



# LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**July 27, 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you some positive news the Department received earlier this week regarding LEAP 2025 participation rates. According to the LDOE data team, our assessment participation rates will be among the strongest in the nation. We credit educators across the state for supporting students and families, allowing us the ability to capture accurate data.

This achievement is a direct result of your resilience and unwavering commitment to moving the needle in the right direction for our students of today as well as tomorrow. As I have said for the last year, this invaluable data will serve as a guide for our policy and resource allocation decisions as we recover and accelerate from this unprecedented interruption to student learning.

With the new school year approaching, I am more confident than ever that we can tackle any issue that comes our way. It is a true honor to work alongside each of you.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

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	<a href="#">July 29 at 1 p.m.</a>
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	<a href="#">July 30 at 10:30 a.m.</a>
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	<a href="#">August 3 at 3 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">August 3 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	<a href="#">August 4 at 11 a.m.</a>
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	<a href="#">August 6 at 11 a.m.</a>
Education Technology Office Hours	<a href="#">August 12 at 9 a.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 3 at 1 p.m.</a>
Literacy Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 5 at 10 a.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>
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 12 at 1 p.m.</a>
SPED Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 12 at 2 p.m.</a>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 16 at 10 a.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 17 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 18 at 2 p.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 18 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 19 at 10 a.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>
AE Leadership Community of Practice	<a href="#">August 25 at 10 a.m.</a>
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 25 at 1 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 26 at 9 a.m.</a>
*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.	

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
K-2 Teacher PD Session 12 - Diagnostic Assessment	<a href="#">July 28 at 2 p.m.</a>
Bulletin 1903 Implementation Support Webinar	<a href="#">August 4 at 8:30 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">EOP Virtual Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">August 9 at 10 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Fast Forward Implementation Webinar</a>	<a href="#">August 13 at 10 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">EOP Virtual Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">September 13 at 10 a.m.</a>
Important Deadlines	
<a href="#">School System Response Form</a>	August 2
<a href="#">2020-2021 CDF End of Year Expenditure Report</a>	August 31

## Operations

### **Grants to States for School Emergency Management Program**

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Grants to States for the School Emergency Management (GSEM) program funds to the Louisiana Department of Education in partnership with LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education (LSU NCBRT/ACE). The program goal is to provide training and technical assistance to LEAs for the development and implementation of high-quality school Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).

#### **EOP Virtual Office Hours:**

Open virtual office hours provide a forum for school crisis teams to engage with a panel of subject matter experts from LSU NCBRT/ACE to troubleshoot issues related to building, maintaining, and implementing their school emergency operations plans (EOPs).

[EOP Virtual Office Hours](#) **August 9 from 10-11 a.m.**

[EOP Virtual Office Hours](#) **September from 10-11 a.m.**

#### **Developing and Enhancing School EOPs Virtual Training**

This 4-hour virtual training walks participants through FEMA's best practices for school emergency planning. Key concepts include the 6-step collaborative planning process, the whole community approach to emergency management, and the format and structure of a comprehensive all-hazard emergency operations plan (EOP).

During training, participants will have the opportunity to evaluate their current emergency preparedness practices against the collaborative planning process. Additionally, participants will receive a comprehensive EOP template designed for Louisiana schools.

[Register](#) for **August 2, 2021 8 a.m.-12 p.m.**

[Register](#) for **August 10, 2021 8 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Please contact [rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu](mailto:rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu) with questions.

## Career and College Readiness

### **Career Development Fund End of Year Reporting**

**Please share with CTE Supervisors.**

The [2020-2021 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End of Year Expenditure Report](#) is available for school systems to complete. The deadline to report on 2020-2021 CDF expenditures is August 31. Schools systems should reference the [2020-2021 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#) when completing the form.

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

### **Fast Forward Implementation Webinar**

**Please share with school system supervisors, principals and counselors.**

[Fast Forward](#) is a program which will allow students to earn either a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma or a TOPS University Diploma while dually earning an associate degree or participating in a Louisiana Workforce Commission recognized [pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship](#) that either prepares graduates for career or continuing postsecondary education. There will be an implementation webinar for schools or school systems interested in adopting currently approved pathway frameworks or designing new pathways for annual approval.

