

CHARTER SCHOOLS



May 27, 2020

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday weekend and have returned to work refreshed for this week. It is, after all, an exciting one.

On Tuesday, nearly a week after the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education [selected](#) Jefferson Parish Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley to be the next State Superintendent of Education, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget [approved](#) details of his contract. His first day is set for June 8, pending [confirmation](#) from the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit will kick off. To date, nearly 6,000 educators have registered to attend this free event.

As with most things this spring, the Summit will look different than in years past. For the first time ever, Summit will be held exclusively online. But the objectives of the event remain the same:

- Improve the everyday practice of educators in Louisiana by building their knowledge and skill in key areas related to their role;
- Provide opportunities for educators to collaborate and share best practices;
- Introduce high-quality resources and professional development that can be adopted and scaled in schools and school systems across Louisiana; and
- Foster a culture that celebrates and engages educators and empowers and inspires them to take on an even greater leadership role within their classrooms, schools, and school systems.

The Summit aims to do this through a [set of virtual sessions](#). The sessions, which have a size limit to ensure they remain interactive, are first come, first serve. If a session has reached capacity, a waiting list will be established.

Moreover, in an effort to accommodate as many Louisiana educators as possible, the Department will [broadcast live on YouTube](#) one session per rotation. Anyone interested can view these live broadcasts. The YouTube broadcast will not be moderated and will be view-only.

Following the full event, all recorded sessions, along with their supporting materials, will be posted to the Department's [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Future weeks will bring even more exciting milestones. We look forward to navigating them with you.

In service,

Beth Scioneaux
Acting State Superintendent

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Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action	Owner(s)
5/29/20	Complete Strong Start 2020 application in eGMS	Finance directors
5/29/20	Submit application for Teacher Leader Advisor for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities	ELA, math, or SPED teachers
5/30/20	Submit a copy of MOU with partnering preparation providers	CEOs of CIR and UIR-A schools
6/5/20	Register for Teacher Leader Summit- Virtual Series	Teachers/administrators

LEA Support

New: June School System Planning Call

The June School System Planning Call scheduled for June 3 at 1:00 p.m. has been canceled. The presentation will be available in the [School Improvement Library](#) on June 2.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Super App

Upcoming deadlines for Super App are listed below.

- **By June 8:** Recommended deadline to submit Amendment 1 to guarantee approval by July 1
- **By June 26:** School systems with CIR schools must upload their updated professional development plan in eGMS.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020

Strong Start 2020 Applications are due May 29 in eGMS. School systems can use the [Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide](#) and [presentation](#) to support the submission of the Strong Start 2020 application. Resources supporting each priority are located in the [Strong Start 2020 Library](#).

The [recording](#), including closed captioning, of the CARES Act Equitable Services Protocols [webinar](#) is now located in the [Strong Start 2020 Library](#) and provides guidance to school systems and nonpublic schools about the calculation of equitable share and consultation related to Strong Start 2020.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020 Instructional Material and PD Vendor Guide Updates

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, professional development coordinators, and purchasing directors.

The Strong Start 2020 plan includes [Instructional Materials Guidance](#) and [Professional Development Guidance](#), and the Department continues to work with publishers and vendors to update each guide as they build and refine their supports.

This week, the following entries have been **added**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
Big Day for Pre-K: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Agile Mind Louisiana Mathematics: Agile Mind
Creative Curriculum: Teaching Strategies	Eureka Math: Great Minds, Gordon A. Cain Center for STEM Literacy, UnboundEd, Teach 4 L.I.F.E. Enterprise, LLC
Geometry Common Core: Geometry Common Core	Geometry Common Core: Geometry Common Core
	Illustrative Mathematics: Gordon A. Cain Center for

	STEM Literacy
	IQWST: Activate Learning

This week, the following entries have been significantly **updated**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
DIG Develop. Inspire. Grow: Frog Street Press	ELA Guidebooks: LearnZillion
Frog Street Press: Frog Street Press	ELA Guidebooks: LDOE

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Updated Summer Guidance on Athletics and Transportation Released

Tuesday, the Department released updated guidelines and guidance on summer programming to include more specific information on transportation and additional information on athletics and activities. The new and updated information includes the following:

1. Updated [Initial Public Health Guidelines for K-12 Summer School and Extra-Curricular Programs](#)
2. Updated [K-12 Summer Camp, Summer School, and Extracurricular Activities Supportive Guidance](#)
3. New [K-12 Athletics Guidance](#)

Please contact ldoecovid19support@la.gov with questions.

