

# CHARTER SCHOOLS

**January 13, 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

I know last week was challenging for all of us. In addition to our normal lives, we continue to be impacted by COVID-19. Further, last week's events at the Capitol were staggering. I will see those images forever.

Let's be mindful of the courageous educators who, while still processing their own emotions, allowed room for students to do the same in safe spaces. This, again, shows how and why our teachers are essential workers.

Regardless of the world outside school walls, inside Louisiana classrooms teachers are rising to meet the needs of children. Educators continue to move students forward. We must do the same by beginning to think of Louisiana education post-pandemic. Last week we [launched a bold initiative](#) with the potential to impact our educational landscape for years to come.

Fast Forward will help improve the career and college readiness of our graduates and satisfy needs in our workforce. It creates opportunities for students to earn an associate's degree or gain meaningful work experience through a high-demand apprenticeship program. It offers three additional pathways along with traditional high school options.

The Jump Start 2.0 Associate's Degree Pathway allows students who plan to enter the workforce after high school graduate with an associate's degree. The TOPS University Associate's Degree Pathway allows college-going students to earn two years of college credit while in high school. The High-Demand Apprenticeship Pathway allows students to enter the workforce after high school with certification in a high-demand field.

Students would spend grades 9 and 10 on their high school campus earning required diploma coursework in core academic areas. Students would then have the opportunity to spend grades 11 and 12 on a postsecondary campus, a high school postsecondary satellite campus or fully immersed in a state-recognized pre-apprentice or apprentice program. While participating high schools would continue to offer current options, this initiative would give additional opportunities for students and families.

[BESE and the Board of Regents both support Fast Forward](#). We released a [request for applications](#) for the development of these new student pathways last week. You can learn more about the initiative [on our website](#).

We must be more deliberate about personalizing high school for our students and preparing them for their next step beyond high school graduation. Over time, this will shift our educational landscape, open opportunities for students and improve Louisiana.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

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## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	<a href="#">January 14 at 1 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Career and College Readiness Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">January 14 at 3 p.m.</a>
Super App Office Hours	<a href="#">January 15 at 10 a.m.</a>
Educator Development Office Hours	<a href="#">January 19 at 12 p.m.</a>
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	<a href="#">January 26 at 12 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">January 26 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Office Hours	<a href="#">February 1 at 9 a.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 13 at 11 a.m.</a>
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 13 at 3 p.m.</a>
SPED Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 14 at 2 p.m.</a>
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 15 at 9 a.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 19 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 20 at 2 p.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 20 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 21 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 21 at 3 p.m.</a>

Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	<a href="#">January 22 at 9 a.m.</a>
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 27 at 1 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 28 at 9 a.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 4 at 1 p.m.</a>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">February 22 at 10 a.m.</a>
*Monthly call presentations are available in the <a href="#">School Improvement Library</a> . View the <a href="#">School System Support Calendar</a> to access a complete schedule of events.	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Zoom Link</b>
Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Call for Coordinators	<a href="#">January 13 at 9:30 a.m.</a>
ELPT Test Administration Training	<a href="#">January 14 at 2 p.m.</a>
Pre-Educator Statewide Pathway Launch: Support, Partnerships, and Funding Webinar	<a href="#">January 15 at 11 a.m.</a>
Charter Board Leadership Academy: Applications Open	January 22
Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Webinar for Candidates	<a href="#">January 25 at 4 p.m.</a>
Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Informational Webinar	<a href="#">January 28 at 1 p.m.</a>
<b>Important Deadlines</b>	
<a href="#">ESEA Consolidated State Plan Addendum Request for Public Comment</a>	January 22
<a href="#">Newcomer and Beginner English Learner Curriculum RFA</a>	January 29
<a href="#">Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Application</a>	January 29
<a href="#">School Health Survey</a>	January 29
<a href="#">Teacher Leader Summit Resource Fair Application</a>	February 2
<a href="#">State-Level Teacher and Principal of the Year (TPOY) Application</a>	February 4
<a href="#">2021 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design</a>	February 5
<a href="#">Diploma and Seal Order Form</a>	February 5
<a href="#">Super App Submission</a>	February 12

## Operations

### **Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021**

On December 21, 2020, Congress released the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA). This legislation includes a COVID-19 relief package specifying appropriations provisions of \$81.9 billion to Governors, state and local educational agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions. Additionally, the legislation includes several other education-related provisions for childcare providers and internet connectivity.