- **Webinar Date and Time: August 13 at 10 a.m.**
- **Webinar Link: <https://doe.zoom.us/j/93937492645>**
- **Webinar Phone Number: 470-381-2552**
- **Meeting ID: 939 3749 2645**

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

## School System Financial Services

### **FY2021-2022 Initial MFP - Career Development Fund (CDF) Payments**

**Please forward to business managers.**

Initial MFP - CDF payments for FY 2021-2022 were released by the Department on July 26, 2021. Funds should appear in School Systems' bank account within one to three business days depending on the banking institution with which a School System conducts business. Additional details regarding these payments are available in the [CDF Memo](#) and in the [MFP Library](#).

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

## **FY 2020-2021 Fiscal Risk Assessment** **Please share with business managers.**

The FY2020-2021 Fiscal Risk Assessment has been prepared for each school system to include the latest available data. Information about the Fiscal Risk Assessment is provided in the [FY2020-2021 Fiscal Risk Assessment Memo](#).

Preliminary Fiscal Risk Assessment data is now available on each school system's "edfin" FTP site. Please review and submit comments on the [School System Response Form](#) no later than Monday, August 2. Responses received by this date will be used to update each school system's data (if necessary) prior to release of the report in the August BESE agenda. Please submit responses or questions to [SchoolFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov](mailto:SchoolFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov).

## **70 Percent Instructional Expenditure Requirement** **Please share with business managers.**

Per the MFP Resolution, school systems must ensure that 70 percent of the local school system general fund expenditures are in the areas of instruction and school administration at the school building level. Compliance with this expenditure requirement is calculated annually and results are now available. Please refer to [70 Percent Instructional Requirement Process and Results](#) for more information.

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

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 1 Released**

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. Educators are leaders - leaders of families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. Hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower growth in the profession. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to episode 1.

**Episode 1 Summary:** Em Cooper interviews Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana's state superintendent of education, who was selected to Louisiana's top educational post during the height of the pandemic. His steady leadership guided schools through a global health crisis and one of the most active hurricane seasons on record. He shares what it was like leading the state during this challenging year, what Louisiana believes about education, and leadership lessons he has learned from his various roles in education. Em Cooper also shares how St. Landry Parish Schools have implemented successful summer learning programs.

**Share Your Stories:** Educators can submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in their school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

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

## Reminders

- **Operations Reminders**
  - **Communications Reminders**
  - **Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders**
  - **Nutrition Support Reminders**
- **Career and College Readiness Reminders**
- **Teaching and Learning Reminders**
  - **Educator Development Reminders**
  - **Literacy Reminders**

### **Operations Reminders**

#### **Strong Start Spring Survey**

The [Strong Start Spring survey for school systems](#) is open. Each school system should have identified one team member to complete the survey by **July 26**.

The Department will develop a report of the data collected from the survey and utilize the information to determine the effectiveness of support 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 to best understand how to serve and support education leaders for the upcoming year.

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

#### **Balanced Calendar Notification**

If your school system (LEA) has adopted a balanced calendar with built-in periods of intersession for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, please notify Assistant Superintendent Trey Folse via [email](#) by **Friday, July 30**.

Note: "balanced calendar" is a school year with the following characteristics:

- deviates from the traditional nine-month school calendar
- redistributes the minimum instructional days over eleven months
- includes intersession periods that may be used to support student learning and well-being.

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

## *Communications Reminders*

### **Department Names 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Winners**

On Friday, July 16, the Department — in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) — celebrated the 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year state-level honorees at the *15th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala*, which was held virtually this year. On this evening, the Teacher and Principal of the Year division-level and statewide winners were also named.

