



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 23, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

We received great news last week. All teachers, support staff and early childhood center workers are now eligible for access to the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes all schools: traditional public, public charter and nonpublic. We have publicly and privately advocated for this priority and are pleased with the announcement.

We are thankful to everyone involved in the effort to prioritize us. This signals what we already know — the educational community are essential workers.

Over the past month, we've recommended that school systems develop partnerships with local clinics, hospitals or pharmacies to orchestrate logistics in administering the vaccine. We also asked that they determine the number of employees who wish to receive the voluntary vaccine. Educators and support staff also have the option to schedule their vaccinations independently with their local providers. This is true even if their school system established a partnership with a local provider, as a vaccine can be a very personal decision.

Eligible employees include those who are housed on site at a center or school. It also includes system employees whose work takes them to centers or school sites routinely. Employees will most likely be asked to present a badge, paystub or some form of school system identification to receive a vaccine.

Presently, even with our educational community included in priority access, vaccine demand exceeds supply. It will take weeks to satisfy the full need. We must continue to be patient and utilize our effective mitigation efforts such as face coverings, distancing, hand-washing and enhanced sanitation.

We understand from the medical community that the vaccine is safe. I have had access to a vaccine as part of the Governor's Unified Command team. Now that teachers are eligible, I took my vaccination Monday. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, [LDH has created a web page with a wealth of information](#).

I remain inspired and impressed by the work taking place across Louisiana. As of today, 99 percent of early childcare centers are open and 67 percent of students are benefitting from daily face-to-face instruction. Our medical experts have shared that our schools are among the safest environments in the state when following mitigation measures. With this development, I hope to see more schools fully open for face-to-face instruction on a daily basis.

The pandemic doesn't end once our educators are vaccinated, but it does represent a light at the end of the tunnel. I believe the work you are doing now to maintain some semblance of normalcy and provide an education to our children is heroic. Continue moving forward. Together we have come far, and together we will get through this challenge.

I'm proud to be among a team of educators statewide delivering education safely through the pandemic.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

In This Issue

- Operations
 - Nutrition Support
- Career and College Readiness
- Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support
 - Healthy Communities
- Teaching and Learning
 - Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics
 - Educator Development
- Reminders

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	February 25 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	February 25 at 3 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	March 2 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	March 2 at 3:45 p.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	March 9 at 12 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	March 11 at 9 a.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	March 16 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
AE Leadership Community of Practice	February 24 at 10 a.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.
Literacy Monthly Call	March 4 at 10 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.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	March 10 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	March 10 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	March 11 at 2 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	March 15 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	March 16 at 3:45 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	March 17 at 3:30 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	March 18 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	March 18 at 3 p.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
Children's Hospital of New Orleans February Town Hall Series for Schools	February 24 at 1 p.m.
Simple Strategies to Support Whole Child Health Training	February 25 at 12 p.m.
AP Exam Update Webinar	March 3 at 11 a.m.
Louisiana Aspiring Principal Fellowship Informational Webinar	March 8 at 3:30 p.m.
2021 Spring Homeless Liaison Training	March 9 at 9 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
ESSER I Funds Reporting	February 26
Jump Start Summers Application	March 5 at 5 p.m.
Spring 2021 Accelerate Math Content Developer Application	March 12 at 5 p.m.
Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application	March 31

Operations

Virtual Instruction Lessons Learned Report

The LDOE recently partnered with Westat to conduct focus groups with stakeholders across the state about lessons learned from virtual instruction. This feedback from students, educators, and family can help inform future decisions.

Access the Department's [Virtual Instruction Lessons Learned Report](#).

Please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov with questions.

ESSER II Funding Guidance FAQ

LDOE created an [ESSER II Funding Guidance FAQ](#) that contains the most frequently asked questions and answers related to ESSER II funds. School systems should continue to submit specific questions to LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

More information about these funds can be found in the [Fact Sheet](#) released by ED.

Next Steps

The Department will host a launch for school systems and release guidance when ESSER II funds are loaded into eGMS, providing school systems with pertinent information for creating their budgets in alignment with the priorities and focus areas outlined in [Believe to Achieve: Louisiana's Educational Priorities](#). The launch will take place on **March 30**. Save the date!

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.

