

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 2, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Louisiana Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment of Dr. Cade Brumley to be the next State Superintendent of Education. The state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) appointed Dr. Brumley to lead Louisiana's school system at its May 20, 2020, meeting. His official start date will be June 8, 2020.

BESE President Sandy Holloway [issued](#) the following statement following the confirmation:

"I applaud the Senate for their confirmation of Dr. Brumley today. These are unprecedented times; strong leadership will be important to the success of our short- and long-term work to address unfinished learning due to COVID-19 closures and to ensure that students and schools are positioned for a strong start next year. This will be a huge responsibility, but we have the right leader for it. Not only does Dr. Brumley have extensive K-12 experience and a proven track record of success, but he possesses perhaps the number one quality which BESE sought: the ability to effectively and harmoniously bring all parties to the table to move education forward. Louisiana needs a visionary leader, but more importantly we need an empathetic, cooperative, adaptable and trusting leader."

Please join us in welcoming him and to supporting his transition.

I am also pleased to note the [Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series is now underway](#), with nearly 6,000 educators in attendance. The event will continue through June 5.

For those who are not registered, the Department is [broadcasting live on YouTube](#) one session per rotation. In addition, following the full event, all recorded sessions, along with their supporting materials, will be posted to the Department's [Teacher Leader Library](#).

I have been humbled and honored to serve alongside you during the past few months. Your dedication and hard work to support students, educators and families is truly inspirational. Thank you for all you do for every child, every day.

In service,

Beth Scioneaux
Acting State Superintendent

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [June SPED Leader Webinar](#): June 4 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): June 9 at 4:15 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [2020-2021 NISL Principal Fellowship Nomination](#) deadline: June 5
- [AP Exception Testing Request Form](#) deadline: June 7
- [Transition Support Resources for Families of Children and Youth with Disabilities RFA](#) deadline: June 15
- [2021 ESSA MOE Verification](#) deadline: June 15
- [K-3 Literacy Screener Selection](#) deadline: June 12
- [2021 IDEA MOE Verification \(Eligibility Review\)](#) deadline: June 15

School System Support

New: Louisiana's Academic Strategy for 2020-2021

The [Academic Strategy for 2020-2021](#) presentation at the Teacher Leader Summit and School Support Institutes is available in the [Teacher Leader](#) and [School Improvement Library](#). This [presentation](#) reviews Louisiana's plan for school improvement, the school system planning process, and the vision and strategy for the upcoming year. This presentation also releases the additional implementation actions and observation tools aligned to the 2020-2021 strategy and priorities.

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

New: Back-to-School Resources

The Department today released a suite of free resources to help parents and educators address unfinished learning from the 2019-2020 school year and ensure a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year.

The 2020-2021 back-to-school resources include:

- The [2020-2021 Educator Resource Guide](#), which highlights instructional priorities and resources to support educators with a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year. The guide is located in the [School System](#), [Principal](#), and [Teacher](#) Toolboxes and will be updated each month.
- An updated [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#), which details training sessions, virtual support, tools and resources, and communication streams designed to support educators.
- [Parent Back-to-School Guides](#) that provide families with information and resources to support learning, whether it takes place in the traditional classroom or at home, for the 2020-2021 school year. Guides are currently available for parents of students in grades pre-K–2, 3–12, English Learners, and students with disabilities. Translated versions will soon be available in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic.
- [School Plan Family Presentation](#), which, as required by law, provides a template for school leaders to communicate school performance data, their school improvement plan, timelines for implementation and attainment of performance goals, and implications to families.

Please contact doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

New: Work Permits for Minors

State law requires any business hiring a minor to obtain an employment certificate. These employment certificates are to be issued by either:

- The Parish or city public school superintendent or by his designated representative
- The principal of a public or private school or by her designated representative

To fill the gap at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, LWC began issuing blanket work permits for minors throughout the entire state. However, these temporary certificates are good for only 60 days and have since expired. Because of this, school systems are urged to immediately begin reissuing work permits.

Please review the following statutes under Title 23:

- [§182. Employers to keep record](#)
- [§188. Records kept by issuing authority](#)
- [§183. Persons authorized to issue](#)
- [§192. Certificate as evidence of age of minors](#)
- [§187. Signing of certificate by minor; return by employer after termination of employment](#)

Please contact dlarocca@lwc.la.gov with questions.

New: Leadership Learning Series

Last week, the Department hosted the virtual Leadership Learning Series. This series included the Academic Strategy/LAP Session and the School Support Institutes: Building Blocks Sessions. The following resources are now available:

- [Academic Strategy-LAP slide deck](#)
- [Academic Strategy-LAP webinar recording](#)
- [Building Blocks slide deck](#)
- [Building Blocks webinar recording](#)
- [Summer Milestones with due dates.](#)
- [Office Hours slide deck](#)
- [SSI FAQs](#)
- [School Support Institutes 2020-2021: A Guide for Superintendents and School System Leaders slide deck](#)

Additionally, the new K–2 Classroom Support Tool, 3–12 Classroom Support Tool, Common Planning Time Support Tool, and Summer Milestones 2020 are posted in the [School Improvement Library](#).

