



# LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**May 18, 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday I surprised faculty, staff and students at Phillis Wheatley Community School in New Orleans with a new statewide award. [Louisiana Models of Excellence](#) honors schools that serve as a state model in meeting one of our [Believe to Achieve](#) priorities. We recognized Phillis Wheatley Community School due to their efforts to provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment. The school's multiple levels of literacy support have led to student gains. We have a literacy crisis on our hands in Louisiana, and it takes bold actions like we're seeing at Phillis Wheatley Community School to flip the trajectory for our children and our state.

We created Louisiana Models of Excellence to celebrate Louisiana schools, share stories of success, provide models for others to see and create high-impact partnerships across school systems. Through this initiative, we have an avenue to recognize the exceptional work of our educators and connect them with teachers and leaders across the state looking for solutions to similar challenges.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

## **In This Issue**

- **Operations**
  - **Federal Support and Grantee Relations**
  - **Nutrition Support**
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **School System Financial Services**
- **Teaching and Learning**
  - **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**
  - **Educator Development**
- **Reminders**

## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	<a href="#">May 20 at 1 p.m.</a>
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	<a href="#">May 25 at 3 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">May 25 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	<a href="#">June 1 at 12 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Career and College Readiness Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">June 3 at 3 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Office Hours	<a href="#">June 10 at 9 a.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">May 19 at 2 p.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">May 19 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	<a href="#">May 20 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">May 20 at 3 p.m.</a>
System Leaders Roundtable	<a href="#">May 21 at 9 a.m.</a>
AE Leadership Community of Practice	<a href="#">May 26 at 10 a.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">May 27 at 9 a.m.</a>
Literacy Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 3 at 10 a.m.</a>
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 1 at 1 p.m.</a>
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 9 at 11 a.m.</a>
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 9 at 3 p.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 10 at 1 p.m.</a>
SPED Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 10 at 2 p.m.</a>

Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 15 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 21 at 10 a.m.</a>
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 6 at 9 a.m.</a>
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 25 at 1 p.m.</a>
*Monthly call presentations are available in the <a href="#">School Improvement Library</a> . View the <a href="#">School System Support Calendar</a> to access a complete schedule of events.	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Zoom Link</b>
In-Person Teacher Leader Summit	May 25-27
<b>Important Deadlines</b>	
FY2020-21 Projected Local Revenue Data	May 21
<a href="#">Strong Start Spring Survey</a>	May 24
<a href="#">Parent and Family Engagement Survey</a>	May 28
<a href="#">Advanced Placement Contacts Added to Contact Form</a>	May 31
2021-2022 Super App Application	June 1

## Operations

### Federal Support and Grantee Relations

#### **Achieve! Application Timeline and Support**

Due to the number of pre-approval requests and support being provided to school systems with inquiries, the timeline has been adjusted. The Department will conduct initial reviews and provide feedback *Achieve!* budgets for all school systems by **June 1**. Once school systems receive the feedback, they should make corrections and return the application for approval.

Timeline	Action
March	Release 50% of ESSER II and 20% of ESSER III EB formula allocations to LEAs with guidance
April	LEAs use the guidance and assess needs to build out budgets in <i>Achieve!</i>
May 3	<i>Achieve!</i> budget applications are due in eGMS.
May	LDOE reviews <i>Achieve!</i> budgets.
June 1	<b>Update:</b> Initial reviews and feedback provided on all <i>Achieve!</i> budgets by June 1.

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

#### **Parent and Family Engagement Survey Reminder**

The Statewide Parent and Family Engagement survey links were sent out to all Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators on May 17.

Please ensure all parent and family engagement coordinators forwarded the links to all parents to ensure maximum participation. The responses submitted will shape future professional development opportunities and impact upcoming initiatives.

