



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 27, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana educators have done hero's work through a pandemic and one of the most active hurricane seasons on record for our state. They have been there for our children and families during this stressful year, and we are partnering with Ochsner Health to be there for them. As shared during my System Leaders Roundtable on April 16, public school system and early childhood educators and staff now have access to free mental health virtual visits through Ochsner Anywhere Care.

This \$1 million initiative is funded through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) in response to the additional pressures faced by educators in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual therapy program covers four virtual therapy visits for Louisiana public school teachers, administrators and support staff at all K-12 school systems and early child care centers that serve children from birth to age four. This includes all traditional public and public charter schools.

I want every eligible educator and staff member to know about this opportunity. More information is available in this week's newsletter. Our "soft launch" has been underway since April 19. We are planning a public announcement with Ochsner the week of May 3. If you have not already done so, please communicate the access information for this program throughout your school system. To help ensure only eligible educators and staff register for these sessions, our public communication will not include access information. Instead, we will encourage educators and employees to check with their school system for more information.

Our educators are valued professionals. I'm grateful for the opportunity to invest in their well-being.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
<i>Achieve!</i> Extended Office Hours	April 28 at 8:30 a.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	April 29 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	April 29 at 3 p.m.
<i>Achieve!</i> Office Hours	April 30 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	May 4 at 12 p.m.
Teacher Leader Summit Office Hours	May 4 at 3 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	May 4 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	May 4 at 3:45 p.m.
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	May 5 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	May 7 at 11 a.m.
SRCL TA Office Hours	May 10 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	May 13 at 9 a.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	May 18 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	May 12 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	May 12 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	May 13 at 2 p.m.

Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	May 17 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	May 18 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	May 19 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	May 19 at 3:30 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	May 20 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	May 20 at 3 p.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	May 21 at 9 a.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	May 27 at 9 a.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 Town Hall Series for Schools	April 28 at 1 p.m.
Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Webinar	May 5 at 1 p.m.
Dual Enrollment Policy Update Webinar	May 6 at 9 a.m.
Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Informational Webinar	May 6 at 2 p.m.
NCCER Online Testing Webinar	May 10 at 3 p.m.
Job Alike Session: District Academic Leadership	May 11 at 11 a.m.
Job Alike Session: Diverse Learners Leadership	May 11 at 1 p.m.
Job Alike Session: Counselors and Counselor Leadership	May 12 at 11 a.m.
Spring Job Alike Session: School Leadership	May 12 at 1 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Deadline to Submit Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contact	May 1
LDOE/DMGroup Regional Technical Support Series	May 4
Deadline to submit Child Welfare and Attendance Office Contact	May 7
Deadline to apply to Assessment Development Educator Review Committees	May 9
2020 IDEA MOE Confirmation (Compliance)	May 14

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Achieve! Extended Office Hours

Please share with Federal Program Directors.

The Department is hosting *Achieve!* extended office hours on [April 28 at 8:30 a.m.](#) The extended office hours will serve as an additional opportunity for school systems to ask questions and receive support from the Department in planning for ESSER II and ESSER III-EB budgets.

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

GEER I Funding: Reimbursement Extension

The GEER I Funding Availability is April 24, 2020, through May 24, 2021. The Reimbursement Claims deadline has been **extended to June 30**.

Please find the required documentation for reimbursement claims below.

Staff Training and Development: (Required documentation)

- List of employees that attended the training
- Sign-in sheet and Training agenda/program
- Copies of paid invoices for training and course materials, building rentals, etc., along with proof of payment

Computer Equipment and Software: (Required documentation)

- Purchase order or agreement
- Copies of paid invoices, along with proof of payment
- Signed Delivery and Acceptance Certificate

Note: If a single invoice is submitted that needs to be divided among multiple funding sources (ie ESSER I Formula, GEER I, Title I, etc.), please provide a breakdown of the line items on the invoice by fund source.

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

Nutrition Support

2021-2022 Child Nutrition Program Waivers

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the availability of a series of child nutrition program waivers and flexibilities for the 2021-2022 school year. The waivers, effective through June 30, are designed to streamline meal access, enhance program flexibility, and reduce administrative burden. The waivers allow schools to provide meals to all students at no charge for the entire 2021-2022 school year, receive a higher level of federal meal reimbursement, and continue to provide meals to virtual learners. [USDA Child Nutrition COVID-19 Waivers](#) contains a complete list of available waivers.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Child Welfare and Attendance Office Contact

Please share with school system leaders.

School systems are encouraged to please update the [Louisiana School Contact Form](#) with the name and contact information for their Child Welfare and Attendance Officers. The deadline to submit this information is **May 7**.

Please contact jerrick.hornbeak@la.gov with questions.

AP Digital Exam Updates

Please share with AP coordinators, technology coordinators, and counselors.

