

# CHARTER SCHOOLS



July 17, 2019

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Among the great joys of our jobs as superintendents is the chance to brag a little on the people we get to work with in schools and school systems. This week, I get a chance to brag to the United States Congress about the work schools and educator preparation programs have done in Louisiana to equip the next generation of teachers and school leaders with skills to be successful for their students.

In [prepared testimony](#) to two House subcommittees, I will speak in particular to the story of [Believe and Prepare](#), an initiative launched more than five years ago to provide a full year's time in the classroom, under the tutelage of mentor educators, for all undergraduates aspiring to teach. I will tell the story of an initiative that launched with a handful of school systems, charter schools, and preparation programs, growing over time with interest and inspiration. I will tell the story of schools that have created truly professional paths to teaching. I will tell the story of mentors and residents who reflect the best examples of commitment our profession can provide.

The hearing will be focused on the Higher Education Act, and on its role in improving educator preparation. It can be viewed at [this site](#). But more than any specific policy recommendation, I hope that the pride I convey in Louisiana will stand as evidence that states can tackle big, systemic issues, working collaboratively, navigating issues as they arise, and taking a long-term view of change.

We don't say this enough: Louisiana has a lot to be proud of. This story is one such thing. I look forward to sharing my pride and thank you for the privilege of being able to do so.

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)
7/19/19	Complete the <a href="#">End of Year Assessment and Accountability Survey</a>	School and district test coordinators
7/22/19	Submit <a href="#">proposals</a> for School Climate Transformation Grant Program	CEOs, school leaders and grant managers
7/26/19	Register for Quest for Success <a href="#">training</a>	Career and Tech Supervisors, administrators, counselors, and teachers
7/31/19	Submit FY2019-20 Annual Operating Budget	Type 2 and type 5 school business managers and board presidents
7/31/19	Complete the 2018-19 Career Development Fund (CDF) End of Year <a href="#">report</a>	Career and Tech Supervisors, administrators, counselors, and teachers
8/2/19	Submit Teacher Exit Survey Interview data	CEOs and school leaders
8/5/19	Submit <a href="#">applications</a> for Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program	CEOs, school leaders and grant managers
9/13/19	Register <a href="#">SCA/Course Choice</a> for the 2019-20 school year	School leaders and counselors of high schools
9/13/19	Submit Child Nutrition Program Administrative Review <a href="#">forms</a>	Child Nutrition Supervisors

## LEA Support

### **New: Release of 2019-2020 Back-to-School Materials**

**Please share with principals and teachers.**

The Department is committed to providing all educators-teachers, principals, and school system leaders-with the supports and resources they need to continue raising the bar for students in Louisiana.

Below, please find resources released today by the Department to support the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

- [2019-2020 Educator Resource Guide](#): Highlighting instructional priorities and resources to support educators within the first 90 days of the start of the 2019-2020 school year. The guide is located in the [School System](#), [Principal](#) and [Teacher](#) Toolboxes and will be updated weekly through October.
- Updated [2019-2020 School System Support Calendar](#): Updated to include dates and locations for School Support Institutes, Super App Collaborations, and Spring Collaborations.
- [Back-to-School Night Presentation](#): Customizable presentation that school leaders and teachers can use to provide parents with information on 2018-2019 academic goals, standards, and assessments which help to meet ESSA parent engagement requirements.
- [Parent Back-to-School Guides](#): Provide families with information and resources to support learning at home for the 2019-2020 school year for students in grades [PK-2](#), [3-12](#), [English learners](#), and [students with disabilities](#). Translated versions will be available later this month.

Email [doecommunications@la.gov](mailto:doecommunications@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessment and Accountability

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

**General:**

- All changes to secure shipping addresses, DTCs, or Accountability Contacts must be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the [Assessment Library](#)
- District Test Coordinators and Accountability Contacts should complete the [End of Year Assessment and Accountability Survey](#) by July 19

- [Survey](#) by July 15.
- 2019-2020 administrations are now live in eDIRECT. DTCs should ensure all users have the appropriate permissions for the new administrations.
- DTCs should ensure that Central Office is installed prior to testing during the 2019-2020 school year. Testing cannot begin in the 2019-2020 school year until this is completed.
- DTCs should use the State Placement Test 2018-2019 to administer placement tests for the upcoming school year for any student enrolling into grades 5 or 9 into a Louisiana public or charter school from out of state, non-public, or home school. For additional information, please reference the [State Placement Test Overview](#), located in the [Assessment Library](#).