New: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from May 28 to June 5 . It will bring together a host of educators and content experts who are focused on creating meaningful growth for every student, every day. Educators will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Unfortunately, due to limitations with the size of Zoom rooms, additional seats cannot be added at this time. However, the Department is diligently working to accommodate as many Louisiana educators as possible and has provided a few options to ensure access to the content.

The Department has released a [list of sessions](#) that will be broadcasted live on YouTube. Anyone interested can view these live broadcasts, including those on the waitlists. The YouTube broadcast will not be moderated and will be view-only. Those who have questions after the simulcast are encouraged to reach out the presenters directly.

All sessions are also being recorded. Look for the recordings to be posted a week after the session concludes in the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Once registration is confirmed, participants have been granted access to Sched to select preferred sessions. The evening before each session, participants will be sent a message detailing how to connect to the session via Zoom.

The Department is looking forward to delivering seven days of high-quality professional development.

Please contact LDOEEvents@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: ELA Guidebook Text Access to Support Distance Learning **Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, and purchasing directors.**

The Department has released [Strong Start guidance](#) for implementing Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks in high- and low- tech environments. In order for school systems to implement distance learning in any situation, access for [ELA Guidebook unit texts](#) and unit materials must be secured.

Consult the timeline chart in the American Reading Company [purchasing portal](#) to make decisions about the order of units for the 2020-2021 academic year and receive unit texts before instruction begins.

For school systems that require a low-tech, analog, print-only solution, Distance Learning Guidebook Companion documents will be developed for two units per grade level in grades 3-8 and one unit per grade level will be developed in grades 9-12. A release schedule for Distance Learning Guidebook Companions is [available](#).

Updates to the [guidance](#) have been made to include:

- a list of digital text access availability for ELA Guidebook required trade books;
- guidance for supporting diverse learners during distance learning, including accessibility options to support students with disabilities; and
- sample Distance Learning Guidebook Companions.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: July 2020 Math Lesson Broadcasting

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, purchasing directors, and principals.

The Department, in partnership with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), Great Minds, Illustrative Math (IM), and SchoolKit, will broadcast Eureka (K-5) and Illustrative Math (6-Algebra I) lessons. These lessons will air on LPB from July 6 through Friday, July 31 on a regular daily schedule. They will also be available on-demand at the [Great Minds](#) and [Illustrative Mathematics](#) websites.

To ensure accessibility for students with disabilities, live broadcasts will have closed captioning and on-demand videos will be available with closed captioning and audio description.

To support school systems as they plan for summer learning and ensure students are prepared for on grade-level learning by August 1, [this guidance document](#) contains information about the following:

- Purchasing student materials
- Watching live broadcasts
- Watching on-demand
- Lesson details

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Leadership Learning Series Update

The Leadership Learning Series launched virtually on May 26. Registered CIR/UIR-A school participants will receive an email from SchoolKit with cohort-specific login information. This virtual delivery will include:

- Academic Strategy/LAP Overview Session
- School Support Institutes Building Blocks

Registered CIR/UIR-A school participants should have received an email from SchoolKit with cohort-specific login information on May 12. However, the Department has received numerous reports of **bounced-back, missing, or blocked emails**. In order for registered participants to receive their invitation to this series, **immediate steps** are required by each school system. Please work with IT providers to **whitelist "@schoolkitgroup.com"** as all further messages from SchoolKit will provide vital participation information to CIR/UIR-A school leadership teams.

Additionally, the Department will deliver School Support Institutes 2020-2021: A Guide for Superintendents and School System Leaders virtually. This is a 60-minute session and will be offered multiple times. Superintendents should plan to join based on their cohort. No registration is required for this session. Information needed to join this session is included below.

The Department invites the leadership teams of CIR/UIR-A schools to also participate in optional office hours.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 28 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91005357641>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 910 0535 7641
- **Webinar Password:** 994930

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 29 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92086368130>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 920 8636 8130
- **Webinar Password:** 632682

These sessions are separate from the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: Virtual Series sessions. Participants are able to attend Summit sessions scheduled outside of their assigned Leadership Learning Series sessions.

Please contact delaina.larocque@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Webinar on Curriculum and Family Engagement Tools to Support Families

Given the recent announcement of school closures across the state of Louisiana for the remainder of the school year, Family Engagement Lab is offering two cost-effective tools to increase students' academic readiness: [FASTalk Summer](#) and [FASTalk](#).

