

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



July 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

One of the many lessons my time in public schools has taught me is that no job is as challenging as being an effective educator. Nothing impacts student learning like a highly-qualified teacher armed with a robust curriculum.

If we expect our students to be at their best, it's important we establish support structures to help the adults in our buildings reach their potential. As leaders, we must take ownership of the professional growth of our employees. Building teacher and leader capacity is a cornerstone of any successful school and system. A pair of recent announcements by the Department displays how these capacity-building programs can benefit educators and students across the state.

Just last week we announced the second cohort of our [Louisiana Early Leaders Academy](#). Sixty early childhood educators from 22 parishes chose to invest in their craft by participating in this 11-month program for directors of highly rated, publicly funded early learning centers. One of our critical goals is to ensure students enter school kindergarten ready. To do that, we must invest in our early childhood educators. I'm pleased to support this effort to build additional capacity in early childhood education.

We also selected 15 special education teachers to participate in a new leadership program. The inaugural [SPED Fellow Academy](#) is a yearlong, comprehensive development program for aspiring and novice special education leaders across the state. Not only does this innovative program invest and build capacity in these educational leaders, but it will serve our students and families who need our support the most. One of my main goals is to lead with an equity agenda. This expansion of our fellowship programs is a step in that direction.

No matter what this school year looks like, any reopening scenario is improved by highly-qualified professionals who lead with a growth mindset. As your State Superintendent, I'm committed to working alongside each of you as we develop new ways to move our students, educators and state forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [EdTech Monthly Webinar](#): July 16 at 11 a.m.
- [CHNOLA Town Hall Series for Schools](#): July 21 at 1 p.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): August 4 at 4:15 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [2020-2021 Sponsor Site Information Forms](#) (new schools and changes to existing schools) deadline: July 15
- [FY 2019-2020 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End of Year Report](#) deadline: July 31
- [October Content Leader and Mentor Teacher Training Provider Application](#) deadline: July 31

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 doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020

The Strong Start 2020 Incentive Funding webinar [presentation](#) and recording are now posted in the [Strong Start Library](#).

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

New: EdTech Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly EdTech Webinar for Ed Tech Directors and CTO's on **July 16 at 11 a.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 16 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/575223228>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 575 223 228

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

New: Louisiana School Finder Update - School Spending Data Now Included

The [Louisiana School Finder](#) has been updated to include a new section with data on school spending in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Families can now 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 can also 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.

Prior to this update, the Department was already publishing [spending data](#) to its website. The way in which this information will be presented in School Finder, however, is different. Not only will the data be presented in a more user-friendly package, it will calculate the data according to the requirements under ESSA.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Summer Milestones

The deadlines for [Summer Milestones](#) for CIR/UIR-A schools have been postponed. The Department will provide updates later this summer via the newsletter and networks.

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

Reminder: Town Hall Series for Schools

Please share with school system leaders, administrators, school nurses and teachers.

COVID-19 guidance experts from Children’s Hospital New Orleans (CHNOLA), in partnership with the Department, will host an upcoming virtual town hall series. During this virtual series, guidance experts will:

- provide updates on the current state of COVID-19 pandemic across Louisiana, specifically in regard to children under ages 18;
- speak to frequently asked questions that will be collected in-between town halls through the [Children’s Hospital New Orleans’ website](#) in the [Return to School FAQ Entry Form](#);
- provide education/guidance training on targeted topics relevant to schools; and
- facilitate open Q&A.

Virtual series dates and topics are listed below.

Date and Time	Topics Addressed (additional to general overview & FAQ)
July 7 at 1 p.m.	Janitorial Tips
July 21 at 1 p.m.	Sports
August 4 at 1 p.m.	Teacher & Nurse Guidance Training
August 18 at 1 p.m.	TBD based on feedback gathered in late July

The remaining July virtual town hall series information is included below. August town hall series information will be communicated in the coming weeks.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 21 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95199319090>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 929-205-6099
- **Password:** 7212020

Please contact school-wellness@LCMHealth.org with questions.

Reminder: 2020-2021 School System Planning Calendar

The [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#) is now available and will be updated monthly. It details training sessions, virtual support, tools and resources and communication streams designed to support educators.

Please contact doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Academics

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
Early Childhood: Savvas Learning Company, Opening the World of Learning (OWL), PreK Ages 3–4	

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Opportunity for Free Professional Development for Social Studies Teachers

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators and social studies teachers.