The [AP Digital Testing Guide](#), version 2.0 includes updates from April 8. The guide has been updated with expanded information about required pre-exam steps, new dashboards to help educators track student readiness for digital exams, exam day instructions for proctors, and more.

Information is also provided for technology coordinators regarding installation of the digital testing app on managed devices.

All students taking digital AP Exams need to complete [four steps](#) to get ready for the exams. This month, students should take two key steps to get ready for digital AP Exams:

- Step 1: Download and install the 2021 AP digital testing application and log in.
- Step 2: Practice with example questions in the app.

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

AP Daily: Live Review

Please share with AP coordinators, secondary curriculum supervisors, and AP teachers.

The [AP Daily: Live Review](#) is a series of sessions hosted by AP teachers from across the country with recordings of each session available on YouTube and AP Classroom for students to watch on-demand if they can't join live. The series of review sessions went live April 19 and will be held Monday-Thursday until April 29.

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

AP Coordinator Professional Learning

Please share with AP coordinators and secondary curriculum supervisors.

A [mini-workshop for 2021 AP Testing](#) will occur from April 26-30 to review important exam administration updates and readiness steps for both paper and digital testing, including the digital exam readiness dashboard.

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

Children's Hospital Of New Orleans 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 **April 28 from 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.

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

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Dual Enrollment Policy Update Webinar

Please share with counselors, secondary curriculum supervisors, and administrators.

The Board of Regents (BoR) and LDOE will host a webinar for updates related to dual enrollment. The webinar will include information on the academic dual enrollment eligibility policy for the upcoming academic year, general updates related to the statewide Dual Enrollment Task Force, and an opportunity to ask questions of BoR and LDOE.

The webinar will take place on **May 6 at 9 a.m.** Please [register](#) for the webinar. Registrants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please contact dualenrollment@laregents.edu with questions.

NCCER Online Testing Webinar

Share with CTE supervisors, principals, counselors, secondary supervisors, and testing coordinators.

NCCER will move to online-only testing beginning August 1.

The Office of Career and College Readiness will host an informational NCCER Online Testing Webinar. This webinar will include information on the testing system requirements, reporting features, NCCER testing support, curriculum proctor, and purchasing tests.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 10 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95318436804>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 953 1843 6804

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Student Well-Being

Free Virtual Teletherapy Services for Birth-12 Public School Educators & Support Staff

The Department has partnered with Ochsner Health to launch a virtual therapy program to provide access to free mental health visits for Louisiana's public school educators and support staff. The Department has committed \$1M to this project to ensure that we can take care of those that are taking care of our students. Educators and support staff will have access to four, completely free and 100 percent confidential counseling sessions with licensed mental health professionals.

Public school educators and support staff interested in participating should follow these steps:

1. Enroll in Ochsner Anywhere Care easily with the online form at ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com.
2. Schedule an appointment through the website or download the Ochsner Anywhere Care app from the Google or Apple app store to start from a cell phone.
3. Enter Service Key "LDOE" when prompted. Use the coupon code "TEACH" when prompted.
4. Review available providers and appointment times and choose the most convenient option. Appointments are available M-F through 8 p.m. with additional appointments available on Saturday.

School systems are encouraged to review this [flyer](#) and [FAQ](#) for more information.

Please contact studentwellbeing@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2020-2021 General Fund Budget Approval List

Please share with business managers and financial officials of city/parish school systems.

The FY2020-2021 General Fund Budget Approval (R.S. 17:88) List for city/parish school systems will be available for reference in the Louisiana Believes [Budgets Library](#) by Friday, April 30.

School systems and schools not included in the approved list should have received communication regarding budget status.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Verizon Hotspot Recall

Verizon is currently working with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to [recall Ellipsis Jetpack mobile hotspot devices, including models MHS900L, MHS900LS, and MHS900LPP](#) which were provided to students for distance learning across the United States. During investigations with the supplier, it has been determined that the lithium-ion battery in the Ellipsis Jetpack devices can overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard.

School systems can choose to either have students return these devices immediately and wait for a replacement or allow them to continue to use the devices (with new use instructions/guidance) until a replacement device becomes available.

To assist school systems, the Department has created a [flyer and sample agreement](#) schools systems can use to notify parents and students. The sample agreement provides parents with the above information and choices. If a parent chooses to continue use of the device during the interim period, the sample agreement also includes language that the parent will assume responsibility and the associated risks for that time period.

In order to prioritize replacements for virtual and hybrid students, the Department is requesting school systems complete [this survey](#) indicating the number of students in each mode that require a replacement.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Update: Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

- The [Staffing and Scheduling Kick-off Webinar](#) has now been posted to the LDOE YouTube channel. The [presentation](#) is also available in the [School System Support Toolbox](#).
- To support systems in this work, a variety of implementation supports will be available at no cost this spring, summer, and fall. System leaders and school leaders that oversee academics, human resources, diverse learners, principal support, and counseling should attend these upcoming trainings. The spring webinars and support sessions are below. Participants must register using the link provided.