#### Education Stabilization Funds Summary

- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER 2) - \$4.1 billion
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER 2 Fund)- \$54.3 billion
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER) \$22.7 billion

The K-12 funds amount to an average of just over \$1000 per pupil nationally. Louisiana will receive \$1,160,119 billion in ESSER 2 funds, which can be used for all of those previously allowed under the CARES Act, and additional new uses, including:

- Addressing learning loss such as by administering assessments to assess progress, implementing evidence-based activities
- Purchasing the hardware and software needed to conduct remote and hybrid learning
- Providing services to support student mental health
- Tracking attendance and improving student engagement
- Supporting afterschool and summer learning programs
- School facility repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus
- Efforts to improve indoor air quality
- Purchasing PPE and the supplies needed to clean and disinfect schools. The CDC has provided an [analysis of the costs](#) of such resources.

**The Department will provide more information during the System Leaders Monthly Call this [Friday, January 15](#).** Additionally, the Department will provide regular communication and updates in the weekly newsletter, school system monthly call, and the Federal Support and Grantee Relations monthly calls and office hours.

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

### **ESSER I Funds**

As the midpoint of the academic year approaches, it is important that school systems closely review their ESSER I funding to ensure it is drawn down for those expenditures that are one-time cost (i.e. technology, sanitation supplies) as well as to date expenditures relative to salaries and contract expenditures.

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

## **Super App Updates**

The **2020-2021 Super App released *final* allocations** on January 8 for the following: All ESSA, IDEA and Carl Perkins formula allocations.

The **2021-2022 Super App *estimated* allocations** were also released on January 8 for the following: Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Neglect and Delinquent, IDEA 611, IDEA 619 and Carl Perkins. The allocations released will not include Title III Immigrant, DSS and Migrant. The 2021-2022 Super App submission deadline is **February 12**. BESE will consider approval of competitive allocations on April 20 and competitive funds will be uploaded to Super App by May 1.

As school system planning teams continue to finalize Super App, teams should include members with expertise in the following areas: academic content, assessment, high school programming, workforce talent, diverse student populations, early childhood, federal grant programs, budgeting, and finance. School systems are encouraged to attend the weekly Super App Office Hours each [Friday at 10 a.m.](#)

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

## **Super App: School Improvement Best Practices Update**

CIR schools are eligible for up to \$12,000 to implement [School Improvement Best Practices](#) through Super App. CIR schools may select one or more best practices to implement which includes training, access to NIET's online portal, and two days of on-site and/or virtual coaching as follow-up support to the training session(s).

### **How to request funds for School Improvement Best Practices in Super App**

Item WT4.1 (School Improvement Best Practices) has an individual funding request box for each identified best practice (instructional leadership team support, teacher collaboration support, teaching standards support, principal standards support, and career pipeline support). School systems should use the tables above to make requests for each best practice in the provided funding request entry blanks within Super App. In addition to making a request, school systems should list each CIR school, with the best practice(s) to be implemented at that site, in the Additional Information box on the School Improvement Best Practices (WT4.1) tab.

Also in the Additional Information box, school systems should include a funding request of \$8,700 per site for Portal Access and Coaching Support at each CIR school which is implementing at least 1 best practice. An example of a correctly completed Additional Information box is below.

Additional Information

- Beignet Elementary: Instructional Leadership Team Support, Teacher Collaboration Support, Teaching Standards Support, Principal Standards Support, and Career Pipeline Support
- Pelican Middle School: Instructional Leadership Team Support, Teacher Collaboration Support, Teaching Standards Support
- Mardi Gras High: Instructional Leadership Team Support, Teacher Collaboration Support, Teaching Standards Support, Principal Standards Support
- Funding Request for Portal Access and Coaching Support: 3 schools x \$8700 = \$26,100

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

## **Healthy Communities**

As required by state law, the Louisiana Department of Education monitors and evaluates health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature.

