

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



July 14, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Today, BESE approved [minimum requirements for reopening and operating school facilities during the pandemic](#). The Louisiana Department of Education developed these requirements in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Health using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control. I'm grateful to BESE for their thoughtful, steady leadership during this uncertain time. This sets minimum health and safety standards for every school in the state, while also allowing for local decision making by system leaders.

These requirements are similar to the guidelines we released June 25 in [Strong Start 2020: School Reopening Guidelines and Resources](#). They cover group size and composition, symptom monitoring, face coverings, sanitation, PPE, transportation, student programming and essential visitors. There is also a requirement for local school boards to adopt policies in accordance with these standards prior to the beginning of 2020-2021.

I know you have many questions around today's decision. I'm hosting a webinar Thursday to go over these requirements in detail and give you the opportunity to ask questions. You will find information about that school reopening webinar in today's newsletter.

Thank you for continuing to do the difficult work of planning for next school year during these uncertain times. It's made even more challenging by the fact that none of us have been through a situation like this before. No matter what the first day of school looks like, we must be ready to engage students in learning. Stay the course and continue to make the best decisions for your educators and children. Together, we will rise to this moment and craft solutions that ultimately lead to student success.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Toolkit for Teaching and Learning for Schools Overview Webinar](#): July 16 at 11 a.m.
- [EdTech Monthly Webinar](#): July 16 at 11 a.m.
- [2020-2021 School Reopening Update Webinar](#): July 16 at 1 p.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
- [Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey](#) deadline: July 28
- [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: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Availability for School Reopening

As school systems plan for operations during the 2020-2021 school year, the Department is working in concert with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (GOHSEP) to address immediate personal protective equipment (PPE) needs.

GOHSEP will provide:

- at least one cloth (reusable/washable) mask for each student and faculty member;
- at least 2,000 disposal masks (for visitors and/or students/faculty that may forget their mask); and
- at least 3 thermometers per each school.

These provision standards are recommended as some individuals/parents will provide their own masks and others may not. However, this should address the PPE needs for public school systems for school reopening.

School systems should make PPE requests directly to the Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) directors in respective school systems by following the steps outlined below:

1. School systems should compile data that depicts number of students, number of faculty members and number of schools.
2. Each school system will make requests to the respective parish OHSEP based on data specified in number one (above bullet).
3. Requests for this should go to the [local parish OHSEP contact](#).
4. Delivery will be made to the school systems' warehouse for school distribution as systems already have a mechanism to disseminate supplies.

If there are additional PPE needs, please contact OHSEP directors to discuss the circumstances to ensure everyone can work together to address additional needs as circumstances require.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey

The summer [Strong Start 2020 Implementation Survey](#) is now available for school systems and lead agencies to complete. School system leadership or early childhood lead agencies should work with their team to develop and review a set of answers to the survey questions in the [fillable PDF version](#) of the survey. Only one response per school system or lead agency can be submitted. A designated point of contact should submit the survey via [Jot Form](#). School systems and lead agencies must complete the survey by **July 28**.

Please contact Network Coaches or em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

New: Implementing Strong Start 2020: A Toolkit for Teaching and Learning for Schools

Since implementation of most of the [Strong Start priorities](#) happens at the school level, the [Implementing Strong Start 2020: A Toolkit for Teaching and Learning for Schools](#) is now available and will support school leaders and teachers. It is structured around teaching and learning priorities and includes:

- **School Actions:** The high-level actions that principals and teachers take to implement the priority
- **Resources:** One document that includes samples, models and plans for implementing each priority

A webinar will be held **this Thursday, July 16** to provide an overview of the Toolkit for school leaders. Details are included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 16 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93233435503>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 9233 343 5503
- **Password:** 382267

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

New: 2020-2021 School Reopening Update

School system leaders are invited to join a webinar **this Thursday, July 16** to learn more about updates related to school reopening for 2020-2021. All school systems should have a representative join the call. Webinar details are included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 16 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95574167821>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 9557 416 7821
- **Password:** 7A%?XN

Please contact LDOECOV19support@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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 the 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.

Reminder: 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.

