

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**March 24, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

On Monday evening, I had the privilege of participating in a roundtable discussion at Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) centered on how the state is responding to the evolving Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. During the education-focused segment of the live broadcast, which [you can now view online](#), I answered questions alongside Gov. John Bel Edwards, Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, and LPB Deputy Director Christina Melton. They offered valuable information and perspective.

Among the questions posed to the panel, we were asked how Louisiana is supporting distance learning efforts, including for children who do not have Internet access.

The Louisiana Department of Education is committed to supporting all distance learning efforts to minimize students' learning loss. The Department has identified ways students and families can access free or reduced-cost Internet packages and WiFi hotspots, as well as ways schools can ensure tracking on devices provided directly to students. That information can be found in [our K-12 FAQ](#), which is continually updated.

The Department has also been researching Louisiana school systems with strong plans to provide access to learning, collaborating with experts across the nation in order to provide school systems and educators with ideas and tools, and working closely with curriculum publishers to ensure access to key materials.

Later this week, we plan to provide you all with:

- Sample models of distance education, including models that require limited or no technology;
- Tools for teachers and students, such as sample schedules and communication systems, and guidance on how to utilize these tools;
- An inventory of curricular materials that are available for distance learning formats; and
- A dedicated Course Choice catalog that will offer expanded high school credit course opportunities through June 30.

We hope these resources, which will be shared directly and posted to our website, prove valuable as you navigate this uncertain time.

In service,

Beth Scioneaux  
Acting State Superintendent

## **In This Issue**

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## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [Special Education Advisory Panel \(SEAP\) Webinar](#): March 25 at 9:30 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): March 31 at 4:15 p.m.
- [Super App Competitive Funding Webinar](#): April 23 at 11:00 a.m.

### Important Deadlines

- [Louisiana Fit Kids Photo Contest Submission](#) deadline: March 30

### Postponed/Canceled Events

- Special Education Advisory Panel (March 25 meeting canceled)
- Student of the Year events (Postponed; more information about virtual interviews will be sent to participants next week)
- 40<sup>th</sup> Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice (April 7–9 conference postponed; new date TBA)
- April School System Planning Call (Canceled; presentation will be posted to the [School Improvement Library](#) on April 8)
- Spring 2020 Counselor Institutes (April; rescheduled as virtual institutes)

Please note: The [2019-2020 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include these changes.

## School System Support

### **New: Covid-19 Guidance**

**Effective Monday, March 16, all public schools in the State of Louisiana closed facilities to students until April 13. Decisions about whether staff report to school facilities remains the decision of local governing authority.**

Please reference the Department's [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#) webpage for regularly updated guidance. Review the [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is specific to the concerns of school systems for the most up-to-date information. Child care providers should refer to the [Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions](#) for specific guidance. For education-specific information, contact the Department at [LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov).

Please contact the Louisiana 211 Network by dialing 211 with questions about coronavirus, or text the keyword LACOVID to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

### **New: April School System Planning Call**

**The April School System Planning Call scheduled for April 8 at 1:00 p.m. has been canceled.** The presentation will be posted to our [School Improvement Library](#) on April 8.

Please contact [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Distance and Home Learning Supports**

The Department [posted](#) distance and home learning supports for educators, students, and caregivers including:

- [Academic resources](#) for math, ELA, social studies, science, and early childhood including increased access to digital content and virtual lessons.
- Resources to teach young children about COVID-19.

Also, the Department is working with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) to do the following:

- Ensure their "[At-Home Learning](#)" website includes links to Department-produced guidance.
- Assist them in choosing educational programming that is most closely connected to Louisiana student standards, whenever possible. Access the [LBP broadcasting schedule](#).

Later this week, the Department will release:

- guidance and tools to support school systems and teachers as they establish continuous learning structures and routines, and
- updated [availability of materials](#) from curriculum vendors.

The Department will announce further availability of these resources through all upcoming school system planning calls and newsletters.

## **New: School System Planning**

A **Super App Competitive Funding Webinar** will be held on **April 23 at 11:00 a.m.** to review important information regarding Super App competitive funds. Federal Programs Directors and Super App Planning Team members directly involved in budgeting funds should attend. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 23 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/212342956>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 212 342 956

Please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Early Elementary CLASS® Pilot Opportunity**

The Department is gearing up for the CLASS® pilot for the 2020-2021 school year. In addition to kindergarten, the pilot will extend to grades 1 and 2. School systems that have not signed up and are interested in doing so are encouraged to complete the [CLASS® Pilot 2020-2021 Form](#) by **May 1**. Benefits include funding for K-3 CLASS® observer training and certification, professional development, and coaching.

