

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**August 4, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

The first week in August has traditionally signaled back to school in Louisiana. That's still true in many systems; however, school will look a little different. As we move through August, more school systems will resume.

I've noticed some outstanding examples of employee and family engagement from systems leading up to the first day. Please maintain a focus on clear, regular communication throughout the school year — especially during these first few months. Your families and staff will be looking for information. Be that trusted source they can turn to for timely, accurate updates.

Here at the Department, we are working to streamline our communications to you. Our goal is to provide information in as timely and useful a manner as possible. We will share more details about these changes in our newsletter in the coming weeks. Some of the shifts include no longer holding the monthly School System Planning Call. Instead, we will hold department-specific office hours and monthly calls. We will also hold monthly system leader calls.

We've already started hosting a weekly office hours call on school reopening operations. If you haven't taken advantage of this resource yet, the next opportunity is [Thursday at 3 p.m.](#) We will share updated information and answer your questions about school reopening. I'm also hosting a Reopening Roundtable [this Friday at 9 a.m.](#) This call will feature a panel of system leaders who will share their lessons learned from starting the new school year. We'll host one of these every Friday this month. You can find information on each of these in this newsletter.

The Department is here to support and guide you through reopening — whatever that looks like in your community. To our system and school leaders, stay the course. This will be a challenging school year. Keep the safety of your students and staff as your top responsibility and improving student outcomes as your top priority. Everything will not go as planned. You will have cases of COVID-19 in your school because it exists in our communities. When that happens, stay calm and follow your protocols. There will be unexpected issues. All of us will make mistakes. That happens when leading through uncharted territory. We must continue to learn and lead throughout this school year. 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
Strong Start 2020 Reopening Operations and Resources Office Hours	<a href="#">August 6 at 3 p.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	<a href="#">August 11 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Monthly Calls	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 13 at 1 p.m.</a>
Special Education Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 13 at 2 p.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 18 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Ed Tech Monthly Call	<a href="#">August 20 at 11 a.m.</a>

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Strong Start 2020 Follow-up Webinar for Nonpublic Equitable Services Relative to CARES Act Funding	<a href="#">August 5 at 11:30 a.m.</a>
Secret Service Protective Intelligence & Assessment Webinar	<a href="#">August 6 at 12 p.m.</a>
Reopening Roundtable: A Virtual Series for System Leaders	<a href="#">August 7 at 9 a.m.</a>
Homeless Liaison Webinar for New McKinney Vento Cohort	<a href="#">August 7 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and Technical Education Webinar	<a href="#">August 13 at 11 a.m.</a>
Mentor and Resident Data Collection Process Webinar	<a href="#">August 13 at 1:30 p.m.</a>
Mentor and Resident Data Collection Process Webinar	<a href="#">August 14 at 1:30 p.m.</a>
Supporting Mentors and Content Leaders Toward Certification Webinar	<a href="#">August 18 at 10 a.m.</a>
Virtual Town Hall Series for Schools (Tips for School Support Staff)	<a href="#">August 18 at 1 p.m.</a>
ESSA Alternate Assessment Webinar	<a href="#">August 18 at 2 p.m.</a>
Act 206: Dyslexia Definition Webinar	<a href="#">August 20 at 12 p.m.</a>
Important Deadlines	
Document Link	Deadline
<a href="#">2020-2021 Teacher Leader Advisor Application</a>	August 14

## School System Support

### **Every Child Counts – 2020 Census**

Every home has received an invitation to participate in the [2020 Census](#). Louisiana's self-response rate is just under 57 percent, which is below the national average. There are a number of parishes where the rate is in the 30s and 20s. Please consider using your system's communications channels to encourage employees, families and other stakeholders to complete the 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students and younger children, such as:

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches
- Maternal and child health programs
- Planning, preparedness and recovery efforts for national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#)

Self-responses, which can be completed [online](#), by phone or by mail until October 31, ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students.

