



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 6, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Last week we received more good news as a result of your efforts to educate through this pandemic. LSU's Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs [released the second in a series of five reports](#) from the 2021 Louisiana Survey. This annual survey tracks public sentiment about state government services, including our education system. This report found that 77 percent of families are satisfied with the instruction provided by their child's school during the pandemic. Good job! Families are our partners, and it's encouraging to see more data showing that they value the lengths teachers and leaders are going to provide a quality education.

Just over half of families felt that their children learned less over the past year than they would have in a normal year. Our educators have done hero's work during the pandemic, but we've known learning recovery would be needed since the beginning of this unprecedented event. School systems across the state are meeting this challenge with creative solutions like our [Accelerate tutoring initiative](#) or by rethinking how [summer learning programs](#) can be used to lift all students. Early last week we also launched [Achieve! and Believe!](#), resource libraries to support systems and early childhood centers as they utilize pandemic relief funds.

Thank you to our students, educators, leaders and families for working together with grace and flexibility throughout this pandemic. Together, we are meeting the challenge of the moment and stand ready to move our state forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

In This Issue

- [Operations](#)
 - [Nutrition Support](#)
- [Career and College Readiness](#)
- [Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities](#)
 - [Special Education](#)
- [School System Financial Services](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
 - [Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)
- [Reminders](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Education Technology Office Hours	April 8 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	April 8 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	April 8 at 3 p.m.
SRCL TA Office Hours	April 12 at 1 p.m.
Teacher Leader Summit Office Hours	April 13 at 3 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	April 13 at 3 p.m.
<i>Achieve!</i> Office Hours	April 16 at 10 a.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	April 20 at 12 p.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	April 20 at 12 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	April 20 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
SPED Leader Monthly Call	April 8 at 2 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	April 9 at 9 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	April 13 at 3:45 p.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	April 14 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	April 14 at 3 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	April 15 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	April 15 at 3 p.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	April 16 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	April 19 at 10 a.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	April 21 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	April 21 at 3:30 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	April 22 at 9 a.m.

AE Leadership Community of Practice	April 28 at 10 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	April 28 at 1 p.m.
Literacy Monthly Call	May 6 at 10 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	May 6 at 1 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	May 6 at 1 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
Individual Graduation Planning (IGP) Webinar	April 7 at 9 a.m.
2021 Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator's Webinar	April 12 at 10 a.m.
2021-2022 Pupil Progression Plan Webinar	April 13 at 9 a.m.
Understanding Childhood Obesity Webinar	April 21 at 1:30 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Jump Start Construction Scholars Program Applications	April 12
Summer Learning Program Initial Information Survey	April 13
Deadline to submit Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contact	May 1

Operations

Update to Contact Form: Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contact Role

[LDOE's Contact Form](#) has been updated to include an Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contact role. LEA's are asked to add their Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contact [to this form](#) by **May 1**. Access the Department's [guide](#) for assistance with completing the contact form.

The Department will host a webinar for these contacts at the start of hurricane season and will continue to meet with them throughout the year. During the initial webinar, LDOE will discuss the safety and care of students during emergency situations such as natural disasters or other potential hazards and will preview the Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Dashboard. This dashboard will be created to collect preparedness and recovery status information from each Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contact that will enable LDOE to support LEAs with emergency management in Louisiana schools. Additional information, including webinar details, will be shared in the coming weeks.

Visit the Department's [Emergency Preparedness and Recovery webpage](#) to access emergency preparedness and recovery guidance and resources.

Please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov with questions.

Nutrition Support

USDA Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operational Costs Funding

On March 15, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published additional [implementation guidance](#) and [Q&As](#) regarding the Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operational Costs programs. This guidance is in addition to the previous [guidance](#) and [Q&As](#) released by USDA on January 26. 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.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadline and Data Collection Flexibility

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the availability of the [Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) Deadlines](#), which extends annual CEP deadlines for the 2021-2022 school year. School systems must finalize CEP elections no later than **September 30**. Additionally, school systems electing CEP, establishing a new ISP, or conducting a grace year for the 2021-2022 school year may calculate the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) using data drawn at any time during the prior school year (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021). Additional information may be found by accessing the Division of Nutrition Support [Memo SFS-21-x124](#).

