Program will be held on **February 20** from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 20 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/638675138>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 638 675 138

Please contact kaylie.loupe@la.gov with questions.

New: File Available via FTP – January Quarterly Home Study Reports

The Quarterly Home Study Reports for January 2020 are available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named “LEACode_LEAName_January2020HomeStudy” and will remain on the FTP until April 30. Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- Detailed list of students within the specific school system enrolled in Home Study program
- Each student’s home study approval notification letter

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

Finance

Reminder: Instructional Material for Ag Courses

Please share with business managers

The Department has completed the [allocation](#) for instructional materials for agriculture related courses. School systems should look for payments to be received this week.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Grants Management

Reminder: 2019–2020 High Cost Service Round 2 Application

The 2019-2020 High Cost Services Grant Round 2 was released January 31 in [eGMS](#). The application will close on **February 25**.

High Cost Service Round 2 applications should only contain new students. Students that received an allocation in Round 1 cannot be included in the Round 2 application process.

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

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: School Emergency Management Workshops

The Department and LSU NCBRT/ACE have partnered with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to host the following school emergency management workshops. These courses build on the concepts outlined in the [Developing and Enhancing School Emergency Operations Plans](#) workshop. Attendees are encouraged, but not required, to take this workshop before registering for the following classes. All workshops are available to Louisiana school and school system crisis teams at no cost through the Grants to States for School Emergency Management (GSEM) Program. Register for a scheduled workshop at the links below, or contact schoolsafety@ncbrt.lsu.edu to schedule a workshop.

Workshop Title	Data and Time	Location
Risk Assessments for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile	March 19 from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Emergency Operations Functional Planning	March 19 from 12:30–4:30 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Integrating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in K-12 Schools	March 20 from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Introduction and Application of Exercise Planning for Schools	March 20 from 12:30–4:30 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Please contact rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu with questions.

New: School System Health Leads

The Healthy Communities Section has been working with select school systems to implement the Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community (WSCC) model. This framework is designed to improve students' health and academic achievement through improving statewide school health infrastructure and to increase professional development/technical assistance opportunities that support best practices in nutrition, physical activity, and the management of chronic conditions in school settings.

To expand this work statewide, the Healthy Communities Section is working to establish a directory of School System Health Leads, or a point of contact in each school system, who is responsible for implementing strategies to improve student health in schools. The Department is seeking individuals at the system level that supervise physical education, health, nutrition, wellness, or related areas.

Please email the name of the appointed person, title, and contact information to stephen.guccione@la.gov.

New: Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards Program Now Accepting Applications

The Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards Program is now accepting [applications](#) through April 9. Reference the [OSSE Awards Program](#) document to learn more.

Please contact dana.dauzat@la.gov with questions.