#### **Survey Links: LDOE 2021 Parent and Family Engagement Survey**

- English: <https://forms.gle/BoWvTYQEEhaUwwx37>
- Spanish: <https://forms.gle/cFpygjq1c1TZyNe6>
- Chinese: <https://forms.gle/3yLyQAsk7gZWuohs8>
- Arabic: <https://forms.gle/Zd7rA59FjaQjshYy8>
- Vietnamese: <https://forms.gle/2T2Kv9QKAVi5KpNP7>

The deadline for submission of responses is **May 28**. All LEAs will receive individual data by mid-June.

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

## **School System Planning and Fiscal Cycle Stakeholder Feedback**

As the Department begins mapping out the school system planning and fiscal cycle for the upcoming year, a workgroup of school system fiscal leaders is being formed — consisting of business managers, chief financial officers, federal program directors, and Super App planning leads — to provide input on the process. Please use this [form](#) to indicate interest in providing input and feedback.

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

## **Nutrition Support**

### **P-EBT Local Level Funding for Schools Grant**

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) administrative funds are available to all National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast (SBP) program operators responsible for activities related to FY 2021 State Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT). Eligible activities include those that occurred between October 2020 and September 2021, in conjunction with P-EBT benefits issued for school year 2020-2021 and summer 2021. Districts that operated the NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in place of traditional school meals programs, due to COVID-19 waivers, may also be eligible. To receive funding, schools must submit the P-EBT Administrative Costs online application, located on the LDOE Child Nutrition Program [website](#), to the Division of Nutrition Support. Additional information, as well as grant application instructions, can be accessed in memo [SFS-21-x166](#).

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

## **Career and College Readiness**

### **2021-2022 Ready to Achieve School Operational Guidance**

**Please share with system leaders and administrators.**

The LDOE is continuing to work with partners at the Louisiana Department of Health and Children's Hospital of New Orleans to review the latest CDC guidelines. The current BESE school reopening policy will sunset on June 30.

A set of operational guidance for K-12 school systems to use in the 2021-2022 school year will be provided to school systems and go into effect on **July 1**. A preview of the preliminary **2021-2022 Ready to Achieve School Operational Guidance** will occur on the **May 20 Career and College Readiness Office Hours at 3 p.m.** Details for the webinar are found below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, May 20 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94130675139>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID:** 941 3067 5139

Please contact [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@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. The US Department of Education (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.

#### **Now Available:**

1. 2022 ESSA MOE Verification – Deadline for submission is June 30, 2021.
2. 2022 IDEA MOE Verification (Eligibility Review) – Deadline for submission is June 30, 2021.

#### **Previously Available:**

3. 2020 IDEA MOE Confirmation (Compliance review) – Deadline for submission **was** May 14, 2021.

#### **Helpful documents for completing MOE requirements:**

- The [MOE Quick Reference Guide](#) is available to assist with submitting all three MOE applications.
- Description of [Allowable Exceptions](#) to IDEA MOE
- Calculator - [Local Only Revenue Spreadsheet](#)

Please contact [nakia.jason@la.gov](mailto:nakia.jason@la.gov) with questions regarding the MOE review process. For technical inquiries or support, please contact [jason.berard@la.gov](mailto:jason.berard@la.gov).

### **Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 MFP**

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

The BESE adopted MFP resolution and formula were submitted to the Legislature on May 13. The proposed MFP documents for FY 2021-2022 are available in the [Department's Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

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

## Teaching and Learning

### **Pandemic EBT Program Communications Toolkit/Data Submission**

A communications toolkit is now available to help systems and schools keep families informed about the newest round of Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits. The LDOE created sample messaging that can be tailored to the specific needs of individual systems and schools. This includes sample letters to families, text alerts, and social media posts. The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has also developed an [FAQ](#) and [communications resources](#) that will be updated as new information becomes available. DCFS also [resources aimed at answering questions school system employees may have about the program and student eligibility](#). This page will be continuously updated.

