



# LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**June 22, 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

The minimum health and safety standards approved by BESE last summer will sunset on June 30. While there will no longer be a set of mandates school systems must follow in relation to school operations during the pandemic, we are releasing an updated set of operational guidelines to support system leaders as they plan for the safe reopening of schools for 2021-2022. These guidelines will be released this Thursday, June 24, during a live webinar we're hosting with the Louisiana Department of Health. Please plan on joining us Thursday at 3 p.m. The access information is below.

- **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
- **Contact for Questions:** [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov)

These operational guidelines are the product of our continued collaboration with LDH and state medical professionals. They are informed by the latest CDC recommendations and on what we've learned together successfully educating children in person this school year during the heart of the pandemic. School system leaders can choose to implement guidelines based on what best serves their local community context.

Even without the requirement of policy, I know our system leaders will continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of the children, educators and families in their community. As educators, we are not experts on the virus. That's why we have established strong relationships with state and local health officials since the start of this crisis. Just like last summer, our guidance and the unwavering commitment of our educators will serve as the foundation for the school year ahead.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

## **In This Issue**

- **Operations**
  - **Communications**
  - **Nutrition Support**
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support**
  - **Healthy Communities**
- **Teaching and Learning**
  - **Academic Content**
  - **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**
  - **Literacy**
- **Reminders**

## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	<a href="#">June 24 at 1 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Career and College Readiness Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">June 24 at 3 p.m.</a>
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	<a href="#">June 29 at 3 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">June 29 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	<a href="#">July 7 at 11 a.m.</a>
Education Technology Office Hours	<a href="#">July 8 at 9 a.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
AE Leadership Community of Practice	<a href="#">June 23 at 10 a.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">June 24 at 9 a.m.</a>
Literacy Monthly Call	<a href="#">July 1 at 10 a.m.</a>
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">July 6 at 1 p.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">July 13 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	<a href="#">July 15 at 10 a.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">July 15 at 1 p.m.</a>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">July 19 at 10 a.m.</a>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">July 21 at 2 p.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">July 21 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 6 at 9 a.m.</a>
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 11 at 11 a.m.</a>
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 11 at 3 p.m.</a>
SPED Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 12 at 2 p.m.</a>

Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 19 at 3 p.m.</a>
System Leaders Roundtable	<a href="#">August 20 at 9 a.m.</a>
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 25 at 1 p.m.</a>
<i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the <a href="#">School Improvement Library</a>. View the <a href="#">School System Support Calendar</a> to access a complete schedule of events.</i>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Zoom Link</b>
<a href="#">Understanding your Risk: Safety and Security Assessments for Schools</a>	June 23 at 10 a.m.
Literacy PD for Teachers: Session 2 - Word Recognition	<a href="#">June 23 at 2 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Developing and Enhancing School EOPs Virtual Training</a>	June 24 at 8 a.m.
Ready To Achieve School Operational Guidance Webinar	<a href="#">June 24 at 3 p.m.</a>
Literacy PD Session 1 - Introduction to the Science of Reading	<a href="#">June 28 at 9 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Scheduling Q&amp;A Session</a>	June 30 at 1 p.m.
Literacy PD Session 2 - Understanding the Importance of Leadership Around Implementation	<a href="#">July 1 at 9 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Forming a Behavioral Threat Assessment Team</a>	July 7 at 9 a.m.
LSU NCBRT/ACE EOP Virtual Office Hours	<a href="#">July 12 at 10 a.m.</a>
<b>Important Deadlines</b>	
<a href="#">Assessment Literacy Initiative Interest Survey</a>	June 30
<a href="#">Math Acceleration Community of Practice Application</a>	June 30
<a href="#">Social Studies Assessment Advisory Committee Interest Survey</a>	July 9

# Operations

## Communications

### **P-EBT Communications Update**

#### **Updates as of June 23**

- Families are beginning to receive their P-EBT cards. Cards will arrive in a plain white envelope from “LifeinCheck EBT.”
- DCFS is receiving a high number of phone calls from families unable to activate their P-EBT card with their student ID number. DCFS is encouraging these families to contact their school or school system to ensure they have the correct student ID number. Please communicate with families where to locate their student ID number.
- Some families have also been unable to contact someone at their school or system to change addresses or confirm eligibility information. This is important, as the schools are able to verify that the caller is the child’s guardian. Please communicate a system/school-level point of contact with families during the summer months to verify their information.
- DCFS has launched a new [P-EBT landing page](#) that includes information specific to [K-12 students](#), [early childhood](#), and [card activation/benefit use](#).
- DCFS will continue to update its [school/system status list](#), which lets families know if their system has submitted student data for P-EBT. Eligible families cannot receive benefits until schools/systems submit data to DCFS.

