

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**October 6, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

As a former school principal, I know the stress and challenges of that role all too well. At the same time, I understand the incredible impact a principal can have on kids, teachers, staff, families and the community. October may be National Principals Month, but we should celebrate our principals every day.

We're facing unprecedented challenges in the classroom this year. Principals, I thank you and I appreciate you for continuously working to keep our kids and our employees safe while also pushing for greater academic outcomes and opportunities for students.

Whether it's a public show of appreciation or a private note of thanks, I encourage our school communities to let the principals in our lives know the impact they make each day.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

## **In This Issue**

- [Career and College Readiness](#)
- [Legislative and Policy Support](#)
  - [Healthy Communities](#)
- [Operations](#)
  - [Grants Management](#)
- [School System Relations](#)
  - [Excellent Educators](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
  - [Academic Content](#)
  - [Assessment and Accountability](#)
  - [Educator Development](#)
- [Reminders](#)

## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
<a href="#">Education Technology Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">October 8 at 9 a.m.</a>
EdLink 360 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 8 at 1 p.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	<a href="#">October 8 at 3 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">October 13 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Educator Development Office Hours	<a href="#">October 20 at 12 p.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
SPED Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 8 at 2 p.m.</a>
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 14 at 11 a.m.</a>
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 14 at 3 p.m.</a>
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 15 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 15 at 3 p.m.</a>
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	<a href="#">October 16 at 9 a.m.</a>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 19 at 10 a.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 20 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 21 at 2 p.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 21 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 22 at 9 a.m.</a>
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 28 at 1 p.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">November 5 at 1 p.m.</a>
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">November 6 at 9 a.m.</a>

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Early Literacy Commission Meeting	<a href="#">October 15 at 12 p.m.</a>
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	<a href="#">October 28 at 9 a.m.</a>
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	<a href="#">October 29 at 8 a.m.</a>
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	<a href="#">October 29 at 12 p.m.</a>
Important Deadlines	
Document Link	Deadline
<a href="#">2020-2021 Midterm Graduate Diploma Form</a>	October 9
<a href="#">ELA Guidebooks, Grades 3-5 Louisiana Educator Feedback</a>	October 15
<a href="#">2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan</a>	October 16
<a href="#">CTE Mission: CubeSat</a>	October 16
<a href="#">2021 Student of the Year Application</a>	October 16
2020-2021 Education Excellence Funds Application	October 16
<a href="#">Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver Request: Public Comment</a>	October 24

## Career and College Readiness

### **2020-2021 Midterm Graduate Diploma to Include New Superintendent's Signature** Please share with principals, counselors, and data coordinators.

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2020-2021 midterm graduates. Diploma requests should be submitted by **October 9**. Diplomas ordered will include the signature of Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. Diplomas utilized from this point forward should include the new signature.

Please contact [megan.thompson2@la.gov](mailto:megan.thompson2@la.gov) with questions.

## Legislative and Policy Support

### Healthy Communities

#### **COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Course Registration**

Well-Ahead Louisiana, in partnership with Louisiana Department of Education and Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center, has launched a variety of [self-paced virtual trainings](#) to help schools prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Schools can now access the COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies course, developed by the [Children's Hospital New Orleans](#). This course outlines key principals and strategic tools for mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as assessing and isolating students, faculty, and staff. After completing the course, attendees will be emailed a certificate of completion.

[Registration](#) is now open. When enrolling in the course, use "JOIN" as the self-enrollment key.

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

#### **Healthy Schools Academy**

In collaboration with the Healthy Communities Section, Well-Ahead Louisiana is hosting a free virtual professional development opportunity dedicated to improving student health and academic achievement.

The virtual Healthy Schools Academy is open to teachers, school nurses, counselors, coaches, administrators, and others looking for ways to help students stay healthy and ready to learn. Participants will gain skills to enhance the educational process by supporting the needs of the whole child.

The virtual Healthy Schools Academy will be held on **October 27 from 8:45 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.** There is no cost to participate. For information on sessions and speakers, and to register, visit [Well-Ahead Louisiana](#).

