

CHARTER SCHOOLS

August 18, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

School reopening continues to progress across our state. By week's end, around 40 systems will have resumed student instruction. Once again on our weekly call with system leaders, medical experts from the Louisiana Department of Health and Ochsner complimented the work our educators are doing to serve students and families during the pandemic. There have been — and will continue to be — positive cases of COVID-19 in our schools. This was planned for well before reopening. As medical experts have shared, if COVID-19 is present in your community, it will likely be present in your schools. By following safety standards and guidelines, most systems have responded to positive cases while maintaining safe school operations for the overwhelming majority of students.

The magnitude and difficulty of this work for educators and school leaders is nearly impossible to understand unless immersed in it daily. Demands are great: from balancing student safety to ensuring an education for every child. Educators and leaders are working through issues on relationships, parental engagement, transportation logistics, food and nutrition, sanitation, technological readiness, meaningful instruction, serving a diverse population, workforce needs and communications strategies.

Safety is the top responsibility, but we must also find a way to educate. We must maintain high expectations as we lead our students through a global pandemic. We must balance the realities and limitations being faced in systems and schools across our state and nation. We must also freely share ideas and learn alongside each other as we move through this unprecedented time.

Many educators have a sense of anxiety right now. We're all trying to figure out a way. Case studies will be written about the work we're doing. Those case studies will share what we did well and where we fell short. Through all of that, I know we will get through this. Innovations will come that will last well into the future.

I look forward to continuing our work with teachers and leaders who are giving their all every day for kids. That's where I will continue to put my focus.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Strong Start 2020 Reopening Operations and Resources Office Hours	August 20 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	August 25 at 3:45 p.m.
EdLink 360 Office Hours	August 27 at 2 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Education Technology Monthly Call	August 20 at 11 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	September 3 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	September 4 at 9 a.m.
<i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library.</i>	

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Quarterly Personnel Director Webinar	August 20 at 10 a.m.
Act 206: Dyslexia Definition Webinar	August 20 at 12 p.m.
Kickoff Webinar for 2020-2021 Parallel Data Collections	August 20 at 1 p.m.
Reopening Roundtable: A Virtual Series for System Leaders	August 21 at 9 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
Document Link	Deadline
Alternate Assessment Review Files Due in FTP	September 2

School System Support

System Leaders Monthly Call

Superintendents and charter leaders are invited to participate in a **System Leaders Monthly Call** hosted by Dr. Brumley on **September 4 at 9 a.m.** Information needed to join this call is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 4 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97982207566>
- **Webinar Password:** @Ax4Q3
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 979 8220 7566
- **Dial-in Password:** 744001

Please enter your full name and school system name when logging in.

Academics

Academic Content

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.

New or updated information will be highlighted in yellow within the document.

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

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
Teaching Strategies, The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, & Twos, 3rd Edition	
Teaching Strategies, The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, Ages 3-4	

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

New: Data Certification for DCAI, Partial Assessment and Alternative School Indices

- Data certification for DCAI, ELPT, LEAP Connect and alternative school indices will open in Louisiana Data Review on August 24 and will remain open through September 11.
- All accountability contacts will receive individual emails with login credentials and resources when the system opens.
- Immediately following Office Hours on August 25, there will be a webinar for users new to Louisiana Data Review.

Updates to District Test Coordinator and/or Accountability Contacts

- In order to access Louisiana Data Review and many testing vendor platforms, it is important that school systems record changes to the district test coordinator and/or accountability contact in the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#). To expedite changes needed for assessments, please contact assessment@la.gov.

Screening for English Learners

- School systems must continue to determine if students entering kindergarten through grade 12 for the first time are English Learners (ELs) who require supplementary support services to continue developing language proficiency in English. Guidance is provided to facilitate the identification of ELs and to determine if EL services are needed when it is not possible to administer the ELPS in the [Guidance for the Provisional Identification of English Learners](#) document.

