



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 25, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

This morning I welcomed nearly 2,000 Louisiana educators to our annual Teacher Leader Summit. I helped kick off the celebration during our opening session. Instead of the traditional keynote speech, I stepped back so the voices of our educators could share their experiences leading through this challenging year. Success looked different in the various communities across our state, but they all shared three important commonalities. Louisiana educators are reliable, responsive and resilient. They have done hero's work to ensure our children continue to receive a quality education. In a school year that opened with so much uncertainty, it's difficult to express the feeling of pride I have knowing the progress we've achieved together.

Even if you are unable to attend this year's conference, I encourage you to follow along and join the conversation on social media by using the hashtag #LATeacherLeaders. [Spots are also still available for our virtual Summit](#) that takes place June 1-11. I hope you are able to take advantage of this opportunity for us to further grow and develop together as we prepare for next school year.

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	May 27 at 1 p.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	June 1 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	June 1 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	June 1 at 3:45 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	June 3 at 3 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	June 10 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
AE Leadership Community of Practice	May 26 at 10 a.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	May 27 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	June 1 at 1 p.m.
Literacy Monthly Call	June 3 at 10 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	June 9 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	June 9 at 3 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	June 10 at 1 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	June 10 at 2 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	June 15 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	June 16 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	June 16 at 3:30 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	June 17 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	June 17 at 3 p.m.

Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	June 21 at 10 a.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	August 6 at 9 a.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	August 20 at 9 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	August 25 at 1 p.m.
<i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i>	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
In-Person Teacher Leader Summit	May 25-27
Staffing Q&A Session	June 16 at 1 p.m.
Scheduling Q&A Session	June 30 at 1 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Parent and Family Engagement Survey	May 28
Advanced Placement Contacts Added to Contact Form	May 31
2021-2022 Super App Application	June 1
Strong Start Spring Survey	June 7
The Power of Two: Leveraging Co-teachers to Address Unfinished Learning	June 12

Operations

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 **has been extended to June 7.**
- 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 with questions.

Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Webinar

The Department recently hosted an Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Webinar. During this initial webinar, the Department previewed the Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Dashboard and shared helpful resources. The dashboard has been 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. The presentation [deck](#) and [recording](#) are now available and have been posted to the Department's [Emergency Preparedness and Recovery webpage](#).

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.

Please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov with questions.

Grants to States For School Emergency Management Program

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Grants to States for the School Emergency Management (GSEM) program funds to the Louisiana Department of Education in partnership with LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education (LSU NCBRT/ACE). The program goal is to provide training and technical assistance to LEAs for the development and implementation of high-quality school Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).

EOP Virtual Office Hours: Open virtual office hours provide a forum for school crisis teams to engage with a panel of subject matter experts from LSU NCBRT/ACE to troubleshoot issues related to building, maintaining, and implementing their school emergency operations plans (EOPs).

- [Register](#) for June 14 at 10 a.m.
- [Register](#) for July 12 at 10 a.m.

EOP Virtual Seminar Series: LSU NCBRT/ACE has partnered with the LSU School of Education to host a series of one-hour topic-specific virtual seminar sessions beginning in June. Sessions will include an informational briefing on the week's topic followed by a facilitated discussion to allow participants to share experiences in their school emergency planning processes.

- [Register](#) for June 9 at 1 p.m.
- [Register](#) for June 23 at 10 a.m.
- [Register](#) for July 7 at 9 a.m.

Training by Request: A [catalog of courses](#) covering topics related to building and maintaining school EOPs is available to LEAs and schools by request through the GSEM program. Courses are available virtually or in person at no cost to school systems throughout the state. Training requests may be sent to schoolsafety@ncbrt.lsu.edu, or register for one of our upcoming trainings below:

- [Register](#) for June 16 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- [Register](#) for June 24 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

Communications

LDH Vaccine Communications Resources

The Louisiana Department of Health has developed communications resources schools and systems may use in order to inform stakeholders about the availability of vaccines for ages 12-15. This [social media toolkit](#) includes sample posts and LDH graphics that can be used on social media channels. The social media toolkit also includes information about LDH's vaccine hotline and an upcoming parent webinar. LDH also released a [letter from medical professionals](#) about the recent vaccine expansion.