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

#### **New School WellSpot Benchmarks**

The WellSpot Designation program recognizes schools that are implementing policies and practices to support the health of their students and staff. The school wellness benchmarks were recently updated and now align more closely with school health best practices. Becoming a WellSpot lets families and the community know that schools are committed to prioritizing student and staff health.

Well-Ahead representatives are ready to guide schools through the designation process! Well-Ahead will work with schools that are already a WellSpot to help them move up a level. To learn more, visit [Well-Ahead Louisiana](#).

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

## Operations

### Grants Management

#### **2020-2021 Education Excellence Funds (EEF) Application Release**

The 2020-2021 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application is now available in the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) Electronic Grants Management System (eGMS). The submission deadline is **October 16**.

Please review the EEF Application information (EEF slide deck) under the Announcements section on the eGMS login page.

Nonpublic applicants must complete both the EEF Contact Information and EEF Assurances sections of the LEA Central Data for the EEF application to appear.

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

#### **2020-2021 Preliminary Formula Allocations for ESSA, IDEA, Carl Perkins**

The 2020-2021 preliminary formula allocations for ESSA, IDEA, Carl Perkins are now visible in eGMS. The preliminary allocations reflect 95 percent of the total award amount. Final allocations are planned for release in eGMS in December. At this time, school systems will need to budget the amounts reflected in the Super App application.

Please submit any questions regarding preliminary allocations to the Grants Helpdesk at [LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov).

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

## School System Relations

### Excellent Educators

#### **Nominate Outstanding Educators for Teacher/Principal of the Year**

**Please share with principals and teachers.**

The Department recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a nominations portal was created.

The nominations portal is open now and will close on October 16. Upon portal close, the nominations information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share this [nomination portal link](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Award's page](#).

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

## **Virtual Instruction Training for Teachers and Leaders**

The Department, in partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), is offering all educators in Louisiana the opportunity to participate in three 90-minute sessions to learn more about effective virtual teaching practices.

There are three different tracks for educators to receive training based on their role: one for K-2 classroom teachers, one for 3-12 classroom teachers, and one for school leaders. The sessions will cover:

- **planning** for virtual instruction,
- delivery of virtual **instruction**, and
- strengthening the virtual **environment**.

All educators will receive a variety of templates, tools, and strategies they can use immediately in their schools and classrooms. School leaders will receive more support around coaching, while classroom teachers will receive more content they can use directly in their virtual instruction.

These sessions are completely free and will be offered multiple times each week over the course of 2020-2021, starting the last week of October.

Teacher and school leaders will have a variety of options as they select session times, including after school, in the evening, and on weekends. School leaders will also have options during the school day. More information about how to register will be shared with system and school leaders via the School Systems Relations Team.

All sessions are taught live (synchronously), and there will be asynchronous modules available beginning in November for those who choose to facilitate through a collaborative setting.

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

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Academic Content**

#### **Education Technology Office Hours**

In addition to the monthly [Education Technology Monthly Call](#), monthly office hours will now be hosted, and an [FAQ document](#) has been created. This will be an opportunity for the Department and the Office of Technology Services to provide new and time-sensitive guidance on E-Rate and cybersecurity as well as address important questions raised by school system CTOs, IT, support, education technology, and E-Rate staff. The first office hours will be held this [Thursday, October 8 at 9 a.m.](#)

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

## Assessment and Accountability

### **LEAP 2025 Assessment Updates**

The [LEAP 2025 assessment guides](#) have been revised and reposted to reflect the following testing updates:

1. Grades 5-8 Social Studies: In the past, a sample of students taking the grades 5-8 social studies assessments were required to participate in a short field-test session. This spring, no field testing will take place at grades 5-8 in social studies.
2. Grades 3-8 Science: See update on the design of the science tests in the grade-level assessment guides.

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

### **LEAP 360 Updates**

A [LEAP 360 Interim Guidance document](#) has been created and posted on the [LEAP 360 homepage](#). It describes the updates to the LEAP 360 Interim Assessments for the 2020-2021 school year, provides a list of Interim resources, and includes guidance on how to use the resources to help achieve the goal of integrating the Interims into high-quality ELA and mathematics curricula.