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- Because there are no exemptions for the requirement to the KEA and the K-3 Literacy screening outlined in BESE policy and law, the [Pre-K to 3rd Grade Assessment Guidance 2020-2021](#) has been released. The two approved Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) options are DRDP-K and TeachingStrategies GOLD KEA. The four approved K-3 Literacy Screener options are Acadience Reading (formerly DIBELS Next), DIBELS 8th Edition, STEEP and STEP. This guidance includes information about each assessment and links to the following helpful resources:
 - The **updated** [KEA and K-3 Literacy Screener Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) document outlines requirements and resources for administering the KEA and K-3 Literacy Screener in various learning environments; including traditional, virtual and hybrid.
 - The **updated** [DRDP-K Overview 2020-2021](#): outlines requirements and resources for administering the DRDP-K.
 - [GOLD Overview 2020-2021](#) has been released for Early Childhood, OSEP and KEA.

- The [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) outlines requirements and resources for assessing children in publicly-funded seats (birth-age 5) using Teaching Strategies GOLD in various learning environments; including traditional, virtual and hybrid
- Birth-Grade 3 Assessments has a [suite of resources](#) available to help school systems (and early learning centers) plan assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.

ACT

- **ACT Webinar Opportunities**
 - All school systems that tested students in June 2020 and/or who plan to test students during the October 2020 makeup for 2019-2020 juniors must sign the ACT MOU Addendum that is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- **ACT State Administration**
 - 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 applicable student.
 - **Important: Materials will be shipped separately for each administration.**
 - Currently, ACT does not offer remote administrations for any scheduled testing dates.
 - The [Schedule of Events](#) for the October ACT administration is posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site.
 - The [Schedule of Events](#) for the 2020-2021 WorkKeys administration is posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site.
 - [PearsonAccess^{next}](#) (PANext) is open through August 28 to manage participation and verify secure district shipping addresses for both the ACT October administration and the 2020-2021 WorkKeys assessments.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **August 25 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for Office Hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 25 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Password:** 2020202!

Educator Development

Mentor Certification Waiver

On August 12, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) granted a waiver of policy contained in Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, and Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*, regarding the requirement that all undergraduate residents and post-baccalaureate candidates be placed with mentor teachers holding the ancillary mentor teacher certificate, the ancillary provisional mentor teacher certificate or the Supervisor of Student Teaching certificate for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Department will develop an application process for the aforementioned mentor teacher waiver and will review applications and issue waivers—on a case-by-case basis—to educators who have earned a ‘Highly Effective’ rating over the two most recent years in the Compass Teacher Evaluation system, or who have been highly recommended to serve as a mentor teacher by the school principal.

This application will be available no later than **this Friday, August 21**. There will be no fees for applicants, school systems or teacher preparation providers in applying for the mentor teacher waiver.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Quest for Success

Please share with career and technical education leaders.

The dynamic [2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities](#) guide has been updated to include additional Quest for Success training opportunities.

- August 24 to 27 from 4-8 p.m. each day (all days required)
- September 2, 9, 16 and 23, in the evening (all days required)
- October 5, 6, 7 and 8, in the evening (all days required)
- October 19 and 26 and November 5 and 12, in the evening (all days required)

Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Additional Quest for Success training opportunities will be available throughout the school year and will be communicated through the newsletter. These additional training opportunities will include a variety of flexible training opportunities for new Quest for Success instructors such as once a week, weekly, and weekend opportunities.

Quest for Success teachers, who begin the school year without having attended training, have multiple resources available to assist teachers prior to attending a training including [Recorded introduction and refresher session](#) and [Unit overviews and preparation points videos](#).

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity

Special Education

Alternate Assessment Review Files Due in FTP

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 provided all school systems with an alternate assessment package via FTP with the file name: LEA Code_LEA Name_AA_2020. All school systems should review the participation data included in the package. Those school systems with more than 1.0 percent participation need to complete the following actions:

- Complete and submit the alternate assessment [review request form](#). Save using file name “LEA Code_LEA Name_ReviewRequest_2020.”

- Compile and submit the required student-specific records. Individual student files should be saved using the format “**StudentIDNumber_LEA Code**” and placed in a folder named “**LEA Code_LEA Name_AAReviewStudentFiles.**”

All files are due on the FTP no later than **September 2.**

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Policy and Governmental Affairs

Healthy Communities

Immunization Update

The Louisiana Department of Health Immunization Program has received many questions about school entry requirements and reporting and has provided a [memo](#) and [guidance](#) for vaccine providers.

Please contact stacy.hall@la.gov with questions.