The Department encourages school systems to explore the [2020 Census Toolbox](#) to find general resources and activities specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for each grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

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

### **2020-2021 Reopening and Operations Resource Updates**

The Department and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) have been working together to provide updated resources and guidance for schools relative to reopening and operations for the 2020-2021 school year. The most recent updates include:

- [Self-Monitoring Checklist](#)
- [COVID-19 Positive Test Result Process Sample Letters](#)
- [LDH Return to School/Work Self-Certifications](#)
- [LDH Guidance for Common School Scenarios](#)
- Critical Infrastructure Workers

In addition, the Department is holding office hours **every Thursday at 3 p.m.** for school system leaders and support staff to hear the latest updates on policy implementation, supportive guidance and tool development. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursdays at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91419461028>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID#:** 914 1946 1028
- **Meeting Password:** 408891

Please contact [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov) with questions.

## **Updated Guidance for Criminal Background Checks for Service Providers in K-12**

All K-12 essential visitors and contractors, including mental health consultants and special education service providers, must have a child care criminal background check (CCCBC) in order to provide services at an early learning center and a registered in-home or family home provider. The background checks approved by the school systems for K-12 purposes are not acceptable for child care security purposes.

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

## **Academics**

### **Academic Content**

#### **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.

New or updated information will be highlighted in yellow within the document.

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

<b>Instructional Materials Guidance</b>	<b>Professional Development Guidance</b>
Kaplan Early Learning Company, Connect4Learning	
Kaplan Early Learning Company, Learn Everyday: Program for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos	
JUMP Math, Grades K-8	
Kendall Hunt, Illustrative Mathematics, Grades 6-8, Algebra I	
McGraw Hill, Illustrative Mathematics, Grades 6-8	

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

## **New Definition of Dyslexia**

**Please share with system and school level SPED/IEP/504 coordinators, school psychologists and education diagnosticians.**

The Dyslexia Resource Center is hosting a free webinar regarding recently passed [Act 206](#), which provides a common language definition to define dyslexia using the most current information available. Kayla Reggio, Director of the Dyslexia Resource Center, and Special Guest Representative Joe Marino, who authored the bill, will cover the new definition in law in detail and how this law impacts dyslexic students. The webinar will be held on **August 20 at 12 p.m.** Participants can [register](#) now.

Please contact [kreggio@dyslexia1n5.com](mailto:kreggio@dyslexia1n5.com) with questions.

## **Continuous Learning Updates for Social Studies**

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

For unit 2 distance learning packets, the teacher materials and student materials sections will be separated. The teacher materials have been [password protected](#) to help ensure only teachers have access to the answer keys. For more information on distance learning packets, see below.

In an effort to provide standards-aligned content experiences and enable continuous learning in the event of school facility closures at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, [distance learning packets](#) are being developed for each course in grades 3-8 and US History for units 1 and 2. The packets do not cover the entire content of the unit but instead focus on a key topic. Teachers can use the packets as a cornerstone to build materials for additional content coverage. The materials are designed to be low tech but can be adapted for schools using an online learning platform. The Department will evaluate the need for more distance learning support throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Unit 2 packets will be released on a rolling basis from now until September and will be posted on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) page when completed.

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

## **Assessment and Accountability**

### **For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts**

#### **Pre-K-3 Assessment Guidance**

- The Department recently updated a [suite of guidance documents](#) to help school systems (and early learning centers) plan assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - [2020-2021 Pre-K to Third Grade Assessment Guidance](#) has been released. The two approved Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) options are DRDP-K and *TeachingStrategies GOLD*® KEA. The four approved K-3 Literacy Screener options are Acadience Reading (formerly DIBELS Next), DIBELS 8th Edition, STEEP and STEP.
  - [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) outlines requirements and resources for assessing publicly-funded children (ages 3-5) using *TeachingStrategies GOLD*® in various learning environments including traditional, virtual and hybrid.
  - [K-3 Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) outlines requirements and resources for administering the KEA and K-3 Literacy Screener in various learning environments including traditional virtual and hybrid.

- [2020-2021 Teaching Strategies GOLD® Guidance](#) has been released for Early Childhood, OSEP and KEA.