View the [2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

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

### **Strong School Systems Strategic Planning Initiative**

The Department is launching the second cohort of pilot participants for the Strong School Systems Initiative. The 3-year pilot will strengthen school system leaders' and school board members' capacity in strategic planning, implementation, and progress monitoring through cohort-based professional development, technical assistance, participation in a network of peer leaders, and the provision of tools and resources.

Participants will collaborate on the creation (or refinement) of the following deliverables outlined in a three- to five-year strategic improvement plan: 1) leadership norms, 2) stakeholder engagement plan, 3) diagnostic reporting strengths and gaps, 4) vision statement, 5) outcome goals, 6) strategic priorities and initiatives, 7) aligned budget, 8) monitoring dashboard, and 9) communication and implementation plan.

Please complete this [Notice of Interest survey](#) by COB on **Tuesday, July 27, 2021** if your system is interested in participating.

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

## *Federal Support and Grantee Relations Reminders*

### **Louisiana's Elementary and Secondary Education Act Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request**

Due to the continued extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented challenges students, educators, staff and schools are facing during the 2020-2021 school year, the U. S. Department of Education has offered each State an opportunity to request waivers that will afford additional fiscal flexibilities for certain funds received under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).

LDOE is requesting the waiver, pursuant section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). View the waiver request linked here: [ESEA LA Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request](#).

Federal program directors, business managers, financial officials and relevant personnel of public school systems should review this waiver request and submit any questions, comments, or feedback by Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

Please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions and comments submissions.

## ***Nutrition Support Reminders***

### **Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Applications**

In anticipation of federal approval of Louisiana's Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is asking for parents who qualify for free or reduced price lunches (but do not currently receive them) to apply for those benefits with their schools or school systems by **Friday, July 30**.

Students who are already receiving free or reduced-priced lunches do not need to apply for P-EBT. This includes any student in a school that provides free meals to all students under a special rule called Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The P-EBT program only applies to students who receive free or reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program or because they attend a CEP school.

Please ensure that eligible families are aware that they must take the following steps by July 30 in preparation for Summer P-EBT:

1. Contact the school or school system for the application.
2. Submit completed applications back to the school or school system.

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

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

### **NCCER Paper Test Final Submission Deadline**

**Please share with CTE Supervisors, Principals, Counselors, Secondary Supervisors, Testing Coordinators, and NCCER Instructors.**

As NCCER completes its move to online testing, all paper tests must be submitted and approved by the LDOE Sponsor Representative by **July 23**. NCCER recommends that instructors submit what has been completed now. In the Registry System, instructors can:

- **Create the submission form now and save as you go.** To find the saved form, look under "My Submissions" and then "Registration of Training Modules."
- **Use the auto-fill date feature.** This feature lets you add dates for all modules at one time. The "Auto-Fill Dates" button is located at the top right of the form.
- **Review your submissions.** Check both the "In Progress" and "Training Sponsor Returned to Instructor" options to ensure all of your submissions are completed and approved.

For more information, please contact [troy.borne@la.gov](mailto:troy.borne@la.gov).

### **Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Perkins**

**Please share with CTE Supervisors, Perkins Coordinators.**

The Louisiana Career and Technical College System has extended the Department's Grant Award Notification for fiscal year 2020-2021 until July 31, 2021. As such, school systems can continue to draw down funds until July 31. Claims submitted after July 31 will not be accepted.

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) for Perkins-specific questions; email [LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov) for eGMS-related questions.

### **Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Perkins - Carry Over Funds**

**Please share with CTE Supervisors, Perkins Coordinators.**

The Louisiana Career and Technical College System has extended the Department's Grant Award Notification until September 30 for 2019-2020 carry over funds. If school systems **did not expend all allocated funds on or before June 30**, the remaining balance of the 2019-2020 carry over funds will roll forward into the 2021-2022 Super App.

- The Final PER must be submitted in a timely manner in order to prevent a delay in the rollover funding being available in the 2021-2022 Super App.
- In order for a school system to be in a posture to draw down the additional prior year funding before the September 30 expiration date, an amendment of the 2021-2022 Super App will be required.
- The 2021-2022 Amendment must be submitted in enough time to allow for the approval of the Amendment and the submission of any reimbursement claims on or before the deadline for these funds.