Participation is critical to providing accurate, high-quality data to the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare.

Each school should complete the [survey](#) by or before **January 29**.

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

## **Career and College Readiness**

### **2020-2021 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders**

**Please share with principals, professional school counselors, and data coordinators.**

The [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) is open for school systems to submit orders for 2020-2021 graduates. All diploma requests should be submitted through the electronic form by **February 5**. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

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

## **School System Financial Services**

### **FY2020-2021 Second Quarter Financial Report**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials of Type 2 and Type 5 Charter Schools.**

The Second Quarter Financial Report for FY2020-2021 is due **February 1**. The [quarterly report form](#), along with the [Statement of Affirmation](#), are included for your reference and should be submitted to [charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov).

- The MFP Resolution provides for a mid-year adjustment equal to the total per pupil amount times the number of students gained or lost from the February 1, 2019, student count to the October 1, 2020, student count.
- School Boards must revise their budget, as necessary, to maintain a balanced budget and accurately reflect the revenues and expenditures based on the October 1, 2020, student count as reported in SIS. The Second Quarter Financial Report shall contain year to date actual data from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 along with budgeted data for FY2020-21 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). Organizations that operate more than one charter school must submit the financial reports for each individual school.

Please contact [karen.mccarvy@la.gov](mailto:karen.mccarvy@la.gov) or call 225-342-3776 with questions.

## Teaching and Learning

### **Sessions Still Available: Virtual Instruction Training for Teachers and Leaders**

The Louisiana Department of Education has partnered with NIET to help equip teachers and school leaders to plan for and strengthen virtual instruction. Louisiana educators have free access to three, 90-minute professional learning sessions that model effective virtual teaching. These sessions are taught live (synchronously) and offered several times a week this semester.

There are different options for teachers and principals to receive more tailored support based on their role. Sessions for principals and administrators will focus on remote observation and coaching practices, while teacher sessions will provide more content teachers can directly use in their virtual instruction.

Registration is still open, but seats are limited for each district or school system. Educators should connect with their immediate supervisor to see if seats are available to attend. More details and registration information can be accessed via [NIET's website](#).

Louisiana educators [now have free, asynchronous access](#) to these training sessions. The three, 60-minute self-study modules showcase different aspects of effective virtual teaching. Through the asynchronous sessions, which are similar to the live training, educators will learn about tips, templates, and strategies to use immediately in their virtual classrooms.

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

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **Economically Disadvantaged**

**Please share with data managers and grant managers.**

Today, the Department released the October 2020 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system for the purposes of informing grants, federal funding, and subgroup determinations. The single Excel file, *LEA Code LEA Name Oct 2020 Economically Disadvantaged*, will be available through April 1 on the [Data Management FTP](#) site. FTP coordinators should locate their individual school system file and share it with their federal program and finance staff.

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

### **Feb 1 MFP Data Collection**

**Please share with data coordinators and data managers.**

The Feb 1 MFP collection for the Student Information System (SIS) and Special Education Reporting (SER) systems will open on January 13 for submitting student data. The deadline is **February 12**. This collection is important for funding. Please refer to the [2020-2021 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions. Beginning January 25, 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. For assistance with data submissions, please contact [tara.baylot@la.gov](mailto:tara.baylot@la.gov) (SIS) and [bernetta.sims@la.gov](mailto:bernetta.sims@la.gov) (SER).

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

## **Interests & Opportunities Survey for K-12 Accountability**

Beginning in 2019-2020, Louisiana's K-12 accountability system now includes an Interests & Opportunities Index. For the 2020-2021 school year, the index is calculated based on course enrollment in grades K-8 in certain enrichment categories and on completion of a survey. The survey makes up 50% of the K-8 index and 100% of the high school index.

