



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

August 17, 2021

Colleagues,

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the fifteen Louisiana special education leaders selected to participate in cohort two of the SPED Fellow Academy:

- Celeste Chiasson, St. Charles Parish Public Schools
- Kristy Monsour, Diocese of Baton Rouge
- Laura Owen, Lusher Charter School
- Alvado Willis, St. Landry Parish
- Margaret Parker, Belle Chasse Academy
- Amy Bertucci, IDEA Public Schools
- Kimberly Spruill, Kenilworth Science and Technology Middle
- Monica Breaux, Terrebonne Parish School District
- Dana Boockoff, Morehouse Parish Schools
- Tammy Armant- Hill, City of Baker School System
- Alaina Black, Terrebonne Parish
- Anna DiPerna, Athlos Academy
- Lia White-Allen, Zachary Community School District
- Tammy Lavergne, St. Landry Parish
- Leslie Ortiz, Vernon Parish Schools

The SPED Fellow Academy provides the next generation of leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to improve academic achievement for students with disabilities. This program connects fellows with coaches who have extensive leadership experience and track records of improving outcomes for students with disabilities. Furthermore, fellows are afforded the opportunity to develop frameworks for leading systems-level changes that can be implemented in their own school systems.

The SPED Fellow Academy is a shining example of why LDOE must continue supporting continued learning opportunities that grow educators' capacity to support teachers, students, and families.

To learn more information, please reach out to rachel.brown@la.gov.

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 |
| Educator Development Office Hours | August 17 at 12 p.m. |
| Data Coordinator Office Hours | August 19 at 1 p.m. |
| Career and College Readiness Office Hours | August 19 at 3 p.m. |
| Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours | August 23 at 3:30 p.m. |
| DCFS: P-EBT Office Hours | August 24 at 10 a.m. |
| Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours | August 24 at 3 p.m. |
| Assessment and Accountability Office Hours | August 24 at 3:45 p.m. |
| K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours | August 31 at 12 p.m. |
| CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours | September 1 at 11 a.m. |
| CLSD UIN TA Office Hours | September 3 at 11 a.m. |
| Education Technology Office Hours | September 9 at 9 a.m. |
| Monthly Calls* | |
| Monthly Call Title | Zoom Link |
| 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. |

| Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call | August 23 at 10 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. |
| Literacy Monthly Call | September 2 at 10 a.m. |
| Data Coordinator Monthly Call | September 2 at 1 p.m. |
| System Leaders Monthly Call | September 3 at 9 a.m. |
| Nutrition Support Monthly Call | September 7 at 1 p.m. |
| Charter Authorizers Monthly Call | September 8 at 11 a.m. |
| BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call | September 8 at 3 p.m. |
| SPED Leader Monthly Call | September 9 at 2 p.m. |
| Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call | September 21 at 3:45 p.m. |
| <p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p> | |
| Upcoming Events | |
| Event Title | Zoom Link |
| REAL School System's Webinar | August 18 at 1 p.m. |
| Accelerate Overview Webinar | August 25 at 3:30 p.m. |
| Mentor Funding Webinar | August 30 at 1 p.m. |
| Accelerate Math Resources Overview Webinar | September 1 at 9 a.m. |
| Gifted and Talented Coordinators Welcome Back to School Webinar | September 2 at 10 a.m. |
| Accelerate ELA Resources Overview Webinar | September 8 at 3:30 p.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 |
| DCFS P-EBT Summer Benefits Data File Submission | August 27 |
| 2020-2021 CDF End of Year Expenditure Report | August 31 |
| School Plan Family Engagement Survey | December 1 |

Operations

Federal Relief Funding Dashboard

As a result of the global pandemic, \$4 billion are being infused into the state of Louisiana for PreK - 12 academic recovery efforts. These funds are part of the three stimulus recovery packages approved by Congress, and over 90% of these funds flow directly to school systems. LDOE pledged to keep stakeholders up to date and informed throughout the process of the Achieve! program implementations which utilize these relief funds, including transparency of funds. LDOE is excited to launch the [dashboard](#) for public use today, please send any questions regarding the dashboard to ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with "Federal Relief Funding Dashboard" in the title.

