



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

June 1, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to the thousands of educators who joined us in New Orleans last week for Teacher Leader Summit. My spirit is still lifted high after spending a few days surrounded by so many professionals who are passionate about getting better for kids. The week was a success and we are already looking at how to make next year even better. If you were unable to join us for the opening session, [you can watch it on our YouTube channel](#). I also hope you will watch the stories shared by educators of [GEO Prep Mid-City](#), [Red River Parish Schools](#) and [Calcasieu Parish Schools](#). Three amazing examples of how Louisiana educators met the needs of children this year by being reliable, responsible and resilient.

Governor Edwards announced last week that he is lifting the K-12 mask mandate effective at the close of the 2020-2021 school year. School systems can begin implementing their own face mask policies starting with summer programs. After a statewide effort that served its purpose, I applaud the Governor for now returning this decision to our local communities. You know your children best. Just as they have since the pandemic began, I know school system leaders will continue to work with parish medical experts as they navigate what we all hope is the final chapter of this pandemic. I'm confident we will continue to move closer to offering in-person instruction to every child by the start of next school year.

As we wrap up this school year, we're asking for your help targeting supports to where they are needed most. Our [Strong Start Spring Survey](#) is open to school leaders, teachers, students, families and community members. We've extended the deadline to June 7.

Thank you for continuing to meet the needs of children and families. It's an honor to serve alongside you.

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	June 3 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	June 3 at 3 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	June 8 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	June 8 at 3:45 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	June 10 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
AE Leadership Community of Practice	June 23 at 10 a.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	June 24 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	July 6 at 1 p.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
Staffing Q&A Session	June 16 at 1 p.m.
Scheduling Q&A Session	June 30 at 1 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
2021-2022 Super App	June 1
Strong Start Spring Survey	June 7
The Power of Two: Leveraging Co-teachers to Address Unfinished Learning	June 12

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

ESSER/GEER FAQ Update

An updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about how funding under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund (including the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER program, and the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund) may be used in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students in pre-K-12 education has been released by ED. This [document](#) is intended to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies and has been added to both the [Pandemic](#) and [FSGR](#) libraries.

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

Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support

Healthy Communities

Registration Open for the 2021 PD4HS Professional Development Opportunities: School Mental Health Seminar Series

The Department is promoting the upcoming seminar series from Professional Development for Healthy Schools (PD4HS). PD4HS is partnering with Dr. Jill Bohnenkamp from the National Center for School Mental Health to provide a seminar series that will help state, district, and school education and behavioral health leaders plan for and address the mental health needs of the entire school community (including students, school staff, and families) and implement multi-tiered mental health promotion, prevention and intervention support, and services in their school system.

[Registration](#) closes on **June 6**.

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

Teaching and Learning

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

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

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 (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.

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

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 8 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!

Reminders

- [Operations Reminders](#)
 - [Communications Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)
 - [Educator Development 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 **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 to be 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 Reminders

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 Reminders

Update: Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices

Sessions Posted: The presentations from the Job Alike Sessions (counselors and counselor leadership, school leaders, diverse learners leaders, and system academic leaders) are available in the School System Support [Library](#).

Books Mailed: 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.

Educator Development Reminders

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.