



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

August 3, 2021

Colleagues,

I would like to bring to your attention the release of LEAP 2025 data on Wednesday, August 4.

Our participation rates were incredibly high on state testing, especially compared to the rest of the country. Having this data will be really helpful as we move forward at the state, system, school, and classroom level. We have to be smart to recover and accelerate learning for our kids.

Now, with the smell of freshly sharpened pencils in the air, we face another school year during a pandemic. This will be the third consecutive COVID-impacted year for us. We must not let these impediments dissuade our passion and fierce determination. We must do whatever it takes to support every student having the opportunity for daily, face-to-face instruction. Always remember - we are prepared for this. We persevered before and will do so again – stronger than ever.

If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff. Once you're armed with student data, please use a laser-focused approach to support our students. This year will be especially important for them.

Thank you all for your hard work.

Dr. Cade Brumley

State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	August 4 at 11 a.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	August 5 at 1 p.m.
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	August 6 at 11 a.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	August 6 at 3:30 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	August 10 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	August 10 at 3:45 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	August 12 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	August 12 at 1 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	August 12 at 2 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	August 16 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	August 17 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	August 18 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	August 18 at 3:30 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	August 19 at 10 a.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.
Education Technology Monthly Call	August 26 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	September 7 at 1 p.m.
*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library . View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Bulletin 1903 Implementation Support Webinar	August 4 at 8:30 a.m.
EOP Virtual Office Hours	August 9 at 10 a.m.
Fast Forward Implementation Webinar	August 13 at 10 a.m.
EOP Virtual Office Hours	September 13 at 10 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
2020-2021 Evaluation Uploads	August 27
Summer Learning Program Survey	August 27
2020-2021 CDF End of Year Expenditure Report	August 31
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

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 (LDOE) 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:

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[EOP Virtual Office Hours](#) **August 9, 2021 10-11 a.m.**

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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.**

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Communications

Judges in the Classroom Program

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has partnered with the Louisiana Supreme Court to expand the acclaimed “Judges in the Classroom” program in schools across the state. The program connects judges with educators to facilitate greater understanding about the judicial system through interactive classroom presentations with real judges. Louisiana Chief Justice John Weimer has prioritized education outreach and encouraged judges to connect with schools on this enhanced civics and law-related learning opportunity. With Constitution Day approaching on September 17, “Judges in the Classroom” presentations offer a great way to highlight the importance of civics education and give students access to the real-world, practical insight of Louisiana judges and first-hand information about the legal system.

“Judges in the Classroom” is administered by the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. Resources and a brief introductory video [are available online here](#), and materials have been developed to assist teachers and judges to design lesson plans and topics appropriate for all class levels. An enrollment form is available on the [LCLCE website](#). School leaders may complete the form and return it to LCLCE staff, who will match their classroom objectives with one of the participating judges in their area. BESE urges schools, administrators, and teachers to consider participating in the “Judges in the Classroom” program to add a unique new dimension to the civics learning experience and make a lasting impact on students throughout the state. For complete details on the program or to discuss implementation, please contact the [LCLCE office](#) at 504-619-0134.

Please visit the [LCLCE website](#) for more information.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP 2025

- On Friday, July 23, individual student reports, school roster reports, and data files (csv) were posted to DRC INSIGHT for test coordinators.
- **August 3:** Summary files dropped to ftp for school systems
- **August 4:** LEAP results posted to website
- **NOW:** DRC updated DRC INSIGHT to block functioning on devices running versions of Windows 10 that Microsoft is no longer supporting. After that release, INSIGHT will run as expected on versions 1909, 2004, 20H2, and 21H1, but not on older versions such as 1903. This is consistent with DRC’s policy to end support for operating systems when the OS vendor ends its support.

Interests and Opportunities

- The [2021-2022 Interests and Opportunities Course Codes](#) file has been updated. It is very important that the correct codes be used in order to have an accurate calculation of the Interests and Opportunities Index.

Data Certification

- **August 4:** Tentative opening of ACT and DCAI data certification
 - School system accountability contacts will receive individual emails with account logins for La Data Review certification site
 - Additional resources will be provided with the email
- **August 5:** Data Certification Webinar
 - Topic: Data Certification Fall 2021
 - **Webinar Date and Time:** Aug 5 at 1 p.m. Central Time (US and Canada)
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95883728230>
 - **Meeting ID:** 958 8372 8230
 - One tap mobile
 - +14703812552,,95883728230# US (Atlanta)
 - +13126266799,,95883728230# US (Chicago)

ACT

- ACT MOUs will be available for school systems by August 2 in the assessment library
 - MOUs must be completed for systems who plan to retest grade 12 students under state contract, for students who are taking a retest for WorkKeys or for any students who are not on the Jump Start diploma pathway.