#### **2020-2021 P-EBT Communications Toolkit**

- [Sample Messages](#)
- [Talking Points](#)
- [Flyer \(English\)](#)
- [Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Flyer \(Vietnamese\)](#)
- [Logo A](#)
- [Logo B](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [P-EBT Homepage](#)
- [Dynamic P-EBT Toolkit](#)

#### **Background Information**

DCFS, in collaboration with LDOE, has received approval to operate the P-EBT program in response to COVID-19 related school closures. P-EBT provides food support to help families with children who are learning in a hybrid or virtual mode and receive free and reduced-price school meals or attend a CEP school. To carry out this program, DCFS and the Office of Technology Services (OTS) will be working with school system data managers who must submit the necessary information to qualify both public and private students for the P-EBT benefit. Additional details regarding data sharing agreements, the submission process, deadlines, etc. were provided on the May Data Managers Monthly Webinar and May System Leaders Webinar.

#### **P-EBT Data Submission Deadline Extended:**

DCFS has extended the data submission deadline for P-EBT from May 21 to **May 28** for all school systems.

#### **What's different for this P-EBT?**

- P-EBT this year will use direct certification. With direct certification, there is no application process and it does not require any action by the family. DCFS will use the student data provided by the school districts to issue P-EBT benefits.
- Students will receive their P-EBT benefits on a new P-EBT card. A separate P-EBT card will be issued for each eligible student in the household. This means each eligible student in the household will receive a card in the student's name. Previously, one card was issued in the Parent/Guardian's name for all eligible students.
- Benefits are being issued retroactively in installments back to August 2020.

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

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

#### **DRC Online Cleanup (Student Corrections)**

- June 14-18: DRC will host an online cleanup process for LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect.
- This cleanup does not require documentation.
- The closing date is final, and there can be no extensions.
- An FAQ will be provided by the assessment team prior to opening.

#### **Test Results Reporting**

- **Available Now:** ELPT test results for all grades
- **Late July:** LEAP grades 3-8 all subjects
- **Late August:** LEAP Connect all grades

#### **Alt-EL Connector Review**

- **Due May 28:** LDOE is looking for educators who support English learners (ELs), students with disabilities, students with significant cognitive disabilities, or a combination of all three, to be part of our Alt LA Connectors for ELs Review committee this summer. The committee will receive a draft copy of the Alt EL Connectors a week before the webinar, scheduled for June 9 from 3-4:30 p.m. Committee members will attend the webinar (or review its recording), and complete a short review via a Google form. Those interested in being a part of this committee are encouraged to complete the [Alt LA Connectors for ELs Reviewer Application](#).

#### **LEAP 2025**

- **May 21:** Last day of high school testing window. Please make sure all students who took a high school assessment eligible course for the first time also took the high school assessment, which must be used as part of the final grade for the course.
- **May 26:** Last day of the grades 3-8 online testing window. Students who were quarantined for all or part of the paper administration should be tested online.
- All voids and testing irregularities due no later than the last day of the appropriate testing window.

#### **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.

#### **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](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) or [rebecca.frederick@la.gov](mailto:rebecca.frederick@la.gov).

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

The next Assessment and Accountability office hours will be on **May 25 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 25 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**

### **Mentor Survey**

On Friday, May 21 the Department will send a brief Mentor Teacher survey to school leaders. This survey will allow the Department to collect important information about the work of Mentor Teachers. School leaders should forward the survey to any teachers on their staff who served as a Mentor Teacher during the 2020-2021 school year. School leaders should also complete the principal survey if a Mentor served at their school in 2020-2021.

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

## **Reminders**

- **Operations Reminders**
  - **Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders**
- **Career and College Readiness Reminders**
- **Teaching and Learning Reminders**
  - **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders**
  - **Literacy Reminders**

## ***Operations Reminders***

### **Strong Start Spring Survey**

The Department is releasing the [Strong Start Spring survey](#) in two phases:

**Phase 1:** Completed by school leaders, teachers, students, and families

- Survey link open as of May 10
- The deadline for survey responses to be submitted is **May 24**.
- The Department is asking for school system support with reaching these various stakeholders by disseminating the survey link via websites, newsletters, and social media.