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Understanding Childhood Obesity Webinar

[Louisiana Fit Kids](#), a partnership between the Louisiana Department of Education and Pennington Biomedical Research Center, will host [Understanding Childhood Obesity](#) on **April 21 at 1:30 p.m.** This live event will feature Dr. Peter Katzmarzyk and Dr. Candace Myers with Pennington Biomedical Research Center) and Dr. Leah Robinson from the University of Michigan, and will provide information regarding childhood obesity trends within the state, the relationship between obesity and food insecurity, and the impact of physical activity in preschool and school-age children. [Registration](#) is open to school administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, child nutrition program professionals, and other stakeholders.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov with questions.

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 including the application, please visit the [OSSE Webpage Submission document](#). Winners will be posted on the [Awards Program page](#).

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Harbor Freight Tools for Schools

Please share with CTE supervisors, principals, counselors, and secondary supervisors.

[Harbor Freight Tools for Schools](#) is a program established by Harbor Freight Tools to advance excellent skilled trades education in public high schools across America. In 2021, Harbor Freight will award over \$1 million in prizes for tools and equipment.

The [application](#) is open now and it is due **May 21**. Three grand prize winners will receive \$100,000, with \$70,000 going to the public high school skilled trades program and \$30,000 going to the eligible individual skilled trades teacher or teacher team. Fifteen prize winners will each be awarded \$50,000, with \$35,000 going to the public high school program and \$15,000 going to the eligible teacher or teacher team.

Eligible applicants are those who teach:

- Agriculture Mechanics Carpentry
- Construction Electrical
- HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning)
- Manufacturing
- Plumbing
- Transportation
- Mechanics and repair
- Welding

Please contact troy.borne@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 April 12-16 and continues April 19-23. 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 \$600.00. 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

Special Education

SPED Fellow Academy Applications

[SPED Fellow](#) Academy is a year-long, comprehensive development program for novice special education leaders (administrators) across Louisiana. The program will provide in-person training, coaching, and a community of practice that will instill the knowledge and skills the next generation of leaders needs to lead and sustain change to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Learning will cover topics such as strategic budgeting, stakeholder engagement, laws, and policies, leveraging data, leadership development including managing teams, and sustaining change. In addition to a robust curriculum, the program will support fellows in examining a systems-level problem of practice, developing a theory of action to address the problem of practice, and developing an action plan to lead systems-level change.

The Department encourages full-time administrators who are managing across these areas to [apply](#) between April 12 and May 14.

Please contact rachel.brown@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Fiscal Requirements

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

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

- 2020 IDEA MOE Confirmation (Compliance) deadline for submission is **May 14**.
- 2022 ESSA MOE Verification updates are in progress and will be available in the near future.
- 2022 IDEA MOE Verification (Eligibility) updates are in progress and will be available in the near future.

COVID Relief Funds and MOE

Although school systems have received relief funds as a result of COVID-19, these funds do not affect the Maintenance of Effort requirements at the LEA level. LEAs are required to continue spending at levels to continue to meet all MOE requirements in accordance with previous federal regulations. Federal requirements have changed at the State level only.

MOE Assistance

The [MOE Quick Reference Guide](#) is available to assist those new to the MOE submission process. A [Local Only Funds Calculator](#) is available to assist in completing the Local Only Funds section of the IDEA MOEs.

Those experiencing delays with MOE that are COVID-19 related or those with questions regarding the MOE review process are encouraged to contact nakia.jason@la.gov. For technical inquiries or support, please contact jason.berard@la.gov.

Teaching and Learning

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP 2025

- District test coordinators should ensure that all testing content is downloaded to the Central Office Server prior to testing. Please contact assessment@la.gov for assistance.
- **Beginning April 6:** District test coordinators can order additional test materials for high school assessments.
- **Beginning April 8:** District test coordinators can order additional test materials for 3-8 assessments.
- Test setup is now open in DRC INSIGHT for high school LEAP testing.
- Test setup is now open in DRC INSIGHT for grades 3-8 LEAP testing.
- DTCs should submit all test schedules as soon as possible.