## ACT

- **New: ACT Webinar Opportunities**
  - August 11: Attend a Q&A session about WorkKeys online test administration. [Register to attend.](#)
  - August 18: Attend a Q&A session about ACT accommodations and supports and test administration for the October testing. [Register to attend.](#)
- 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 applicable student.
  - **Important: Materials will be shipped separately for each administration.**
  - Currently, ACT does not offer remote administrations for any scheduled testing dates.
  - The [Schedule of Events](#) for the October ACT administration is posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site.
  - The [Schedule of Events](#) for the 2020-2021 WorkKeys administration is posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site.
  - [PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup>](#) (PANext) is open through August 28 to manage participation and verify secure district shipping addresses for both the ACT October administration and the 2020-2021 WorkKeys assessments.

### Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **August 11 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for Office Hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 11 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Password:** 2020202!

## Educator Development

### Supporting Mentors and Content Leaders Toward Certification

On **August 18 at 10 a.m.**, school system leaders Rebecca Freeland of Richland Parish and Chandler Smith of Central School System will discuss how to support Mentors and Content Leaders to drive student achievement as they work toward certification.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 18 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 345 504 8179
- **Meeting passcode:** RTC51420

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

## **Mentor and Resident Data Collection Process**

In the 2020-2021 school year, Mentors of yearlong undergraduate residents will continue to receive a stipend for their work. Their employing school system will receive \$1,000 for the Mentor of these residents. Funding for residents completing a yearlong undergraduate residency will continue to be provided through MFP funds. The data collection process for this funding will kick off this month. Two webinars detailing the data collection process will be held. Webinar information is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 13 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/7328306617>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 732 830 6617
  
- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 14 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/7328306617>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 732 830 6617

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

## **Career and College Readiness**

### **Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Resumption of Training**

**Please share with school system secondary supervisors, career and technical education supervisors/coordinators and CNA instructors.**

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) regularly updates the [health standards section of their website](#) with information regarding effects of COVID-19 on Nurse Aide Training programs. Several key updates are available for Nurse Aide Training programs relative to the resumption of training.

- Prior to beginning a new class, written verification from the nursing home that students will be allowed to complete clinical training during the COVID crisis should be acquired and submitted to [HSS-CNA-DSW-Request@la.gov](mailto:HSS-CNA-DSW-Request@la.gov).
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has mandated that nursing homes conduct weekly COVID testing of all residents and employees. Students are considered employees and will, therefore, require weekly testing.
- Please notify the LDH Program Desk of nursing facilities that are unable/unwilling to accommodate students. While it is certainly the right of the facility to restrict students, the LDH would like to ensure the reason is not due to misinformation regarding current recommendations related to the pandemic.

Please notify the program manager of any decisions to place the program on hold or close at [ash-leigh.garcia@la.gov](mailto:ash-leigh.garcia@la.gov).

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

## **Career and Technical Education Webinar**

Please share with CTE leaders.

The Department will host a Career and Technical Education Webinar on **August 13 at 11 a.m.** The webinar will include updates on the following:

- Jump Start 2.0 implementation
- Quest for Success
- Industry-Based Certification Fact Sheets
- Supplemental Course Academy/Course Choice

Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 13 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93182712471>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 931 8271 2471
- **Password:** 536014

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

## **Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity**

### **Special Education**

#### **ESSA Alternate Assessment Files on FTP**

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any school system with more than 1.0 percent of students participating in the ELA, math or science alternate assessment must take certain actions. **The Department will provide all school systems with an alternate assessment package by tomorrow, August 5 via FTP with the file name: LEA Code\_LEA Name\_AA\_2020.** School systems should review their alternate assessment participation data and take the actions outlined in the package. School systems should contact their FTP coordinator to retrieve their alternate assessment package after August 5.

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

#### **ESSA Alternate Assessment Webinar**

The Department will host a webinar for school system directors, supervisors and coordinators of special education on **August 18 at 2 p.m.** to help school systems exceeding 1.0 percent participation complete the alternate assessment review process. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 18 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92293524383>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 9922 9352 4383

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

## **2019-2020 Seclusion and Restraint Draft Data Available**

The Department is required to collect and annually report the use of seclusion and restraint data for students with disabilities. The 2019-2020 seclusion and restraint data verification report is now available to provide school systems the opportunity to verify their data before the final report is published. School systems must make updates in SER, if needed, and submit new or revised seclusion and restraint policies to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) by **August 14** to be reflected in the final report.