Please contact ted.beasley@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Update: Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices

The LDOE has partnered with the District Management Group to provide a series of resources, live webinars, and targeted training sessions for educators across the state on building strong staffing and scheduling models using best practices.

Three complimentary copies of *Six Shifts to Improve Special Education and Other Interventions* will be mailed to superintendents, CAOs, and special education directors later this spring. The book includes details about specific strategies to address unfinished learning and raise achievement. It also offers practical advice on how to help students experiencing social and emotional and behavioral difficulties. More information about the book is [available](#).

Please contact em.cooper@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

- Spring Administrations: All voids and testing irregularities due no later than the last day of the appropriate testing window.
- Summer Administration
 - **June 10:** Test Setup and Additional Materials Available
 - **June 10-29:** Assign and enter TA numbers
 - **June 21-25:** LEAP 2025 HS Testing Window

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). NAEP created an alternate data collection process for the final (June 16-29) MSS submission for schools that may be closed in June. The district or school test coordinators were emailed on May, 24 if they chose to participate.
 - 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.

PIRLS

- The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) is an international assessment and research project designed to measure trends in reading achievement at the fourth-grade level and school and teacher practices related to instruction. For the first time, PIRLS will be administered on a tablet with a keyboard. This fall, the assessment will include students in grade five and three schools across the state will be selected.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability office hours will be on **June 1 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 1 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

Summer Professional Development Opportunity

The Department will host a free professional development series led by Blue Engine. This series, **The Power of Two: Leveraging Co-teachers to Address Unfinished Learning** is open to all educators and will focus on the use of co-teaching strategies to address unfinished learning. By participating in this full-day training, educators will learn about strategies, practices, and tools for forming effective teams, enacting high-quality co-planning, and thoughtfully responding to student data in order to optimize co-teachers to address unfinished student learning. Educators should [register](#) by **June 12**.

General Co-Teaching

Sign up to attend **one** full-day session (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) on any of the following dates:

- June 21
- June 23
- June 25

Math Co-Teaching

Sign up to attend **one** full-day session (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) on any of the following dates:

- June 15
- June 16
- June 17

Please contact brooke.molpus@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **[Operations Reminders](#)**
 - **[Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders](#)**
 - **[Nutrition Support Reminders](#)**
- **[School System Financial Services Reminders](#)**
- **[Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)**
 - **[Educator Development Reminders](#)**

Operations Reminders

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 developed [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 were receiving free and reduced-price school meals. 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 with questions.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders

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	Update: Initial reviews and feedback provided on all <i>Achieve!</i> budgets by June 1.

Please contact 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 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, 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 with questions.

Nutrition Support Reminders

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 with questions.

School System Financial Services Reminders

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 ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

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 with questions regarding the MOE review process. For technical inquiries or support, please contact jason.berard@la.gov.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

School Improvement Best Practices

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) trainings begin next week. For systems who included this in their Super App planning and/or Achieve! plans, you should follow the steps below to register for sessions. There are virtual and in-person options.

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.

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

Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Initiative

- Presentations Posted: The Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Job Alike presentations for academic leaders, diverse learners leadership, school leaders, and counselors and counselor leadership have now been posted in the [School System Support Library](#).
- 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.	Staffing Q&A Session
June 30 at 1 p.m.	Scheduling Q&A Session

- **DEADLINE EXTENDED and DATE ADDED:** The deadline to register for the regional training series has been extended to **June 18**. There is one remaining session 1 on June 29.

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.

Session 1	
NEW: June 29 from 1-4 p.m.	Makeup Session: All regions (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.

Educator Development Reminders

Mentor Survey

On Friday, May 21 the Department sent a brief Mentor Teacher survey to school leaders. This survey allows 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 with questions.