Grants to States for School Emergency Management Program

LSU NCBRT/ACE and the Louisiana Department of Education offer free virtual training to K-12 schools in Louisiana through the [Grants to States for School Emergency Management \(GSEM\) Program](#).

Risk Assessment for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile (4 hours)

This training explores how a school profile and risk assessment are used to direct the development and maintenance of a comprehensive school emergency operations plan (EOP). Attendees will walk through the process of identifying and prioritizing the threats and hazards of most concern to their school sites. Participants will also examine the elements of a school profile and identify relevant sources of data to inform their risk assessment.

[Register](#) for August 24, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Register](#) for August 25, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Emergency Operations Functional Planning for Schools (4 hours)

This virtual workshop introduces a process for addressing critical emergency functions within a school's emergency operations plan (EOP). Participants will define EOP functional annexes and identify emergency functions relevant to their schools. Additionally, participants will identify the roles, responsibilities, and courses of action required to perform a given function at their school site. At the end of the training, participants will have the framework for building and maintaining comprehensive functional annexes for school EOPs.

[Register](#) for August 26, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Register](#) for August 27, 2021 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

UPDATE: Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plans

Each Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to submit a plan for how they will use their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) formula funds during the 2021-2022 school year to support Louisiana's students, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This plan must satisfy the requirements of ACT 294 of the 2021 legislative session. Within this plan, LEAs must indicate how they will support students who failed to achieve mastery on the statewide assessments. LEAs will submit plans with the dollar amount they are budgeting for each key investment by September 30, 2021. LDOE will review and approve plans by December 2021.

To provide a feedback opportunity, LDOE released a draft of the [planning template](#). Due to significant feedback from our stakeholders, the final planning template and guidance document will become available **August 20, 2021** on the [Pandemic Relief Funding, Planning Guidance and Resources](#) homepage. Please continue to use this [form](#) to submit feedback and/or questions.

To support school systems with the completion of their plans, the Department built data dashboards for each LEA with their most recent student enrollment and performance information in alignment with the [Believe to Achieve 6 critical goals](#). This file will be loaded to each school system's secure FTP by August 20, 2021.

Communications

See last Wednesday's [press conference](#) where State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley, and Chief of Staff and Operations, Dr. Quentina Timoll, addressed recently released LEAP 2025 data and discussed the 2021-2022 "Louisiana Comeback" Commitment.

Nutrition Support

School Meals Applications and P-EBT

The school meal application is used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-priced meals. By extension, eligibility for school meals is used to determine eligibility for P-EBT. Non-CEP School Food Authorities (SFAs) and schools must make school meal applications available as needed to certify children for free and reduced-priced meals and that information may be used to qualify newly eligible children for SY 2021-2022 and summer 2022 P-EBT benefits. SFAs should also continue to conduct direct certification as required by 7 CFR 245.6(b)(3). For more information, please refer to the recent [memo](#) released by the Division of Nutrition Support.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

P-EBT Suggested Communication for Schools

To assist school systems with responding to questions from parents/guardians related to P-EBT, DCFS developed a [sample communication and Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

Please see this [PEBT flyer](#) or visit pebt-la.org for more information.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ELPS/ELPT

- As a result of Cambium's system rollover for the 2021-2022 administration, all students have been deleted from TIDE. Students who have been previously tested will have records in **Reporting**. To determine if data is available for a student, users should enter the student's LASID in the search box at the upper right-hand corner of the screen. One of two messages provides users with next steps.
 - **"Student not active"** indicates that the student has data stored in the reporting system. To retrieve the data, enter the student's demographic information into TIDE, then search for the records in Reporting. Users will have access to all prior records for the student.
 - **"TIDE does not have a student with ID #####"** indicates that the student has never been added to TIDE and has not participated in ELPS or ELPT. If documentation indicates that screening is the appropriate action, users will need to enter the student's demographic information into TIDE before administering the screener.