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.

Prior to receiving their P-EBT card, families will receive [this](#) flyer in the mail from DCFS notifying them that they can expect to receive their cards within 30 days. Schools are continuing to submit data, and DCFS will continue to process remaining files into July and August. However, most of the flyers associated with the P-EBT program for the 2020-21 school year are expected to be mailed by late June. Eligible students have started receiving P-EBT cards. P-EBT cards will be distributed in phases as DCFS receives data from schools/systems. Please contact [carol.mosely@la.gov](mailto:carol.mosely@la.gov) with questions about data submission.

Please ensure the communication of 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 below.

#### **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](mailto:ted.beasley@la.gov) with questions.

## Nutrition Support

### **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. Previous USDA guidance for P-EBT local level funding required SFAs to submit application requests. These requests were to be submitted in two collection intervals — May 2021 and August 2021. In early June, USDA released new flexibilities to the local level funding reimbursement process. Instead of having SFAs submit a request, the State has the flexibility to award a specified dollar amount to all eligible entities based on the number of P-EBT eligible children in lieu of collecting itemized cost information. For additional information, please reference memo [SFS-21-x187](#) recently released by the Division of Nutrition Support.

Please contact [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov) with questions.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Promotion at Summer Meals Sites**

The Division of Nutrition Support is requiring that Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsoring organizations distribute educational materials regarding COVID-19 vaccination at summer meal sites to support the health and safety of the community. Sponsors will receive postcards, yard signs, and posters to distribute to their sites. These materials are provided by the Louisiana Department of Health. For additional information, please reference memo [SFS-21-x181](#) recently released by the Division of Nutrition Support.

## Career and College Readiness

### **Ready to Achieve School Operational Guidance**

**Please share with school systems administrators.**

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) 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**. Information needed to join this webinar is included below.

- **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](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov) with questions.

## Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support

### Healthy Communities

#### **Bring Back Louisiana**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has launched [Bring Back Louisiana](#).

Individuals ages 12 and up are now eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine. LDH strongly encourages on-site back-to-school vaccination events for students. Adolescent vaccinations are a critical tool in keeping schools open and ending the pandemic. These events will operate the same as teacher vaccination events that occurred earlier this year, with Regional Health Officials coordinating directly with individual school districts.

Please contact [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov) with questions or to plan an event.

### Teaching and Learning

#### **Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Initiative**

The presentation from the Q&A Session on staffing is posted in the [School System Support Library](#) under Staffing and Scheduling. This session highlighted the most frequently asked questions on implementing effective staffing models for system leaders.

The Q&A session for scheduling will be held on **June 30 at 1 p.m.** System and school leaders need to [register](#) for the session.

Please contact [em.cooper@la.gov](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

### Academic Content

#### **Louisiana Coastal Fellowship Program: Apply Now**

The Department is launching applications for the [Louisiana Coastal Fellowship Program](#), open to certified K-12 educators who currently teach in a [key coastal parish](#). Fellows selected into this program will engage in rich professional learning as a cohort of like-minded educators who are committed to championing environmental literacy for the students of our state.

Fellows will be selected through a competitive process and will have access to comprehensive support as they engage in the co-design of educational resources that will be used with their students and shared on the Department's website. Although participation is not required, preference will be given to applicants who participate in one or more of the [Summer Environmental Workshop Series](#). Applications will be accepted until **July 28 at 5 p.m.**

Please contact [environmentaleducation@la.gov](mailto:environmentaleducation@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

#### ACT and WorkKeys

- The Department is preparing invoices for 2020-2021 ACT/WorkKeys assessment reimbursement from school systems. To expedite this process, information for the following contacts must be current:
  - Superintendents
  - Charter directors/heads of school
  - Finance directors
  - District test coordinators
- If there have been any changes to these contacts since December, please contact [patricia.newman@la.gov](mailto:patricia.newman@la.gov) as soon as possible with the name and email address of the new contact. Invoices must be sent **on or before June 30**.