### K-3

- Administer the [Kindergarten Entry Assessment and the K-3 Literacy Screeners](#) within the first 30 days of school
- October 18: Deadline for data managers to submit the KEA and K-3 data with the SIS K-3 Assessment Collection or in the Teaching Strategies Platform for GOLD

### LEAP 360

- The 2019-2020 Diagnostic and Interim Quick Start Guides are now available in the [Assessment](#) and [LEAP 360](#) libraries.

### ELPT/ELPS

- The Department has executed and posted a [new data sharing agreement for ELPT/ELPS](#) on the Department's [Data Sharing Agreement](#) webpage. School systems should download the [addendum](#) from the site and sign, scan, and email the signed copy to [ldedata@la.gov](mailto:ldedata@la.gov) in order to ensure that they will be able to share student information with for administration of the ELPT purposes. Please email [ldedata@la.gov](mailto:ldedata@la.gov) with questions.
- Beginning August 1, ELPS will be Louisiana's required standardized entrance screener. All guidance and trainings are available in the [Assessment Library](#).
- ELPS will be unavailable from July 13-31.

### Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability **call** will be August 6 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## High School Pathways

### **New: 2019-2020 High School Planning Guidebook**

**Please share with high school administrators, counselors, and teachers.**

Louisiana's comprehensive plan to prepare students for college and career success includes a system of related policies and programs to provide all students with pathways to future prosperity. The [2019-2020 High School Planning Guidebook](#) is designed to consolidate those policies and programs and provide educators with the resources they need to ensure all students are successful from the time they arrive on the high school campus until the day they graduate. Topics include:

- developing a plan for student success;
- creating a layered continuum of support;
- understanding diploma pathways;
- maintaining individual graduation plans;
- supporting students with diverse needs; and
- understanding the Louisiana accountability system.

Note: The guidebook has been updated since the June 2019 printed version. Please visit the [Louisiana's Guidebooks web page](#) to access all Department guidebooks.

For additional questions please contact [highschoolacademics@la.gov](mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov).

### **New: SCA/Course Choice Fall 2019 Registration**

## **Please share with counselors and high school coordinators**

Fall block and full year registration for the SCA/Course Choice 2019-2020 school year opened on July 1 and ends on September 13 at 5:00 p.m. Schools register students directly with the course providers. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Schools must document all SCA enrollments in the [Course Choice Reporting System](#) by the end of registration deadlines in order to fund the courses using SCA allocations.

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.

For more information, please contact [sca@la.gov](mailto:sca@la.gov).

## **New: Quest for Success Registration and Additional Training**

**Please share with Career and Tech Supervisors, administrators, counselors, and teachers.**

Quest for Success (QFS) is the new innovative, high school-level, career exploration course that will fully replace Journey to Careers beginning in 2020-2021. Any teacher that will be teaching QFS must attend a state sponsored training. Teachers that were unable to attend any of the summer 2019 trainings have an opportunity to register for the [July 29-30 training located in Baton Rouge](#). Registration will close on July 26.

For any teacher unable to attend a summer session, there will be an opportunity to participate in a QFS introductory webinar in August, as well as a mid-September QFS training in Baton Rouge. Details regarding these upcoming trainings will be communicated in future newsletters.

For questions regarding Quest for Success, contact [tedrick.holmes@la.gov](mailto:tedrick.holmes@la.gov).

## **Reminder: Jump Start Career Development Fund 2018-2019 End of Year Report**

**Please share with Career and Tech Supervisors.**

School systems, charter schools, and special schools are reminded to complete the [2018-2019 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End of Year \(EOY\) Report](#) and submit it to [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) by **July 31**.

School systems, charter schools, and special schools received a 6 percent MFP adder (state funding portion only) for student enrollments in Career and Technical (CTE) courses. This adder equals \$238 per student enrollment by course. An additional 6 percent CDF adder of \$238 is allocated per student enrolled in a CDF approved course. There is a minimum CDF allocation of \$25,000 per school system or \$10,000 per charter/special school.