The Interests & Opportunities survey will be released on **January 14** and will be open until **February 22**. Schools will receive an email with information on how to access and complete the survey at their email address listed in Sponsor Site. School system accountability contacts will also receive an email with information for their respective schools. Surveys must be validated by the school system superintendent in order to be counted for accountability. Weekly completion reports will be uploaded to secure FTPs on each Friday for systems to track which schools have or have not completed the survey. A complete FAQ on the Interests and Opportunities Index, including accountability calculation information, is [now available](#).

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

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

### **LEAP Connect**

- **January 20:** Printed materials delivered to sites. Additional materials can be requested through the DRC INSIGHT portal beginning January 21.
- All students in grades 3-8 and 11 must participate in ELA and mathematics assessments which are operational in 2021 and will be included in 2021 school performance scores. Students in grades 4, 8, and 11 must also participate in the science assessment, which is also operational this year.
- All students who are earning a diploma through the Jump Start pathway designed for students participating in LEAP Connect must take the assessments in order to be eligible for this diploma pathway.
- Due to standard setting that must be completed in the summer, scores for LEAP Connect will not be available before August.
- Teachers will have the opportunity to complete a survey related to administration of the science assessment. Teacher feedback is greatly appreciated as the Department continues to refine and improve administrations.
- Doctors' letters should only be used appropriately for students who are too medically fragile to test. The letters cannot use the disability as the only reason to excuse testing.
- All test administrators must complete the TA Quiz and earn a score of 80% or greater to administer assessments. The TA Quiz is available under the materials tab for the LEAP Connect 2021 administration.

### **English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)**

- The ELPT progress rosters that were distributed during data certification are now updated to include students based on the October 1 site code. The roster can be found on the secure FTP with file name *LEA Code\_LEA Name\_2019-20 ELPT Progress Roster Post DataCert.update*.
- Accommodated materials will arrive to sites by January 15. Schools need to order any additional materials no later than January 19.
- Students who transfer from one school system to another can only be transferred by the LDOE team. Please send any transfer requests to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- The deadline has passed to submit an exemption from the listening and/or speaking domains of the ELPT. Please note that all exemptions must be approved by the Department in advance. Unauthorized exemptions could result in a negative effect to the 2021 SPS.
- The Department is providing an ELPT Test Administration Training.
  - **Webinar Date and Time:** January 14 at 2 p.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96852690143>
  - **Meeting ID#:** 968 5269 0143
  - **Meeting Passcode:** 129155

### **ACT Match/No Match Rosters**

- The ACT Match/No match rosters have been posted to the secure FTP with the file name *LEA Code\_LEA Name\_2020-2021 ACT Match\_No Match Roster 01072021*. These rosters are very important to the ACT planning process, and they will be updated one final time prior to testing when the Department receives scores from February national testing.
- ACT Match rosters identify the students in grade 12 who have an ACT score on file with the Department. The student can be tested again at the expense of the school system as long as the ACT MOU has been completed and returned to the Department.
- ACT No Match rosters identify the students in grade 12 who do not have an ACT score on file with the Department and will test at no cost to the school system.
- School systems should not submit requests for changes to the rosters at this time.
- All students enrolled in grade 12 must have an ACT score by the end of the academic year as well as any students graduating from grade 11. The only students who are exempt from testing are students with LEAP Connect high school level scores.

- The expected cohort graduation year is not considered when identifying students for testing.
- Students in grade 12 who were included in a prior year SPS (2019 or before) will not be included in the ACT index.
- Students with LEAP Connect scores who are not taking the ACT should not be removed from PANext. They should have an accountability code of 94 applied to them.
- Students who do not have an ACT score, or LEAP Connect high school level scores for eligible students, will be assigned a score of zero in the ACT index, which is 25% of the high school SPS.
- WorkKeys scores will only be used for students in the ACT index if there is also an ACT score for the students.
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- **Today, January 12:** ACT will load all eligible 11- and 12-grade students into [PANext](#).
- **Tomorrow, January 13 at 11 a.m.:** ACT Test Administration Q & A [Registration link](#) and [Powerpoint](#)
- **Now-January 22:** Verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student files if needed. January 22 is the deadline to receive barcode labels.
- **Now-January 15:** Request ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System](#) (TAA).
- **Resources**
  - [Non-Test Instructions for Test Coordinators](#)
  - [Non-Test Instructions for Students](#)
  - [Taking the ACT PDF](#)

