

CHARTER SCHOOLS



January 8, 2020

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you've returned to school invigorated after a long and restful break. I'd like to say that it's all business from here on out, but with LSU at the Dome Monday night and Carnival just starting up, it can be hard to focus on the task at hand. Hopefully our kids will have a winter full of both good times and hard work.

As you know, Louisiana currently serves nearly all 4-year-old children from low-income families in publicly-funded early childhood programs. But our state only serves 7 percent of in-need children ages birth to 2 and only 33 percent of in-need 3-year olds. Fortunately, before the holiday break Louisiana again was named a winner of the competitive federal Preschool Development Grant, worth more than \$11 million each year for three years, dedicated to increasing the quantity and quality of opportunities available to the youngest children.

The grant first creates at least 600 new seats in child care centers for children ages 0 to 3. These seats will be prioritized for child care programs that provide infant care, that meet all teacher certification requirements, and that achieve solid quality rating scores. The grant will also double the number of [Ready Start Networks](#). These locally-led pilot programs are increasing access to high-quality early childhood education in their communities. Currently there are 13 pilots statewide under the leadership of local school systems and non-profit organizations. These agencies have led the important early childhood work across Louisiana that helped to secure this important grant for our state.

The grant will also provide new, unique supports directly to parents of the youngest children. Early Childhood Education Guides will recruit and support families to apply for child care assistance and will develop community-specific waiting lists for families who have applied for seats and are awaiting services. The grant will also allow Louisiana to establish regional networks of family child care home providers, which provide approved child care services from their homes, offering support for improvement efforts for pilot participants. This is a voluntary and novel means of assisting a large and important component of the child care industry that often goes overlooked.

Thankfully, there is real energy in Louisiana for supporting early childhood services. The issue is complex, and solutions will be complex. To assist all families seeking services, we will need to look for ways to support our youngest children. While not a complete solution, the Preschool Development Grant gives us reason again to innovate and to expand the services we provide to the newest members of our communities.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

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Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action	Owner(s)
1/10/19	Complete registration for SCA/Course Choice	Counselors
1/15/20	Submit Teacher and Principal of the Year applications	CEOs and school leaders
1/31/20	Apply for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth grant	School leaders and counselors
2/7/20	Submit designs for Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Contest	Teacher leaders
2/14/20	Complete Feb 1 MFP data submissions	Data managers
2/14/20	Report Teacher Student Data Link System (TSDL) spring data	Data managers
2/14/20	Certify senior mid-year graduates in SIS	Data managers
3/6/20	Order diplomas for 2019-20 graduates	School leaders, counselors and data managers

LEA Support

New: School System Planning

This month, school system planning teams should be preparing for an approved and funded Super App by:

- completing Contacts and Assurances in Central Data (eGMS), and
- entering data in Super App (eGMS).

Super App Office Hours will be held on January 13 at 11:00 a.m. for planning team members to review budgeting indirect costs, actions school systems should have taken during the month of December, and questions from teams. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 13 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/405281497>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Webinar ID#:** 405 281 497

Presentations from past Super App Office Hours can be found in the [School Improvement Library](#). Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Updated School System Planning Calendar

The [2019-2020 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar.

- Updated Assessment and Accountability Office Hours and Monthly Call dates
- Accountability Commission dates
- Louisiana Environmental Education State Symposium dates

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: February Collaborations

School system collaborations in February will target a limited, specific audience including chief academic officers, talent officers, and content directors for ELA, science, and PK-2. [Session](#) and [registration](#) information is now available. **Attendees planning to join Talent's Professional Development Plans session should have access to their PD plan or are encouraged to bring a copy.**

Dates and Locations:

- February 4 in Ruston
- February 6 in Baton Rouge
- February 7 in Baton Rouge

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest

Please share with teacher leaders.

The Department is seeking inspiration for 2020 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by February 7 to doecommunications@la.gov. The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold. Last year's school, Montegut Middle, was awarded \$968 from The Inkwell Press.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: For District Testing Coordinators

Important: ELPT Exemptions

- The ELPT testing window is February 3-March 13. All students who are identified as English learners in SIS must test and be included in accountability calculations in 2020.
- Requests for exemptions from the ELPT listening and/or speaking domains are now due to the Department. Please send completed requests to assessment@la.gov.
- Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

Important: English III EOC School System Administration Materials

- The English III EOC will no longer be available as a state-administered test. Schools systems should have received a folder in mid-November with all materials needed to administer and score English III assessments provided three times yearly through a process determined by the school system. Included in the folder will be manuals that include specific directions and a FAQ that will help to answer additional questions.
- An English III test materials folder is now available on the secure FTP, which includes all materials needed to administer and score English III assessments provided three times yearly through a process determined by the school system. Included in the folder are manuals that include specific directions.
- The [End-of-Course \(EOC\) English III School System-Administered Test FAQ](#) is now available in the DTC Resources area of the Assessment Library.
- Requests for braille forms of the test are provided as needed by the Department and should be addressed to assessment@la.gov.
- Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect

- The LEAP Connect testing window is February 3-March 13. All students who are eligible to take alternate assessment should now be identified with documentation in SER.