For questions regarding CDF, please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

## **Educator Preparation**

### **New: 2018-2019 VAM Data Availability**

2018-2019 value-added model (VAM) data will be uploaded into the Compass Information System (CIS) on **August 9**. Final evaluation ratings for VAM teachers can then be submitted in CIS.

The deadline for submitting all 2018-2019 evaluation ratings for teachers in CIS is **September 6**.

For more information, please contact [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov).

### **Reminder: 2018-2019 Teacher Exit Interview Survey**

The Teacher Exit Interview data for the 2018-2019 school year is due on **August 2**.

Personnel directors in each school system have [received guidance](#) around entering the school system's exit data in the Teacher Exit Interview data portal.

As a reminder, school systems are required by [state law](#) to report information about teachers who leave their roles. Charter schools are not required by law to submit this data.

Please contact [cindy.millard@la.gov](mailto:cindy.millard@la.gov) to access the portal or [erich.schultz@la.gov](mailto:erich.schultz@la.gov) with questions.

## Special Education

### **New: ESSA Alternate Assessment Data Packages to be Released**

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any school system with more than 1.0 percent of students participating in the ELA, math, or science alternate assessment must take certain actions. The Department will provide all school systems with an alternate assessment package by **Friday, July 19** via FTP with the file name:LEA Code\_LEA Name\_Prelim Alternate Assessment 2019.

School systems should review their data, and if they exceed the 1.0 percent participation threshold, should take the actions outlined in the package. Please contact your school system's FTP coordinator to retrieve your alternate assessment package. The Department will also host a webinar to help school systems complete these actions. Please check next week's newsletter for additional information.

For more information, please email [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov).

### **Reminder: Professional Development and Direct Services Supports - Request for Applications**

The Department is accepting [applications](#) from organizations interested in partnering with school systems to support the unique needs of students with disabilities. The application is open to:

- organizations that can provide high-quality professional development in targeted areas of specialized support; and
- organizations that provide direct services to students defined in their individual education plans.

The deadline to submit this application is August 16.

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

## Data

### **New: Enrolling and Exiting Displaced Students from Hurricane Barry**

Once SIS collections reopen for the fall, it will be important for school systems to identify any students entering or exiting their schools due to flooding displacement from Hurricane Barry. As a reminder, when entering documented displaced students into SIS, use the following Entry Reason Codes:

#### Entry Reason Code Description

N1 Disaster Entry from Public School within Louisiana

N4 Disaster Entry from Public School within the Same District

Students displaced by flooding may also qualify for homeless status if they are sharing housing with other persons, including doubled-up with family members, or are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate accommodations. Please ensure homeless status is also reported through SIS, as relevant, using the appropriate Homeless Indicator Code (see list below) with Homeless Reason Code "02" (Flooding).

#### Homeless Indicator Codes:

1 - Shelters

2 - Doubled-up (sharing housing with other persons)

3 - Unsheltered/FEMA (cars, parks, campgrounds w/o running water/electricity, abandoned building or substandard housing)

4 - Hotels/Motels

#### Exiting Displaced Students

Students that were attending school prior to the flooding disaster that are now displaced due to the flooding disaster should be exited using Exit Reason Code "37" (Disaster Exit).

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

### **Reminder: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar**

## **Reminder: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar**

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

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers on July 18 at 1:00 p.m. Topics will include 2018-2019 system closeouts, 2019-2020 data submissions, deadlines, other updates, and best practices.

- Webinar Date and Time: July 18 at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929>
- Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923

(for dial-in only)

- Meeting ID#: 976397929

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

## **Finance**

### **New: FY2019-20 Annual Operating Budget**

**Please forward to Type 2 and Type 5 charter school business managers and board presidents.**

The FY2019-20 Annual Operating Budget is due Wednesday, July 31, 2019. If the Annual Operating Budget submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup> is not adopted in accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, submittal of the budget adopted in accordance with the Budget Act is required no later than September 30. The following documents are attached for your reference:

[Annual Operating Budget and CSPC Indicator Form](#)

[Statement of Affirmation](#)

[Steps for Adopting Local School Board Budgets](#)

[Revised Statutes 39.1301 through 1315](#)

[Revised Statute 17.88](#)

The forms should be submitted via email to the address below.