#### **LEAP 2025 Fall High School Administration**

- The following flexibilities require notification to the LDOE:
  - Use of January 27 and 28 makeup dates (need to send LASIDs)
  - Use of weekend testing (need to send LASIDs)
- The following flexibilities require documentation using the [Permission to Test in Alternate Environments Form](#)
  - Individual testing of students who do not have the accommodation on an IEP or IAP
  - Testing off-site
- Schools that are testing should plan to allow for state monitors. Schools can follow protocols for safety but should not prevent them from observing testing.

#### **Growth to Master Rosters**

- The growth to mastery rosters have been updated using the enrollment site code from the October 1 submission. The rosters can be found on the secure FTP with file name *LEA Code 2020-2021 Grade 3-8 or HS Growth to Mastery Student Roster Update*.

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

- **February 28:** Winter Checkpoint Early Childhood TS GOLD deadline. Visit the [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) for additional information.

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

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on **January 19 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 19 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!

## Reminders

- [\*\*School System Support Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Career and College Readiness Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*School System Relations Reminders\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Teaching and Learning Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Educator Development Reminders\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Literacy Reminders\*\*](#)

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

#### ***Charter Board Leadership Academy***

The Charter Board Leadership Academy was launched in 2018, in collaboration with Education Board Partners. This six-month institute both creates a pipeline of diverse and dedicated Fellows to serve as the next generation of leaders in charter school governance and supports existing board members wishing to further strengthen their governance skills. The academy explores the most critical issues facing charter boards. Fellows gain mastery in effective board governance and are prepared to assume the responsibility of public school board service.

Charter board members serving schools in Baton Rouge should apply to [CBLA-Baton Rouge](#). All other applicants should apply to the [CBLA-Louisiana](#) track. Applications are due by January 22.

Please contact Kevin Gutterrez at [kgutterrez@lacharterschools.org](mailto:kgutterrez@lacharterschools.org) with questions.

#### ***ESEA Consolidated State Plan Addendum***

In October 2020, the United States Department of Education (ED) released a Template for Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan due to the COVID-19 National Emergency under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. The template allows state education agencies to amend certain sections of their State Plans relative to the 2020-2021 school year that may be impacted as a result of COVID-19. The template addresses State Plan topics such as school accountability; timelines for identification of schools requiring comprehensive and/or urgent intervention; and timelines for meeting measurements of interim progress (MIPs) and long-term goals due to COVID-19. All addendum requests must be submitted by February 1.

Louisiana has opted to pursue this opportunity to amend its State Plan. Relevant personnel should review this [addendum request](#) and submit questions or comments to Kathy Noel — Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics — at 225-342-3629, the Department's toll-free number at 877-453-2721, or via email at [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) by **January 22**.

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

## **School Reopening Dashboard**

The Louisiana Department of Education is updating the [School Reopening Dashboard](#) to include additional information and a more user-friendly experience. LEAs were asked to update the modality and connectivity data in their dashboard by **January 11**. The updated dashboard will be presented during the January 19 BESE meeting. Data Coordinators should update their modality information in Sponsorsite (SPS), and technology directors will submit the connectivity data via their TRT spreadsheets. Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions.

## **LDOE Website Survey**

The LDOE is planning a redesign of its current website — [louisianabelieves.com](http://louisianabelieves.com) — and seeking stakeholder input on how well the current website serves their needs, what current structures can be improved upon, and what new features can be added. Please take a few minutes to offer honest feedback via the [website feedback survey](#).

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

## **Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)**

[Real-time Early Access to Literacy \(REAL\)](#) provides individualized support for students in pre-K through grade 3 to make progress in their literacy development, with a focus on support for virtual learning. REAL provides devices, connectivity, and tutoring services to eligible students in pre-K through grade 3. In December, eligible school systems received funding to authorize students for tutoring services.

