

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**October 13, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

I know I speak for the entire Louisiana education community in offering sincere thoughts and prayers for our colleagues impacted by Hurricane Delta. We've been in close contact with those system leaders to offer support and connect them with resources. The Department is updating the [disaster recovery guidance](#) issued shortly after Hurricane Laura. Please use this guidance whether you are recovering from Delta or if your system is welcoming families displaced by the storm. We will keep you informed of any updates stemming from the impacts of Laura and Delta.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

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## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
EdLink 360 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 15 at 1 p.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 3 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 20 at 10:30 a.m.</a>
Educator Development Office Hours	<a href="#">October 20 at 12 p.m.</a>
K-2 CLASS Pilot Office Hours	<a href="#">October 20 at 12 p.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 4 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 20 at 1 p.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 1 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 20 at 2:30 p.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 2 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 21 at 9 a.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 5 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 21 at 10:30 a.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 6 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 21 at 1 p.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 7 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 21 at 2:30 p.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 8 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 22 at 9 a.m.</a>
Alternate Assessment Region 9 Office Hours	<a href="#">October 22 at 10:30 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Career and College Readiness Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">October 22 at 3 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">October 27 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 14 at 11 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call</a>	<a href="#">October 14 at 3 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call</a>	<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>
SPED Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">November 12 at 2 p.m.</a>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Zoom Link</b>
Early Literacy Commission Meeting	<a href="#">October 15 at 12 p.m.</a>
Resident and Mentor Compensation Process Webinar	<a href="#">October 19 at 3 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>
<b>Important Deadlines</b>	
<b>Document Link</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<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
Close of Second E-Rate Filing Window for Increasing Internet Bandwidth	October 16
<a href="#">Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver Request: Public Comment</a>	October 24
<a href="#">LEAP 2025 Science Grades 3, 5, 7, and 8 Stimuli Review Committees Interest Survey</a>	October 29

## Recovery

### **Disaster Recovery Guidance**

The Department has released [disaster recovery guidance](#). Please continue to check [this link](#), as the guidance will be updated as new information becomes available. The document includes guidance and resources on the following topics:

- Enrollment of displaced students
- Damage to facilities and supply needs
- Staffing capacity
- Issues related to the start of the school year
- Charter school specific guidance

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

## School System Support

### **Super App Launch**

This year's **Super App Launch is scheduled for November 6 and will be all virtual**. Sessions will be pre-recorded, shared in the weekly newsletter, and posted to the Department's [School Improvement Library](#) on **November 6**.

During November, December, and January, regularly scheduled team monthly calls and office hours will provide opportunities for school system leaders to learn more about specific sections, ask questions, and receive guidance.

New this year: The Department will offer Super App Planning Support calls beginning in December where teams can request one-on-one targeted guidance and support with planning, completing the workbook, and aligning funding to priorities.

More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Questions should be emailed to [LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov). Please include "Super App" in the email subject line.

## Career and College Readiness

### **Federal Policy on Military Recruiting in Schools**

**Please share with principals and counselors to ensure systems are in compliance with federal law.**

Representatives of military recruiting offices have recently contacted the Department to express concerns regarding access to student contact information. By federal law according to 20 U.S.C. 7908, all school systems that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must provide student's names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters unless the student's parents or guardians have individually opted out of providing this information. Local education authorities cannot adopt a blanket opt-out policy and 20 U.S.C. 7908 supersedes any conflicting state law.

In addition, please be mindful that schools are to allow recruiters from the various branches of service equitable access to classrooms and/or facilities. School systems must allow equal access and accommodation to all branches of services in accordance with a consistent application of their local policies. Students interested in joining the military after high school should be allowed to receive information from all branches of service so they can make an intelligent decision if they are considering joining the military.

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

## Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

### Special Education

### **Alternate Assessment Participation Review Feedback and Regional Office Hours**

The Department will host virtual Alternate Assessment Office Hours for each region (as listed on the [Office of Public Health Regional Contact Map](#)) on the dates and times included below. This will be a time to review outcomes and best practices around the Alternate Assessment Review Process and to ask questions about the process.