If you have any questions or require further information, contact Karen McCary at 225-342-3776 or via email at [Karen.McCarvy@la.gov](mailto:Karen.McCarvy@la.gov).

### **New: FY 2019-2020 - Requests for Additional MFP Funding Prior to Mid-Year Adjustments**

**Please forward to Charter School business managers.**

Per the MFP Resolution, charter schools are funded based on the prior year's February 1 count. A mid-year adjustment for increases and/or decreases will be provided based on the October 1, 2019 student count. Charter schools may request that the Superintendent of Education make estimated monthly payments based on documented growth prior to the October 1 count. To receive estimated monthly payments for documented growth prior to the October 1 count, please use the following [instruction](#), [examples](#) and [documents](#):

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Karen McCary at 225-342-3776, or via email at [Karen.McCarvy@la.gov](mailto:Karen.McCarvy@la.gov)

## **Policy**

### **Reminder: June BESE Meeting Summary**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on June 20 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A [summary](#) of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies is available.

Please email [ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov](mailto:ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov) for more information.

## Federal Programs

### **New: Equitable Services Regional Meetings**

The Division of Federal Support will conduct two regional meetings on purposed equitable services guidance updates from the U.S. Department of Education and important information related to equitable services compliance for the 2019-2020 school year. Several key topics will be discussed, including but not limited to, transferability, rollover, carryover, administrative cost, equitable services forms, equitable services program design vs. nonpublic plans, Title II and IV Needs Assessment, and implementation.

The Department is asking all nonpublic school officials, administrators, and school system federal program directors, and support staff to attend one of the regional meetings listed below.

Participants must register at the link below. Registration is open and will close on August 1.

Date	Region	Location	Time
July 30	Northern Region	Avoyelles Parish Avoyelles Parish School Board 221 Tunica Drive W. Marksville, LA 71351	<a href="#">Registration</a> 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Meeting/Network Session 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
August 1	Southern Region	Archdiocese of New Orleans Schulte Auditorium Notre Dame Seminary 2901 S. Carrollton Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118	<a href="#">Registration</a> 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Meeting/Network Session 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

### **Reminder: Title I Part A: Supplement not Supplant - Final Guidance**

On June 19, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) released final [non-regulatory guidance](#) to help LEAs understand both the intent of and ways to comply with the supplement not supplant requirement under Title I. The guidance explains how ESSA changed the longstanding requirement in order to reduce administrative burden, simplify the compliance demonstration, and promote effective spending.

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

## Safe and Healthy Schools

### **New: School Safety Grant Opportunities**

The U.S. Department of Education is now accepting applications for fiscal year 2019 grant competitions that support locally tailored approaches to school safety. Details for these grants are listed below.

Grant Program	Description	Deadline	Contact
School Climate Transformation Grant Program	This \$40 million <a href="#">grant competition</a> provides funds to LEAs to develop, enhance, or expand systems of support for schools implementing strategies to improve learning conditions and promote positive school culture for all students.	July 22	<a href="mailto:lea.sctg19@ed.gov">lea.sctg19@ed.gov</a>
Mental Health Service Professional Development Grant	This \$15 million <a href="#">grant competition</a> promotes partnerships between all three organizations and	August 5	<a href="mailto:mental.health@ed.gov">mental.health@ed.gov</a>

Demonstration Grant Program	between colleges or universities and high-need school districts in order to expand the pipeline of trained school-based mental health services providers.	
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To keep apprised of upcoming school safety opportunities, please visit the [FCSS website](#).

**New: School Year 2019-2020 Child Nutrition Program Administrative Review (AR) Schedule**

**Please share with Child Nutrition Supervisors.**

As part of the Louisiana Department of Education's USDA Child Nutrition Program monitoring, the Department has released the [2019-2020 Administrative Review Schedule](#).

The Department's AR team leader will contact each school system that is scheduled for review. The deadline to submit off-site [AR forms](#) is September 13.

Please email [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov) for more information.

**LDOE Contacts**

John White  
State Superintendent of Education  
(toll-free) 877.453.2721  
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

**LDOE Links**

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