

CHARTER SCHOOLS

November 11, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

This week we honor all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Every Veterans Day, I think of the countless educators who started their careers of service in the military. I think back to my time as a teacher and principal and remember all my former students who graduated high school and went on to success in one of our military branches. I also think of both my grandfathers who fought in WWII for the U.S. Army.

Thank you to all of our veterans. I'm grateful for your service and sacrifice.

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	November 12 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	November 12 at 3 p.m.
Super App Office Hours	November 13 at 10 a.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	November 17 at 12 p.m.
K-2 CLASS Pilot Office Hours	November 17 at 12 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	December 1 at 3:45 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	December 3 at 9 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
SPED Leader Monthly Call	November 12 at 2 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	November 16 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	November 17 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	November 18 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	November 18 at 3:30 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	November 19 at 9 a.m.
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	November 19 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	November 19 at 3 p.m.
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	November 20 at 9 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	December 2 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	December 2 at 3 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	December 3 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	December 4 at 9 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	December 9 at 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Accountability Commission Meeting	November 16 at 10 a.m.
Quest for Success Unit 5 Hybrid Modifications Webinar	November 16 at 4 p.m.
Early Literacy Commission Meeting	November 17 at 12 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Document Link	Deadline
2020-2021 School District Boundary Review	November 10
U. S. Presidential Scholar Program Nomination	November 13
AP Exam Orders	November 13
KEA and K-3 literacy screener data (with SIS K-3 Assessment Collection)	November 16
Act 688 Survey	November 20
SPED Leader Webinar Survey	November 20
BESE Tuition Program For Teachers - Application for Spring 2021 Courses	November 20
FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic Textbooks Application	November 20
BinaxNOW Rapid COVID Testing Kits Survey	November 20
SER User Survey	November 30
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

School System Support

Super App Launch Session List

Each year, school systems build a plan for how to improve student learning for the coming year. This process involves reviewing student achievement and student progress, establishing priorities, and building a budget aligned to these priorities using all available funding sources. Super App is a tool that allows school systems to plan for their needs, access their formula funds, and apply for competitive funds on one timeline.

In an effort to support school systems with this process, the Department launched the 2021-2022 School System Planning process and Super App last week at the Super App Launch Virtual Event. The Super App Launch Virtual Event supports school systems in:

1. Reviewing the progress the state has made in improving Louisiana's persistently struggling schools.
2. Explaining new opportunities to support schools.

3. Describing updates to the School System Planning Framework and Super App process.

To gain access to all Super App launch presentations, view the [2021-2022 Super App Launch Session List](#), which includes virtual session descriptions as well as presentation and recording information.

Please contact School System Relations Coaches (formerly Network Coach) prior to emailing LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

BinaxNOW Rapid COVID Testing Kits Survey Extended **Please share with school system leaders.**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits available upon request for school systems to access when a CLIA Waived Certificate Number or community health provider has been identified. In order to access these test kits, school systems will need a designated point of contact to complete a survey.

The survey will request the following information:

- Name of the delivery location
- Point of contact (Need name, email, phone number)
- Delivery address
- CLIA Waived Certificate # or the community provider who will be testing so LDH can obtain all the same information on the number of BINAX tests requested (recommend estimating number based on 20 percent of school system's census)

School systems that would like to request BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits are encouraged to [complete this survey](#) by **November 20**.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Program

[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. School systems receive funding to authorize families to establish microgrant accounts in the REAL Family Portal, where families can browse and select services.

Yesterday, a [webinar was held](#) to provide school systems with information about the REAL Program.

Please contact earlyliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

LaNEXT Magazine Digital Edition Now Available

Louisiana NEXT is making the digital edition of their annual magazine available to schools and students. School systems and schools can [share this link](#) with middle or high school students.

LaNEXT is an annual magazine that provides a unique, comprehensive source of information and guidance to high school students. It offers insight, tools, and encouragement to students as they develop their educational and career goals. This includes information on choosing a career, jobs, salaries, and education and training options for a variety of career tracks, as well as financial aid and scholarships and details on the college application process.

Please contact leslie.gilliland@la.gov with questions.

Quest for Success Unit 5 Hybrid Modifications Webinar

Please share with career and technical education leaders and Quest for Success instructors.