Region	Date, Time, and Zoom Link
1: Orleans, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. Bernard	<a href="#">October 20 at 2:30 p.m.</a>
2: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana	<a href="#">October 21 at 9 a.m.</a>
3: Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, Terrebonne	<a href="#">October 20 at 10:30 a.m.</a>
4: Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermillion	<a href="#">October 20 at 1 p.m.</a>

5: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis	<a href="#">October 21 at 10:30 a.m.</a>
6: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, Winn	<a href="#">October 21 at 1 p.m.</a>
7: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster	<a href="#">October 21 at 2:30 p.m.</a>
8: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll	<a href="#">October 22 at 9 a.m.</a>
9: Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington	<a href="#">October 22 at 10:30 a.m.</a>

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

## Student Well-Being

### **Student Well-Being Monthly Call: Added Date**

**Please share with the Urgent Intervention Required for Discipline (UIR-D) school leadership team(s).**

The Department has added an additional Student Well-Being Monthly Call date for the month of November. This call will serve as an opportunity for student well-being vendors to attend and share more information about their services that will be funded for UIR-D schools in the 2020-2021 Super App. Supervisors of school improvement, supervisors of student services/programs/life, supervisors of child welfare and attendance, and supervisors of pupil appraisal are encouraged to attend. **Please note:** This additional date in November has a different Zoom link than the other monthly call dates.

Information needed to join this newly-added call is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 9 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91427137294>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 914 2713 7294

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

## Legislative and Policy Support

### Healthy Communities

#### **School Year 2020-2021 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Application**

Applications for the 2020-2021 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are available for returning sponsors via the [Child Nutrition Program \(CNP\) website](#). Applications must be completed and submitted by **November 10**.

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

## Teaching and Learning

### Academic Content

#### **K-2 CLASS Pilot Office Hours**

The Department will be hosting monthly CLASS office hours for school systems to discuss topics around the [K-2 CLASS initiative](#). This will be a time to discuss updates and ask questions related to the K-2 CLASS Pilot for the 2020-2021 school year. Any school systems that are participating in the pilot are invited to attend. Information needed to join the office hours is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 20 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/2031661453>
- **Meeting ID#:** 203 166 1453
- **Passcode:** 4iZRnw

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

#### **ELA Guidebooks: Updates**

**Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers.**

The ELA Guidebooks landing [page](#) on the [Louisiana Believes website](#) has been updated to include download boxes with ELA Guidebook resources and distance learning resources.

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

## **ELA Guidebooks: Foundations Supports Update**

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

The ELA Guidebooks Foundations Supports to support students in grades 3-5 who struggle to read fluently have been updated. These resources include both teacher-facing directions and student-facing materials.

- The teacher-facing directions provide guidance for explicitly teaching foundational phonics skills and practicing grade-level fluency.
- The student-facing materials include targeted skill activities and fluency practice passages directly related to the grade-level ELA Guidebook unit texts used during whole-class, core instruction.

The updated materials will be available for download through the [bulk downloader tool](#) on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). Each ELA Guidebook unit folder will have a folder entitled “Foundations Supports.”

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

## **ELA Guidebooks: High School Guidebooks (2020) Updates**

**Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 9-12.**

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Overview](#) document has been updated to include the most recent information about the 9-12 units on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). The Life of Pi unit for grade 10 will be available on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) by **October 19**.

The Department is also soliciting teacher feedback through [Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Feedback Form](#) for the units being implemented this year. Please encourage educators to bookmark this link for use throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

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

## **Assessment and Accountability**

### **2020 List of Schools in Need of Intervention Now Available**

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on school closures, school performance scores and letter grades were not produced for the 2019-2020 school year. On March 20, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) approved a waiver request by the Louisiana Department of Education, waiving most assessment and accountability requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. As part of that waiver, ED required the Department to maintain the existing list of schools in need of intervention from the 2019 release. As such, schools have not exited or entered intervention status from the 2019 release based on the 2019-2020 school year, and the 2020 intervention list uses 2018-2019 school year data as the most recent year of data.

The [2020 intervention list](#) will be posted in the Department's [Performance Scores Library](#) **tomorrow, October 14**.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@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 Assessment Development**

- LDOE Assessment Development will convene LEAP 2025 Science Stimuli Review Committees in Lafayette for the following grades at the listed dates and times:
  - Grade 3: November 14 (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
  - Grade 5: November 21 (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
  - Grade 7: November 14 (1:30 p.m.-5 p.m.)
  - Grade 8: November 21 (1:30 p.m.-5 p.m.)
- The committees will review stimuli to ensure the materials that will be used to develop item and task sets on the LEAP 2025 Science tests are fair and appropriate for all students and will allow an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in science. Participants may each earn a stipend and be reimbursed for mileage to and from the meeting.
- Interested science teachers (including those who work in special education or with English Learners), supervisors, and content specialists should complete the [interest survey](#) to apply to participate by **October 29**.