High Cost Services Round 1 Allocations

Allocations for Round 1 of the High Cost Services (HCS) grant are now visible in eGMS. School systems that have been approved through the application process should now create budgets by creating an amendment in the HCS Round 1 application in eGMS. School systems must create this amendment to include all students for whom an allocation was received. The Department will review budget amendments for eligibility and allowability as they are submitted.

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

2021 Spring Homeless Liaison Training

The Spring Homeless Liaison Webinar will be held on **March 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** During this webinar, information will be provided to acclimate new homeless liaisons to their positions, address unaccompanied youth and FAFSA concerns, share COVID-related challenges/strategies, and share updates on the statewide parent and family engagement initiative as well as EDLink. Webinar details and an agenda outline are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 9 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94614138222>
- **Meeting ID#:** 946 1413 8222
- **Dial-In Number:** 312-626-6799

Time	Topic
9-10 a.m.	McKinney Vento 101 (<i>new liaisons only</i>)
10-10:10 a.m.	Break
10:10-11 a.m.	Unaccompanied Youth and FAFSA
11-11:10 a.m.	Break
11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.	COVID Panel Discussion
12-12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30-1:15 p.m.	Introduction to LDOE Statewide Parent and Family Engagement Initiative
1:15-2 p.m.	EDLink Implementation

Please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions.

Nutrition Support

Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards Program

The Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards Program is accepting [applications](#) through April 9. For more information on the OSSE Awards Program, please visit the [OSSE Webpage Submission](#) document.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

AP Exam Update Webinar

Please share with testing coordinators, high school administrators, counselors, curriculum supervisors, and AP Coordinators.

The Department is hosting a webinar on [Advanced Placement Exam Updates](#) on **March 3 at 11 a.m.** This webinar will discuss the new administration dates for AP Exams, along with the technical requirements for offering the digital version of AP exams.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 3 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97379365051>
- **Meeting ID#:** 973 7936 5051
- **Passcode:** 164438
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552

Please email meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Children's Hospital of New Orleans February Town Hall Series for Schools

Please share with school system leaders, administrators, school nurses, and teachers.

COVID-19 guidance experts from Children's Hospital New Orleans (CHNOLA), in partnership with the Department, will host an upcoming virtual town hall on **February 24 at 1 p.m.**

During this virtual series, guidance experts will:

- Provide updates on the current state of COVID-19 pandemic across Louisiana, specifically in regard to children under ages 18
- Speak to frequently asked questions
- Provide education/guidance training on targeted topics relevant to schools
- Facilitate open Q&A surrounding vaccine administration

Please [register](#) to receive access to the town hall.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support

Healthy Communities

Simple Strategies to Support Whole Child Health Training

The Department, in partnership with LDH-Well Ahead and Alliance for Healthier Generation, is hosting a Simple Strategies to Support Whole Child Health Training on **February 25 from 12-1 p.m.** This virtual training will teach attendees simple strategies to support children's social-emotional and physical health in out-of-school time (i.e. afterschool programs and summer camps). The training will also explore resources to engage staff, students, and families, whether in-person or virtually. [Register](#) to attend.

Please contact stephen.guccione@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.

February 15: Phase 2 of ELA and math resources released

- The resources for [Accelerate ELA](#) are built to ensure that students are able to access grade-level text. Each grade-level includes links to resources that support students in building knowledge, vocabulary, or foundational skills. This release of materials includes one unit of teacher and student-facing Foundational Skills supports for grades 3-5 and two teacher and student-facing knowledge packs in grades 3-8 which align to some ELA Guidebooks units. Subsequent releases will include an additional four units of teacher and student-facing Foundational Skills supports for grades 3-5 and five teacher and student-facing knowledge packs in grades 3-8.
- The Accelerate ELA Resources webinar [recording](#) and [presentation](#) are located on the [Accelerate page](#).
- The [Math resources](#) released for each grade-level include correlations to in-class lessons, links to Google slide presentations for each tutoring session, links to virtual manipulatives, and Desmos activities when available. Sessions were designed for one hour of virtual instruction for two sessions per week, but teachers should adjust to the mode of delivery, time, technology, and resources available. Elements of the Google slide presentations can be delivered as is, written on paper and shown to students through a document camera, imported into other presentation software or platforms, or used with students physically present. For grades K-8, ten weeks of resources are available.

February 26: Phase 3 release of ELA and math resources will be released

- ELA: Additional [knowledge pack](#) for grades 3-8
- Math: The last five sets of [lessons](#) for K-8 will be posted.

