

# CHARTER SCHOOLS



February 12, 2020

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Among my favorite memories of the last eight years have been visits to towns like Braithwaite, Calvin, Franklinton, Sicily Island, St. Joseph, and Zwolle, each so unique and so rich in sense of community. These places and so many others I've been blessed to visit represent the extraordinary diversity of Louisiana, in many ways. They are united by their place in rural and often remote communities. Consequently, young people in these communities reap the incredible benefits - the traditions, the customs, and the relationships - of life in small towns. But these towns must also cope with the challenges of a world whose people live more and more in cities, and whose industries are not just mechanized but also automated.

These global trends have an impact on schooling. Fewer jobs in some communities mean fewer students. Fewer students may mean less revenue. Less revenue may mean the inability to maintain services.

But students and families in rural places have every right to the opportunities experienced elsewhere. And so a state like ours is faced with a difficult question: how to maintain opportunity in a changing economy and changing world? We have to answer that question.

I hope that this legislative session Louisiana can do just that. I hope that BESE members and lawmakers support our rural systems, especially those experiencing radical depopulation, with short- and long-term solutions to these vexing issues. I hope these school systems will play a leadership role in bringing creative opportunities to the fore. Most of all, I hope we find a path to preserving the extraordinary good that comes from childhood in rural areas without ignoring changing realities we adults must confront.

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)
2/14/20	Email nominations for Testing Irregularity Review Committee representatives.	CEOs, school leaders and DTCs
2/14/20	Complete the <a href="#">Family Support Survey</a>	Schools leaders and SPED coordinators
2/14/20	Complete STS data submissions	Data managers
2/14/20	Report Teacher Student Data Link System (TSDL) spring data	Data managers
2/14/20	Submit SIS data submissions	Data managers
2/21/20	Submit IDEA funding priorities survey	School leaders and CEOs
2/25/20	Complete 2019-2020 High Cost Services Grant Round 2 applications	Schools leaders and SPED coordinators
2/28/20	Report SER data	Data managers
3/3/20	Submit <a href="#">applications</a> for alternative education school authorization	CEOs
3/6/20	<a href="#">Order</a> diplomas for 2019-20 graduates	School leaders, counselors and data managers
3/13/20	Submit <a href="#">applications</a> for Jump Start Construction Scholars Program	School leaders
4/1/20	Submit nominations for the through the <a href="#">Principal Fellowship Cohort</a>	School leaders and CEOs
4/9/20	Complete <a href="#">applications</a> for Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards	School leaders and CEOs

## LEA Support

### **New: School System Planning**

School systems submitted their Super App last week in eGMS. The process for reviewing Super Apps for approval and funding has begun, and school systems will receive a letter with clarifying questions later this month to be addressed within eGMS by early March.

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

### **New: Leadership Learning Series at TL Summit Webinar**

School leadership teams play an important role in ensuring teachers plan for and deliver instruction in a way that meets the needs of their students. The Department launched the [School Support Institutes \(SSI\)](#) during the 2019-2020 school year to support school leaders in this role and will continue this learning opportunity for the 2020-2021 school year at the Teacher Leader Summit.

On March 3, the Department will host two webinars to provide additional information on the vision for year two of the SSI and to share more information about the Summit registration process and Leadership Learning Series pathway. School system leaders and principals of CIR/UIR-A schools should plan to join one of the two identical webinars.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 3 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/137786065>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 137 786 065

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 3 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/137786065>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 137 786 065

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

### **Reminder: 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.

- ECE Collaboration Meetings
- Webinar for Leadership Team Learning Series for CIR/UIR-A schools

Please note: The Accountability Commission Meeting previously scheduled for February 17 has been canceled.

