



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 13, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you had a restful Fourth of July holiday. Just as it matters that we are all in for children during our work time, it's equally important that you take advantage of opportunities to rest and recharge. It's good for you, for your family and friends and for your school family.

I know the majority of our systems are working through their operational plans for the upcoming school year. Along with our [school operational guidelines](#), we are also continuously updating our [dynamic FAQ document](#). Please continue to utilize these resources, join our [Career and College Readiness office hours](#), leverage our team and your local medical experts as you craft a plan that works best in your local community context.

Last week, [The Advocate ran a guest column I wrote, looking back at your heroic efforts over the past year and ahead at what's possible as we continue to work together](#). I hope you are able to take a few minutes to read it online. Everyone in the state should know what we (all of us) accomplished for children this past year and what plans we have for the road ahead. As I closed with in the column, *"We should do these things because they must be done. We can do these things because they must be done. We will do these things because they must be done."*

I believe in us.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	July 16 at 10:30 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	July 20 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	July 20 at 3:45 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	July 22 at 1 p.m.
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	August 4 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	August 6 at 11 a.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	August 12 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	July 15 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	July 15 at 3 p.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.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	August 3 at 1 p.m.
Literacy Monthly Call	August 5 at 10 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
K-2 Teacher PD Session 8 - The Importance of Knowledge Building	July 14 at 2 p.m.
Leader PD Session 5 - Setting Quality Literacy Visions, Goals, and Plans	July 15 at 9 a.m.
Teacher and Principal of the Year Virtual Awards Gala	July 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Leader PD Session 6 - Reviewing Student Literacy Data and Tracking Progress	July 19 at 9 a.m.
K-2 Teacher PD Session 9 - Vocabulary	July 20 at 2 p.m.
K-2 Teacher PD Session 10 - Setting Your Classroom Up for Success with the Science of Reading	July 21 at 2 p.m.
Leader PD Session 7 - Implementing Explicit Literacy Interventions and Extensions Based on Student Needs	July 22 at 9 a.m.

Operations

Communications

New P-EBT Resources Available for Parents and Data Managers

Toolbox for Data Managers

The new [P-EBT Data Managers Toolbox](#) has been established to provide a single secure location where data managers can access files, slide decks, recordings, and additional information about the P-EBT Program. Data Managers who completed the security form have automatically been given access to this toolbox. If additional staff within the LEA needs access to this toolbox, the main P-EBT contact should email EdTech@la.gov to request the additional staff to be added.

New Parent Portal

Today, July 13, DCFS launched a new [P-EBT Online Parent Portal](#) that allows parents to view their child's P-EBT case. Information submitted by schools (name, date of birth, local student ID, school name, zip code, benefit amounts, and learning mode) are included within the portal once benefits are processed. A [video and instructions](#) on how to register, access, and navigate the portal are available on DCFS's P-EBT webpage.

New Benefits Issuance Dates

Starting tomorrow, July 14, the second set of P-EBT benefits will be loaded onto cards for eligible students. This set of benefits will cover November 2020 to January 2021. The third set of benefits will be loaded onto cards beginning August 4 and covers February 2021 to May 2021. Sample messages for families follow:

- *Missing issuances: If you don't receive benefits on July 14 and/or August 4, it is possible that your child was not reported as eligible. Please direct any eligibility questions to your school. Please note that benefit amounts are dependent on your child's learning situation on a month-by-month basis and can change if their learning situation changes.*
- *Combined issuances: If you receive your child's P-EBT card after the above dates, it is possible that there will be multiple sets of benefit months already loaded onto the card.*
- *Learning mode changes: If you believe that there is an error in your child's learning mode for a particular month, please contact your child's school or school district to request a review. While there will be a delay, supplemental benefits will be issued if a correction is made.*
- *Address changes: If you need to request an address change, please contact your child's school or school system. While there will be a delay, benefits will be issued once the correction is made.*

DCFS is continuing to distribute P-EBT benefits to eligible children for the 2020-2021 school year as new and updated information is provided by schools and districts.

Please visit <http://pebt-la.org> for more information.

Teacher and Principal of the Year Virtual Awards Gala

This Friday, July 16, the Department, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), will celebrate and honor the 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year state-level honorees at the *15th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala*, which will be held virtually. On this evening, Louisiana's next State Teacher and Principal of the Year will be named along with the division-level winners. Please visit the [Dream Teachers Facebook page](#) to watch this year's awards gala.