Cohort Graduation Data Files

- The 2020 Graduation cohort files are posted to the ftp. The files include final post-certification graduation rates for schools, systems, and subgroups. A separate student-level file provides the final graduation status and points awarded for each student that will be used in the calculation of the strength of diploma index.

2020-2021 SPS Calculator

- The 2020-2021 SPS calculator is posted in the Accountability Resources library. Cohort graduation data are all final and can be applied to the calculator. Data for all other indices will be reviewed in data certification through the month of August.

Birth to Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- The Birth-Grade 3 Assessments have a [suite of resources](#) available to help school systems (and early learning centers) with assessment administration for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **October 15:** Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) reporting due
 - The two approved [Kindergarten Entry Assessment \(KEA\)](#) options are [DRDP-K](#) and [TeachingStrategies GOLD KEA](#).
- **October 15:** K-3 Literacy Screener reporting due
 - The four approved [K-3 Literacy Screener](#) options are [Acadience Reading](#) (formerly DIBELS Next), [DIBELS 8th Edition](#), [STEOP](#), and [STEP](#).
 - KEA and K-3 literacy screeners must be administered in the first 30 school days.

NAEP

- NAEP has not begun to recruit schools for NAEP 2022, but, as in the past, Louisiana schools are likely to be selected for the NAEP sample. Because of this likelihood, NAEP is providing the state with early notice so that the NAEP assessment date can be scheduled tentatively. A school is likely to be selected if they were in the sample last year before NAEP testing was suspended. The NAEP 2022 Assessment Window will be January 24 to March 4, 2022, and for the Long-term Trend, the Assessment Window will be January 10 to March 18, 2022.

Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov or assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Pupil Progression Plan Update

Please share with Superintendents and school system administrators.

[ACT 53](#) (SB 31) of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session provides that notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for the 2020-2021 school year, the results from student assessments shall not be used for making placement decisions for fourth and eighth grade students.

The [2021-2022 Pupil Progression Plan Guidance document](#) is located in the [School Policy Library](#).

Please contact jerrick.hornbeak@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Meeting

Please share with Child Welfare and Attendance Offices.

The Louisiana Attendance Alliance will be hosting its August Statewide Monthly Meeting on Thursday, August 19 from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

The purpose of these monthly meetings will be to review enrollment trends, to share best practices/evidence based practices that increase enrollment and to engage in quality improvement planning. These statewide meetings are open to all districts and participation in these meetings will be valuable to the Louisiana Attendance Alliance.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 19 at 7:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/93027951274#success>

Please contact jerrick.hornbeak@la.gov with questions.

Ready to Achieve! 2021-2022 School System Operations Plan Submission

Please share with school system leaders.

A school system that receives ARP ESSER funds must, within 30 days of receiving the funds, make publicly available on its website a **Ready to Achieve! plan** for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. School systems can also meet the 30 day requirement by seeking public comment and updating their Strong Start 2020 plans to reflect the [Ready to Achieve 2021-2022 guidance](#).

School systems will [submit a link](#) to their plan to LDOE no later than September 10.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program

Please share with school system superintendents and leaders.

LDH is offering schools COVID-19 testing options supported with funding, resources, educational materials, testing teams and the LDH K-12 Team for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Interested school systems should complete the [K-12 COVID Testing Program Interest survey](#). There is no deadline for signing up for the K-12 COVID Testing Program.

Please contact k-12covidtesting@la.gov with questions.

U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

Please share with high school principals and counselors.

The Louisiana Department of Education and the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#) are pleased to announce the launch of the 2022 United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to participate virtually or in-person in a series of meetings from March 5-12, 2022. Upon participation in all of the required meetings, each delegate will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit a Louisiana [application packet](#). The application packet includes program deadlines.

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions..