### **LEAP 2025 Enrollment Verification**

- 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.

### **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

- All schools selected for participation in the 2021 administration of NAEP have been notified by email from Rebecca Frederick.
- January 25 and March 19, 2021: Testing window has been extended 2 weeks to accommodate variation in school schedules.
- District test coordinators were copied on notifications and should help schools prepare for the assessment.
  - Review the *School Coordinator Responsibilities: A Guide to MyNAEP* that was emailed to all schools selected for NAEP.
  - Remind principals that they must designate a NAEP school coordinator to service as the liaison for all NAEP activities.
  - Encourage designated school coordinators to access the MyNAEP site ([www.mynaep.com](http://www.mynaep.com)), and register with the ID number they received in the emailed notification.
- For questions or additional information, please contact Rebecca Frederick at 225-963-8197 or email [rebecca.frederick@la.gov](mailto:rebecca.frederick@la.gov).

## Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- 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.
- **Due November 7:**
  - 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.
  - The SIS K-3 Assessment Collection window will open October 19 for data submission.
- **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 district. This data will be reported to BESE.
- The Department will work with those school systems that have been severely impacted by the recent hurricanes. 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).

## 2020-2021 Growth Target Rosters

- The 2020-2021 growth target rosters are now posted to secure FTP (file names LEACode\_2020-21 HS Growth To Mastery Student Roster and LEACode\_2020\_LEAP 2025\_Grades 3-8\_Growth to Mastery Student Roster). 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).

## Advanced Placement ® Results

- The 2019-2020 Advanced Placement Results ® rosters are now posted to secure FTP. The roster includes, for the total population and for student groups, exams taken, exams passed (scoring 3+), and student counts for the school system and schools. Suppressed public data has been made available in the Department's [High School Performance Library](#). Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

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

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on **October 20 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 20 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**

### **Resident and Mentor Compensation Process Webinar Rescheduled**

Due to Hurricane Delta, the Resident and Mentor Compensation Process webinar has been **rescheduled to October 19 at 3 p.m.**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 19 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/7328306617>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646- 876- 9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 732 830 6617

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

### **Rater Reliability Compass Evaluator Training Available**

The 2020-2021 Rater Reliability Compass Evaluator Training recording is now available for viewing under the Observation and Feedback section of the [Compass Library](#). The video is also posted to the Department's [YouTube channel](#). **All evaluators of professional staff must complete the training prior to conducting formal observations for evaluations.** A [companion PDF file](#) is also published allowing evaluators to have access to the many links shared throughout the presentation.

This training covers:

- Evaluation Rationale and Policy/Continuum of Evaluation and Certification
- Elements of Evaluation: Professional Practice Scores and Student Performance Scores
- Considerations for Rater Reliability in the Virtual/Blended Learning Environment
- Rater Reliability Norming
- System of Record (Compass Information System)
- Grievance Policies
- Resources and Survey/ Confirmation of Attendance

In lieu of certificates, a timestamped list of attendees from the survey linked at the end of the training will be posted to the Compass Library monthly beginning November 1 to certify the completion of the Rater Reliability Training. School system leaders seeking to verify rater reliability training completion should source this document.

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

## Reminders

- **[Legislative and Policy Report Reminders](#)**
  - **[Healthy Communities Reminders](#)**
- **[Operations Reminders](#)**
  - **[Grants Management Reminders](#)**
- **[School System Relations Reminders](#)**
  - **[Excellent Educators Reminders](#)**
- **[Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)**
  - **[Academic Content Reminders](#)**
  - **[Assessment and Accountability Reminders](#)**

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

#### ***Healthy Communities Reminders***

#### **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 Reminders***

### ***Grants Management Reminders***

#### **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 **this Friday, 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 Reminders***

### ***Excellent Educators Reminders***

#### **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 **this Friday, 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 Reminders***

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

#### **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. Upcoming office hour dates will be shared in future newsletters. These dates will also be included in the [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#).

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

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

#### **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.

## ***Educator Development Reminders***

### **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.