Please contact bridget.harris@la.gov for assistance or additional information.

LEAP 2025

- Three files were posted to DRC INSIGHT on August 3.
 - The 2021-2022 growth-to-mastery target rosters provide new 2022 targets for students in grades 3-8. High school target rosters will be released after initial enrollment for 2021-2022 is updated.
 - Two subgroup summary files were posted: grades 3-8 summary and high school summary.
- September 7-October 1: School systems need to indicate their selection for one of two LEAP fall high school administration windows in DRC INSIGHT as part of enrollment verification. School systems may only participate in one window. School systems that do not select a window in DRC INSIGHT will be placed in Window B as shown below. All makeup testing must be completed during the selected window.
 - Window A: November 30-December 17
 - Window B: January 5-24

ACT

- August 17: [WorkKeys Fall Administration Webinar](#) from 10 - 11 a.m. Use the same link to register and attend.
- Now-August 27: deadline to verify enrollment counts in PANext for Fall Paper WorkKeys. The instructions to complete this can be found on the WorkKeys web page under [Configuration](#).
 - Verify that all students who will be testing on paper are listed in PANext. Confirm students' grade level and other identifying information is accurate. Make changes if needed. Instructions can be found on the WorkKeys web page under [Preparation](#).
 - *Note: Data for students testing online must be uploaded to Validus. More information about Validus will be coming from ACT in a separate email.*
 - See the Preparing for [State Testing FAQs](#).
- September 30: ACT MOUs for 2021-2022 are now available in the assessment library and should be completed and returned.

Please contact patricia.newman@la.gov with questions.

Data Certification

- August 20: Complete requests for changes to data for ACT and DCAI in La Data Review. All accountability contacts should have received login information as well as resources to complete requests. Please send all questions to jennifer.baird@la.gov.
- No later than week of August 30: Assessment rosters will be posted to La Data Review. The progress points rosters and ELPT progress rosters will also be posted to La Data Review during the assessment data certification window.

July 2021 Quarterly Home Study Report

The Quarterly Home Study Report for July 2021 is available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in the folder named "LEACode_LEAName_July2021HomeStudy" and will remain on the FTP through 12/31/2021. Within the folder, there will be the following:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- Statewide enrollment numbers of Registered Nonpublic Schools, not Seeking State Approval
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in Home Study program
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in Registered Nonpublic Schools, not Seeking State Approval
- Each student's home study approval notification letter

Please contact Sue.Millican@la.gov with questions.

Accountability Note: The detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in BESE-approved home study should be used to verify any high school students who were removed from enrollment as transferred to BESE-approved home study. These transfers are audited during the cohort graduation exit code review process.

NAEP

- Although NAEP has not begun the recruitment of schools for participation in NAEP 2022, some Louisiana schools are likely to be selected for the NAEP sample. Schools that were selected in the sample previously published before the suspension of NAEP testing are likely to be selected for 2022 and should make plans to prioritize NAEP testing.
 - Assessment Window: January 24 to March 4, 2022
 - Long-term Trend Assessment Window: January 10 to March 18, 2022.

KEA and K-3 Literacy Screening

- KEA and K-3 screening in the fall will remain the same as in the prior year. The options are below.
 - KEA administration: DRDP-K or GOLD-KEA
 - K-3 literacy: Acadience Reading, DIBELS 8th, STEP, and STEEP
- Assessments must be administered within the first 30 school days of the academic year.
- The reporting deadline is October 15.

Career and College Readiness

2021-2022 Course Choice/SCA Catalog

Please share with CTE Supervisors, Counselors, and School System Leaders

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. The [SCA Portal](#) is now open for 2021-2022 reporting.

The 2021-2022 [Course Choice Provider Directory](#) is now available. Schools register students directly with the course provider college and/or university. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Procedures](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the Course Choice Reporting System.