School systems interested in becoming a tutoring service provider and/or systems that need additional information about the REAL Program are encouraged to join an informational webinar. Details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 28 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 441 892 1159

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

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

### **SCA Fall Semester Reporting**

**Please share with school system administrators, school leaders, and school counselors.**

The deadline for reporting fall SCA grades to LDOE on December 16 has been extended due to COVID-19 and natural disasters impacting school calendars. The reporting flexibility will allow SCA course completions for the 2020-2021 school year to be consistent with the local school system's calendar.

Fall 2020 grades will be due to LDOE based on the local school system calendar.

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

## ***School System Relations Reminders***

### **Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Calls**

State-level Teacher and Principal of the Year (TPOY) applications are due on **February 4**. All applications and materials have been added to the Department's [Awards Library](#).

To assist with the Teacher and Principal of the Year process, informational webinars will be held this month. Candidates creating a state-level application and TPOY coordinators should plan to join a call. Call details are listed below. Additional information is also [available](#).

During the calls, general information about the process and guidance for using the online portals will be shared. Additionally, tips and pointers for creating strong state-level applications will be provided. There will also be time for questions.

#### **Webinar for Candidates**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 25 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93254864914>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 932 5486 4914

#### **Call for Coordinators**

- **Conference Call Date and Time:** January 13 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Conference Call-In Number:** 515-604-9094
- **Meeting ID#:** 851193756

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

## *Teaching and Learning Reminders*

### *Educator Development Reminders*

#### **Teacher Leader Summit Resource Fair Application Now Open**

The Department invites organizations providing professional development on high-quality curricula and nonprofit organizations aligned to the Department's strategy and priorities to apply to participate in its Resource Fair at the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit, taking place on **Wednesday, May 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The Resource Fair is designed to connect Louisiana educators with high-quality curriculum providers, professional development partners, and nonprofit organizations outside of scheduled sessions for Q&A opportunities, relationship building, and the sharing of best practices.

The Teacher Leader Summit brings together educators and content experts who inspire, innovate, and impact meaningful growth for every student. Educators will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

The following organizations are encouraged to apply:

- Organizations providing professional development on high-quality curricula, as listed in the [PD vendor guide](#)
- Vendors of texts for high-quality curriculum
- Teacher and principal associations
- Arts organizations
- Education resources
- Digital and virtual learning resources
- Universities with online degree programs
- Prep providers
- Advocacy groups
- National Boards (certifications)

To participate in the Resource Fair, all exhibitors are required to submit an application. To apply, please complete the [online application](#). With a limited number of booth spaces available, it is important to submit the application for review by the **February 2** deadline. More information is published in the [Resource Fair FAQ document](#).

Applicants will be notified on February 12 of their application decision. The Department reserves the right to refuse any application for any reason, including but not limited to, the applicant not being aligned with the Department's strategies and the priorities of the event.

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

## **Teacher Leader Summit Seat Allocation and Virtual Series**

The [2021 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will take place May 25-27 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Both the Department and the Convention Center are taking measures to promote the health and safety of all participants and as a result will have a reduced overall capacity.

Due to social distancing parameters, the Department has allocated a specific allotment of seats to each school system and each early childhood lead agency for the in-person event. The Department has notified each system of their total number of seats and each school system has been issued a unique registration code for all tickets during the registration process. It is up to each school system or each early childhood lead agency to determine the best path for disbursing seats across their schools, sites, and educators.

It is also a school system or lead agency's choice to take advantage of early-bird registration or wait until the session lists are publicly released on April 9, which is during the regular registration window. All allocated seats must be used to purchase tickets by April 12. Should any unused seats remain, the Department will and open a first-come, first-served registration window on April 13.

Additional seats will be disbursed for the following groups of educators at a later date by specific Department teams:

- Environmental Education
- World Languages
- Instructional Coaching
- Aspiring School Leaders
- Aspiring Educators
- Systems Leaders
- Human Capital Leaders
- Teacher Preparation Faculty and Leads
- Ready Start Networks
- EdLinks Report Focus Group
- CTE Supervisors
- Literacy Coordinators

Information on the above ticket types will be shared with the appropriate groups of educators as logistics are finalized.