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

### **File Available via FTP – April and July Quarterly Home Study Reports**

**Please share with data coordinators.**

The Quarterly Home Study Reports for April and July 2020 are available via the Data Management FTP (usernames ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named “LEACode\_LEAName\_April2020HomeStudy” and “LEACODE\_LEAName\_July2020HomeStudy” and will remain on the FTP until the end of 2020. Please provide these files to child welfare and attendance offices and home study personnel.

Within the zipped file, documents include:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- Detailed list of students from LEA enrolled in Home Study program
- Each student’s home study approval notification letter

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

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

### **ACT**

- **Important:** Test coordinators are reminded to only use ACT test materials sent for the October test. Answer documents from spring 2020 will be rejected if used in October, as well as any spring 2020 answer documents that are returned with barcode labels from October placed over the spring barcode labels.
- October 6-April 30: The 2020-2021 WorkKeys testing window is open.
  - Please refer to the *Quick Start Guide for Assigning TTS to a Single Examinee* for WorkKeys. The document will be posted to the ACT State Testing site in the [WorkKeys](#) section.
  - The Department will cover the cost for one WorkKeys administration for students who are on the Jump Start pathway and are in grade 11.
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).

### **LEAP 2025 Enrollment Verification and High School Window Selection**

- Now-October 31: School systems should log into DRC INSIGHT and complete the enrollment information for third and fourth grade that is required no later than October 31.
  - Schools testing third or fourth grade on paper should also indicate the number of test booklets needed.
  - School systems need to verify the number of braille tests necessary for testing grades 3-8 for both paper-based or computer-based testing formats.
- Now-October 9: Within the Grade 3 and 4 Enrollment Verification function, systems should also complete the enrollment information indicating their choice of LEAP 2025 high school fall window.
  - Systems may select only one of the two testing windows: December 1-18 or January 6-26.
  - School systems should keep in mind that LEAP 2025 high school test scores must be factored into the final grade per policy when selecting the window.
  - Schools that do not complete this information will automatically be added to the January testing window.

### **LEAP 2025 Grades 3-8 Spring Test Administration**

- At the request of many school systems that have had especially difficult challenges to the opening of school, the LEAP 2025 spring testing for grades 3-8 has been rescheduled as follows:
  - April 26-May 26: CBT
  - April 28-30 ELA and Math: PBT
  - May 3-4 Science and Social Studies PBT
- The [2020-2021 Assessment Calendar](#) has been updated and additional key dates will be released in the coming months.

### **NAEP 2021**

- After careful deliberation, it has been determined that the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will proceed with a reduced administration of the mandated mathematics and reading assessments.
  - The sample has been reduced to about half, impacting the number of sampled schools and students selected in Louisiana.
  - NAEP will be administered in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8 at the state level.
  - The NAEP assessment window will occur from January 25 through March 19, 2021.
  - School system leaders were notified by email letter on Friday, October 2.
  - As in previous years, NAEP representatives will provide significant support to schools by administering the assessment and bringing all necessary materials and equipment, including sanitized tablets, on which students take the assessment.
  - Considerations will continue to monitor processes and procedures in response to any safety or health concerns related to COVID-19.



### **Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance**

- Due October 31:
  - Deadline for data managers to submit the KEA and K-3 literacy screener data with the [SIS K-3 Assessment Collection](#).
  - Fall Checkpoint Early Childhood TS GOLD. Visit the [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) for additional information.
- Due November 7:
  - The SIS K-3 Assessment Collection window has been pushed back to open on October 19 for data submission. Because of this delay, the deadline has been changed to November 7.
- Due November 20:
  - [Act 688 Survey](#) - School systems are required to report the number of students referred for gifted screening based on their performance of the literacy screener, with the literacy screener being at least one indicator used in consideration for gifted screening. DTCs and Special Education Coordinators should work together to submit only one form per school system. This data will be reported to BESE.
- The Birth-Grade 3 Assessments has a [suite of resources](#) available to help school systems (and early learning centers) with assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The Department will work with those school systems that have been severely impacted by Hurricane Laura. The Department will review BESE policy to ensure alignment with state law and will consider flexibility in timelines for administration and reporting results during times of crisis or natural disaster. For questions, please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

### **Identification of English Learners**

- Students who scored proficient on the ELPT in 2020 and who will no longer be identified as EL should be updated in SIS to Fully English Proficient with the October 1 submission. Because the ELPT testing window is early February, the Department is not able to update the student status prior to testing.
- Bulletin 111 policy regarding the exit of students with disabilities after four years changed substantially last year. Per new policy, students may only be exited after four years if their disability has substantial impact on their ability to acquire ANY language. Students may not be exited just based on scores from the ELPT.