The [SCA Portal](#) closes at 5 p.m. on September 13 for Private Provider fall and full year enrollments. Postsecondary enrollments should be reported by October 8 at 5 p.m. The portal will reopen for spring enrollments on November 22.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Jump Start Funding Guidance

Please share with CTE Supervisors and School System Leaders

The Department has released updated guidance for the 2021-2022 school year. This guidance includes:

- [2021-2022 Jump Start and Fast Forward CDF Qualifying Courses](#)
- [2021-2022 Guidelines for CDF Funds](#)
- [2021-2022 Jump Start Funding Guidance](#)
- [Work Based Learning Guidance](#)

Please contact jessica.vallelungo@la.gov with questions.

Gifted and Talented Coordinators Welcome Back to School Webinar

Please share with Special Education Directors, Pupil Appraisal Coordinators, G/T Supervisors and G/T points of contacts for each school system.

A back to school webinar has been scheduled to discuss information relevant to gifted and talented programming for the 2021-2022 school year. The webinar will provide an overview of the school system information form, regulatory resources, waivers, identification procedures and upcoming talented evaluator and protocol trainings.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99245242216>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 992 4524 2216

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov if you have any questions.

Office of State Fire Marshal Updated COVID Fire Drill Memo

Please share with Superintendents and school administration.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has issued updated guidance related to conducting emergency drills in the school setting during COVID. The [memo](#) outlines the procedures that schools should take when practicing fire drills and other emergency drills this school year.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Department of Health School COVID Reporting Guidelines

Please share with superintendents and school administration.

The Louisiana Department of Health is continuing the statewide reporting system for all school-associated cases of COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 school year. This system is intended to record COVID-related illness in schools and provide schools a platform to document case information, assisting in their ability to mitigate potential for school spread. School systems should continue to report positive COVID-19 cases in the school reporting system. LDH has provided a [School Reporting Guide](#), along with [other resources](#).

Please contact schoolcovidreporting@la.gov with questions.

BINAX Now Testing Resources

Please share with superintendents and school nurses.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits available upon request for school systems to access when a CLIA Waived Certificate Number or community health provider has been identified. In order to access these test kits, school systems will need a designated point of contact to complete a survey. School systems that would like to request BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits should [complete this survey](#) to indicate interest.

Please contact Arundhati.Bakshi@la.gov at LDH with questions.

Ready to Achieve! School Operational Plans Submission Update

Please share with superintendents.

An LEA 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 should be updating their Ready to Achieve! Plan with the latest LDH and CDC guidance as outlined in [Louisiana's Ready to Achieve! Guidance](#). All updates within Louisiana's Ready to Achieve! 2021-2022 Guidance are highlighted in yellow.

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

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion and Opportunities

Special Education Leader Survey

The Louisiana Department of Education is seeking input about the current structures that support students with disabilities engaging in high-quality instruction. The information gathered from the [Special Education Leader Survey](#) will inform the LDOE's understanding of how to best support LEAs in providing specialized supports and capacity building of leaders who can support students with disabilities.

Special Education leaders should complete the survey by **September 10**.

Please contact rachel.brown@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Literacy

School Librarians Workgroup

A workgroup is being formed to explore the possibilities and impacts of school libraries and the important role school librarians play in the literacy development of all learners. School leaders are invited to send recommendations for participants, which can include librarians, media specialists, teachers, leaders, and advocates, to catasha.edwards@la.gov. Recommendations should include name, role, and specific qualifications that would make the candidate a valuable workgroup participant.

Please contact catasha.edwards@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 4 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 the latest episode.

Episode 4 Summary - Reflecting on Last Year's COVID Response with Dr. Leron Finger and Kimberly Buckingham: Em Cooper interviews Dr. Leron Finger and Kimberly Buckingham from Children's Hospital New Orleans. They share the efforts they led since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that led Louisiana to the top of the country in reopening schools safely for students and educators. Em Cooper spotlights Iberville Parish and their efforts to showcase students at school board meetings. Note: This episode was recorded on June 14, 2021.

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.