- **Date and Time:** July 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/DreamTeachers>

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Career and College Readiness Office Hours

Please share with School Superintendents, High School Administrators, and School Counselors.

The Office of Career and College Readiness will hold office hours on the first and third Thursday of each month during the 2021-2022 academic year. This will start with the third Thursday of July with a call on July 15. The Zoom login information has been updated to the following:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 15 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99278385724>
- **Webinar Phone number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 992 7838 5724

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

Fall 2021 Counselor Institutes

Please share with Middle and High School Counselors.

The Fall 2021 Counselor institutes will take place the week of October 18, 2021. The institutes will provide updates on topics relevant to middle and high school counselors.

School counselors from around the state will have a choice of various locations and times from 8 until 11 a.m. or 1 until 4 p.m., October 19-21. Registration, locations and additional information will be shared in early August.

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

Teaching and Learning

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Congratulations to all of the hardworking district test coordinators who worked endlessly to conduct more test administrations in a single year than in any other year in Louisiana. Their commitment and devotion to students is amazing and we are honored to support their work.

ACT and WorkKeys

- The Department provided invoices for 2020-2021 ACT/WorkKeys assessment reimbursement to school systems.
- For systems that must submit reimbursement, two student billing rosters (ACT and WorkKeys) have been posted to the sftp.
- If there have been any changes to contacts since December, please contact patricia.newman@la.gov as soon as possible with the name and email address of the new contact.

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

ELPS

- The 2020-2021 ELPS window will close Friday, July 16, 2021. The 2021-2022 ELPS window will open on Monday, August 3, 2021.

LEAP 2025

- July 20: Last day to submit requests for high school summer rescoring

LEAP 360

- Available Now: Test Setup for diagnostic and interim assessments
- Remote administration will be available for LEAP 360 diagnostic and interim assessments in 2021-2022.

NAEP 2021

- The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) wants to thank the Superintendents, the District Test Coordinators, the School Test Coordinators, and all of the educators who worked with the NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey and the NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaire Special Study. Results from these special studies will be used to inform future NAEP assessments. Our teams rely on the guidance of school coordinators to collect accurate

information, plan assessment sessions, and engage students. Thank you for all your hard work and for making the 2021 administration a success.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

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!

Educator Development

LDOE Launches Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You'll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Make sure you subscribe to the [podcast](#), promote to colleagues, and listen to the [preview episode](#) currently available. The podcast will launch its first episode on July 27 with an interview with Dr. Brumley. Submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

Contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Waiver Application

At the March BESE meeting the Board approved an extension of the waiver of policy, contained in Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, and Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*, regarding the requirement that all undergraduate residents and post-baccalaureate candidates be placed with mentor teachers holding the ancillary mentor teacher certificate, the ancillary provisional mentor teacher certificate, or the Supervisor of Student Teaching certificate, for the 2021-2022 school year.

Waiver applications will be accepted for the 2021-2022 school year beginning **July 12, 2021**. The LDOE will host office hours to model the application process and answer any questions about completing the 2021-2022 Mentor Waiver Application on **July 14, 2021**. District personnel will be responsible for submitting the application.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Jul 14 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98477863205?pwd=cnB6WVVR0ViTXdFeHhKaEhJRlVp2dz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-470-250-9358
- **Webinar Meeting ID:** 984 7786 3205
- **Webinar Passcode:** 082066

Literacy

Professional Development Redelivery Guidance

In an effort to support the ongoing professional growth of teachers and leaders, guidance on redelivering sessions from the [K-2 Teacher PD Series](#) and [Leader PD Series](#) will be posted in the [Literacy Library](#), along with recordings and slide decks. Please allow 5-7 days after the live webinar for resources to be available.

New Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours

The Literacy Professional Development team will host weekly office hours aimed at supporting effective implementation of strategies and practices based in the science of reading. Ready-to-use examples will be provided, and there will be time to submit questions. Office hours will be weekly beginning Friday, July 16 at 10:30 a.m.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96153652200>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 961 5365 2200
- **Passcode:** literacy

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations Reminders**
 - **Communications Reminders**
 - **Nutrition Support Reminders**
- **Career and College Readiness Reminders**
- **School System Financial Services Reminders**
- **Teaching and Learning Reminders**
 - **Academic Content Reminders**
 - **Literacy Reminders**

Operations Reminders

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.

Communications Reminders

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 joni.smith@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.mosley@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 joni.smith@la.gov with questions.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders

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 Reminders

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 Reminders

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 Reminders

Academic Content Reminders

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.

Literacy Reminders

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.