- [FASTalk Summer](#) is a new family engagement tool designed to compensate for lost learning time. Texting parents literacy activities during the summer months has been shown in academic research to more than compensate for lost learning typically experienced by students. FASTalk Summer is a simple, accessible, text message-based learning tool to support families with limited access to devices and the internet, as well as those facing language barriers.
- [FASTalk](#) is an easy tool that sends families weekly text messages with curriculum-aligned and standards-aligned learning activities in PK-5 supporting academic, social, and emotional skill development. FASTalk is preloaded with practical tips for parents to support high-quality instructional materials, aligned with ELA Guidebooks, EL, CKLA, Wit & Wisdom, and more. FASTalk supports two-way communication between parents and teachers with automated translation in more than 100+ languages.

School systems interested in finding out more about FASTalk and FASTalk Summer are invited to join an informational webinar followed by a live Q&A. This webinar will be offered on multiple dates. Details needed to join the webinar are listed below.

FASTalk and FASTalk Summer Informational Webinar

[May 28 at 11:00 a.m.](#)

- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7073754147>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 707 375 4147
- **Password:** 227729

Please contact info@fastalk.org with questions.

Reminder: COVID-19 Guidance

On April 15, Gov. John Bel Edwards [signed a proclamation](#) to extend the closure of public school facilities to students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, to curb the spread of COVID-19. School systems are currently engaging students in distance education.

Please reference the Department's [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#) webpage for regularly updated guidance. Review the [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is specific to the concerns of school systems for the most up-to-date information. Child care providers should refer to the [Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions](#) for specific guidance. For education-specific information, contact the Department at LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov.

Please contact the Louisiana 211 Network with questions about coronavirus, or text the keyword LACOVID to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

Reminder: Every Child Counts - 2020 Census

By now, every home has received an invitation to participate in the [2020 Census](#).

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children, such as:

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology.
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches.
- Maternal and child health programs.
- Planning, preparedness, and recovery efforts for national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#).

Self-responses, which can be completed [online](#), by phone, or by mail until October 31, **ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students.**

The Department encourages school systems to explore the newly available [2020 Census Toolbox](#) to find activities specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for each grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

New: High School Summer Test Administration

- The high school summer test administration schedule has changed to July 13-24.
- There is no remote access option.

Update: Waivers for Testing

- To date, the only students who have a waiver from the assessment graduation requirements are graduating seniors who were enrolled at the time of school closing and were in the February 1 enrollment report.
- The current waiver does not apply to students who were not enrolled in school or students who are not yet eligible to graduate.
- In June, the Department will request a change in policy to waive the assessment requirement for a high school assessment-eligible course earned during the regular school year in 2019-2020 (not including summer credit recovery) for students who would have been initial testers in spring 2020. Students who failed a subject test in a prior administration will not be eligible for the waiver of the assessment requirement.

Update: ACT

- The Department posted new [K-12 ACT COVID-19 Preventative Measures Guidance](#) to the [Assessment Library](#). The document outlines actions required to protect the students and adults who will participate in the June 2 state ACT administration. While ACT will issue its own guidance, the Department guidelines supersede ACT guidelines. The [ACT](#)

[Administration FAQ](#), which includes general information about the June 2 administration, has been updated to include a link to this document.

- ACT announced new flexibilities for summer testing and new test-at-home options that will become available in the fall and winter. Information about at-home testing with remote proctoring will be shared as it becomes available.
- ACT National Test Date
 - Although students are only able to register for June 13 and July 18 for national test administrations in the summer, testing sites can request a one-week delay in administration (June 20 and July 25)
- ACT State Administration
 - June 2 standard paper
 - June 2-4 online
 - June 2-8 accommodated window
 - October 6 and October 20 paper-based administration only for students who were juniors in 2019-2020 and were unable to test in March or June. The Department will cover the cost for one administration per student.

Update Cohort Graduation Data Certification

- Cohort graduation data certification will remain open until June 5. Accountability contacts will be notified prior to the official opening date.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on June 9 at 4:15 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- Webinar Date and Time: June 9 at 4:15 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923
- Meeting ID#: 202 189 164

High School Pathways

New: NCCER Releases Module Testing Update

Please share with CTE Supervisors and professional school counselors.

The [National Center for Construction Education & Research \(NCCER\)](#) updated information about its Module Testing on May 21. To that end, NCCER will be discontinuing paper tests beginning August 1, 2021.

