

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 16, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

This afternoon, we updated BESE on a process and timeline for school reopening. We continue working with various stakeholders to ensure our plans are solid and universally understood. The final plan will be a result of various workgroups, guidance from public health officials and stakeholder feedback.

It is vital to include a wide range of leaders in developing this plan. While the public health voice is critical, it's also necessary to consider operational impacts of the plan at the local school level. We will not provide a one-size-fits-all plan; instead, we will provide guidelines plus supportive guidance based on various phases (1,2,3). These decisions are too important to make without the input of the people they will impact most. They reflect the reality of what school systems across the nation are facing, while including the flexibility to help you manage the unique challenges faced in your community.

We expect this guidance to be released in the coming weeks. Before they are shared with the public, we will hold a virtual meeting to share them with our school leaders.

We understand next year will be a new challenge for all of us as we educate through COVID-19. I have confidence in our collective talents to overcome these challenges as we recognize we will depend on each other for innovative ideas, best practices and the promise of a quality education for every child.

I look forward to working with you on this plan as we move forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [SEAP Meeting](#): June 17 at 10 a.m.
- [School Finder Update Webinar for Business Managers](#): June 24 at 1 p.m.
- [School Finder Update Webinar for School System Leadership](#): June 24 at 2:30 p.m.
- [Strong Start Incentive Funds Webinar](#): June 25 at 11 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): July 7 at 4:15 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [Updated Professional Development Plan \(CIR Schools\)](#) deadline: June 26
- [SPC and SIS End-of-Year Collection](#) deadline: June 26
- [2020-2021 Sponsor Site Information Forms](#) (school closures) deadline: June 28
- [2020-2021 Sponsor Site Information Forms](#) (new schools and changes to existing schools) deadline: July 15

School System Support

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 ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020

School systems will receive funding notification letters via email this week indicating [Strong Start 2020](#) Incentive fund allocations and allowable expenditures. A webinar will be held on **June 25 at 11 a.m.** on the Strong Start Incentive Funds for district grants team members. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97988514220>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 979 8851 4220
- **Password:** 669 420

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
Amplify, Amplify Science	
LDOE, Social Studies Distance Learning Documents 3-8, US History, Civics	

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

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Louisiana School Finder Update - Upcoming Release of School Spending Data

By June 30, the [Louisiana School Finder](#) will be updated to include a new section with data on school spending in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Families will now be able to easily access information on a school's per pupil expenditures, including site-level and central office expenditures, as well as how expenditures have changed over time and what types of expenditures occur at a school. Families will also be able to compare how a school's per pupil spending compares to the school system and state. To help support school and school system leadership in the release of this data, the Department has created [an FAQ document](#) with answers to common questions leaders may have. This document will be updated over time.

School systems will have the opportunity to review their data prior to the live release. By June 23, files will be placed on each school system's secure FTP with their data. Additionally, business managers will be provided the same data through their EdFin sFTP site. School system leaders should clarify questions about school spending data with school system business managers.

In preparation for the release, the Department will be providing two webinars: one for business managers and one for school system leadership. The details for both webinars can be found below.

School Finder Update Webinar for Business Managers

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 24 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99832156319>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 998 3215 6319

School Finder Update Webinar for School System Leadership

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 24 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93769856095>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 937 6985 6095

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Leadership Learning Series Update

The [attendance records](#) from School Support Institutes: Building Blocks are now available in the School Improvement Library.

Other available materials from the School Support Institutes Year 2 series include:

- [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](#)
- [2020-2021 K-2 Classroom Support Tool](#)
- [2020-2021 3-12 Classroom Support Tool](#)
- [2020-2021 Common Planning Time Support Tool](#)

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

Reminder: Super App

An upcoming deadline for Super App is listed below.

- **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: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series Follow-Up:

Thank you for attending the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series.

Download Summit Materials

Educators can find materials from most sessions in the [Teacher Leader library](#).

Watch the Session Videos

If participants missed a session or weren't able to register, most sessions were recorded. The recordings are shared on the Department's [YouTube playlist](#).

Confirmation of Attendance

A full list of registered participants can be found in the [Teacher Leader library](#). The Department did not track individual session attendance. However, a school system may choose to ask participants to log in to [Sched](#) and print a copy of their full schedule as proof of attendance, as desired.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with any questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP 360

- School systems that plan to administer any or all of the assessments in the LEAP 360 suite in 2020-2021 must submit an [updated MOU](#) by June 26 to assessment@la.gov. A copy of the MOU has been posted to the [Assessment Library](#).

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.

High School Summer Test Administration

- The high school summer test administration schedule has changed to July 13–24.
- Testing manuals have been posted in DRC INSIGHT.
- Test setup for high school summer testing will open on June 22.
- Summer testing schedules should be submitted to assessment@la.gov by June 26.
- There is no remote access option.