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

## **Reminder: 2020-2021 Alternative Education (AE) School and Program Authorization**

**Please share with administrators and alternative education site leaders.**

The Department has released the 2020-2021 authorization [application](#) for alternative education schools and programs. The application should be completed by all school systems that are seeking new alternative schools and programs and/or desire to go through the new authorization process for existing school for the 2020-2021 academic year. School systems not planning to seek authorization using the new process will be required to [confirm existing alternative education sites](#). The deadline to submit the application is March 3.

The Department will host a webinar to review the authorization application and process and answer any questions from school systems.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 13 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3547510189>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646 876 9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 354 751 0189

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

## **Assessment and Accountability**

### **New: LEAP 360 - EAGLE Items**

EAGLE items will continue to be available to teachers in the online platform for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. To support the use of the EAGLE system as an instructional resource, the platform is being phased out and all items from the EAGLE system will be exported and made available on the [Department's website](#) no later than July 1. A subset of the item bank is [available now](#), and additional grades will be posted as available.

These items may be used by Louisiana educators for educational purposes. To access items, a password key will be required to open the file. Please [share these instructions](#) with all educators.

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

### **New: For District Testing Coordinators**

#### **Updated Growth to Mastery Student-Level Rosters**

- The growth to mastery student-level rosters are being updated to route students to the site code reported for them during the October 1 SIS collection. Updated rosters will be available on the secure FTP on February 7.

#### **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](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- The additional materials window is now open. Reminder: There is no K-1 writing supplement used in ELPT this year.
- Please review the [ELPT Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) as plans are made for students with accommodations.
- Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) with questions.

#### **Important: English III EOC School System Administration Materials**

- 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.
- Requests for braille forms of the test are provided as needed by the Department and should be addressed to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) with questions.

## LEAP Connect

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

## ACT and WorkKeys

- Recordings of the ACT Test Administration Q&As [1](#) and [2](#) can be accessed using the links provided.

## Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **February 18 at 1:00 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 11 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

## **Reminder: Nominations for TIRC District Test Coordinator Representative**

The Testing Irregularity Review Committee is responsible for the review of appeals made by schools for test scores that were voided due to testing irregularities. The Department is seeking nominations from superintendents and charter CEOs for a district test coordinator representative to serve on this committee. Please send nominations with a copy of the nominee's resume to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) by February 14.

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

## High School Pathways

### **New: Save the Dates for Spring Counselor Institutes**

**Please share with counselors.**

The Department is asking that school systems encourage middle and high school counselors to save the dates for upcoming Spring Counselor Institutes.

- **Southern Network: week of March 30**
- **Northern Network: week of April 6**

Agenda items, registration information, and specific locations will be announced in future communications.

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

### **Reminder: 2019-2020 Graduate Diploma to Include New BESE President's Signature**

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

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2019-2020 graduates. Diploma requests should be submitted through the [Diploma Order Form](#) by **March 6**. Diplomas ordered will include the signature of the new BESE president. Diplomas ordered from previous years are no longer valid.

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) for more information.

## Educator Preparation

### **Reminder: 2020 Principal Fellowship Nomination Form**

The [nomination form](#) for the 2020 Louisiana Principal Fellowship facilitated by the National Institute of School Leadership (NISL) is now available and will remain open until **April 1**. This 12-month Executive Development Program will begin with an orientation in May and continue through the school year. Participants can include aspiring and current principals and school system leaders. Please complete the linked form to nominate a participant for the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information, please visit the [Louisiana Principal Fellowship](#) page or contact [jennie.moctezuma@la.gov](mailto:jennie.moctezuma@la.gov) with questions.

# Special Education

## **New: IDEA Funding Priorities**

Each year, the Department submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the Department is seeking feedback from members of the special education community on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. **Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete this [survey](#) by February 21.**

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

## **New: Reevaluation Pilot Informational Webinar**

The Department will hold an informational webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education tomorrow, February 13 at 2:00 p.m. School systems interested in applying to participate in the Reevaluation Pilot should attend. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 13 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/553759355>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 553 759 355

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

## **Reminder: Family Support Survey**

The Department is conducting a [Family Support Survey](#) to better understand the types of assistance families of students with disabilities need to support the educational experience of their child/children. The information gathered from this survey will inform the Department's understanding of how to best support families across the state.