[The OER Project](#) is presenting a free, virtual PD opportunity for K–12 social studies teachers called the [OER Conference for Social Studies](#). This will be a three-day, virtual conference and professional development opportunity taking place August 5–7.

At the OER Conference for Social Studies, attendees will:

- Hear from authors, historians, educators, and expert moderators.
- Watch Track Talks (TED-style, 10-minute videos) created by expert educators from diverse backgrounds, grade levels, and specializations.
- Collaborate with fellow educators in moderated live discussions aligned to the eight conference tracks.

Visit the [conference website](#) to register, review the schedule, track topics and preview videos of talks.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Teacher Leader Advisor Applications Coming Soon

The Department is searching for **highly-motivated educators** to support the mission and vision of the state's academic content team. Educators **do not** need to be a school-site Teacher Leader in order to apply.

Becoming a Teacher Leader Advisor (TLA) not only allows educators to expand their positive impact by influencing over 750,000 students and over 50,000 Louisiana educators, but it also provides an opportunity to deepen and refine their leadership skills, learn about key priorities and projects at the Department and develop their understanding of curricula and teacher training.

There is a specific need for expert educators in the areas of **early literacy, intervention specialist, Early Childhood (Birth to 3 and pre-K) and K–12 science and STEM**. The Department is also in need of **K–12 teachers across ELA and math** content areas. **Special education teachers** who specialize in these areas are also encouraged to apply.

Application links will be available in the [Teacher Leader Advisor Flyer](#) on July 16. Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Strong Start Math Planning Resources

To support school systems, schools and teachers in strategically diagnosing and addressing unfinished learning in math due to school closures and communicating student readiness for on grade-level learning with parents, the Department has released the following resources:

- [Using LEAP 360 Diagnostic Assessments](#): Guidance on administering and interpreting results of the LEAP 360 Diagnostic assessment
- [LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping](#): Unit-by-unit mapping of LEAP 360 Diagnostic items for all of Tier 1 Math Curricula posted under LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping on the [K-12 Math Planning page](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Intensive Algebra I School Guidance

To support school systems in strategic planning for the 2020-2021 school year, the Department has released [Intensive Algebra I Guidance for Schools](#), a research-based course designed to support students who persistently struggle in math with passing Algebra I in their first year of high school.

The document linked above includes information on all of the following:

- Course Overview
- Enrolling Students
- Scheduling Recommendations
- Selecting a Curriculum

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Science Distance Learning Support - OpenSciEd and Inquiry Hub

To support school systems, schools and teachers in ensuring continuous learning in science in the event of school closures, the Department will release guidance for implementing high-quality, open-source science curricula in a remote learning setting. Distance learning plans for OpenSciEd Grade 6–8 and Inquiry Hub (Biology) will be available on the following schedule:

Resource	Release Date
Sample Unit (OpenSciEd Grade 7 Weather)	Available Now
Recorded Webinar: Overview of Distance Learning Units	July 15
Beginning of Year OpenSciEd Lessons for Grades 6, 7, 8 Inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1	August 1
Full OpenSciEd Unit for Grades 6, 7, 8 Inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1	August 15

The guidance documents will contain the following:

- Links to OpenSciEd remote learning resources
- Unit guidance
- Detailed lesson-by-lesson guidance, including activities and slides for virtual classes
- Printable lesson documents to send home with students as needed

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Science Professional Development

Inquiry Hub Biology

Registration for Inquiry Hub [virtual professional learning](#) sessions is now open. Biology educators should [register](#) to attend the trainings.

Date	Course	Location
July 13–17	Inquiry Hub Biology 101	Virtual
August 3–7	Inquiry Hub Biology 101	Virtual

Please contact inquiryhub@colorado.edu with questions.

Great Minds, PhD Science K-5

Registration for Great Minds virtual professional development on PhD Science, a Tier 1 curriculum for grades 3–5 is now open. Elementary school educators should [register](#) to attend the trainings.