Third Year Assessment Cohort Roster

- Third year assessment cohort rosters have been posted to school system FTPs. These students must participate in English I and Algebra I testing, regardless of course enrollment, unless there is an appropriate accountability code to apply to their record.
- These students have been preloaded to DRC INSIGHT. They should not be removed. The students should either be tested or coded out.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

- The Division of Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics will convene LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect assessments committees in June and July via teleconference.
- LEAP 2025 Science and Math Content, Bias, and Sensitivity committees will review newly developed assessment items and provide feedback and recommendations on the items.
- LEAP Connect Standards Validation and Standards Setting committees will work on cut scores and achievement levels for ELA, math, and science assessments.
- **May 9 Deadline to Apply:** Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meetings details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees. Selected participants who are on summer break are eligible to receive a daily stipend. Please share this announcement with general education teachers, special education teachers, teachers of English Learners, school and school system supervisors, and school administrators – all are encouraged to apply.

Data Certification

- Cohort graduation data certification is now open and will remain open until April 23 in LA Data Review for 2019-2020 graduates. Individual emails were sent to accountability contacts to confirm dates and provide user access and support materials.
- Please be sure contacts are updated. Access to the system will only be provided to official accountability contacts.
- Audits will be conducted on students who exited as out-of-state transfers, nonpublic school transfers, and BESE-approved home study transfers. FAFSA parental opt-outs will also be audited.
- **New:** Superscores are now visible for any student that has taken 2 or more ACT battery tests.

- April 1-3: Superscores were rolled out only available in the “All Data” tab in Online Reporting according to the following schedule:
 - April 1: Download Hub now includes Superscores for all years available in the platform
 - April 1-3: Superscores rolled out for current year (2020-2021). They will be visible in the roster and aggregate reports by April 9.
- End of April : Superscores for historical years will be visible in the roster and aggregate reports.

ACT Match/No Match Rosters

- **Important Update:** Access MyACT to enter student codes using the [Information for Examinees webpage](#).
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- **Resources**
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Test Coordinators](#)
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Students](#)
 - [Taking the ACT PDF](#)

NAEP 2021

- **Additional Monthly Survey**
 - By Executive Order, a NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey will be collected from approximately 90 schools in Louisiana to understand the impact of COVID-19, including the status of in-person learning.
 - Nationally, the survey will collect data from approximately 3,500 schools that enroll fourth-graders and an equal number of schools that enroll eighth-graders.
 - The submission windows have been extended to accommodate spring break (April 14-23, May 24-28, and June 21-25).
 - The status of in-person learning will be disaggregated by student demographics, including race/ethnicity, disability, English Learner status, and an economic disadvantage indicator.
 - The public will have access to data about school reopenings for in-person instruction and how students are learning.
 - For questions or additional information, please email jennifer.baird@la.gov or rebecca.frederick@la.gov.
- **Student and Teacher Questionnaire**
 - The NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire will be open in MyNAEP for principals and teachers from selected schools beginning soon.
 - All states have official approval from the OMB to start this questionnaire.
 - A principal may assign the questionnaire to another school administrator. Questionnaires must be completed by **April 23**.
 - 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 **April 13 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 13 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!

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)
 - [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)
- [School System Relations Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)

Operations Reminders

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders

[Achieve! Launch](#)

Last week the Department launched *Achieve!* for school systems, providing pertinent information for creating ESSER II and III budgets in alignment with the Department's priorities and focus areas outlined in [Believe to Achieve: Louisiana's Educational Priorities](#). School systems are encouraged to visit the [Pandemic Relief Guidance and Resources landing page](#) and [library](#) to access available guidance and resources. These pages will be updated as more information is released.

FAQ Updates

New items were added to the [ESSER II New Funding FAQ](#) including information on indirect cost rate, allocations to charter schools, and pre-approval regulations and process.

Allowable Use of Funds Resource

The Department released a [new allowable use of funds](#) resource that provides allowable use of funds examples for school systems to support strategic, high-impact planning.

New Planning Resources

Resource	Summary
Achieve! ESSERF Use of Funds Examples	Provides allowable use of funds examples for school systems to support strategic, high-impact planning with the new pandemic relief funding.
Allowability and Cost Guidance Crosswalk for ESSER II Funding	Contains high-impact investment examples with cost estimates systems could consider based on the ESSERF allowabilities in alignment to the Department's priorities.
Achieve! ESSER III Funding Overview	Contains a high-level overview of the new ESSER funding allocated under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) . The document will include information on notable differences between ESSERF I, II, and III, key considerations systems should begin thinking about, and anticipated timelines for allocations and planning.