#### 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 10-29: Additional Materials Order
  - June 21-25: LEAP 2025 HS Testing Window
  - June 25: Voids Due
  - July 6: Return materials
  - July 20: Rescore materials

#### 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](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) or [rebecca.frederick@la.gov](mailto: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 29 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 29 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 Leaders**

The Literacy Division is launching a professional development series specially designed for Louisiana's school and system leaders around the science of reading, implementation support, and being an effective change agent in schools. **Join weekly on Mondays and Thursdays at 9 a.m.** for informational webinars targeting specific topics aimed at building leader knowledge and capacity of the science of reading and how to support the use of best practices and evidence-based strategies in classrooms. Information on how to access the first two sessions is listed below. A complete schedule will be posted in the [Literacy Library](#).

#### **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 28 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9198036620>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 919 803 6620
- **Passcode:** TeacherPD

#### **Session 2 - Understanding the Importance of Leadership Around Implementation**

This session will focus on the "why" behind foundational literacy instructional practices and important levers for success- establishing literacy vision/goals, implementation of Tier I curriculum, literacy block schedules, time for collaboration through PLC's, ongoing professional development aligned to the science of reading - that school and district level leaders should implement to support literacy success.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 1 at 9 a.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](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.



## **New Resources Added to Literacy Library**

School leaders and teachers can now access guidance in the [Literacy Library](#) on maximizing time and resources for effectively planning and implementing literacy block schedules. Additional Grab & Go activities for schools and families have been added to the Family Literacy Engagement section. The new activities feature book clubs and mentor programs.

Please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminders**

- **Operations Reminders**
  - **Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders**
- **Career and College Readiness Reminders**
- **Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders**
  - **Special Education Reminders**
- **Teaching and Learning Reminders**
  - **Academic Content Reminders**
  - **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders**
  - **Literacy Reminders**

## **Operations Reminders**

### ***Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders***

### **Strategic, Priorities-Based Planning and Budgeting Professional Learning Opportunity**

[Edunomics Lab](#) is hosting the virtual mini-course "[Ed Finance in 2021 \(A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME!\)](#)" on June 21-24. The event will take place from 12-2 p.m. each day with two additional office hours. This mini-course will be hands-on and practice-based with a goal of supporting participants to make strategic spending decisions on behalf of students. The content covered during the mini-session will address the various details school systems currently need to consider such as investments, learning loss, and community engagement. This opportunity will best serve school system teams comprised of school system leadership, finance teams, federal program directors, school system planning leads, board members, and principals. Participants are not required to have finance experience in order to register.

Registration details:

- All interested participants must register in advance.
- School systems are encouraged to register in teams of five to ten as the four days will allow for embedded time to refine or build plans collaboratively.
- Individual and group registration forms are accessible through the [Edunomics Lab website](#).
- This professional learning opportunity can be paid for with ESSER funds. For LEAs who may need scholarship assistance, please email [laura.anderson@georgetown.edu](mailto:laura.anderson@georgetown.edu).

Please contact [LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## **High Cost Services Round 2 Allocations**

Allocations for Round 2 of the High Cost Services (HCS) grant are now visible in eGMS. School systems that have been approved through the application process should now create budgets by creating an amendment in the HCS Round 2 application in eGMS. School systems must create this amendment to include all students for whom an allocation was received. The Department will review budget amendments for eligibility and allowability as they are submitted.

Please contact [LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Career and College Readiness Reminders***

### **NCCER Systems Scheduled Maintenance: June 26 & 27**

**Please share with district CTE supervisors and leaders.**

From Saturday, June 26 through Sunday, June 27, all NCCER systems (Registry, Testing System, Assessment Platform, Shop and Learning Platform) will be unavailable as updates are made.

These changes will help with the new single sign-on (SSO) feature, which will allow users to easily manage all NCCER systems. Benefits of the SSO portal include:

- Improved security: No need to manage multiple passwords.
- Simplified account management: Account information will be tied to a single profile.
- Streamlined user experience: Log into one portal to access all NCCER systems.