Mentor Funding

The Department continues to provide **\$1,000** for the **mentors** who support year-long undergraduate residents. In addition, through the teacher pay increase approved by the Legislature in 2019, the Department will allocate funds for school systems to pay \$1,000 to yearlong undergraduate **residents** who hold a resident certificate and are completing their residency in a public school.

At the end of August, the Department will host a webinar to review the data collection and verification process which will begin in early September.

Webinar date and time: August 30, 2021 at 1 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

Meeting ID: 345 504 8179

Phone number: 1-470-381-2552

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **[Operations Reminders](#)**
- **[Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)**
- **[Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders](#)**
- **[Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)**

Operations Reminders

- Click [here](#) to view the Governor's Updated Public Health Emergency Order and Indoor Statewide Mask Mandate.
- Click [here](#) to view the follow-up letter from Governor Edwards to State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley.

DCFS Pandemic-EBT Program

- **Summer Benefits File Submission**
School systems should begin submitting summer benefit data files to DCFS through the new [P-EBT Administration Portal](#). Summer files should be submitted by August 27, 2021. Data Managers will need to create a [MyLA.Gov account](#) tied to their official school email for accessing the system. This account can be the same account used to access EdLink. Once your MyLA.Gov account is created please complete the [P-EBT Administration Portal - Public School Access Request](#) form.

Summer benefits will be provided to all students who attend school in May 2021 and either attended an approved CEP school in 2020-21 or a newly approved CEP school for 2021-22 or applied for free and reduced lunch prior to July 31, 2021 and is deemed eligible.

- School-level P-EBT Family and Student Support**
 DCFS has developed a script and form to assist schools in supporting families with P-EBT questions and benefit updates. Data Managers can download these resources from the [P-EBT Data Manager's Toolbox](#). It is highly recommended that school-level staff assigned with assisting with P-EBT benefit updates also have access to the [P-EBT Administration Portal](#). School level administrators will need a [MyLA.gov account](#) and request access via the [P-EBT Administration Portal - Public School Access Request](#) form. DCFS will confirm with District Data Managers on access rights to be granted.
- Data Managers and new school-level staff who will be supporting the P-EBT program should attend the weekly [P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours](#) on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. to get updates on the P-EBT Program, assistance with issues, and answers to questions.

Please contact DCFS.PEBTSupport@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

Fall 2021 Counselor Institutes

Please share with middle/high school counselors.

The LDOE Fall 2021 Counselor Institutes are scheduled to take place October 19 - 21. Although these regional events are best suited for middle and high school counselors, all are welcome to attend. Participants should plan to attend **only one meeting**.

| | 8 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 4 p.m. |
|------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| October 19 | Bossier City | West Monroe |
| October 20 | Alexandria | Youngsville |
| October 21 | TBD (NOLA Region) | Livingston |

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

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders

Key Dates for Authorizers

The deadline for all districts to consider charter applications as part of the 2020-21 charter RFA process was July 16th. If a district has not made a decision about a charter application by that point, the applicant is eligible to appeal to BESE. Please remember to notify your relevant state legislators regarding charter school application determinations. See Bulletin 126 for more information.

All districts should have submitted the final recommendations relating to the charter RFA process to charters@la.gov by August 13th, 2021.

Please contact kristine.barker@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Bulletin 1903 Resources

[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 provided an informational webinar to support schools and systems with implementation of the updated guidelines. The presentation, along with the updated [Guide to Dyslexia in Louisiana](#) and [Dyslexia FAQ](#), has been posted in the [Academics Library](#) under Dyslexia.

Please contact lisa.holliday@la.gov with questions.

CLSD UIN Communities of Practice

The Department is providing CLSD UIN recipients a collaborative opportunity to participate in monthly Communities of Practice (CoPs). Grant fund recipients should plan to attend the monthly session on the second Friday of each month at 11 a.m. beginning September 10, 2021. Information for the first CoP is listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 10 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/93019040336>
- **Meeting ID:** 930 1904 0336
- **Passcode:** 7Pb3Dc

Please contact catasha.edwards@la.gov with questions.