Stop the Bleed

[SCR 62](#) of the 2020 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature urges and requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, through the Louisiana Department of Education, to develop and implement a traumatic injury response program to ensure each city, parish or other local public school in the state is prepared to respond to a traumatic injury emergency.

The Department has partnered with the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) to provide training through their network. **The training is free and will be provided at school sites.**

Schools may purchase [wall mount kits](#) or [individual bleeding control kits](#), which should be stored next to the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

Schools may also purchase [training kits](#), which will help comply with incorporating training into each school's emergency plans.

To schedule a training call the LERN office at 225-756-3440. For more information on these efforts visit LERN's [Stop the Bleed](#) webpage.

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [School System Support Reminders](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)
- [Policy and Governmental Affairs Reminders](#)
 - [Certification Reminders](#)

School System Support Reminders

Reopening Roundtable: A Virtual Series for Superintendents

Superintendents and charter leaders are invited to participate in a Reopening Roundtable virtual series hosted by Dr. Brumley. This call will be held at **9 a.m. each Friday** during the month of August and will continue monthly beginning in September. Every week a panel of system leaders will share their experiences reopening and operating schools during the health crisis. It's important that the Department is a support agency during these uncertain times, and this series will help facilitate discussions of best practices. Information needed to join this series is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 21 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97826043901>
- **Webinar Password:** 5v7Dwq
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 978 2604 3901
- **Dial-in Password:** 556910

Please enter your full name and school system name when logging in.

Strong Start 2020: Virtual Teaching and Learning Guidance

The [Louisiana Virtual Instruction Guide](#) is now available. It is designed for educators and outlines the expectations for teaching and learning in a virtual setting.

The guide outlines the expectations of four characteristics of high-quality virtual instruction for students in grades pre-K through 12:

- High-quality, standards-aligned curriculum
- Interactive, engaging instruction
- Monitoring student progress
- Student support

A [Louisiana Virtual Instruction Guide for Parents](#) is also now available.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

2020-2021 Reopening and Operations Resource Reminder

The Department and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) have been working together to provide updated resources and guidance for schools relative to reopening and operations for the 2020-2021 school year. The most recent updates include:

- [Room Partition Guidance](#)
- [Physical Education 9-12 Guidance](#)
- [Virtual Learning Resource](#)
- Vision/Hearing Screening Process
- [Gifted and Talented Screening](#)
- School Staff Safety Best Practices
- Regulatory waivers related to transportation, K-8 physical activity, and camps

In addition, the Department is holding office hours **every Thursday at 3 p.m.** for school system leaders and support staff to hear the latest updates on policy implementation, supportive guidance and tool development. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursdays at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91419461028>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID#:** 914 1946 1028
- **Meeting Password:** 408891

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

Quest for Success Teacher Training

Please share with CTE supervisors, counselors and school system leaders.

The dynamic [2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities](#) guide has been updated to include additional Quest for Success training opportunities. The next virtual training opportunity will occur **August 24-27 from 4 to 8 p.m.** each day.

[Registration is through Eventbrite](#) and registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Additional Quest for Success training opportunities will be available throughout the school year and will be communicated in an upcoming newsletter entry. These additional training opportunities will include a variety of flexible training opportunities for new Quest for Success instructors such as once a week, weekly and weekend opportunities.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

2020-2021 Course Choice/SCA Portal

Please share with CTE supervisors, counselors and school system leaders.

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. The [SCA Portal](#) is now open for 2020-2021 reporting.

The 2020-2021 [Preliminary Course Choice Provider Directory](#) is now available. Schools register students directly with the course provider college and/or university. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Procedures](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the Course Choice Reporting System.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Policy and Governmental Affairs Reminders

Certification Reminders

Quarterly Personnel Director Webinar

Personnel directors and staff are invited to attend the final Quarterly Personnel Director Webinar **this Thursday, August 20 at 10 a.m.** Key topics will include certification extensions due to COVID-19, BESE's consideration of the Mentor waiver request, Mentor/resident data collection process and certification updates.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 20 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93475503910>
- **Webinar Password:** 46E%cL
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 934 7550 3910
- **Dial-in Password:** 658750

Moving forward, information pertinent to certification and educator workforce concerns will be discussed on the Policy and Governmental Affairs monthly calls beginning in September.

Please contact sara.delano@la.gov with questions.