### **2020-2021 Growth Target Rosters**

- The 2020-2021 growth target rosters are now posted to secure FTP. The rosters include a target scale score for eligible students. Students are assigned to schools based on the 2019-2020 site code. The rosters will be updated with this year's site codes in November. For information about how the targets were calculated without scores from 2020, please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov).

### **Interests and Opportunities Index Results**

- School systems recently received a roster file with their schools' results on the 2019-2020 Interests and Opportunities Index via their secure FTPs. As a reminder, these results will not be used in official accountability calculations, as school performance scores will not be produced for the 2019-2020 school year. The Department has compiled a list of [frequently asked questions](#) around the 2019-2020 accountability release. Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours**

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **October 13 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 13 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Passcode:** 2020202!

## Educator Development

### **Educator Development Office Hours**

In addition to the monthly Academic Content/Educator Development Call, the division of Educator Development will be offering monthly office hours. The first office hours will be held on **October 20 at 12 p.m.** During this initial office hour time, the Department will share updates and guidance on SLTs. Please complete this [survey](#) to submit additional topic preferences for future office hours.

Office hour details:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 20 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93833176635>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID#:** 938 3317 6635
- **Passcode:** 724Rfq

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

## Reminders

- [\*\*School System Support Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Career and College Readiness Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Equity, Inclusion and Opportunities Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Special Education Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Legislative and Policy Report Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Educator Workforce Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Healthy Communities Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Operations Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Federal Programs Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Teaching and Learning Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Academic Content Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Assessment and Accountability Reminders\*\*](#)

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

### **School System Planning Calendar**

The [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar:

- Super App Office Hours
- Updated Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Meeting dates

Please email [ldoecomunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecomunications@la.gov) with questions.

## **LDH School-Based Flu Vaccination Program**

The Louisiana Department of Education is working with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to bring the Health Hero flu vaccination program to school systems. This initiative provides safe, efficient school-located vaccinations, increases immunization coverage, reduces the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, and helps keep children in school.

The Health Hero program provides vaccines in schools to students, teachers, and staff (regardless of insurance coverage) through state licensed nurses. Because many children have limited access to healthcare services, the Health Heroes program ensures that more children can easily get this important vaccination. By offering the flu vaccine at school sites, the program removes barriers for families who might not otherwise be able to take time off work to have their children vaccinated.

For more information, or to schedule a clinic, please contact Liberty Duke from Health Hero at 205-609-0268 or [liberty@healthherousa.com](mailto:liberty@healthherousa.com). For additional information from LDH, please contact [stacy.hall@la.gov](mailto:stacy.hall@la.gov).

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

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

### **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 2021 Virtual United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to virtually participate in a series of online meetings during the week of March 15, 2021. Upon participation of all of these meetings, each delegate will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. The Department requests assistance in selecting these students.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit an [application packet](#). If students are unable to hold leadership positions this year due to the pandemic, they can submit the position they held during the 2019-2020 academic year. Please ensure students understand the rules and regulations governing this competition. For test security reasons, the test secure essay topics will only be released to school systems and will not be available on our website. High school personnel should contact [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) as soon as a student request is made for the essay topics.

<b>U.S. Senate Youth Timeline</b>	
November 16	Submit application portfolio
December 4	Notification sent to finalists
December 15	Final phase selection
March 15-19, 2021	Virtual online meetings

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

## **LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute**

Please share with counselors and school system leaders.