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
Brown University, The Choices Program, Supplemental Materials, Grades 9–12

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

Instructional Materials Guidance
LDOE, ELA Guidebooks, Grades 3–12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● New: Materials Access and Adapting Materials Information Available

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Louisiana Curriculum Hub: ELA Guidebook Unit Access

The [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#), Louisiana's open-source, digital platform, is live.

- Grades 9–12, ELA Guidebooks (2020), units are available in digital format via the online platform.
- Grades 3–8, ELA Guidebooks (2018), units are available in downloadable format via the bulk downloader tool.

The bulk downloader tool allows users to download full, customizable units of content from the ELA Guidebooks, grades 3–8, to a personal Google Drive. By clicking “Authorize,” users give permission to the bulk downloader to download a new copy of ELA Guidebooks unit material into a folder in a personal Google Drive.

Once downloaded, the units are organized into folders and all the files are editable, rather than view only. This allows users to make any needed changes to the ELA Guidebook materials without having to download each individual lesson and document. This also allows users to upload the unit content into Google Classroom more easily to better support distance learning, as users will have an organized unit on a personal Drive from which they can create assignments and quizzes in Google Classroom.

Directions for using the bulk downloader tool are [available](#). Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

New: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum

Through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, all public and private schools and students will be provided free access to Edgenuity's online Purpose Prep content library which includes:

- Character & Leadership Development
- College & Career Readiness
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Personal Development
- Social & Emotional Success
- Unlock Your Purpose

School systems and schools can sign-up to participate in this program by completing an addendum with the State and working directly with Edgenuity's sales representative [Roe Wilkinson](#) to implement and manage their student's access to the content library. The agreement and addendum can be found on the Department's [Data Sharing Agreement](#) webpage.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: EdTech Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly EdTech Webinar for Ed Tech Directors and CTO's **this Thursday, 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.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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](#) **this Thursday, July 16**.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

New: LEAP 2025 High School Summer Testing

- District Technology and Test Coordinators should ensure the content for the summer administration is downloaded to the COS prior to testing. Directions on updating testing content can be found in the [Tech User Guide](#).
- The high school summer testing window is now open for LEAP 2025 retesting through July 24.
- Accountability codes are not needed for students who are retesting.

New: ACT Webinar for October Testing

- The Assessment and Accountability Office Hours scheduled for July 21 will include an ACT webinar designed to answer questions about the ACT test administration added in October for 2019-2020 juniors who were not able to test in March or June.
- The Office Hours on July 21 will begin at 3:45 p.m. to better accommodate school system DTCs and accountability contacts.

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.

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.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on August 4 at 4:15 p.m. A password will be required beginning with July 14 Office Hours. 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
- **Password:** 2020202!

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: 2020-2021 Course Choice/SCA Catalog

Please share with professional school counselors and high school coordinators.

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

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

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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](#).

Policy

New: Frontline Workers

[Act 12 of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session](#) provides for a one-time rebate for eligible workers earning \$50,000 per year or less, who spent at least 200 hours working during the COVID-19 crisis from March 22, 2020 through May 14, 2020.

The Louisiana Department of Revenue will accept applications from July 15 through October 31 from workers employed in essential critical infrastructure jobs on or after March 11, 2020, including:

- Government, private and non-governmental organizations' workers essential for food assistance programs, including school lunch programs
- Bus drivers and workers who provide or support intercity, commuter and charter bus service in support of other essential services or functions, including school bus drivers
- Workers providing dependent care services, including childcare, eldercare, and other service providers necessary to maintain a comprehensive, supportive environment for individuals and caregivers needing these services

The Louisiana Department of Revenue will accept applications online or on a downloadable printed form. Due to limited funding for the rebate program, eligible workers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible using the online application portal at [FrontlineWorkers.la.gov](https://www.louisiana.gov/essentialworkers) beginning **tomorrow, July 15**.

For more information, read [Revenue Information Bulletin 20-020](#).

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

Reminder: 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.

Safe and Healthy Schools

Reminder: Virtual 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.

Scheduled topics for the July 21 town hall meeting include janitorial best practices, environmental hygiene and open Q&A. Details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 21 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95199319090>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 929-205-6099
- **Webinar ID#:** 951 9931 9090
- **Webinar Password:** 7212020

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

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.