ACT and WorkKeys

- Now -January 31: Request accommodations and/or supports for eligible **ACT** examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations Systems](#) (TAA).
- The schedule of events for both ACT and WorkKeys spring 2020 are now posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site. Please refer to these documents for all important dates and deadlines for both ACT and WorkKeys.
- The [ACT State Testing](#) site has an [Orientation](#) tutorial for ACT and [Configuration](#) tutorial for WorkKeys available.
- Resources can be found on the [ACT State Testing](#) site or by contacting the WorkKeys helpdesk at 800-967-5539 (800-WorkKey).

NAEP 2019-2020

- Thirty-one Louisiana schools are participating in the NAEP 2019-2020 Long-Term Trend Study. Each principal will designate a school coordinator (SC) to support the administration of the NAEP test. The ideal school coordinator will be available to complete tasks during the pre-assessment period, collect student information, and enter it online. The deadlines for completing the Provide School Information(PSI) and E-filing are as follows:
 - **Completed:** Schools with age 9 and age13 students have completed the PSI and E-filing processes
 - **January 17:** Schools with age 17 students

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call** will be on **January 14 at 1:00 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

Reminder: 2018-2019 Accountability Updates in the Superintendent and Principal Secure Portal

The [Secure Portal](#) has been updated to reflect 2018-2019 accountability results. The results reflect the ELPT learning year.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: 2019-2020 Graduate Diploma Orders

Please share with principals, counselors, and data coordinators.

Please use the [Diploma Order form](#) to submit an order for the 2019-2020 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the [Diploma Order form](#) by **March 6**. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov for more information.

New: Perkins Core Indicator Reports are available for the 2018-2019 school year

Please share with CTE supervisors and counselors.

2018-2019 Perkins Core Indicators reports are now available in the [C.A.T.E. portal](#). These reports can be found under the Reports tab by selecting published reports.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: SCA/Course Choice Spring Registration

Please share with counselors.

Registration for SCA/Course Choice Spring 2020 opened on December 16 and closes on January 10 at 5:00 p.m. Schools will register students directly with the course providers and/or higher education institution. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details. Schools should document all enrollments with SCA private providers and post-secondary providers in the [Course Choice Reporting System](#) by January 10. This insures the school system will utilize their SCA allocation to fund tuition.

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. These course offerings will enable schools to provide courses not currently available to their students, including:

- career and technical preparation supporting the Jump Start program,
- academic work required to achieve TOPS,
- advanced coursework not available at the school due to limited resources,
- dual enrollment courses from colleges and universities, and
- intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation.

Educator Preparation

New: State Teacher/Principal of the Year Applications

State-level Teacher and Principal of the Year applications are due by **January 15**.

- Candidates are to submit applications in the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidate's Online Application Portal](#).
- School systems are to enter state-level honoree information in the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator's Online Portal](#).

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state-level process.

All applications and materials are posted in the [Resources Library](#).

For more information on the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs, visit the [Award's page](#) or contact excellenteducators@la.gov.

Special Education

New: Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar Time Change

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education this Thursday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 9 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/836904974>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 836 904 974

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov for more information.

Data

Reminder: Fall and Spring Data Collections

Several spring data collections will be opening in early January.

- The Feb 1 MFP collection opens January 14 for reporting student enrollment, free/reduced lunch status, homeless data, attendance, and discipline in the Student Information System (SIS) and special education data in the Special Education and Reporting System (SER). This data is important for MFP funding and economically disadvantaged calculations/funding. The reporting deadline is **February 14**.
- The TSDL spring collection opened January 6 for reporting class schedules for first time spring LEAP 2020 testers to the Teacher Student Data Link System (TSDL). This data is important for ensuring test sessions are correct in eDirect. The reporting deadline is **February 14**.
- The Student Transcript System (SIS) opens January 10 for the collection of mid-year transcripts for all students in grades T9-12 for the February BOR extract. Public schools should certify senior mid-year graduates. This data is important for determining admission to post-secondary schools and for accountability. The reporting deadline is **February 14**.

Please refer to the [2019-2020 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: EdLink Statewide Longitudinal Data System

The Department will hold a webinar for vendors and school data managers this **Friday, January 10** to review the extract file specifications required to upload data to the EdLink Data Warehouse. [Pre-registration](#) is required. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 10 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/659492496>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 836 904 974

Please contact sherry.randall@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

Please share with data managers.

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers on **January 9 at 1:00 p.m.** Topics will include a review of open collections, submission deadlines, and EdLink Data Warehouse updates. Webinar details are listed

include a review of open collections, submission deadlines, and EdLMI Data Warehouse updates. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 408-638-0968
- **Meeting ID#:** 976 397 929

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

New: Homeless Subgroup Population Performance Data Available

The Department will provide school system and state level data for each LEA's homeless subgroup population on the datamgmt FTP site on January 10. Generally, this data is beneficial for any LEA that would like to review a comprehensive data analysis of their homeless subgroup population. More specifically, this data can be used to help competing LEAs complete the [Needs Assessment Guide](#) for the 2020-2023 Homeless Competitive Grant which is due **January 31**.

Please note: This information only includes the performance data which are numbers 1, 2, and 3 in the guide. All other LEA specific information should be gathered at the LEA level.

For those LEAs that will be submitting the Request for Applications (RFA), please review data with your application committee and select high priority areas to design your McKinney Vento program. All data managers should access the word document entitled: *LEA Code_LEA Name_2019 Homeless Subgroup Data* on the datamgmt FTP site and share with their homeless liaisons.

Please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions.

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