Save the date for the 2020 Virtual Fall Counselor Institute! **Attendees are asked to please set aside three hours on the day and time that works best for them.**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 28 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99489510512>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 994 8951 0512
  
- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 29 at 8 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98233548776>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 982 3354 8776
  
- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 29 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97179412692>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 971 7941 2692

### **Tentative Agenda**

- State Assessment Updates
- 2020-2021 LOSFA TOPS Regulatory Flexibilities
- ACT Superscore
- Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, IB, CLEP
- 2020-2021 Financial Aid
- TOPS Weighted GPA and Credit Recovery
- Jump Start 2.0/STEM Pathways
- Jump Start Convention/Educator Leader Summit

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

## **2021 Jump Start Virtual Convention**

Please share with school system leaders, counselors, LCTCS, and workforce development organizations.

Save the date for the 2021 Jump Start Convention! The convention will be held virtually on the afternoons of January 26 and 27. Registration will open in October.

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

## **Multiphase Challenge Building Skills for 21st Century Careers**

Please share with career and technical education and math/science leaders and educators.

The U.S. Department of Education has launched [CTE Mission: CubeSat](#), a national challenge to inspire high school students to build technical skills for careers in space and beyond. Students from across the country are invited to design and build prototypes of CubeSats (cube satellites), or satellites that aid in space research, bringing space missions out of the clouds and into the classroom. No in-person collaboration or prior experience with CubeSats is required. Teams can use a curated collection of virtual resources in the [CTE Mission: CubeSat resource hub](#) as they develop and submit their mission proposals.

The deadline to submit proposals is **October 16 at 5:59 p.m.**

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

## ***Equity, Inclusion and Opportunities Reminders***

### ***Special Education Reminders***

#### **Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver Request: Public Comment**

Under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Louisiana must limit the number of students who are assessed statewide on alternate assessments to 1.0 percent of the total number of students who are required to participate in statewide assessments. The Department intends to seek a waiver extension for the 2020-2021 school year of this federal requirement that would limit the number of students in the state who participate in alternate assessments.

The [notice of intent](#) to submit a waiver is available for public comment until **October 24**. Comments may be submitted via email to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) and should include a full name, organization (if applicable), and contact information.

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

## ***Legislative and Policy Support Reminders***

### ***Educator Workforce Reminders***

#### **New Website Launched - Louisiana Teacher Preparation Providers**

The Department — in collaboration with the Board of Regents — launched a new [website](#) that allows prospective educators to explore teacher preparation programs. The website includes information on Louisiana's 29 teacher preparation programs, including certification areas offered, testimonials, and the demographics of their program completers and retention data. Each provider's performance on Louisiana's [Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System](#) will be added to the website this winter. Prospective educators can use the website to select teacher preparation programs that best meet their needs, and school systems can use the information to address their educator workforce needs.

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

## *Healthy Communities Reminders*

### **Louisiana Farm to School Launches Seeds to Success Website**

The Louisiana Farm to School Program's new website, [Seeds to Success](#), recently launched. The website houses information about how to grow fruits and vegetables in Louisiana and apply these skills to learning, how to start and maintain school gardens (including classroom container gardens), and how to turn student interests into budding careers. Lesson plans and activities are available and organized by grade, group, or by crop interest. Create an account to save crop guides and lesson plans and use the Louisiana Resource page to discover places, events, and organizations related to Farm to School. Louisiana teachers are encouraged to request free growing materials for classroom education.

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

## *Operations Reminders*

### *Federal Programs Reminders*

#### **CARES Act Interim Final Rule Invalidated**

On July 1, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published an [Interim Final Rule \(IFR\)](#) regarding equitable services under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. On September 4, in *NAACP v. Davos*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued an [opinion](#) and an [order](#) vacating the IFR. **Accordingly, the IFR is no longer in effect.**

The LDOE has received the Secretary's response ([ED's Response to Interim Final Rule Invalidations](#)) to the IFR guidance invalidation and it is important to note:

- ED will not appeal the court's decision to invalidate the IFR.
- ED will not take any action against states or local school systems that followed the initial guidance and/or the IFR prior to notice of the court's decision.
- ED will use its enforcement authority to ensure districts comply with the Equitable Services requirements provided in Section 1117(a)(4)(A) of the ESEA of 1965. (calculating equitable services based on student low income data)

As a reminder, the agency is recommending school systems consider the following next steps as they prepare to move forward in providing equitable services to eligible private schools.