A [Quest for Success Curriculum crosswalk](#) has been created to help facilitate virtual and hybrid learning. The guide includes alternate face-to-face activities that may be challenging to complete in a virtual environment or while maintaining social distancing. The tips provide suggestions for both synchronous and asynchronous learning and alternative activities for virtual environments.

A webinar is scheduled to provide an overview of the Quest for Success Unit 5 resources and answer questions pertaining to these resources.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 16 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98206897192>
- **Webinar Password:** quest1
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Dial-In Passcode:** 714594
- **Meeting ID#:** 982 0689 7192

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Quest for Success Training

Please share with career and technical education leaders.

Quest for Success is a career exploration course designed to prepare graduates for career and life success. Training opportunities for educators to teach this course will be available throughout the school year. 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.

[Registration is open](#) for the next virtual training, December 14-17 from 5-9 p.m. Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

English Learner Extension Activities

New English Learner (EL) Extension Activities to help ELs practice their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing are now available in the [English Learner Library](#) under Classroom Resources. These activities can be used for at-home or in-school learning. Each comes with suggestions of how to extend the practice beyond the assigned task.

Please contact alice.garcia@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

SER User Survey

The Department is in the process of enhancing the SER system and seeks feedback from the field. All users of SER, including teachers, related service providers, special education coordinators, special education directors, and data managers are encouraged to fill out the survey about their experience with the SER system and potential improvements. The [SER User Survey](#) will be open until **November 30**.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with any questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic Textbooks Application

The FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic Textbooks Application is now available in the Department's electronic grants management system (eGMS). The submission deadline is **November 20**. Please review the Nonpublic Textbooks Application information under the Announcement section in [eGMS](#).

All applicants are encouraged to ensure Nonpublic Textbooks Contact Information is updated and saved.

Please contact nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic School Lunch Salary Supplement Application

The FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic School Lunch Salary Supplement Application is now available in the Department's electronic grants management system (eGMS). The submission deadline is **December 31**. Please review the Nonpublic School Lunch Salary Supplement Application information under the Announcement section in [eGMS](#).

All applicants are encouraged to ensure Nonpublic School Lunch Salary Supplement Contact Information is updated and saved.

Please contact nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers - Applications for Spring 2021 Open Now

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. [Online applications](#) for coursework funding for the spring 2021 semester are open now through **November 20**. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact STEM@la.gov.

Louisiana Important Prerequisite Math Standards

The Department, building on resources provided by the Achievement Network, has released the [Louisiana Important Prerequisite Math Standards](#) guidance for teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

This new document identifies critical prerequisite math standards from previous grade levels needed to anticipate potential unfinished learning and suggestions for prioritizing content to save instructional time. It also includes aligned lessons for the most widely used Tier 1 curricula. A brief [video overview](#) of the document is also available.

To find these tools and all other math planning resources, visit the [K-12 Math Planning](#) page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

ACT

- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- November 20: Deadline to submit the ACT MOU and Estimation Worksheet.
 - It is no longer required to mail the ACT MOU to the LDOE. MOUs are posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Please complete, sign, scan, and email the MOU and estimation worksheet to patricia.newman@la.gov or assessment@la.gov.
- November 2-27: Manage participation in [PANext](#) by entering test and shipping dates, verify secure shipping address, and contact patricia.newman@la.gov with any contact or address changes. Choose the initial test date, March 9.
- November 2-January 22, 2021: Verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student files, if needed. January 22 is the deadline to receive barcode labels.
- November 17: ACT will host a webinar for LA Spring 2021 ACT Accommodations Training at 11 a.m. Please share this information to all STCs and anyone administering the ACT. [Click to register](#).

LEAP 2025 Fall High School Administration

- The DRC INSIGHT portal is open to complete test setup and assignment of TA numbers.
- Test manuals are available online.

- A new demographic field has been added to collect information regarding students' participation in virtual learning. If the field is not completed, the student will be considered in-person with no virtual learning. For questions about the new demographic field, contact jennifer.baird@la.gov or assessment@la.gov.

LEAP 2025 Assessment Development

- LDOE Assessment Development will convene LEAP 2025 Science Stimuli Review Committees in Lafayette for the following grades at the listed dates and times:
 - Grade 3: November 14 (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
 - Grade 5: November 21 (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
 - Grade 7: November 14 (1:30 p.m.-5 p.m.)
 - Grade 8: November 21 (1:30 p.m.-5 p.m.)
- The committees will review stimuli to ensure the materials that will be used to develop item and task sets on the LEAP 2025 Science tests are fair and appropriate for all students and will allow an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in science. Participants may each earn a stipend and be reimbursed for mileage to and from the meeting.