For more information about the early elementary CLASS® pilot, visit the [Accountability Pilots Library](#).

Please contact [brandy.brunson@la.gov](mailto:brandy.brunson@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Student of the Year Update**

The **2020 Student of the Year final selection process will be postponed**. School systems that were unable to submit student writing samples by the March 24 submission deadline will have the opportunity to resubmit. The Department will reschedule in-person interviews at a later, to be determined, date. More information will be released in forthcoming newsletters.

Please contact [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) with questions.

## **Assessment and Accountability**

### **For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts**

**Update: All ACT testing dates have been postponed. Schools should return secure materials using one of the options below.**

- Contact ACT to reschedule at 800-553-6244, ext 2800.
- Take materials to FedEx for return to ACT.

**Update: DRC Deliveries and Opening of Test Setup**

- DRC deliveries that were scheduled for March 16 and the opening of test setup in DRC INSIGHT, also scheduled for March 16, have been postponed. DTCs will be notified when revised schedules have been finalized.

**Update: NAEP Age 17 Long-term Trend (LTT) Assessments**

- NAEP Long-Term Trend (LTT) assessments that were scheduled for March 16 for students aged 17 have been suspended. All schools should have received notification from the NAEP helpdesk.

**Update: Cohort Graduation Data Certification**

- The opening of cohort graduation data certification scheduled for this week has been postponed. Accountability contacts will be notified when a new schedule has been finalized.

### **Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours**

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **March 31 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 31 at 4:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

## **Special Education**

### **Reminder: Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Meeting Canceled**

Out of an abundance of caution, **the March 25 SEAP meeting has been canceled**. In lieu of the in-person open meeting, the Department is hosting a presentation on **March 25 at 9:30 a.m.** to share updates with the SEAP panel and members of the public.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 25 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/605042847>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 605042847#

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

## Data

### **Reminder: Economically Disadvantaged Students**

The Department recently released the February 2020 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system for the purposes of informing grants, federal funding, and subgroup determinations. The single Excel file, *LEA Code LEA Name Feb 2020 Economically Disadvantaged*, will be available through June 1 on the Data Management FTP. FTP coordinators should locate their individual school system file and share it with their federal program and finance staff.

Please email [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## Finance

### **New: Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Fiscal Requirements**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

Meeting yearly Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements are a part of the business process to confirm compliance and determine eligibility of federal grant funds for ESSA and IDEA grants. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) requires an annual review that determines if each school system:

1. has not decreased spending of general fund dollars, and
2. is budgeting expenditures to meet the MOE standards.

There are three MOE measurements submitted in the eGMS system:

- 2019 IDEA MOE Confirmation (Compliance) deadline for submission is April 30.
- 2021 ESSA MOE Verification updates are in progress and will be available in the near future.
- 2021 IDEA MOE Verification (Eligibility) updates are in progress and will be available in the near future.

**Please note:** The Department has enhanced the MOE system to include a technical assistance feature that shows if the school system has not met the MOE requirement for IDEA. School systems are encouraged to start early and work through the new technical assistance feature found at the consistency check.

The [MOE Quick Reference Guide](#) is available to assist with the new feature and submitting all three MOE applications.

Please contact [nakia.jason@la.gov](mailto:nakia.jason@la.gov) regarding noticed delays with MOE that are COVID-19 related or with questions regarding the MOE review process. For technical inquiries or support, please contact [jason.berard@la.gov](mailto:jason.berard@la.gov).

### **New: Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Mid-Year Adjustments**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

The transmittal memo, in addition to the March 2020 Budget Letter, have been updated to include the October and February mid-year adjustments for students and the final local per-pupil amount for charter schools. The supporting documentation is provided in the Department's [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact [ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

**New: Final Charter School Per-Pupil Amounts for FY2019-2020**  
**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

The final [FY2019-2020 Charter Per-Pupil](#) amounts have been completed and are now available. The local revenue representation per-pupil amount for charter schools is required to be updated from the initial to the final amount and used in the MFP formula allocation according to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:3995.

Please contact [ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

**Reminder: Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 MFP**

The BESE adopted MFP resolution and formula was submitted to the Legislature on March 15. The proposed MFP documents for FY2020-2021 are available in the Department's [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact [ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.