Please share the survey with families of students with disabilities. Participants will have until February 14 to complete the survey.

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

# Data

## **New: Medicaid Eligibility Verification Program**

Beginning in March, the process by which school systems receive student Medicaid eligibility information for Medicaid billing will change. Training on the new Medicaid Eligibility Verification Program will be held on February 20 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 20 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/638675138>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 638 675 138

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

## **New: File Available via FTP - January Quarterly Home Study Reports**

The Quarterly Home Study Reports for January 2020 are available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named "LEACode\_LEAName\_January2020HomeStudy" and will remain on the FTP until April 30. Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- Detailed list of students within the specific school system 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.

## **Reminder: Spring Data Collections and Reporting Deadlines**

Several spring data collections are open with reporting deadlines in mid-February.

- The Feb 1 MFP collection is open 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 SIS reporting deadline is **February 14**. The SER reporting deadline is **February 28**.
- The Teacher Student Data Link System (TSDL) spring collection is open for reporting class schedules for first time spring LEAP 2025 testers to the TSDL. This data is important for ensuring test sessions are correct in eDirect. The reporting deadline is **February 14**.
- The Student Transcript System (STS) is open 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](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## **Finance**

### **Reminder: Instructional Material for Ag Courses**

**Please share with business managers**

The Department has completed the [allocation](#) for instructional materials for agriculture related courses. School systems should look for payments to be received this week.

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

## **Grants Management**

### **Reminder: 2019-2020 High Cost Service Round 2 Application**

The 2019-2020 High Cost Services Grant Round 2 was released January 31. The application will close on **February 25**.

High Cost Service Round 2 applications should only contain new students. Students that received an allocation in Round 1 cannot be included in the Round 2 application process.

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

## **Safe and Healthy**

### **New: School Emergency Management Workshops**

The Department and LSU NCBRT/ACE have partnered with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to host the following school emergency management workshops. These courses build on the concepts outlined in the [Developing and Enhancing School Emergency Operations Plans](#) workshop. Attendees are encouraged, but not required, to take this workshop before registering for the following classes. All workshops are available to Louisiana school and school system crisis teams at no cost through the Grants to States for School Emergency Management (GSEM) Program. Register for a scheduled workshop at the links below, or contact [schoolsafety@ncbrt.lsu.edu](mailto:schoolsafety@ncbrt.lsu.edu) to schedule a workshop.

<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Data and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<a href="#">Risk Assessments for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile</a>	March 19 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806

<a href="#">Emergency Operations Functional Planning</a>	March 19 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806
<a href="#">Integrating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in K-12 Schools</a>	March 20 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806
<a href="#">Introduction and Application of Exercise Planning for Schools</a>	March 20 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Please contact [rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu](mailto:rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu) with questions.

### **New: School System Health Leads**

The Healthy Communities Section has been working with select school systems to implement the Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community (WSCC) model. This framework is designed to improve students' health and academic achievement through improving statewide school health infrastructure and to increase professional development/technical assistance opportunities that support best practices in nutrition, physical activity, and the management of chronic conditions in school settings.

To expand this work statewide, the Healthy Communities Section is working to establish a directory of School System Health Leads, or a point of contact in each school system, who is responsible for implementing strategies to improve student health in schools. The Department is seeking individuals at the system level that supervise physical education, health, nutrition, wellness, or related areas.

Please email the name of the appointed person, title, and contact information to [stephen.guccione@la.gov](mailto:stephen.guccione@la.gov).

### **New: Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards Program Now Accepting Applications**

The Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards Program is now accepting [applications](#) through April 9. Reference the [OSSE Awards Program](#) document to learn more.

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

#### LDOE Contacts

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#### LDOE Links

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