The Department will provide guidance to support schools and NCCER Craft Instructors with implementing the online testing for craft module assessments. As per guidance from NCCER, Performance Profiles will continue to be done in person and submitted as Registration of Training Modules through the registry.

School systems interested in piloting online testing for the 2020-2021 school year are encouraged to contact jumpstart@la.gov.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: High School Planning Guide

Please share with high school principals and professional school counselors.

The Department recently released the annual [2020-2021 High School Student Planning Guide \(HSPG\)](#). The guide is a key resource for counselors and includes information on the key policies and programs that support the needs of all high school students.

The 2020-2021 HSPG includes the following sections with applicable updates:

- Plan for Student Success
- Focusing on Core Academics: 9th and 10th Grades
- Developing Advanced College & Workplace Skills: 11th and 12th Grades
- Student Planning Resources
- Jump Start Opportunities
- Alternate Pathways to a High School Diploma for Students with Disabilities
- Graduation Requirements Chart
- Sample Individual Graduation Plan Forms

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Course Choice/SCA Reporting

Please share with professional school counselors and district high school coordinators.

The window for SCA/Course Choice providers to submit final grades for Spring and Full Year is open and will close on **June 30**. The date was extended to allow additional time for students to complete courses.

SCA MFP allocation for the 2019-2020 school year will not be redistributed. If school systems have unspent funds, the remaining balance will carry over for the next school year to be available for additional SCA/Course Choice enrollments.

Registration for Course Choice 2020-2021 will open on **July 1**. The preliminary [2020-2021 Preliminary Course Choice Catalog](#) is now available.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Student Opportunities Office Hours

Please share with school system supervisors, administrators, and counselors.

The Office of Student Opportunities is holding office hours weekly through May 31 to answer questions about student planning and promotion.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Every Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/411290309>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 411 290 309
- **Meeting Password:** 031058

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

Reminder: Mentor Provisional Certificates

Beginning in September, every teacher who serves as the mentor of an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate candidate must hold the Mentor Ancillary Certificate or the Provisional Mentor Ancillary Certificate.

In light of COVID-19 school facility closures, BESE has extended the validity of the Provisional Mentor certificate from 12 months to 18 months for individuals who hold this certificate in the 2019-2020 academic year.

The additional six months of provisional certification will be applied to [applications](#) submitted by **June 1**. Provisional applications issued after this academic year are valid for 12 months.

Provisional Applications must include:

- Completed application
- Certificate of training completion, which can be requested from the training provider

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Partnering Teacher Preparation Provider

As part of Super App, all CIR and UIR-A schools were required to identify teacher workforce needs in advance and establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a teacher preparation provider that matches this need. As a next step, school systems should submit a copy of their MOU with partnering preparation providers by emailing the MOU to believeandprepare@la.gov no later than **May 30**.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Special Education

New: June SPED Leader Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on June 4 at 2:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 4 at 2:00 p.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 with questions.

Reminder: Teacher Leader Advisor for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Applications

The Department is seeking excellent English language arts, math, and special education teachers to become Teacher Leader

Advisors (TLAs) for the 2020-2021 school year. TLAs will build resources for students with significant cognitive disabilities in both math and English language arts, grades K-12.

TLAs will either pilot the design and implementation of lessons from the ELA Guidebook Companion Resources (grades 3-8) or will develop additional supports aligned to the mathematics and ELA Connector standards (grades K-12).

The [application](#) for TLAs for students with significant cognitive disabilities is open until **May 29**. Please share this opportunity broadly with ELA, mathematics, and special education teachers.

Please contact kelly.mcclure@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

Reminder: Title IV Part A CARES Act Fiscal Waiver Flexibilities

All school systems are encouraged to take advantage of the Title IV Part Cares Act Fiscal Waiver Flexibilities. These fiscal waiver flexibilities allow local school systems to do the following:

1. Target Title IV Part A funds directly to specific needs of school systems without having to adjust the needs assessment.
2. Disregard the content area required percentages to get the maximum fiscal flexibility driven by the school system's Title IV Part A needs. For example, school systems will be allowed to target more funding toward technology infrastructure (i.e. student devices, internet connectivity, etc.) without being limited to the fifteen percent requirement for the Effective Use of Technology content area.

School systems can access the Title IV fiscal flexibilities immediately by amending their 2019-2020 Super App. The areas that will need to be amended will be (1) signing off on the Title IV waiver assurances, (2) noting changes on the Amendment Description page, and (3) adjusting the appropriate domain budget page.

Note: These flexibilities apply only to 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Title IV Part A funding.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Contacts

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