Leadership team members from CIR and UIR-A schools who were unable to attend the live **Building Blocks session** should review the recording and slide deck, and complete the embedded Jotform attendance documentation, after viewing the webinar. **This is for the Building Blocks session only.**

Please contact delaina.larocque@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020

Strong Start 2020 applications for Incentive funds were due last Friday. School systems will receive an email notification on June 3 if there are outstanding questions that need to be addressed. School systems will need to resolve those questions by June 4.

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

New: Strong Start 2020 Instructional Material and PD Vendor Guide Updates

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, professional development coordinators, and purchasing directors.

The Strong Start 2020 plan includes [Instructional Materials Guidance](#) and [Professional Development Guidance](#), and the Department continues to work with publishers and vendors to update each guide as they build and refine their supports.

This week, the following entries have been **added**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
PhD Science: Great Minds	Big Day for Pre-K: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Wit and Wisdom: Great Minds	Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA): Amplify, Instruction Partners
	Collections: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
	ELA Guidebooks: The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL), Instruction Partners
	Eureka Math: The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL), Instruction Partners
	EL Education: Instruction Partners
	The Choices Program: Brown University

This week, the following entries have been significantly **updated**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA): Amplify	

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: COVID-19 Guidance

Louisiana's school facilities were closed in March 2020 through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year to curb the spread of COVID-19.

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.

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**. View the most recent [Louisiana 2020 Census Self-Response Weekly Highlights](#) provided by the U.S. Census Bureau Atlanta Region.

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 doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: June School System Planning Call

The [June School System Planning Call](#) scheduled for June 3 at 1:00 p.m. has been canceled. The presentation is now available in the [School Improvement Library](#).

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Super App

Upcoming deadlines for Super App are listed below.

- **By June 8:** Recommended deadline to submit Amendment 1 to guarantee approval by July 1
- **By June 26:** School systems with CIR schools must upload their updated professional development plan in eGMS.

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

Reminder: Updated Summer Guidance on Athletics and Transportation Released

The Department recently released updated guidelines and guidance on summer programming to include more specific information on transportation and additional information on athletics and activities. The new and updated information includes the following:

1. Updated [Initial Public Health Guidelines for K-12 Summer School and Extra-Curricular Programs](#)
2. Updated [K-12 Summer Camp, Summer School, and Extracurricular Activities Supportive Guidance](#)
3. New [K-12 Athletics Guidance](#)

Please contact ldoecovid19support@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

New: Pre-K to Third Grade Assessments

- The [2020-2021 GOLD Guidance](#) has been released for Early Childhood, OSEP, and KEA.
- The [2020-2021 Pre-K to Third Grade Assessment Guidance](#) has been released. The two approved Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) options are DRDP-K and TS GOLD KEA. The four approved K-3 Literacy Screener options are Acadience Reading formerly DIBELS Next, DIBELS 8th Edition, STEEP, and STEP.
- School systems must complete the [K-3 Literacy Screener Selection](#) to indicate the assessment choice for their school system by **June 12**.

New: High School Summer Test Administration

- The high school summer test administration schedule has changed to July 13–24.
- There is no remote access option.

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.
- This month, the Department will request a change in policy to waive the assessment requirement for a high school assessment-eligible course earned during the regular school year in 2019-2020 (not including summer credit recovery) 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 State Administration
 - October 6 and October 20 paper-based administration only for students who were juniors in 2019-2020 and were unable to test in March or June. The Department will cover the cost for one administration per student.

Update Cohort Graduation Data Certification

- Cohort graduation data certification will remain open until **this Friday, June 5**. This is the final opportunity that school systems have to request changes to data that will affect the publically reported 2019 graduation rate.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on June 9 at 4:15 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 9 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

New: Advanced Placement Exam Updates

Please share with AP Coordinators, high school curriculum supervisors, counselors, and administrators.

The College Board is offering exception testing for students who are unable to take or complete AP makeup exams. Exception testing will be held from June 22 to June 30. There will be no further testing dates available for 2020.

The [AP Exception Testing Request Form](#) is now open and will close on **June 7 at 5:00 p.m.** To complete the form, students will need the AP Makeup Request Key from their most recent e-ticket for the exam they want to take. If they can't find their e-ticket email, a backup copy is available in their My AP account.

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

New: Carl Perkins Data Collection for Core Indicator Reporting

Please share with school system secondary supervisors and career and technical education supervisors/coordinators, data managers, school leadership, and professional school counselors.