The Department has opened [applications](#) for expert pre-kindergarten through high-school math educators interested in building out additional [Accelerate Math](#) resources. [Applications](#) must be submitted by **5 p.m. on March 12**. Work will begin this spring and continue through the 2021-2022 school year. Compensation will be provided. Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

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

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

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

- **Important Update: Access to MyACT to enter student codes is now available.** ACT added a banner to the [Information for Examinees webpage](#) that says, "If your test date is March 9 or later, please wait until at least February 25 to enter your student code into MyACT to complete your non-test information."
- 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.
- **After materials arrive through 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.
- **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.

NAEP 2021

- The NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire will be open in MyNAEP for principals and teachers from selected schools beginning soon; the date has not yet been announced. 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 **March 2 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 2 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Passcode:** 2020202!

Educator Development

Louisiana Aspiring Principal Fellowship

In an effort to support the development of school leaders across the state, the Department will be launching a pilot cohort for aspiring principals. The Aspiring Principal Fellowship will prepare individuals that already possess their EDL1 certification with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve in the principal role. This selective statewide fellowship is rooted in Louisiana's five priorities:

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

APF cohort participants will meet monthly (Orientation at Teacher Leader Summit, commencing monthly in October) and explore best practices with regional experts, school visits, theory, and reflection. Participants will exit this 12-day fellowship with a robust leadership portfolio, the guidance of Louisiana's most successful principals, individualized coaching, and a strong network of lifelong colleagues.

The 2021-2022 pilot cohort will be selected accordingly and represent a cross-section of aspiring leaders throughout the state. Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems need to cover the costs of the \$2500 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than **March 31**.

For more information, please attend or invite potential candidates to attend the following informational webinar:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 8 at 3:30 pm
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98559739337>
- **Meeting ID#:** 985 5973 9337
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development Office Hours

As a reminder, the office of Educator Development offers monthly office hour calls. This month's call on February 23 will be an opportunity for school systems to bring any questions they may have around programs and initiatives supported by the Educator Development team such as:

- Aspiring Principal Cohort
- Pre-Educator Pathway
- Teacher Leader Summit
- Mentor and Content Leaders

School systems can utilize this [survey](#) to submit specific topics to examine more closely during upcoming monthly calls.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit (In-person):

[Registration](#) for the in-person Teacher Leader Summit is underway. The early bird ticket window closes on March 1.

- Purchasing an early bird ticket offers reduced pricing and first access to session scheduling.
- The session schedule and app will be released to early bird ticket holders on April 7.

The regular registration window will run from March 2-April 12.

- Purchasing an early bird ticket offers reduced pricing and first access to session scheduling.
- All access codes turn off on April 13 preventing further registration.
- The session schedule and app will be released to regular ticket holders on April 9.

New this year, upon successful registration, educators have the opportunity to download graphics to share across their social media platforms to celebrate attending the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. The graphics can be found in the "I'm Going Passes" section of the [Summit Materials page](#). Be sure to use the #LATeacherLeaders in social posts.

More information regarding the in-person Teacher Leader Summit can be found in the [Overview](#).

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series:

To maximize the delivery of content and educator development, The Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from June 1-11, and sessions will be accessed remotely. The format will be similar to the Virtual Series offered during spring 2020.

- There will be a max overall registration limit of 8,000.
- The Department is not allocating seats. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Paid ticket holders of the Teacher Leader Summit in-person event will receive an access code allowing them to register for and participate in the Virtual Series at no additional cost.
 - Each code will be one-time use and must be used only by the original ticket holder. Codes are not transferable.

Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will open in April. Tickets are inclusive of all days of the event. The [Content Delivery Plan](#) outlines which content will be presented virtually in comparison to the content being delivered in-person.

Ticket Type	Purchasing Window	Ticket Price
Early Bird Registration	April 1-25	\$50.00
Regular Registration	April 26-sell out	\$65.00

The session schedule and app for the Virtual Series will be released to early bird ticket holders on May 10 and May 12 for regular registrants.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **[Operations Reminders](#)**
- **[Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)**
 - **[Nutrition Support Reminders](#)**
- **[Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)**
 - **[Academic Content Reminders](#)**
 - **[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders](#)**

Operations Reminders

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](#). 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 Reminders

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 Reminders

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.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

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 Reminders

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 Reminders

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.