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 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://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93937492645>**
- **Webinar Phone Number: 470-381-2552**
- **Meeting ID: 939 3749 2645**

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Reevaluation Data Review Enhancement in SER

School systems now have access to the new Reevaluation Data Review link in SER. The Add Triennial Waiver tab under the Evaluation link is no longer available. In June, the Department notified special education staff who work with reevaluation and waiver processes in SER of these enhancements. The Department also -hosted informational webinars and office hours for these enhancements in March and April. The [slides](#) and [recording](#) of the informational webinar are posted in the Students with Disabilities library on the Louisiana Believes website, along with new [guidance](#) for the tab, a [sample printout](#), and the [slides](#) and recording from the Teacher Leader Summit presentations.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

New: 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 idoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: FY 2020-2021 Fiscal Risk Assessment

Please forward to 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. Reviews should have been completed and comments should have been submitted on the [School System Response Form](#) by 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.

New: 70 Percent Instructional Expenditure Requirement

Please forward to 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 idoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 2 Released

[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. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to episode 2.

Episode 2 Summary: Superintendent of Caddo Parish Schools in Louisiana, Dr. Lamar Goree, shares how he prioritized vision and values as he started his role, his priorities around teaching and learning, and how Caddo is investing pandemic relief dollars in their students. Em Cooper shares how Redesign Schools Louisiana is implementing Accelerate.

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

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

Deadline: School Plan Family Presentation Survey

Per state law, CIR and UIR schools must present families with their state-approved school improvement plan within 60 days of the start of the school year at a school meeting. The School Plan Family Presentation [template](#) is located in the [School Improvement Library](#). Schools are required to communicate the following to families in these meetings:

- school and student performance data that caused the Department to identify the school as being in need of improvement;
- detailed overview of the improvement plan;
- timelines for implementation of the plan and attainment of performance goals; and
- implications of the plan for students, families, and educators.

Families shall be notified at least one week prior to the date of the meeting. Meeting dates must be reported to the LDOE no later than December 1 via the [School Plan Family Engagement Survey](#).

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

Science of Reading Training Providers

To meet the requirements of [Act 108](#) and the needs of Louisiana's K-3 teachers and administrators, the LDOE is releasing the list of professional development course providers that have been approved to deliver the required training based on the science of reading. The [Literacy Foundations Training Approved Provider list](#) can be found under Hot Topics on the [Literacy landing page](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Summer Learning Program Survey

The Summer Learning Program survey will collect information about school systems' implementation of summer learning programs. The [survey](#) should be completed by one system-level leader; systems should submit only one survey. Surveys are due **August 27, 2021**.

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

2020-2021 Evaluation Uploads

All teacher and staff evaluations should be uploaded into the Compass Information System (CIS) no later than **August 27, 2021**. It is strongly recommended that all evaluations are uploaded prior to this deadline to ensure proper and timely uploads.

After August 27, 2021, CIS will not accept scores from the 2020-2021 school year. To assist you, an [evaluation upload guide](#) can be found in the Compass Library. Additionally, office hours with the Compass team will be held via zoom in 15-minute increments between 12:00 PM-1:00 PM daily from August 2, 2021 to August 27, 2021. Please request a time slot if needed via compass@la.gov, at which time a zoom link will be provided.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Real-Time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)

Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) provides early literacy support for students in pre-K through grade 3. Through REAL, school systems are allocated funding to provide students in pre-K through grade 3 with technology and tutoring services.

School systems receive funding to establish literacy tutoring microgrant accounts for eligible students. Tutoring for REAL participants is provided by LDOE-approved [Tutoring Service Providers](#). Funds are allocated to school systems with CIR/UIR-A schools.

Attend the 2021-2022 REAL School System's webinar for more information.

Webinar Date and Time: August 18, 2021 @ 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94784733674?pwd=OGgvaDVkRURBL3QyamNjVTNnczIQZz09>

Meeting ID: 947 8473 3674

Passcode: 299007

Expanding the Cadre of Mentor Teachers

At the April BESE meeting, the board approved changes to Bulletin 746 regarding mentor credential requirements. These updates include honoring previous training and experience, reducing the required assessments, and creating an add-on mentor endorsement. These revisions were approved under emergency rule and are currently in effect. Please contact certification@la.gov with any questions about applying for the mentor credential.

Additionally, at the March BESE meeting, the Board approved an extension of the waiver of policy regarding mentor credentials. Mentor teacher waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDOE and at no fee to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation provider. The [application](#) is currently available to school systems.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **[Operations Reminders](#)**
- **[Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)**
- **[School System Financial Services Reminders](#)**
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Operations Reminders

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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 with questions.