Course and Grade Level	Dates
Launch PhD Science K–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 14 and 16• August 4
Launch PhD Science 3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• August 4
Focus on Instructional Techniques 3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 16• August 4

Please contact phdscience@greatminds.org with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

New: BESE Testing Exemption

- Revision to Bulletin 111 policy was approved by BESE that removes the assessment graduation requirement for certain subject assessments for students who meet the following requirements:
 - The student earned the high school assessment-eligible course in the spring of 2020
 - The student has never taken the LEAP 2025 high school assessment for the course

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

- District Technology Coordinators should ensure that DRC COS devices and DRC Insight are correctly installed and working on all devices that will be used for summer testing prior to July 13.
- 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 is now open.
- 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 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.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on August 4 at 4:15 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 4 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

Reminder: Jump Start Career Development Fund 2019-2020 End of Year Report Please share with CTE supervisors/coordinators and school system leaders.

School systems, charter schools and special schools should complete the [FY 2019-2020 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End of Year Report](#) and submit it to jumpstart@la.gov by **July 31**. School systems can reference the total [FY2019-2020 Final Career Development Allocation](#) in order to complete the report.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities Please share with CTE supervisors/coordinators, school system leaders and counselors.

The dynamic [2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities](#) guide has been updated to include additional Quest for Success, Emergency Medical Responder Initial, CPR Instructor and NCCER training opportunities. This training opportunities document will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed.

Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

New: October Content Leader and Mentor Teacher Training Provider Application Deadline

Applications to provide Mentor and/or Content Leader training should be submitted by **July 31**. Every applicant must submit all required application components in the [WizeHive application portal](#).

BESE will first consider applications for Science Content Leader and Intervention Content Leader programs in April 2021. This is to ensure updates to the training design are finalized.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

New: Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series Now Available

In December 2019, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series (LLAS) as an alternative to the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) for those seeking the Educational Leadership Certificate (EDL1). This exam is now available on the Bloomboard Platform and access to more information can be found in the [LLAS User Guide](#).

Educators aspiring to become assistant principals or principals choose between the SLLA Praxis and the LLAS to fulfill the exam component of all leadership pathways leading to the EDL1 Certificate.

The assessments for the LLAS are portfolio-based and are aligned to the competencies the state requires through Bulletin 125 for the role of a building level leader.

Additional information is available on [BloomBoard's website](#).

Special Education

Reminder: July Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar Canceled

The Special Education Leader Webinar scheduled for July 9 has been canceled. The monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors and coordinators of special education will resume on **August 13 at 2 p.m.** Webinar and call-in information will be provided two weeks in advance.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Finance

Reminder: 2020-2021 MFP Formula

Please share with business managers.

The MFP formula adopted by BESE in March 2020 was not considered or adopted by the Legislature in the Regular Session. In a year in which no new formula is adopted, the MFP formula reverts to the prior year. In this case, the FY 2020-21 formula will be identical to the calculation used in FY 2019–20. A [preliminary FY 2020-21 detailed formula calculation](#) has been provided for reference. The version may be utilized for projection purposes in development of school system budgets. The Department released the actual new FY 2020-21 MFP formula allocation documents. These documents are located in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact LDOEMFPhelpdeck@la.gov with questions.

Policy

New: 2020 Legislative Update

The Louisiana Legislature adjourned the 2020 Regular Legislative Session on June 1. Please review the overview of the [2020 Regular Legislative Session](#).

Please contact leslie.hill@la.gov with questions.

Federal Grants

Reminder: Education Excellence Funds Application

The system is currently open and school systems may begin submitting the 6/30 PERs. If the school system or agency received a payment from the 2019-2020 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) this year, please be advised of the following important date:

- July 15: Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their final 6/30 PERs

Please note: final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the following year, so EEF recipients that do not submit a final PER by July 15 may experience delays in accessing EEF funds for 2020-2021.

When completing the PER, notice on the first tab (labeled Expenditure Obligation Summary) there is a box at the bottom with a checkbox for Final Expenditure. Check that. Otherwise, the PER will not be reported as final and it will have to be corrected and resubmitted.

For assistance in preparing the final 6/30 PER for EEF, see the Training section on the eGMS login page. Access the available resource, [Tips & Reminders: Preparing the Periodic Expense Report \(PER\)](#).

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

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: USDA Child Nutrition Program Waivers for SY 20-21

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of multiple COVID-19 emergency feeding waivers for the 2020-2021 School Year. The waivers are listed below:

- [Nationwide Meal Times Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility in Senior High Schools](#)

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

New: At-Risk Afterschool Program SY 19-20 Deadline

The USDA extension waiver for the At-Risk Afterschool Program ended on June 30. Any At-Risk meals and snacks served from July 1 until operations resume again for the 2020-2021 school year will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.