

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**April 28, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

The Louisiana Department of Education's marquee annual event, the Teacher Leader Summit, brings together more than 6,000 educators for three days of professional learning and development. This year, as the result of the ongoing public health crisis, the Summit as we have traditionally known it will not take place.

This, however, does not mean professional development will not occur. In fact, now more than ever, as we adjust to facilitating high-quality learning at a distance, professional development is critical for teachers at all stages of their careers.

For this reason, I am pleased to announce the Department is shifting the Summit from its in-person format to a series of more than 30 free, interactive webinars.

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from May 28 to June 5. It will bring together a host of educators and content experts who are focused on creating meaningful growth for every student, every day. Educators will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

[Registration will open at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 30](#) and will remain open through June 5.

The Department will release the [draft session list](#) on April 30 when registration opens. This list will include a variety of sessions for teachers, school and school system staff, and preparation providers.

In addition to the virtual Summit, parts of the Leadership Learning Series will be delivered virtually May 26 to May 29. Principals of CIR/UIR-A schools should complete the [School Support Institute Registration](#) by Friday, May 1.

We look forward to learning with you,

Beth Scioneaux  
Acting State Superintendent

## **In This Issue**

- [School System Support](#)
- [Assessment & Accountability](#)
- [High School Pathways](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Data](#)

## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [Resources for Supporting Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities During Continuous Learning Webinar](#): April 30 at 12:00 p.m.
- [Strong Start 2020 Webinar](#): April 30 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Continuous Education for Students with Disabilities: Direct Services Guidance Updates Webinar](#): April 30 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Student Transcript System \(STS\) Training for Nonpublic Schools](#): May 4 at 11:00 a.m.
- [Student Transcript System \(STS\) Training for Public Schools](#): May 4 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): May 5 at 4:15 p.m.
- [May SPED Leader Webinar](#): May 7 at 2:00 p.m.

### Important Deadlines

- [School Support Institute Registration](#) deadline: May 1
- [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program Application](#) deadline: May 1
- [Special Education Advisory Panel \(SEAP\) Vacancy Application](#) deadline: May 8

### Postponed/Canceled Events

- Student of the Year events (Postponed)
- Spring 2020 Counselor Institutes (April; rescheduled as virtual institutes)
- Quarterly Superintendents Call (Canceled)
- 2020 Teacher Leader Summit (Rescheduled; the Virtual Series will take place from May 28 to June 5)
- 2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institutes

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

## School System Support

### **New: COVID-19 Guidance**

On April 15, Gov. John Bel Edwards [signed a proclamation](#) to extend the closure of public school facilities to students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, to curb the spread of COVID-19. School systems are currently engaging students in distance education.

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

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

## **New: Every Child Counts – 2020 Census**

By now, every home has received an invitation to participate in the [2020 Census](#).

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children, such as:

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology.
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches.
- Maternal and child health programs.
- Planning, preparedness, and recovery efforts for national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#).

Self-responses, which can be completed [online](#), by phone, or by mail until October 31, **ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students**. The Department encourages school systems to explore the newly available [2020 Census Toolbox](#) to find activities specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for each grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

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

## **New: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series**

The Louisiana Department of Education is shifting the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit from its in-person format to a series of free interactive webinars for as many sessions as possible.

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from **May 28 to June 5**. It will bring together a host of educators and content experts who are focused on creating meaningful growth for every student, every day. Educators will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

**[Registration](#) opens this Thursday, April 30 at 8:00 a.m. and will remain open through June 5.**

The Department will release the [draft session list](#) on April 30 when registration opens. This list will include a variety of sessions for teachers, school and school system staff, and preparation providers.

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

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

The May School System Planning Call scheduled for May 6 at 1:00 p.m. has been canceled. The presentation will be available in the [School Improvement Library](#) on May 5.

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

## **New: Leadership Learning Series Update**

Due to the [COVID-19 closure](#) of all K-12 schools across the state and the decision to deliver the Teacher Leader Summit remotely, parts of the Leadership Learning Series will be delivered virtually May 26–29. Registered leadership team members from CIR/UIR-A schools will receive communications directly from SchoolKit with their assigned session dates, times, and login information. Principals of CIR/UIR-A schools should complete the [School Support Institute Registration](#) by **this Friday, May 1** to ensure cohort-specific webinar login information reaches the appropriate attendees.

