



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

June 29, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to the over 350 educators who joined us for last week's live release of the updated school reopening operational guidelines. [Ready to Achieve: School Operational Guidance](#) and a [dynamic FAQ](#) document are available on our website. For those of you who were unable to attend or who would like to review what was covered, you can now [watch the webinar](#) and [access the presentation deck](#) online.

We developed these guidelines with LDH and state medical experts. They're informed by the latest CDC recommendations and on what we've learned together successfully educating children in person during the heart of the pandemic. As Dr. Finger from Children's Hospital New Orleans shared during the webinar, last school year was incredibly successful and on par with anywhere else in the country.

Our school operational guidance serves as best practices. These are not mandates. School system leaders should continue to work with the local medical community to determine what works best based on local context. It's also important to understand that our guidance is a blueprint based on the best information available now. The CDC is working on new guidelines expected to be released later this summer. Those recommendations, as well as any shifts in the virus, will likely impact our guidance.

Just like they have throughout the pandemic, 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. Remember that as educators, we are not experts on the virus. That's why we have developed strong relationships with local health officials. Lean on those relationships as you plan what safe in-person instruction looks like in your schools. We are here to support you throughout this process.

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	July 1 at 1 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	July 6 at 3 p.m.
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	July 7 at 11 a.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	July 8 at 9 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	July 20 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Literacy Monthly Call	July 1 at 10 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	July 6 at 1 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	July 15 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	July 15 at 1 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	July 19 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	July 20 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	July 21 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	July 21 at 3:30 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	July 22 at 9 a.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	August 6 at 9 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	August 11 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	August 11 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	August 12 at 2 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	August 19 at 3 p.m.

System Leaders Roundtable	August 20 at 9 a.m.
AE Leadership Community of Practice	August 25 at 10 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
Scheduling Q&A Session	June 30 at 1 p.m.
Literacy PD Session 2 - Understanding the Importance of Leadership Around Implementation	July 1 at 9 a.m.
LSU NCBRT/ACE EOP Virtual Office Hours	July 12 at 10 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
Assessment Literacy Initiative Interest Survey	June 30
Math Acceleration Community of Practice Application	June 30
Social Studies Assessment Advisory Committee Interest Survey	July 9
Strong Start Spring Survey for School Systems	July 12

Operations

Achieve!

The US Department of Education (ED) recently released an FAQ to address questions relevant to ESSER Programs and GEER Programs. The Louisiana Department of Education reviewed this FAQ from ED and updated the LDOE *Achieve!* FAQ based on this guidance. The [updated Achieve! FAQ](#) is accessible through the [Pandemic Relief Guidance and Resources Library](#).

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

Strong Start Spring Survey

The [Strong Start Spring survey for school systems](#) is open. Each school system should identify one team member to complete the survey by **July 12**.

The Department will develop a report of the data collected from the survey and utilize the information to determine the effectiveness of supports provided to school systems during the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, school systems will identify key actions they are taking to address instructional loss, social-emotional learning, and other COVID-related factors for the 2021-2022 school year. The Department is asking all school systems to complete the survey by **July 12** in order to best understand how to serve and support education leaders for the upcoming year.

Please contact kathryn.perry@la.gov with questions.

Communications

LDH Vaccine Webinar

The Louisiana Department of Health recently hosted a webinar for families about the COVID-19 vaccine and children. During this webinar, pediatricians and medical experts answered common vaccine questions. [The webinar is now available online for school systems that would like to share this resource with schools and/or families.](#)

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

P-EBT Communications Update

Updates as of June 29

- Card activation remains one of the main concerns from families and schools pertaining to P-EBT. Below is the information required to activate a child's P-EBT card. All information listed below must be entered correctly. Items b-d must match the data provided by data managers in their upload file. If any of the information below does not match what DCFS has on record, the parent will not be able to activate their card.
 - a. Child's 16-digit card number
 - b. Child's last four digits of their Local Student ID.
 - Enter this four-digit number when prompted to enter the last four digits of the social security number.
 - c. Child's date of birth
 - d. Child's mailing address

The following Q&A is being added to DCFS' FAQ page.