New: ACT

- All school systems that tested students in June 2020 and/or who plan to test students during the October 2020 makeup for 2019-2020 juniors must sign the ACT MOU Addendum that is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- ACT is postponing the option for students to take a single subject test that was planned for September. A new implementation date has not been released.
- 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.

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.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

There will be no Office Hours call on June 23. The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on July 7 at 4:15 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 7 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: FAFSA Assistance Available

Please share with school counselors and administrators.

Assistance is available for any student still needing to complete the FAFSA to assist with attending a postsecondary institution. Help is accessible via phone or by setting up a Zoom session.

Please contact idefinanciaid@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Advanced Placement Exam Updates

Please share with Advanced Placement coordinators, high school counselors, and principals.

AP Exam final invoices will be generated through [AP Registration and Ordering](#). Schools will be emailed when the invoice is available. The postmark deadline for payment is June 26.

To ensure accurate score reporting for Spring 2020 AP Exams, confirm students have the **correct school code** listed on the student roster in [AP Registration and Ordering](#) and help them correct any mistakes. For more information, view a short video on [Student Rosters](#).

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

Reminder: 2020-2021 Course Choice/SCA Catalog

Please share with professional school counselors and district high school coordinators.

Registration for Course Choice 2020-2021 will open on July 1. The preliminary [2020-2021 Preliminary Course Choice Catalog](#) is now available. Schools will register students directly with the course provider, colleges and/or universities. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the [Course Choice Reporting System](#).

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training and dual enrollment course providers.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Strong Start 2020 Non-core and CTE Curriculum and Course Materials Update

Please share with CTE supervisors/coordinators and school system leaders.

The [Career and Technical Education Vendor Guide](#), included in the [Strong Start 2020 Non-core and CTE Curriculum and Course Materials Guidance](#), has been updated to include specific information on system requirements to install and run software and system requirements to test Industry-based Certifications.

The [2020-2021 Supplemental Course Allocation Preliminary Provider Directory](#) has been updated to include ACT Preparation in the Types of Coursework grid. This is in addition to CTE, non-core and core Type of Content currently identified.

These additions have been added to guidance documents in order to assist school systems in making informed decisions for a Strong Start to the 2020-2021 school year.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

Reminder: Science Content Leader Training

BESE has approved three providers to begin offering Science Content Leader training:

- University of Texas, Dana Center
- Great Minds, PhD Science
- SchoolKit Group

The training details, including contact information, can be found on page seven of the [approved provider list](#).

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Meeting

The Department is hosting a meeting **tomorrow, June 17 at 10 a.m.** to share information with the SEAP panel and members of the public and to provide an orientation to new members.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 17 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98128223453>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 981 2822 3453

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

New: Final 2018-2019 LEA Determinations

Please share with Special Education Directors.

Each year, the Department is required to assess the performance of school systems on the provision of special education and related services. These are called LEA Determinations. The 2018-2019 LEA Determinations are now available on the FTP site with the name: LEA Code_LEA Name_2018-2019 Final LEA Determination.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Data

New: End-of-Year Data Collections

Please share with data managers.

As previously announced, the submission deadline for the School Calendar System (SPC) and Student Information System (SIS) End-of-Year collection is **June 26**. The end-of-year collection is the last opportunity for school systems to submit final school calendars and student data. Several iterations of Validation Reports have been dropped on the Data Management FTP site for data managers to download and review their data submissions.

As previously announced during the May and June Data Coordinator webinars, the Department initiated a final DirectMatch run for matching student enrollment against the May SNAP file for closing out the 2019-2020 school year. Public/charters should resolve any near matches, download their match results, and report this data to the Student Information System (SIS) by **June 26**. No additional DirectMatch runs are required for the 2019-2020 school year.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: 2020-2021 Sponsor Site System (SPS)

Please share with data managers.

Sponsor Site requests for the 2020-2021 school year are still being accepted. This includes closure of existing schools/sites, changes to existing schools/sites, and the addition of new schools/sites. Submit requests via the [2020-2021 Sponsor Site Information Forms](#) by **June 28** (for school closures) and **July 15** (for new schools and changes to existing schools).

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Federal Grants

New: 2020 Applications for Business Managers and Federal Programs Directors

Please share with business managers and Federal Program Directors.

Due to the transition occurring with the state's accounting system that will take place on June 30, the following applications will require budgeting and resubmission for FY 20-21:

- 2020 Strong Start
- 2020 Family Childcare Pilot
- 2020 Get Ready Cohort
- 2020 Infant Class Support
- 2019/2020 Ready Start Network
- 2019/2020 Charter School Applications (Startup, Planning, Imp. 1 and 2)
- 2019 Chart School Dissemination
- 21st CCLC
- High Cost Services Round 1 & 2
- LA Mental Health
- 2020 PBCS TIF
- SIG Round 7

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