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 8 individuals to attend three regional technical support sessions and receive three individual coaching calls. Systems interested should [register](#) by May 4.

Session 1	
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	
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	
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.

Update: School Improvement Best Practices

School systems should register for the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) trainings this summer using the steps below. There are now in-person options available for select trainings on a first-come, first-served basis.

1. Contact dlancelin@niet.org or ppujol@niet.org as soon as possible. A NIET staff member will answer questions and discuss possible proposal options.
2. Then, districts will work with NIET on a Statement of Work (SOW), which will determine which schools will participate in which Best Practice opportunities.
3. Once an SOW is signed, district and school leaders will receive an email from NIET with a link to register their school teams and instructions on doing so. Multiple sessions will be available every week during June and July and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit NIET.org.

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

Please contact em.cooper@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.

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

- Additional information may be needed for data certification submissions. Accountability contacts should check regularly for messages from Department reviewers.
- 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. Failure to provide documentation for all students audited will result in a change to non-graduate.

Birth-Pre-K Assessment Guidance

- **Due May 31:** TS GOLD Spring Checkpoint for all publicly-funded children attending public and nonpublic pre-K, Head Start, and child care centers. Visit the [GOLD Overview](#) and [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) and for additional information.

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.
 - The deadline has been extended to April 30. A principal may assign the questionnaire to another school administrator.
 - 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

There will be no Office Hours on May 4. They have been canceled due to monitoring in the field. The next Assessment and Accountability office hours will be on **May 11 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 11 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!

Literacy

CLSD Technical Assistance

Beginning the first week of May, technical assistance (TA) will be provided for Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant recipients. There will be separate office hours for CLSD CIR/UIR-A grant recipients and CLSD UIN grant recipients. Important information and deadlines will be shared, and there will be time for questions and discussions around project implementation. Any school system that received CLSD CIR/UIR-A or CLSD UIN funds should plan to attend these office hours. The first office hours are mandatory for all recipients.

CLSD CIR/UIR-A

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 5 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95424895904>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 954 2489 5904

CLSD UIN

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 7 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97832169271>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 978 3216 9271

Please contact shanna.beber@la.gov with questions.

Real-time Early Access to Literacy

[Real-time Early Access to Literacy](#) (REAL) provides early literacy support for students in pre-K through grade 3. Funding allocations for the summer cycle were provided to school systems to support eligible students enrolled in CIR and UIR-A schools with tutoring from an approved [LDOE Tutoring Service Provider](#). The summer tutoring cycle is set for May 24 through July 23.

On May 6, the Department will host a REAL informational webinar which will include important updates related to the summer cycle, student registration, and program requirements.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 6 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92258381682>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 922 5838 1682
- **Passcode:** 196716

Please contact catasha.edwards@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations Reminders**
 - **Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders**
- **Career and College Readiness Reminders**
- **Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support Reminders**
 - **Healthy Communities Reminders**
- **Teaching and Learning Reminders**
 - **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders**
 - **School Improvement Reminders**

Operations Reminders

Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Webinar

Please share with Emergency Preparedness and Recovery contacts.

The Department will host an **Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Webinar** on [May 19 at 10 a.m.](#) During this initial webinar, LDOE will preview the Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Dashboard and share helpful resources. The dashboard will be created to collect preparedness and recovery status information from each Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Contact. This information will enable LDOE to support LEAs with emergency management in Louisiana schools. Information needed to join this webinar is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 19 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9198036620>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 919 803 6620

As a reminder, [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](#). Access the Department's [guide](#) for assistance with completing the contact form.

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.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders

Achieve! Awarding ESSER Funding

ESSER Funding Summary for Superintendents – April 2021

LDOE is releasing [estimated ESSER II and III allocations](#) to school systems in two action periods in order to:

- Meet federal requirements for awarding funds to LEAs*.
- Support strategic and coordinated response efforts through 2024.
- Ensure school systems are spending down their ESSER I funds first.
- Help school systems meet the 20 percent requirement of ESSER III.

	ESSER I Funds		ESSER II Funds		ESSER III Funds	
	Formula	Incentive	Formula Action 1 (50%)	Formula Action 2 (50%)	Formula EB Action 1 (20%)	Formula Action 2 (80%)
Released in eGMS	April 2020	June 2020	March 2021	January 2022	March 2021	TBD
Obligation Period	September 30, 2022		September 30, 2023		September 30, 2024	

**SEAs must award ESSER II funds within one year of receiving them, which will be January 2022. SEAs must allocate ESSER III funds in an expedited and timely manner and, to the extent practicable, not later than 60 days after the SEA receives those funds.*

Achieve! Strategic Planning and Budgeting

Planning: School systems should **use the full estimated allocation amounts to develop multi-year plans** that include high-impact initiatives in alignment with the allowabilities and priorities.