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) for Perkins-specific questions; email [LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov) for eGMS-related questions.

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

### **Emergency Connectivity Fund and Emergency Broadband Benefit Program**

#### **Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Window Open; Deadline to Apply August 13, 2021**

The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is a \$7.17 billion program administered by the Federal Communication Commission to help schools and libraries provide the devices and broadband services for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. The ECF Program will cover up to \$400 for laptop and tablet computers; up to \$250 for Wi-Fi hotspots; modems; routers; as well as broadband connectivity for off-campus use by students and school staff who lack or can demonstrate a need for providing broadband and devices to support remote learning and instruction. The application process utilizes USAC's E-Rate EPC filing portal and forms. The deadline for applying is August 13, 2021. For more information and updates, schools can attend the Monthly Education Technology webinars and office hour calls.

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

## Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EBB program provides a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. Families can apply directly via a participating broadband provider or at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org). Schools can utilize the flyers and resources within the FCC's Consumer Outreach Toolkit to publicize this program to students and families. Through outreach from schools as well as state and local agencies and leaders, over 107,960 families in Louisiana have taken advantage of the EBB program.

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

## *Educator Development Reminders*

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

The [Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Guidance](#) document has been updated to include dates for the summer and fall webinars, Q&A sessions, and job alike sessions. Due to feedback on the timing of the dates, we have pushed back all of these sessions to be held after the school year starts. The rescheduled dates are below. Participants must register using the links provided.

Session Name and Registration Link	Summer Sessions	Fall Sessions
<a href="#">District Academic Leadership</a>	Tuesday, 8/31 11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Tuesday, 10/19 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
<a href="#">Diverse Learners Leadership</a>	Tuesday, 8/31 1-2 p.m.	Tuesday, 10/19 1-2 p.m.
<a href="#">Counselors and Counseling Leadership</a>	Wednesday, 9/1 11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Wednesday, 10/20 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
<a href="#">School Leadership</a>	Wednesday, 9/1 1-2 p.m.	Wednesday, 10/20 1-2 p.m.
<a href="#">Q&amp;A Session</a>	Wednesday, 9/15 1-2 p.m.	Wednesday, 11/3 1-2 p.m.
<a href="#">Q&amp;A Session</a>	Wednesday, 9/29 1-2 p.m.	Wednesday, 11/10 1-2 p.m.

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

## **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](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Literacy Reminders***

### **K-2 Literacy Content Leader Training**

Teachers and leaders are encouraged to explore a new opportunity to earn distinction as K-2 Literacy Content Leader. The purpose of [K-2 Literacy Content Leader training](#) is to promote deep understanding of the components of effective literacy instruction and the foundations of reading and implementation through high-quality curriculum, provide opportunities for students to learn through intentional interactions, and apply best practices of adult learning and content expertise to redeliver training. K-2 ELA teachers who are instructional leaders in their buildings and are ready to assume greater responsibility by increasing the effectiveness of early literacy instruction for K-2 teachers. CIR-designated schools are required to have at least one K-2 Literacy Content Leader trained. School systems should access the [Mentor and Content Leader Approved Providers List](#) to schedule training. More information can be found in the [Content Leader Library](#).

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

### **Bulletin 1903 Implementation Webinar**

Bulletin 1903, *Louisiana Handbook for Students with Dyslexia*, was recently revised by a statewide workgroup of diverse stakeholders to streamline the policy in an effort to ensure that the guidance within the policy was focused, accessible, and usable for schools to implement. In response to the revised policy, the Department is offering an informational webinar to support schools and systems with implementation of the updated guidelines. After the live webinar, the presentation, along with the updated [Guide to Dyslexia in Louisiana](#), will be posted in the [Academics Library](#) under Additional Disability Related Resources - Dyslexia.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 4 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96725306072>
- **Webinar Phone number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 967 2530 6072

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