Please note, no access will be available during the maintenance window.

Please contact [troy.borne@la.gov](mailto:troy.borne@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders***

### ***Special Education Reminders***

#### **2019-2020 Draft LEA Determinations**

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 2019-2020 draft LEA Determinations are now available on the FTP site with the name: LEA Code\_LEA Name\_2019-2020 Draft LEA Determination.

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Teaching and Learning Reminders***

### ***Academic Content Reminders***

#### **Social Studies Standards Review Update**

Louisiana's social studies standards are currently under review. Materials from steering committee meetings, including videos of past meetings, and content expert workgroup guidance can be found in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). The next steering committee will be held on Saturday, June 26, at 9 a.m. at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This meeting is open to the public, and the agenda along with a copy of the draft standards will be posted in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#) by June 21. For additional information, please see the [Teacher Leader Summit Social Studies Standards Review Update](#) posted to the Standards Review Committee Library.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

#### **OpenSciEd Pilot Support**

**Please share with science supervisors and administrators.**

[OpenSciEd](#) is a science pilot program for freely available high-quality science instructional materials that are being developed by a consortium of experts. The Department holds monthly OpenSciEd pilot support calls for participating school and system science leads on the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. These monthly calls focus on the following topics:

- Changes to field test and public unit materials
- Release schedules for field tests, public units, and distance learning guidance
- Materials and purchasing updates
- Professional development opportunities

A meeting summary and relevant links are updated on the invitation following each call.

To receive the calendar invitation for the monthly call, contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov).

#### **Acceleration in Math Professional Learning Opportunity**

**Please share with math supervisors, administrators, and math teachers.**

The Department is accepting [applications](#) for Math Leaders to participate in an [Acceleration in Math Community of Practice](#). The goal of this professional learning is to support math supervisors, building leaders, coaches, master teachers, or teacher leaders with best practices and practical tools to address unfinished math learning during classroom instruction and/or tutoring settings. Applications are due **June 30**.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## *Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders*

### **Assessment Literacy Initiative**

Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), in partnership with [The Center for Assessment](#), will launch the Assessment Literacy Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to cultivate assessment literacy among Louisiana educators in order to improve student learning. This will be accomplished through a series of learning modules developed with educators from across Louisiana.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the LDOE will be partnering with up to 20 teams of educators from school systems across the state. Each team will include one school system leader, one school leader, and two teachers — math and science. (In the second year of the initiative, the focus will be on ELA and social studies.)

The school-system teams will participate in a series of virtual meetings that will take place during school hours. The series will consist of a kickoff meeting and five, three-hour professional learning sessions. Participants must engage in every session, complete practice activities to share and apply new learning using the professional learning structure, provide feedback on each session to inform their ongoing development and improvement, and agree to share their learning with others in the following year (2022-2023). School systems will receive substitute stipends for qualifying educators that participate in the sessions.

To apply, school leaders should complete the [interest survey](#) by **June 30**.

Please contact [alissa.kilpatrick@la.gov](mailto:alissa.kilpatrick@la.gov) with questions.

### *Literacy Reminders*

#### **Final Days of SRCL**

The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) grant project ends June 30. Funds will not be reallocated. School systems who received SRCL funds should ensure that all funds have been spent down and reimbursement claims are being submitted in eGMS. All activities must be completed by June 30, 2021. All reimbursement claims must be submitted by July 15, 2021.

Please contact [lisa.holliday@la.gov](mailto:lisa.holliday@la.gov) for SRCL assistance and [randy.littleton@la.gov](mailto:randy.littleton@la.gov) for eGMS assistance.

#### **Release of Supporting Early Learning and Literacy (SELL) Guide**

The Department released the [Supporting Early Learning and Literacy](#) (SELL) vendor guide to provide schools and systems with available tools and trainings that are scientifically based on the foundations of reading. In order to implement the Early Literacy Commission recommendations, school systems and centers need to invest in early learning and literacy resources. This guide provides networks with a list of partners that can deliver professional development to develop the capacity of educators to effectively identify and support the early learning and literacy needs of children. School systems can access this guide in the [School System Support Toolbox](#) under Instructional Resources.

Please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.