**Phase 2:** Completed by school systems

- Survey released in July

The Department will develop a report of the data collected from the survey and utilize the data to determine support provided to school systems for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

## ***Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders***

### **Education Excellence Fund (EEF): Periodic Expenditure Report (PER)**

The eGMS system is open to begin submitting 6/30 PERs. For schools or agencies that received a payment from the 2020-2021 Education Excellence Fund (EEF), the deadline to obligate EEF funds is June 30. Additionally, the deadline to submit Final 6/30 PERs is July 15.

Final PERs submitted after July 15 could possibly delay access to EEF funds for 2021-2022. An important reminder, Final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the subsequent year.

Special Note: When completing the PER, check the box within the first tab labeled "Expenditure Obligation Summary" at the bottom of the page to mark as Final Expenditure. An unchecked box will not be reported as Final 6/30 PER and returned.

For assistance in preparing EEF Final 6/30 PER, access the Training Section, Tips & Reminders: Preparing the Periodic Expense Report (PER), on the eGMS Login page.

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

## ***Career and College Readiness Reminders***

### **Advanced Placement Coordinator Contact**

School systems are encouraged to update the [Louisiana School Contact Form](#) with the name and contact information of their Advanced Placement Coordinator(s). Please submit this information by **May 31**.

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

## **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](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) for review.

Recently added training opportunities include: Adobe, CIW, Project Lead the Way, Xavier, LSU, NCCER online test training, and Meat Processing.

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](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Teaching and Learning Reminders***

### **Update: Staffing and Scheduling Initiative**

- Presentation Posted: The Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices [presentation](#) held on May 5 has now been posted along with the [recording](#) to the [School System Support Toolbox](#).
- Upcoming Webinars: The remaining supports available at no cost this spring are below. System leaders and school leaders that oversee academics, human resources, diverse learners, principal support, and counseling should attend these upcoming sessions. Participants must register using the link provided.

Date and Time	Session and Registration Link
June 16 at 1 p.m.	<a href="#">Staffing Q&amp;A Session</a>
June 30 at 1 p.m.	<a href="#">Scheduling Q&amp;A Session</a>

- **DEADLINE EXTENDED and DATE ADDED:** The deadline to register for the regional training series has been extended to **June 18**.

LDOE is offering this series to systems at a reduced cost of \$2500 for a system team of 8. This series consists of three, half-day sessions and individual coaching calls to support systems in understanding and design effective staffing and scheduling models that address diverse learners, unfinished learning, acceleration, social-emotional learning, and other best practices to increase student achievement. This is a critical strategy every system should be implementing especially in response to COVID. Systems can use ESSER funding to support this work.

Systems should [register](#) for May sessions prior to the session date. A makeup date has been added in June for systems unable to attend the first training in May.

<b>Session 1</b>	
May 19 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)
<b>NEW:</b> June 29 from 1-4 p.m.	Makeup Session: All regions (Virtual)
<b>Session 2</b>	
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)
<b>Session 3</b>	
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](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

### **Accelerate Summer Webinar**

The summer resources for [Accelerate](#) were released on May 14, and a webinar will be held May 20 to provide an overview of the resources. Webinar details are below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 20 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97380664401>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 973 8066 4401
- **Passcode:**567230

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

## *Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders*

### **Interests & Opportunities 2020-2021 Survey Results**

The 2020-2021 Interests & Opportunities survey results have been posted to school system FTPs. These reports show the average responses of schools within a school system on certain survey questions.

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

### *Literacy Reminders*

#### **New Resources Added to Literacy Library**

Visit the [Literacy Library](#) to access newly added resources. In an ongoing effort to expand family literacy engagement support for school leaders, teachers, and families, the Literacy Division is releasing Grab & Go one-pagers built out from the Family Literacy Engagement Strategic Plan featuring simple, step-by-step activities that schools and families can use. There are five activities currently available and more will be developed. Leaders and teachers are encouraged to utilize these resources and share them with families and communities to promote communication and collaboration around literacy development.

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