



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 13, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

This week we publicly released a new initiative aimed at sparking a reading revival across our state. [Louisiana Literacy](#) was developed to help ensure every child can read on grade level and graduate ready to succeed after high school. Being able to read is a foundational goal in education, and we must refocus efforts to support this basic need for students.

Unfortunately, more than half the students in our elementary and middle grades are reading below level in Louisiana. Only 40 percent of Louisiana kindergarteners, 42 percent of first graders, 48 percent of second graders and 50 percent of third graders are on or above grade level in literacy, according to the statewide fall reading report. This represents multiple years of literacy declines. Further, only 46 percent of students have mastered ELA content by the end of their third-grade year. Louisiana Literacy provides literacy supports for teachers, leaders and families that emphasize high-quality instruction and resources based on the science of reading.

[School systems, schools and families can now access resources on our website.](#) This initial round of resources focuses on early literacy and foundational skills. We are currently developing tools for all grade levels. In addition to some of the online resources listed below, we will provide professional development customized to support specific schools, students and curriculum. Some of the resources available are:

- Literacy goals, local literacy plans and a school system literacy roadmap
- Facilitation of literacy Professional Learning Communities
- Literacy implementation for leaders and teachers
- Classroom libraries
- Literacy schedules and classroom practices
- Phonological awareness activity cards
- Family literacy engagement strategic plan for schools and school systems
- Literacy activities for families
- Family literacy engagement survey sample

This past Friday, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) released its [school reopening guidance](#). Our [Accelerate](#) tutoring initiative is featured as a national example of how school systems can address unfinished learning. It's reaffirming to see the work we're doing in Louisiana called out as a strategy schools around the country can use to help children get back on track. Not only is Louisiana a national leader for safely providing in-person instruction, but our students are benefitting from academic strategies proven to move students forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	April 15 at 1 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.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	April 20 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	April 20 at 3:45 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	April 22 at 3 p.m.
Teacher Leader Summit Office Hours	May 4 at 3 p.m.
SRCL TA Office Hours	May 10 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	May 13 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
System Leaders Monthly Call	May 7 at 9 a.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	May 13 at 2 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	May 18 at 3:45 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
Understanding Childhood Obesity Webinar	April 21 at 1:30 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Summer Learning Program Initial Information Survey	April 13
Deadline to Submit Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contact	May 1
2020 IDEA MOE Confirmation (Compliance)	May 14

Operations

Pandemic Relief Funding: Strategic Budget Planning Support

LEAs will be provided two opportunities to attend strategic budget planning support sessions:

1. Workshop
 - a. One-time engagement for school systems leaders led by national experts
2. Comprehensive strategic budgeting support
 - a. Partner with experts in a multi-session cohort over the summer
3. Targeted budget planning support
 - a. School systems participate in a cohort opportunity to receive professional development from experts on fiscal management. Members of the cohort will receive a one-of-a-kind Certificate in Education Finance (CEF) which equips participants with the practical skills they need in strategic fiscal management, finance policy analysis, and financial leadership to deploy resources in ways that do the most for students. Cohort participants will commit to two days of in-person professional development as well as additional coaching consultation sessions.

Interested LEAs are encouraged to complete this [Strategic Budget Planning Support form](#) by **Friday, April 16**.

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

Developing and Enhancing School Emergency Operations Plans Virtual Training

This no-cost, 4-hour virtual training covers a six-step planning process that enables schools to produce a comprehensive, all-hazard emergency operations plan (EOP). Participants will discuss the collaborative planning process, potential planning partners both within the school system and the response community, the structure and functions of an all-hazard plan, and best practices for creating functional and hazard-specific annexes tailored to the unique needs of schools.

The course will provide a comprehensive overview of potential planning partners for school emergency management, an understanding of the collaborative planning process, and the basis for a complete and comprehensive, all-hazards school emergency operations plan.

This workshop is intended for district or school administrators, principals, teachers, school psychologists, facilities managers, transportation managers, school resource officers, and community partners with roles in creating and maintaining school crisis plans and emergency operations plans.

Click on either of the links below to register:

- [April 22 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.](#)
- [April 26 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.](#)

This course is offered through the Grants to States for School Emergency Management Program (GSEM) in partnership with LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (LSU NCBRT).

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

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) benefits **Please share with Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contacts.**

Residents of certain parishes that were federally approved for Individual Assistance (IA) can apply for Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) benefits to help buy groceries due to lost income or damages sustained from the ice storms that occurred in February. Approved parishes include Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, Grant, LaSalle, Madison, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Webster, West Carroll, and Winn. [Access this flyer](#) to learn how to apply, and visit www.dcf.la.gov/DSNAP for additional information.