NAEP 2021

- All schools selected for participation in the 2021 administration of NAEP have been notified by email from Rebecca Frederick. District test coordinators were copied on these email notifications.
- January 25 and March 19, 2021: Testing window has been extended 2 weeks to accommodate variation in school schedules.
- **Important:** For schools that have not already done so, complete the Provide School Information (PSI) process immediately.
- District test coordinators were copied on notifications and should help schools prepare for the assessment.
 - Review the *School Coordinator Responsibilities: A Guide to MyNAEP* that was emailed to all schools selected for NAEP.
 - Remind principals that they must designate a NAEP school coordinator to serve as the liaison for all NAEP activities.
 - Encourage designated school coordinators to access the MyNAEP site (www.mynaep.com), and register with the ID number they received in the emailed notification.
- For questions or additional information, please contact Rebecca Frederick at 225-963-8197 or email rebecca.frederick@la.gov.

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- The Birth-Grade 3 Assessments has a [suite of resources](#) available to help school systems (and early learning centers) with assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **New Dates - Due November 16:**
 - Deadline for data managers to submit the KEA and K-3 literacy screener data with the [SIS K-3 Assessment Collection](#).
 - The SIS K-3 Assessment Collection window will open on October 26 for data submission.
- **Due November 20:**
 - [Act 688 Survey](#): School systems are required to report the number of students referred for gifted screening based on their performance of the literacy screener, with the literacy screener being at least one indicator used in consideration for gifted screening. DTCs and Special Education Coordinators should work together to submit only one form per district. This data will be reported to BESE.
- The Department will work with those school systems that have been severely impacted by the recent hurricanes. The Department will review BESE policy to ensure alignment with state law and will consider flexibility in timelines for administration and reporting results during times of crisis or natural disaster. For questions, please contact assessment@la.gov.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on **November 17 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 17 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!

Educator Development

Supporting Teachers in a Virtual/Hybrid Environment- Resources and Conversation

Join the office of Educator Development for November office hours on **November 17 at 12 p.m.** to learn more about supports and opportunities for teaching and learning in a virtual/hybrid classroom. The Department will share resources related to training opportunities, hear from educators in the field about their own experiences and best practices, and engage in conversation with LACUE (Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators). Information needed to join the call is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 17 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93833176635>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 938 3317 6635
- **Passcode:** 724Rfq

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Apply to Lead a Session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021

Louisiana teachers and leaders are invited to share their expertise with educators statewide by applying to facilitate a session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021. Applications will be available on November 16 and are due by **January 6, 2021**. Look out for more information and the application link in the [Teacher Leader Library](#) and upcoming newsletters.

The Teacher Leader Summit will take place from Tuesday, May 25 through Thursday, May 27, 2021, in New Orleans. Registration will open on January 8, 2021.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [School System Support Reminders](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)
- [Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders](#)
 - [Special Education Reminders](#)
- [Legislative and Policy Support Reminders](#)
 - [Healthy Communities Reminders](#)
- [Operations Reminders](#)
 - [Statewide Monitoring Reminders](#)
- [School System Financial Services Reminders](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)
 - [Academic Content Reminders](#)
 - [Educator Development Reminders](#)

School System Support Reminders

Super App Office Hours

Super App Office Hours will be held **this Friday, November 13 at 10 a.m.** for planning team members to review actions school systems should be taking during the month of November and to ask questions. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 13 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96093863875>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 960 9386 3875

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

Career and College Readiness Reminders

Advanced Placement Toolkits

Please share with high school administrators, AP teachers, counselors, AP coordinators, and curriculum supervisors.

The Department has released a series of Toolkits for Advanced Placement. These toolkits include [general information on the AP program](#) and specific information for [administrators and AP coordinators](#), [educators](#), and [parents](#). The toolkits include information on deadlines and College Board processes and procedures related to Advanced Placement.

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Advanced Placement Exam Ordering Deadline

Please share with high school administrators, AP teachers, counselors, AP coordinators, and curriculum supervisors.

