



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

June 8, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I'm very proud we came together to do what is best for children this year despite unprecedented challenges. So much was unknown this time last year. We had to trust each other.

Trust that our mitigation efforts would keep children safe.
Trust that last summer's planning would successfully translate into the classroom.
Trust that when we made mistakes we would learn and grow stronger.
Trust that we could rise to the challenge for our kids, our families and our state.

The traditional 2020-21 school year has ended in most Louisiana school systems and all signs point to us being in the final chapters of the pandemic. We know, however, that our journey is just beginning.

We still don't have a clear grasp of the pandemic's impact on student achievement. That's why it was so important that our children test for the first time in two years. Once those results are available, instructional practices should reflect needs.

We have a literacy challenge and we consistently score at the bottom of national rankings. That's why we've continued to aggressively push forward with initiatives aimed at goals such as sparking a reading revival in our state and rethinking how high school can prepare students for life after graduation.

I'm proud of what we accomplished this year and excited about where we're headed. Just like it did this past school year, success will depend on our ability to work together, trust in the priorities we developed side-by-side and maintain a laser focus on keeping children first.

The best is yet to come.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Education Technology Office Hours	June 10 at 9 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	June 10 at 3 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	June 15 at 3 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	June 17 at 1 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	June 22 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
Literacy Monthly Call	July 1 at 10 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
April Dunn Act: Emma and the University Pathway	June 15 at 2 p.m.
Staffing Q&A Session	June 16 at 1 p.m.
Louisiana Attendance Alliance Meeting	June 17 at 7:30 a.m.
April Dunn Act: Malik and the Jump Start Pathway	June 22 at 2 p.m.
Literacy PD for Teachers: Session 1 - Introduction to the Science of Reading	June 22 at 2 p.m.
Literacy PD for Teachers: Session 2 - Word Recognition	June 23 at 2 p.m.
Ready To Achieve School Operational Guidance Webinar	June 24 at 3 p.m.
Scheduling Q&A Session	June 30 at 1 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
The Power of Two: Leveraging Co-teachers to Address Unfinished Learning	June 12
Social Studies Assessment Advisory Committee Interest Survey	July 9

Operations

Communications

P-EBT Family Communications Tools

Schools and school systems should expect to receive calls from families inquiring about their P-EBT benefits because of the change in how benefits are being distributed for 2020-2021. Unlike last spring when families had to apply through a state portal in order to receive benefits, this year families do not have to apply for benefits. Information and data for student eligibility is being shared by schools and/or school systems directly with the [Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services](#) (DCFS). Please note that DCFS is issuing benefits based on the data they receive from schools and/or systems. When families contact DCFS with questions specific to their child (such as that child's specific eligibility/benefit status), families are being asked to contact their school system.

Prior to receiving their P-EBT card, families will receive [this letter](#) in the mail from DCFS notifying them that they can expect to receive their cards within 30 days. Eligible students should begin receiving P-EBT cards beginning in late June.

Please ensure your schools/system is communicating information to families about P-EBT benefits. DCFS has developed [downloadable resources](#), a dynamic [FAQ page](#), a special [landing page](#), and [guidance for school systems](#). Additional resources are linked individually at the end of this entry.

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](#)

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

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2020-2021SY (4th Quarter)

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department is releasing the [consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2020-2021 school year](#)*. This schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

The assigned Statewide Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to superintendents and federal program directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule. The [fourth quarter monitoring schedule](#) is now available.

Please contact tasha.anthony@la.gov with questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). For questions related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), please contact cindy.hilton@la.gov.

**School systems that have been severely impacted by a disaster and are currently listed on the schedule are encouraged to contact tasha.anthony@la.gov.*

Career and College Readiness

Louisiana Attendance Alliance Meeting

Please share with child welfare and attendance offices.

The LSU Social Research and Evaluation Center will establish a statewide cross-sector partnership to promote good school attendance practices for pre-K-12 students and schools. On [June 17 at 7:30 a.m.](#), the LSU Social Research and Evaluation Center will host the first Louisiana Attendance Alliance meeting for all the school systems that have opted-in. If there are interested school systems that want to opt-in, please email srec@lsu.edu or attendance@lsu.edu.

Please contact jerrick.hornbeak@la.gov with questions.

Ready to Achieve School Operational Guidance

Please share with school systems administrators.

The Louisiana Department of Education is working with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to review the latest CDC school guidelines. A set of operational guidance for K-12 school systems will be provided and go into effect on **July 1**. LDOE will host a webinar with LDH to review the **2021-2022 Ready to Achieve School Operational Guidance**.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 24 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 with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Special Education

April Dunn Act Professional Development

The Division of Diverse Learners will host a series of professional development webinars to train special education professionals on the April Dunn Act (formerly known as Act 833). The webinars will focus on developing policies and procedures for effective implementation as well as examples on implementing the April Dunn Act for each diploma pathway.