How do I report my child's address change in time to get P-EBT benefits?

All student information and changes must be verified by the child's school. This includes address changes, which must be handled at the school and/or school district level to ensure that the child's card is going to the correct household. If you need to change an address, you must follow your school's or school district's process for submitting and verifying address changes which may include providing proof of residency forms in person at your child's school. Once the school or school district updates the information in the P-EBT system, DCFS will be able to issue benefits and order a P-EBT card for your

child. Changing your address will delay the issuance of a new card, but your child will receive their P-EBT benefits.

Note: P-EBT cards cannot be forwarded. If a card has already been issued to a child and sent to an old address, the old card will be returned to the sender and deactivated.

Please contact carol.mosely@la.gov with questions about data submission.

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 with questions.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

FSGR Monthly Call - July 15

In addition to Federal Support, Grants Management, and Statewide Monitoring information, the July Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call will also include information on the timeline for the *Achieve!* Application, as well as updates on the release of additional ESSER II and III funding. **Due to the inclusion of the additional information, the Department is inviting all Federal Program Directors/Supervisors, IDEA Directors/Supervisors, business managers, Super App leads, and *Achieve!* leads to join the [FSGR Monthly Call](#) on July 15 at 10 a.m.**

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

Career and College Readiness

Advanced Placement Coordinator Contact

School systems are encouraged to update the [Louisiana School Contact Form](#) with the name and contact information of their Advanced Placement Coordinator(s).

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

School System Financial Services

2021-2022 MFP Formula Allocation

Please share with business managers.

The Legislature adopted the 2021-2022 MFP formula during the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature. The new formula is [SCR 2](#) of the 2021 Regular Session. The 2021-2022 MFP formula allocation tables will be released on June 30 and will be located in the [MFP Library](#) under the section entitled *2021-2022 MFP Budget Letter*.

Please contact LDOEMFPhelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

ELA Guidebooks Grades 3-5 Updates

The Department is partnering with The Writing Revolution to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks. Louisiana teachers and a special team of “Revolutionaries” from Monroe City Schools are collaborating on this work.

The updated 3-5 ELA Guidebook units will be released in April 2022 for implementation during the 2022-2023 school year. Professional development on these updated units will be available at the 2022 Teacher Leader Summit. School systems that wish to pilot the updated 3-5 Guidebook units during the Spring of 2022 should fill out the [ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Pilot Interest Form](#) by **August 30**.

Additional information, including specific unit release dates, will be announced via the Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call and future newsletter communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@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 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

- Summer Administration
 - July 6: Return high school summer materials
 - July 20: Last day to submit requests for high school summer rescors

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 (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

There will be no Office Hours or Monthly Call on July 13. The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be **July 20 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 20 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 and Leaders

The Literacy Division is continuing their professional development series specially designed for Louisiana's [K-2 teachers](#) and school and system [leaders](#) around the science of reading, implementation support, and being an effective change agent in schools. Join weekly sessions for informational webinars targeting specific topics aimed at building teacher and leader knowledge and capacity of the science of reading and how to support the use of best practices and evidence-based strategies in classrooms. Please note that these webinars do not certify teachers or leaders in the science of reading training. They are designed to support knowledge building and implementation. Complete schedules for both PD series are posted in the [Literacy Library](#). Sessions will also be recorded and posted to the Literacy Library. School leaders, instructional coaches, and teacher leaders should feel free to use these resources to redeliver content during common planning or professional development times.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Final Days of SRCL

The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) grant project ends **June 30**. Funds will not be reallocated. School systems that 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**. All reimbursement claims must be submitted by **July 15**.

Please contact lisa.holliday@la.gov for SRCL assistance and randy.littleton@la.gov for eGMS assistance.

Reminders

- **[Operations Reminders](#)**
 - **[Nutrition Support Reminders](#)**
- **[Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support Reminders](#)**
- **[Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)**
 - **[Academic Content Reminders](#)**
 - **[Literacy Reminders](#)**

Operations Reminders

Nutrition Support Reminders

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 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.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support Reminders

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 with questions or to plan an event.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

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 with questions.

Academic Content Reminders

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 with questions.

Literacy Reminders

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 with questions.