The following sessions of the Leadership Learning Series will be delivered virtually:

- Academic Strategy and LAP Session Overview
- School Support Institutes: Building Blocks
- School Support Institutes 2020-2021: A Guide for Superintendents and School System Leaders

These sessions are separate from the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: Virtual Series sessions. Participants are able to attend Summit sessions scheduled outside of their assigned Leadership Learning Series sessions.

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

## **New: Super App Funding Webinar**

The [presentation](#) from the Super App Funding Webinar held on April 23 is now located in the [School Improvement Library](#).

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

## **New: State's Designated Central Book Depository**

**Please share with purchasing directors, curriculum supervisors, and textbook adoption supervisors.**

[State law](#) requires that school systems be provided with options to order state-reviewed instructional materials either directly from a publisher or from a central book depository named by the state. [School Book Supply Company of Louisiana](#) has agreed to continue its services as the state's designated book depository for ordering all materials that have been state reviewed. School systems may contact Debbie Tullios at [DTullios@schoolbook-la.com](mailto:DTullios@schoolbook-la.com) or visit the [School Book Supply Company of Louisiana's](#) website for information. Publisher contact information is shown on individual price lists posted in the [Curricular Resources Library](#) webpage.

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

## **Reminder: Strong Start 2020 Webinar**

**A Strong Start 2020 Webinar will be held this Thursday, April 30 at 1:00 p.m.** This webinar will outline a planning framework for school systems to ensure a strong start to the 2020-2021 academic year and information regarding CARES Act funding. Superintendents, key school system leaders, and federal programs directors should attend. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 30 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93687201819>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 936 8720 1819
- **Meeting Password:** 008237

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

## **Reminder: 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Semifinalists Announced**

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) recently announced the 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Semifinalists. Nine students, from both public and nonpublic schools, from Louisiana are among them. They represent the following schools:

- Episcopal School of Acadiana
- Destrehan High School
- Baton Rouge Magnet High School
- Jesuit High School
- Ruston High School
- Baton Rouge Magnet High School
- Captain Shreve High School
- Baton Rouge Magnet High School

The achievements of these outstanding students deserve acknowledgment. ED and the Department encourage school systems to assist with providing further honors, media coverage, and contacts for the semifinalists. Recognition of these students will bring wider awareness and understanding of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program to a greater number of the Nation's citizens, encourage countless others like them to challenge themselves and achieve, highlight the education success stories, and most importantly, emphasize the country's most precious resource—its talented young people.

Visit [ED's website](#) for the complete list of semifinalists. The 2020 U.S Presidential Scholars will be announced in May. To learn more about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and its history, visit [ED's U.S. Presidential Scholars Program page](#).

## Assessment and Accountability

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

#### **Update: Waivers for Testing**

- To date, the only students who have a waiver from the assessment graduation requirements are graduating seniors who were enrolled at the time of school closing and were in the February 1 enrollment report.
- The current waiver does not apply to students who were not enrolled in school or students who are not yet eligible to graduate.
- In May, the Department will request a change in policy to waive the assessment requirement for a high school assessment-eligible course earned in 2019-2020 for students who would have been initial testers in spring 2020. Students who failed a subject test in a prior administration will not be eligible for the waiver of the assessment requirement.

#### **Update: ACT**

- ACT announced new flexibilities for summer testing and new test-at-home options that will become available in the fall and winter. Information about at-home testing with remote proctoring will be shared as it becomes available.
- **ACT National Test Date**
  - Although students are only able to register for June 13 and July 18 for national test administrations in the summer, testing sites can request a one-week delay in administration (June 20 and July 25)
- **ACT State Administration**
  - June 2 standard paper
  - June 2–4 online
  - June 2–8 accommodated window
  - October 6 and October 20 paper-based administration only for students who were juniors in 2019-2020 and were unable to test

#### **Update Cohort Graduation Data Certification**

- Pending the duration of the stay-at-home order, the opening of cohort graduation data certification is scheduled to open on May 6 and will remain open until June 5. Accountability contacts will be notified prior to the official opening date.