Please call the LAHelpU Customer Service Center at 888-524-3578 with questions.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

National Title IV Part A Survey

To encourage full funding and support the successful implementation of Title IV Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the [National Title IV-A Coalition](#) is requesting school systems complete a [voluntary survey](#) to identify spending trends, success, and opportunities for the Title IV-A program.

Survey results will be compiled into a national report that will be made publicly available. School systems should submit the [survey](#) by **April 23**.

Please contact daphne.flentroy@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

2021 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Catalogue

Please share with CTE supervisors.

The dynamic [2021 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Catalogue](#) provides a list of professional development and training opportunities available this summer. This list is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed. School systems can submit training opportunities and/or training requests to jumpstart@la.gov for review.

Registration costs for the summer sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support

Healthy Communities

Children's Safety, Health, and Well-Being Virtual Town Hall

The Governor's Office of Programs and Planning Children's Cabinet, in partnership with the Gulf Coast Development Relief and Recovery Project, will conduct a series of regional, virtual town halls to assess the safety, health, and well-being of Louisiana's children in the aftermath of Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta. The intended outcome of these town halls is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the immediate and long-term needs of children that provides resources and services in an effort to promote healing, address trauma and reduce barriers to resources. Additional information, including registration, [is available](#).

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

Teaching and Learning

Best Practices

Originally only offered for CIR schools through Super App, the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) is now available for all schools in Louisiana. The LDOE has partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching to develop five best practices, and training on each will launch this summer.

- Instructional Leadership Teams
- Teacher Collaboration
- Teaching and Learning Standards
- Principal Standards
- Career Pipeline

Systems can use ESSER funding to send school leadership teams to these trainings.

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

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.

Summer guidance has been added to the [Accelerate Guidance](#).

May 14: Summer resources released

May 20: Summer resources webinar

For more support on unfinished learning, leaders and teachers can use the School Support Institutes: Addressing Unfinished Learning Series Days 2 and 3 Community of Practice presentations on the [Accelerate website](#).

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

Summer Learning Program Initial Information Survey

Each system should submit the [Summer Learning Program Initial Information Survey](#) by **today**. This survey will collect general information about how systems are planning for summer learning. Systems will also complete a survey at the end of summer to submit information about the impact of their program.

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

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.	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.

Academic Content

ELA Guidebooks Digital Text Access

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 3-12

Digital versions of the ELA Guidebooks Unit Readers are now available through the [XanEdu](#) portal. School systems interested in purchasing digital or digital+print hybrid Unit Readers to support the implementation of ELA Guidebooks should access the portal for pricing and purchasing information.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP 2025

- District test coordinators should work with their district technology coordinators to ensure that all testing content is downloaded to the Central Office Server prior to testing. Please contact assessment@la.gov for assistance.
- District test coordinators can order additional test materials for high school assessments.
- 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.
- Additional information may be needed for data certification submissions. Accountability contacts should check regularly for messages from Department reviewers.
- 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.
- Superscores are now visible for any student that has taken 2 or more ACT battery tests.
- Superscores will not be used for TOPS eligibility and there are no plans to use them in accountability at this time.
- 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).
- End of April: Superscores for historical years will be visible in the roster and aggregate reports.

ACT Match/No Match Rosters

- **April 12-16:** Receive materials for WorkKeys paper tests for Window 3
- **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 again to add days to each window (April 14-27, May 19-June 2, and June 16-29).

- 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 office hours will be on **April 20 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 20 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Passcode:** 2020202!

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit Registration

[Registration](#) for the in-person Teacher Leader Summit is underway. All allocation codes were to be used by April 12 and no longer function. The Department has opened a first-come, first-served registration window. Ticket sales will continue through sell-out, or May 9 at 11:50 p.m., whichever comes first. No access codes are needed to purchase these tickets.

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.

Literacy

Literacy Resources and Support

The Literacy Division is launching a Louisiana Literacy campaign to provide an on-demand library of resources for school and system leaders, teachers, and families to effectively implement and support literacy development in children of all ages and stages. These resources are grounded in the four pillars of Louisiana's Literacy Division:

- Student literacy outcomes will increase when schools create and monitor literacy goals.
- Literacy outcomes will improve when students are provided high-quality core instruction together with explicit literacy interventions and extensions based on individual student needs.
- Ongoing professional growth is an essential component of effective teaching and literacy development.
- Families play an essential role in the literacy development of children at all ages and stages.

Schools and school system leaders, teachers, and families can access these resources on the [Louisiana Literacy webpage](#). Check back often for additional resources, professional development opportunities, and updates.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations Reminders**
 - **Nutrition Support Reminders**
- **Career and College Readiness Reminders**
- **Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders**
 - **Special Education Reminders**
- **School System Financial Services Reminders**

Operations Reminders

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 Reminders

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.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

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 Reminders

Special Education Reminders

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 now and May 14.

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

School System Financial Services Reminders

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.