Date and Time	Professional Development Training
June 15 at 2 p.m.	April Dunn Act: Emma and the University Pathway
June 22 at 2 p.m.	April Dunn Act: Malik and the Jump Start Pathway

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Register: School Improvement Best Practices

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) summer trainings have begun. For systems who included this in their Super App planning and/or Achieve! plans, 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

- The registration links for the summer and fall supports are now available in the [Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Guidance](#). The following supports will be offered, at no cost, for systems this summer and fall.
 - Best Practices Webinars
 - Q&A Sessions
 - Job Alike Session for Diverse Learners Leadership
 - Job Alike Session for Counselors and Counselor Leadership
 - Job Alike Session for School Leadership
 - Job Alike Session for District Academic Leadership
- 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.

Academic Content

Middle School Science OpenSciEd Professional Development Opportunities

School systems planning to use a [high-quality science curriculum](#) should also engage a high-quality professional development partner to support teachers with foundational and on-going training on that curriculum. Two virtual open-enrollment options are currently available for middle school OpenSciEd; registration information and complete details can be found at the links below. Since both of these offerings are being led by high-quality vendors this is an eligible use of competitive funds for on-going science professional development at CIR/ UIR-Academics schools. This is a great solution for systems seeking training for a small number of science teachers.

Training	Cost Per Participant	Dates
Getting Started with OpenSciEd	\$1,000 (includes materials)	July 26-27 and July 29-30
OpenSciEd Foundations Training (in collaboration with Massachusetts)	\$450	June cohort: June 21-24 August cohort: August 16-19

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

EdLink 360 Legacy Data Submission Option

The Department is fully committed to supporting the launch of EdLink in the coming months through continued LEA user support and communications, strategic training and progress tracking, vendor partnerships, and offering options for Oct MFP legacy system submissions. These options will allow school systems that are actively working in EdLink and are unable to resolve reporting issues, to submit to legacy systems for the purposes of validating the accuracy and completeness of their Oct 2021 data.

EdLink data will still remain the source of truth for the 2021-2022 school year, but options for submissions to legacy Calendar, SIS, and PEP systems will be available for the purposes of ensuring Oct MFP collection accuracy and completeness. More information on the criteria for requesting this option, which has also been shared with data managers via the June 3rd office hours call, can be found in the [EdLink 360 October MFP Legacy Submission Option Summary](#).

Please contact crystal.wilkinson@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Assessment Advisory Group

The Assessment Content team is accepting applications for a social studies advisory group comprised of social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers and coordinators. They will provide input as the department develops new LEAP Social Studies assessments and related resources aligned to the revised Louisiana Standards for Social Studies (pending BESE approval).

The advisory group will convene over the course of two academic school years, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. There will be approximately six to eight meetings per year, held after school for no more than two hours. All meetings will be held virtually, and members will not be reimbursed for their participation.

The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is **July 9**.

Please contact elizabeth.carney@la.gov or kelly.pizani@la.gov with questions.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

DRC Online Cleanup (Student Corrections)

- **New:** The Department will host a DRC Student Corrections online cleanup webinar on Wednesday, June 9.
 - Using DRC Student Corrections Online Cleanup
 - **Date and Time:** June 9 at 12:30 p.m.
 - **Zoom Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97612740491>
 - **Meeting ID#:** 976 1274 0491
 - **Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **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 monthly call will be on **June 15 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 15 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!

Literacy

Literacy PD for Teachers

The Literacy Division is launching a professional development series specially designed for Louisiana's K-2 teachers around the science of reading. Join weekly webinars on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2 pm targeting specific topics aimed at building teacher knowledge and capacity of the science of reading and how to integrate best practices and evidence-based strategies into your classroom. Information on how to access the first two sessions is listed below.

Session 1 - Introduction to the Science of Reading

This session will introduce participants to the science of reading, the components of Scarborough's Reading Rope, and how each plays an important role in developing skilled readers.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 22 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9198036620>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 919 803 6620
- **Passcode:** TeacherPD

Session 2 - Word Recognition

This session will explain the role of word recognition in the science of reading, focusing on phonological awareness, decoding, and sight recognition.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 23 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9198036620>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 919 803 6620
- **Passcode:** TeacherPD

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

New Resources Added to Literacy Library

New resources have been added to the Department's [Literacy Library](#). The [Local Literacy Plan template](#), which was featured in an interactive session at the Teacher Leader Summit, has been uploaded to the Literacy Library for school systems to reference when creating and monitoring literacy goals and action plans. In response to feedback from the field, support for school libraries has been added to the library as well.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations Reminders**
 - **Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders**

Operations Reminders

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders

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.