#### **Update GOLD ECE Guidance**

- On March 20, the Department received federal approval to waive assessment requirements for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Teaching Strategies *GOLD* documentation for the May checkpoint will not be required.

#### **Update GOLD OSEP Guidance**

- TS GOLD OSEP Administrators should follow the same process for completing intended exit assessments for any children who would have been exited as a result of a withdrawal from ECSE services or within six weeks of the child's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday. Administrators are encouraged to use any data collected during winter checkpoint and input into the OSEP license to use as a final rating for this school year. Even if an administrator is exiting the child now, an exit assessment should include the end of the school year date and all ratings should be finalized before completing the exit assessment.

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

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **May 5 at 4:15 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 5 at 4:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

## **High School Pathways**

### **Reminder: Advanced Placement Exam Information**

**Please share with AP coordinators.**

Advanced Placement exams will be administered online by the College Board from May 11–22 and June 1–5 (makeup exams) for those opting to take the exams. Students will receive a link to the exam via the email used to register for the exam. **School systems should ensure that students using district-provided emails are able to receive emails from the [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org).**

More information about AP testing can be found on the [College Board AP COVID Response page](#).

The College Board is offering subject-specific webinars regarding AP Exams for AP teachers beginning next week. Registration is required and the [full listing of webinars is now available](#).

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

### **Reminder: Jump Start Construction Scholars Program**

**Please share with high school counselors.**

The deadline for submitting applications for the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates has been extended to **May 1**. The [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program](#) is a \$1000 scholarship for students who have earned the Jump Start Diploma, earned a National Center for Construction Education and Research credential, and plan to enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

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

### **Reminder: Updated Dual Enrollment Minimum Requirements Policy**

**Please share with high school counselors and secondary supervisors.**

The Board of Regents has released an updated policy for Dual Enrollment Minimum Requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. A [webinar](#) was held on April 9, and the recording of the webinar has been posted on [the Board of Regents YouTube Channel](#).

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

## Special Education

### **New: Resources for Supporting Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities During Continuous Learning**

Last week, the Department released guidance for special education teachers on continuous learning opportunities for students with significant cognitive disabilities during school closure. This [Continuous Education for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities](#) guide builds on continuous education resources by addressing additional considerations for instructional and service design and delivery for students with complex needs. The Department will hold a webinar for special education teachers to review this guidance on **April 30 at 12:00 p.m.** Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 30 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94853297095>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 948-5329-7095

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

### **New: Continuous Education for Students with Disabilities: Direct Services Guidance Updates**

The Department's [Direct Services](#) guidance has been updated to include information on direct services for early childhood. The Department will hold a webinar for special education and related service providers to review this guidance on **Thursday, April 30 at 2:00 p.m.** Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 30 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95626868943>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 408-638-0968 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 956 2686 8943

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

### **New: Request for Proposals: Educational Training and Direct Support for Families of Children and Youth with Disabilities**

Last week, the Department released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Educational Training and Direct Support for Families of Children and Youth with Disabilities. The RFP can be found on the [LaPAC website](#) under bid number 678PUR-3000014582. Proposals are due on **June 8 at 2:00 p.m.** Proposers should submit any questions using the formal Proposer Inquiries procedure outlined in the RFP.

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

## **New: May SPED Leader Webinar**

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on **May 7 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include COVID-19 updates, upcoming deadlines, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 7 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/836904974>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 836 904 974

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

## **Data**

### **Reminder: Student Transcript System (STS) Training**

**Please share with data managers.**

The Department will hold trainings for nonpublic and public school data managers who submit transcript data to the Student Transcript System (STS). The webinars will include a review of the process for submitting transcript and IBC data to STS for the end of year data collection.

#### **Student Transcript System (STS) Training for Nonpublic Schools**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 4 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/275509071>
- **Meeting ID#:** 275 509 071

#### **Student Transcript System (STS) Training for Public Schools**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 4 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/562587945>
- **Meeting ID#:** 562 587 945

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