Please contact FTP coordinators to retrieve the report with the file name *LEACode\_LEAName\_2019-2020\_Seclusion and Restraint Data Verification Report*.

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

## **August SPED Leader Webinar**

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors and coordinators of special education on **August 13 at 2 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, guidance and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 13 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92135951551>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 921 3595 1551

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

## **Operations**

### **Strong Start 2020 Follow-up Webinar for Nonpublic Equitable Services Relative to CARES Act Funding**

A Strong Start 2020 follow-up webinar for nonpublic equitable services relative to CARES Act funding will be held **tomorrow, August 5 at 11:30 a.m.** The webinar will provide information regarding the frequently asked questions (FAQ) the Department has received regarding school systems' implementation of the Interim Final Rule requirements released by the U.S. Department of Education this summer. These FAQs should assist school systems in providing compliant nonpublic equitable services related to CARES Act funding. School systems' federal program directors, business managers and key personnel—along with nonpublic school officials—should participate in this webinar. This webinar does not apply to individual charter LEAs. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 5 at 11:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95098564640>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 950 9856 4640
- **Password:** 847342

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

## **Homeless Liaison Webinar for New McKinney Vento Cohort**

A Homeless Liaison Webinar will be held **this Friday, August 7 at 10 a.m.** This webinar will provide information on the new McKinney Vento Cohort, discuss the COVID-19 impact on the homeless programs and provide updates regarding EdLink, needs assessment, 2020-2021 planning worksheet, Kickstand/McKinney Vento.Org, homeless numbers, unfinished learning, etc. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 7 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93456500908>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 934 5650 0908
- **Password:** 136059

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

## **State Finance and Policy**

### **Online Fiscal Monitoring of Federal Grant Programs for Fiscal Year 2020**

**Please share with business managers.**

Fiscal monitoring of federal grant programs allocated for FY 2019-2020 will be conducted via the eGrants Management System (eGMS). The Office of State Education Finance and Policy audit staff will contact business managers of selected school systems from **August through October** to discuss the scope of the fiscal monitoring audit.

Each business manager and federal programs coordinator should act as liaison between the auditing staff and any other school system personnel involved in the monitoring process. It will be necessary that business managers and the appropriate federal program staff be available to the auditors throughout the monitoring process. Please remember that failure to provide needed documentation will result in questioned costs and the possible need to refund grant awarded dollars to the Department.

Due to COVID-19 limitations, all monitoring will be conducted as desk reviews that will require school system staff to upload supportive documentation to the eGMS system. The audit staff will provide guidance for managing the fiscal monitoring application in eGMS during the official engagement.

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

## System Relations

### **Secret Service Protective Intelligence & Assessment Webinar**

The Secret Service Protective Intelligence & Assessment Division's National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) will host a webinar on the findings from their latest study on targeted violence titled Mass Attacks in Public Spaces. Scheduled to take place this **Thursday, August 6 from 12 to 3 p.m.**, the presentation will address the report's implications for the prevention of targeted violence as part of NTAC's continuous efforts to ensure the informed development of prevention strategy through research. This free, virtual event is open to school and school system personnel and campus security across the United States. [Registration is required](#). Once registered, participants will be sent a link to a Microsoft Teams Live.

Please contact [leslie.pichon@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:leslie.pichon@usss.dhs.gov) with questions.

## Reminders

- [\*\*School System Support Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Academics Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Academic Content Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Career and College Readiness Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Policy and Governmental Affairs Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*State Finance and Policy Reminders\*\*](#)

### ***School System Support Reminders***

#### **Reopening Roundtable: A Virtual Series for System Leaders**

Superintendents and charter leaders are invited to participate in a Reopening Roundtable virtual series hosted by Dr. Brumley. This call will be held at 9 a.m. each Friday during the month of August beginning **Friday, August 7**. Every week a panel of system and school leaders will share their experiences reopening and operating schools during the health crisis. Along with the panel discussion, each session will include a Q&A session. It's important that the Department is a support agency during these uncertain times, and this series will help facilitate discussions of best practices. Information needed to join this series is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Friday at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97826043901>
- **Webinar Password:** 5v7Dwq
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 978 2604 3901
- **Dial-in Password:** 556910

Please enter your full name and school system name when logging in.