Beginning with the data collection cycle for 2019-2020, the Department will no longer be utilizing the Career and Technical Education (C.A.T.E.) Data System for collecting or reporting data required for federal CTE and Perkins reports. For 2019-2020 reporting, the Department will generate and provide Perkins Core Indicator reports to school systems and the United States Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Adult Education. Each school system should access the [C.A.T.E. portal](#) to download any needed information or reports. The system will remain open through June 30.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

New: NCCER Module Assessments and Performance Profile Evaluations

Please share with school system secondary supervisors and career and technical education supervisors/coordinators, school leadership, and professional school counselors.

As Louisiana is now in Phase I of reopening, Craft Instructors can [provide face-to-face proctored pen and paper](#) for NCCER Module assessments and NCCER Performance Profile evaluations. These may occur as long as the Craft Instructor is following the state and school system's guidance during this health emergency.

To access the [online testing system](#), contact the Sponsor Representative at martha.moore@la.gov. [Remote proctoring](#) will continue to be available through July 31 should circumstances prevent classes from meeting in person at Accredited Training and Education Facilities.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: NCCER Releases Module Testing Update

Please share with CTE Supervisors and professional school counselors.

The [National Center for Construction Education & Research \(NCCER\)](#) updated information about its Module Testing on May 21. To that end, NCCER will be discontinuing paper tests beginning August 1, 2021.

The Department will provide guidance to support schools and NCCER Craft Instructors with implementing the online testing for craft module assessments. As per guidance from NCCER, Performance Profiles will continue to be done in person and submitted as Registration of Training Modules through the registry.

School systems interested in piloting online testing for the 2020-2021 school year are encouraged to contact jumpstart@la.gov.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

New: Louisiana Principal Fellowship (NISL) Nominations and Orientation Dates

The deadline for the [nomination form](#) for school leaders and upcoming school leaders to participate in the 2020-2021 Louisiana Principal Fellowship (operated by the National Institute of School Leadership) has been extended and should be completed no later than **June 5**. Completion of this form will enroll participants in NISL's Executive Development Program (EDP) for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Participants nominated by June 5 will be emailed a link to reserve their choice of dates for a mandatory virtual orientation. Participants only need to enroll in one of the orientation sessions available July 10, 17, or 24 from 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Please note, this year's program will be held virtually until further notice.

School systems will be invoiced by NISL after participants complete orientation and Unit one of the EDP. More information about the Louisiana Principal Fellowship is also [available](#).

Please contact jennie.moctezuma@la.gov for more information.

New: Intervention Content Leader Registration

Registration is now open for 2020-2021 [Intervention Content Leaders](#). Intervention Content Leaders will serve as school building level experts to support ELA and math teachers, along with instructional leadership teams, in using the diverse learners cycle to ensure all students, including diverse learners, achieve mastery of grade level standards. School systems should register participants with strong content knowledge and expertise in Tier 1 curriculum.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Extension of Teacher and Leader Certificates

The Department previously shared information regarding regulatory flexibilities that are needed due to COVID-19. One flexibility is the renewal and or extension of teacher and leader certificates that require Compass evaluations for renewal. These automatic extensions of teacher and leader certificates have been completed. Please check certificate validity before submitting an application for a renewal or extension. Applications submitted for extensions or renewals of certificates already extended will be returned unprocessed.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: Strong Start Compensatory Services Guidance for Students with Disabilities

The Department released the [Strong Start Compensatory Services Guidance](#) to support school systems in conducting reviews for compensatory services for every student with a disability and providing compensatory services to eligible students. This new resource is located on the Department's [Strong Start](#) webpage and the [Students with Disabilities](#) webpage.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: June SPED Leader Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education **this Thursday, June 4 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 4 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 with questions.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: RAVE Panic Button Training

The Governor's Office and Louisiana State Police now offer the Rave Panic Button to all K–12 school systems and schools across the state, as well as a companion application for 9-1-1 Centers.

Those interested are encouraged to join the Rave Mobile Safety Louisiana Virtual User Group training scheduled for June 10. [Registration](#) is now open.

During this 90-minute event, attendees will learn:

- How Rave Panic Button can help during COVID-19 health emergency
- New features and functionality
- Product training and next steps based on you school's deployment status
- School safety best practices and lessons learned

There will also be a special breakout room for local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAPs) to learn more about Panic Button.

Please contact mbenton@ravemobilesafety.com with questions.

New: School-based Medicaid

If applicable, school systems should update current Medicaid contact information by providing changes in name, email address, physical address and/or phone number to anissa.young@la.gov for the following positions:

- Medicaid Coordinator
- Business Manager
- Special Education Director

School systems that will not be in operation for the upcoming school year must notify DXC immediately. Please contact DXC Provider Enrollment via the address below or fax (225-216-6392) the closing date of the school system.

DXC Provider Enrollment
P.O. Box 80159
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0159

School systems that will not be in operation for the upcoming school year must also contact anissa.young@la.gov with a future billing address and/or contact person for inquiries regarding final cost report settlement transactions.

Please contact anissa.young@la.gov with questions.