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

2021 Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator's Webinar

The Department will host a Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator's Webinar on **Monday, April 12 from 10-11 a.m.** During this webinar, information will be shared on the statewide initiative that will be implemented during the 2021-2022 school year. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 12 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93288015070>
- **Meeting ID#:** 932 8801 5070
- **Dial-In Number:** 312-626-6799

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

Career and College Readiness Reminders

FEMA Hand Sanitizer Opportunity

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Donations Office received a large quantity of hand sanitizer for distribution. The U.S. Department of Education is assisting FEMA with communicating this opportunity to schools across the country. Information about applying for hand sanitizer can be found on the [FEMA Hand Sanitizer Information sheet](#). Safety information about the hand sanitizer is also [available](#).

Instructions for requesting hand sanitizer from FEMA:

1. Fill out the following forms:
 - [FEMA Hold Harmless Agreement](#)
 - [FEMA Hand Sanitizer Request Template](#)
2. Send completed forms to FEMA-Donations-Mgt@fema.dhs.gov with subject line: Hand Sanitizer Donation.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations Reminders

Department Names the 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semi-finalists

The Department is proud to announce the [2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year semi-finalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists will be honored at the *15th Annual Excellent Educators Awards Gala* that will be held virtually on the evening of **July 16**. This exciting event is co-sponsored by Dream Teachers.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Staffing and Scheduling Regional Support Series

As part of the release of the [Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices](#) initiative, school systems will be offered a variety of implementation supports this spring, summer, and fall at no cost. A detailed list of supports is located in the [guidance document](#).

System leaders and school leaders that oversee academics, human resources, diverse learners, principal support, and counseling should attend these upcoming trainings. Participants must register using the links below.

Date and Time	Session and Registration Link
May 5 at 1 p.m.	Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Webinar
May 11 at 11 a.m.	Job Alike Session: District Academic Leadership
May 11 at 1 p.m.	Job Alike Session: Diverse Learners Leadership
May 12 at 11 a.m.	Job Alike Session: Counselors and Counselor Leadership
May 12 at 1 p.m.	Spring Job Alike Session: School Leadership

School systems may choose to purchase more strategic implementation support for \$2500. This support includes participation for up to eight individuals to attend three regional technical support sessions and receive three individual coaching calls.

Systems interested must [register](#) by **May 4**. Regional session dates are below.

Session 1	
Date and Time	Session
May 17 from 1-4 p.m.	Spring Regional Technical Support Series: New Orleans (Virtual)
May 18 from 1-4 p.m.	Spring Regional Technical Support Series: Baton Rouge (Virtual)
May 19 from 1-4 p.m.	Spring Regional Technical Support Series: Northern LA (Virtual)
Session 2	
Date and Time	Session
July 26 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Summer Regional Technical Support Series: New Orleans (In-person)
July 27 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Summer Regional Technical Support Series: Baton Rouge (In-person)

July 28 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Summer Regional Technical Support Series: Northern LA (In-person)
Session 3	
Date and Time	Session
September 20 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Fall Regional Technical Support Series: New Orleans (In-person)
September 21 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Fall Regional Technical Support Series: Baton Rouge (In-person)
September 22 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Fall Regional Technical Support Series: Northern LA (In-person)

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

Emergency Broadband Benefit for Families

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched an [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#) to assist eligible households or school systems in paying for home internet services during the pandemic. This program is set to launch in mid to late April.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a single discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service being provided to eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price. In cases where the school system is purchasing home internet services for an eligible student, the school system can utilize the EBB discount to help defray the cost of service.

Households of students who currently attend a school that participated in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) in 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 qualify for this discount. Additionally, households of students who attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and are receiving free or reduced-price meals also qualify. To assist families in determining if they qualify for the EBB program based on NSLP and CEP participation, the Department will be launching an eligibility and information [document](#) and providing updates as they are released by the FCC.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

The [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) has been updated to include a matrix to show the enrichment connections among sample activities and links to one-pagers in these enrichment areas:

- Arts
- PE and health, outside activities
- STEM
- Literacy
- Career and college exploration

System leaders should review the checklist items for this month when planning. February-April checklist items include:

- Create applications for staff hiring
- Create a registration process and timeline for students including the collection of accommodations and medical plans

- Engage with partners for supports (local government, organizations, public library, universities, etc.)
- Determine school site locations

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