- School systems should conduct meaningful consultations with private schools acknowledging the judge's ruling regarding invalidating ED's IFR guidance.
- School systems are to calculate CARES Act equitable services funding levels using student low income data only.
- Services and devices already delivered to participating private schools above the student low income equitable services level are to remain with the private schools so that there is no interruption of services for students.
- Back orders for devices, materials, and supplies should be provided up to the low income equitable services level. The remaining devices, materials, and supplies should remain with the school system.
- Private schools with no low income student counts should not be afforded CARES Act equitable services.

During the Federal Programs and Grants Management next monthly call scheduled for October 15 at 10 a.m., the Department will review frequently asked questions received from school districts as they move forward with implementing CARES Act equitable services according to ED's response to the courts' rulings.

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

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

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

#### **Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks: Future Development**

**Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 3-5.**

The Department is excited to announce a partnership with [The Writing Revolution](#) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks.

This work will be completed by Louisiana teachers and a special team of "Revolutionaries" from [Monroe City Schools](#). The first phase of development will happen for grades 3-5 and will be available for piloting in 2021-2022.

Instructional leaders should encourage educators in grades 3-5 to [submit feedback](#) on current units prior to **October 15**. More details about this partnership and future release dates will be announced via this newsletter.

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

#### **ELA Guidebooks Resource Bank**

**Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 3-5.**

The Department has created a [form](#) to collect ELA Guidebook resources from teachers to share freely across the state. Examples can be uploaded directly into the form. These resources will be compiled, vetted, and shared by grade-level. Please consider sharing examples of:

- Unit/Lesson Slide Decks
- Unit/Lesson Planning Document(s)
- Unit/Lesson Scope and Sequence/Pacing Examples
- Student and/or Parent Facing Resources

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

## ***Assessment and Accountability Reminders***

### **MFP and IDEA Data Collections**

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The Student Information System (SIS) MFP collection and the Special Education Reporting (SER) IDEA collection are open for submitting student data. **The deadline is October 23.** This collection is important for funding. Please refer to the [2020-2021 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions.

Beginning October 5, validation reports will be dropped to the Data Management FTP (Data Validation folder) for download, review, and for making any needed corrections in the data systems.

Please contact [tara.baylot@la.gov](mailto:tara.baylot@la.gov) (SPC, SIS) or [bernetta.sims@la.gov](mailto:bernetta.sims@la.gov) (SER) with questions.

### **2019 Class Size Reports for Auditors are Available on DM FTP**

The 2019 Class Size characteristics reports for auditors are now available on the Data Management FTP. Please locate the two files named “LEACode\_2019 Class Size by Site for Auditors” and “LEACode\_2019 Class Size for Auditors” and provide them to finance offices.

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

## **Updates to the Louisiana School and Center Finder**

### **K-12 Report Cards**

Due to the impact of COVID-19, K-12 accountability results were not calculated for the 2019-2020 school year. Schools' academic performance pages have been kept static with accountability data from the 2018-2019 school year. Available data from the 2019-2020 school year are posted in the Department's [Data Center](#). The Department has compiled a list of [frequently asked questions](#) around the 2019-2020 accountability release.

### **Early Childhood Performance Profiles**

The Department released 2019-2020 [Performance Profiles](#) on the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#), which now include both a Performance Score and Performance Rating (based on CLASS® observations) as well as Informational Metrics (such as curriculum quality, child/teacher ratios, and teacher credentials).

Due to COVID-19, the Department implemented a “hold harmless” approach for 2019-2020 Early Childhood Performance Profiles:

- Sites with a higher 2019-2020 Performance Score were given the opportunity to opt-in to receiving an updated Performance Profile based on 2019-2020 results.
  - For all other sites, the Department is extending 2018-2019 Performance Scores.

The Department has released resources for systems, lead agencies, and early childhood providers to interpret the 2019-2020 Performance Profiles:

- [Site Performance Profile Key and Guide](#)
- [Performance Profile FAQs](#) and [COVID-19 Impact on Performance Profile FAQs](#)

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