In addition to the in-person Teacher Leader Summit, the **Department will offer a Virtual Series June 1 through June 3**. Specific information regarding registering for the Virtual Series will be released later in the spring via normal communication channels.

To best assist school systems and school leaders in determining to whom they should distribute their allocated seats, the Department has released a [one-pager](#) outlining which content will be delivered in-person and which content to expect to be delivered virtually. General Summit information can be found in the [overview document](#) posted to the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

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

## **Teacher Leader Summit Registration**

[Registration](#) for the Teacher Leader Summit opens January 8 and will occur in three phases:

- Early bird registration via allocation (January 8 through March 1)
- Regular registration via allocation (March 2 through April 12)
- First-come, first-serve registration for any remaining tickets (Opens April 13)

**Note:** Due to capacity constraints, there will be no onsite registration this year. All registrations must be completed in advance of arriving at the event.

During the registration process, the code sent to school systems and early childhood lead agencies must be entered. Once the code has reached its maximum number of uses, no other registrations will be accepted for that code. Should an educator register for the event and it is later determined the educator is no longer able to attend, a refund should be requested via Eventbrite.

The Department is unable to transfer tickets automatically from one educator to another. The school system or early childhood lead agency will need to reach out to the Department at [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) to determine the best next steps for registering the educator who is “taking the place” of the educator who can no longer attend, which may include increasing the number of uses on their particular registration code.

Description	1-Day Ticket	3-Day Ticket
<b>Early Bird Registration</b> (January 10-March 1)	\$60	\$118
<b>Regular Registration</b> (March 2-April 12)	\$77	\$152
<b>First Come, First Served*</b> (April 13-May 10)	\$77	\$152

*\*should any seats remain*

Participants who [register](#) for the in-person Summit will also have access to Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series, though a separate registration will be required in order to participate. Participants who register for the Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will only have access to the virtual content. General Summit information can be found in the [overview document](#) posted to the Teacher Leader Library.

**Note:** When registering, the access code must be entered for available tickets to populate. Without entering the access code, no tickets will show as available.

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

## **2021 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest**

The Department is seeking inspiration for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators and students with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by **February 5** to [ldoecommunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov). The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold.

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

## **Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Opportunity**

The Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway launched across the state of Louisiana in order to provide a K-16/pre-education program for both TOPS University and TOPS Tech diploma seeking high school students. This pathway is designed to expose and recruit talented students to the teaching profession while cultivating the next generation of Louisiana's educational leaders. In the 2021-2022 school year, the LDOE will lead a series of support structures for systems and schools interested in launching or expanding the availability of the pathway.

Limited funding is available to support curriculum adoption, professional development, initial training, and student organization or credentialing costs related to the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway in the 2021-2022 school year. To apply, systems should complete and submit the [Funding Application](#) to [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) by **January 29**. The [application](#) is now available.

For more information about the launch of the pathway please join the Pre-Educator Statewide Pathway Launch: Support, Partnerships, and Funding Webinar on **January 15 at 11 a.m.** Information needed to join this webinar is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 15 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 345 504 8179

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

## ***Literacy Reminders***

### **Literacy Initiatives**

The Department's Literacy division believes all Louisiana students will have improved literacy outcomes through high-quality instruction and interactions by effective teachers supported by leaders and families. The team's initiatives, which will be launched at the Teacher Leader Summit, focus on:

- Ensuring students receive high-quality instruction from effective teachers,
- Supporting teachers and school and system leaders through ongoing professional development opportunities, and
- Providing diverse opportunities for family literacy engagement.

One initiative currently underway is the Family Literacy Engagement Workgroup, tasked with generating ideas for a family portal of resources and guidance. The workgroup, which kicked off on December 16, will develop a strategic plan to improve communication with families around literacy.

Additional information about the Family Literacy Engagement Workgroup and additional literacy initiatives will be communicated in future newsletters.

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