## **U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program**

Due to the many uncertainties posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP)—Washington Week 2021—is currently on hold. Applications nationwide are not being accepted at this time. The Department will post USSYP updates in upcoming newsletters and [on the website](#) when available.

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

## ***Academics Reminders***

### ***Academic Content Reminders***

#### **World Languages Strong Start Guidance**

Please share with World Language Supervisors and teachers.

The Department recently published the [Louisiana World Languages Resources Guidance](#) and the [World Languages Blended and Asynchronous Learning Guidance](#) to help teachers and school systems prepare for the upcoming school year. This guidance contains information on World Languages best practices and tools for teachers as well as alternative scheduling suggestions for schools with immersion.

For school systems that host International Associate Teachers (IATs), the Department published [Strong Start 2020 for International Associate Teachers](#). This guidance includes tips for welcoming and onboarding new IATs as well as the new [International Associate Teacher Exchange Planning Document](#).

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

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

#### **NCCER Module Assessments and Performance Profile Evaluations**

**Please share with school system secondary supervisors and career and technical education supervisors/coordinators, school leadership and professional school counselors.**

NCCER [remote proctoring](#) will continue to be available through December 31 should circumstances prevent classes from meeting in person at accredited training and education facilities. If using the online testing system for written assessments, craft instructors are reminded to continue to submit performance profiles through the registry by creating a registration of training modules using actual dates for the performance profile evaluations. To access the [online testing system](#), contact the sponsor representative, [martha.moore@la.gov](mailto:martha.moore@la.gov).

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

### **Pupil Progression Plans Deadline: September 11**

Please share with school system supervisors, administrators and counselors.

The 2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) template is available in the [School Policy Library](#).

The purpose of this document is to ensure school systems are in accordance with applicable laws and regulations related to student placement and promotion and aligned with policy in [Bulletin 1566](#). New to the template are sections related to BESE approved credit recovery policy and non-traditional coursework accepted by the NCAA.

The approved PPP should be submitted to [PPP@la.gov](mailto:PPP@la.gov) by **September 11**.

Please contact [PPP@la.gov](mailto:PPP@la.gov) with questions and extension requests.

## ***Policy and Governmental Affairs Reminders***

### **School-based Medicaid Program**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) – Medicaid has released a [general update memo](#) and [covered services update](#) related to the School-based Medicaid Program (SBMP) for the upcoming school year. These updates include information concerning Medicaid program expansion subsequent to the recently approved Education State Plan Amendment (SPA). LDH and the Department are working to streamline SBMP processes and update guidance documents to assist local school systems in the Medicaid reimbursement process.

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

### **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded Louisiana \$597,050, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94), to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety and expand access to school meals in the NSLP and School Breakfast Program. Priority will be given to schools where the greatest percentage of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Reference the [2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants](#) document for additional grant-related information. Online applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs website](#) on October 1. A School Food Service (SFS) Memo will be forthcoming to inform SFAs of dates for the open application period.

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

## ***State Finance and Policy Reminders***

### **70 Percent Instructional Requirement**

**Please share with business managers and all other finance officials.**

Per the MFP Resolution, school systems or schools 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. An overview of the [70 percent expenditure evaluation process](#) is provided for reference.

The FY2018-2019 instructional requirement calculation is complete and a report of the results for all school systems and schools will be received by BESE at the August meeting.

In advance of the release of this information, the items listed below will be available for review by July 31 in the EdFin FTP site for each school system or school.

- 70 Percent Calculation Summary - 2018-2019 is a one-page summary of the 70 percent instructional requirement calculation.
- Funds Proration provides a line-by-line item account of how each expenditure is allocated and the basis for that allocation.
- Salary Distribution provides proration percentages by functional area based on PEP general fund salaries used to allocate AFR salaries, benefits and certain other expenditures.
- Staff-Student Distribution provides proration percentages by functional area based on PEP staff full-time equivalents (FTE) and separate percentages comprised of staff FTE and SIS student counts. These percentages are applied as indicated in the funds proration document.

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