Budgeting: School systems will **submit budgets on April 30 for the amount loaded into eGMS**, which is 50 percent of ESSER II and 20 percent of ESSER III formula funds.

Remaining funds from FY21 will automatically carry forward in eGMS to FY22 on July 1, 2021.
As school systems develop and revise plans, they will be able to make budget revisions throughout the life of the grant. **Once additional funds are allocated and loaded into eGMS, school systems will amend their budgets to include those amounts.**

Please refer to the [Achieve! FAQ](#) for answers to frequently asked questions. For questions not included in the FAQ, please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov. The Department will continue to provide updates to school systems as new information becomes available. Please look for this information in the newsletter, Monthly System Leader Call, and Monthly Federal Support and Grantee Relations Call.

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

Career and College Readiness Reminders

NCCER Online Testing

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

NCCER will move to online testing only starting August 1. NCCER will no longer charge for online retests starting on June 1. The [instructor online testing system webinar](#) provides information on accessing the online testing system.

NCCER Proctor Certification will be held virtually on various dates from April 28 to May 26 at a cost of \$65 per person. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration. Per NCCER, all virtual classes will be four hours in length. For more information about proctor certification, please visit [NCCER ATS Guidelines](#). Class dates and times can be found in the [2021 Super Summer Catalogue](#).

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support Reminders

Healthy Communities Reminders

Attendance Award Certificates

The Louisiana Department of Education has released the Attendance Award Certificates that school systems may use to recognize students that have exhibited good school attendance during the SY 2020-2021. School systems establish the criteria for each award.

- [Perfect Attendance Award](#)
- [Excellence in Attendance Award](#)
- [Meritorious Attendance Award](#)

Please contact janice.zube@la.gov with questions..

Trusted Adult Conversations: How to Talk with Young People to Support Health Decisions Workshop

The Department is promoting the Professional Development for Healthy Schools and RMC Health 2021 PD4HS Professional Development Opportunities, [Trusted Adult Conversations: How to Talk with Young People to Support Health Decisions Workshops](#).

This workshop is intended for parents, guardians, caregivers of young people, and other trusted adults in a young person's life (e.g. teachers, coaches, mentors, community members). It is designed to share knowledge about how to support young people in their development and skills to engage in conversations about vaping in order to support them to be tobacco and nicotine-free.

[Registration](#) is open and will close on April 30.

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

New 3Ts Factsheets on Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Schools/Child Cares During and After Extended Closures

The Department, in partnership with CDC Healthy Schools, is promoting the US EPA publication of two fact sheets:

1. [Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Schools During and After Extended Closures](#)
2. [Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Facilities During and After Extended Closures](#)

These fact sheets provide guidance on maintaining drinking water quality during extended closures and recommend start-up procedures when reopening to ensure drinking water is safe for consumption.

The fact sheets are part of the [EPA 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities \(3Ts\) ToolKit](#). The school fact sheet includes information for schools that are served by or are public water systems (PWSs). The child care fact sheet is intended for facilities specializing in early care and education programs, including center-based and family child care homes, pre-kindergarten programs, as well as Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. Additional considerations are included for child care facilities that are non-community water systems (NCWSs), and child care facilities served by a private well.

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders

New Parent Guide for LEAP 2025 Spring Testing

The Department has released guidance for parents to help families understand the importance of testing students this spring. Please share this [Parent Guide](#) with families within your school system as soon as possible. The guide can be found in the [Assessment Library](#).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement Reminders

School Improvement Best Practices Launch

As mentioned in the April System Leaders' Monthly Call, the Office of Teaching and Learning is excited to announce the creation of the Division of School Improvement. The purpose of the Division of School Improvement is to provide school systems and leaders with differentiated and targeted support that will result in improved student outcomes. This support is aligned with the Department's critical goals of providing the highest quality teaching and learning environment and removing barriers and creating equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.

The Division of School Improvement will support school systems and leaders in achieving these critical goals through the implementation and use of the School Improvement Best Practices.

The School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS), formerly known as Network Coaches, will partner with school systems in conducting paired observations, collecting data around paired observations, and using that data to inform targeted feedback given to school leaders to improve their quality of practice. This strategy is a shift from SISS supporting schools to supporting school systems. This shift will ensure the Department is building capacity within systems to sustain the work of school improvement at the local level. The targeted support is focused on Best Practices for Instructional Leadership Teams, Teacher Collaboration, Teaching and Principal Standards, and Career Pipeline. As a result of this shift, all students in priority schools will have access to a high-quality education and will meet their ambitious growth goals each year.

Tomorrow, April 28 at 1 p.m., the School Improvement Division will join the [Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call](#) to launch the Best Practices and provide additional information.

Please contact schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov with questions.