Advanced Placement exams will be [administered](#) May 3-7, 2021, and May 10-14, 2021. The deadline to order AP Exams is **this Friday, November 13**. If students register for AP Exams this fall and do not take the exams in the spring, AP will waive the \$40 cancellation or unused exam fee.

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders

EL Supervisor Community of Practice Virtual Series

The EL Supervisor Community of Practice virtual series provides targeted professional development and technical assistance for improving outcomes for English Learners (EL). EL supervisors have been assigned to one of three cohorts based on characteristics of the EL community in their school system. The next session of this series will be the week of December 1.

EL supervisors who would like to participate and are not already part of the series should contact alice.garcia@la.gov by **November 20**.

Special Education Reminders

November SPED Leader Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education **this Thursday, November 12 at 2 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 12 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92135951551>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 921 3595 1551

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Legislative and Policy Support Reminders

Healthy Communities Reminders

Peer-To-Peer Learning Calls for School Nurses and School-Based Health Clinic Staff Begins November 5

Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center, in partnership with LDOE Healthy Communities and Well-Ahead Louisiana, will host peer-to-peer learning calls on supporting the management of students with chronic conditions while practicing social distancing measures. To learn more about the upcoming Peer-to-Peer Calls for School-Based Health Center Staff and School Nurses, access [the available informational document](#) or visit [Well-Ahead Louisiana's webpage](#) to register. View the [region map](#) to determine which call to join.

Schedule of Calls	Date	Time	LDH Region
Regional Peer-to-Peer Call for School-Based Health Center Staff	November 12	2 p.m.	6, 7, 8
Regional Peer-to-Peer Call for School Nurses	November 12	3:30 p.m.	6, 7, 8
Regional Peer-to-Peer Call for School-Based Health Center Staff	November 17	2 p.m.	2, 3
Regional Peer-to-Peer Call for School Nurses	November 17	3:30 p.m.	2, 3

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions

Operations Reminders

Statewide Monitoring Reminders

IDEA Annual Performance Report (APR) Monitoring Outreach for School Systems Please share with IDEA directors.

Annually, the Department is required to analyze special education data and conduct outreach regarding outcomes for particular indicators as part of the IDEA, Part B State Performance Plan, and report these in the special education annual performance report (APR).

Results will be provided to school systems via APR outreach packets which are now available in the FTP. Any school system identified as needing improvement in one or more targeted indicators will be required to submit a plan of correction to the Department by **December 4**.

Additional details on this process, including the timeline, will be provided in the APR outreach packets.

Please contact iris.jones@la.gov with additional questions.

School System Financial Services Reminders

LaGov Payment System Change

Please share with business managers.

Recently, the Louisiana Department of Education underwent a change to the payment system. The ISIS payment system has migrated to the LaGov payment system, and payments will look different as a result of this change. Continue to use the [DOA Vendor Payments](#) website and select “LaGov” to look for information on payments received beginning July 1. Reference the available [help document](#) for assistance with using the LaGov payment system and how to locate information on payments.

Please contact natoria.ingram2@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Academic Content Reminders

ELA Parent Resource: CommonLit’s Parent Access

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 3-12.

The Department has partnered with [CommonLit](#) to create [Knowledge Packs](#) for teachers and to provide opportunities for parents to utilize their free, online library to support students in grades 3-12. School leaders and teachers should encourage parents to set up a free account so that they can create online classes, assign lessons, and review their child’s progress at home.

To support parents, CommonLit has created a [video](#) tutorial that includes step-by-step instructions for creating an account and utilizing accessibility features, such as text read aloud and translations, to support the unique needs of each child.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks: High School Guidebooks (2020) Updates

Please share with ELA supervisors and ELA teachers for grades 9-12.

The ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) [Curriculum Guide](#) has been updated on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) to include new Section Diagnostic Data Collection Tools. Both a digital and paper-based version of these tools are available.

The new Section Diagnostic Data Collection Tools:

- allow teachers to collect data from student work in order to make instructional decisions grounded in observation and experience;
- provide a snapshot vision of how students are performing to determine high-level trends; and
- support teachers as they engage in step two of the lesson study protocol.

Additionally, the grade 10 [Life of Pi](#) unit has been released and updates have been made to the grade 9 [Lesson Before Dying](#) unit based on educator feedback. Please be sure to download the updated version of the [teaching guide](#) to support instruction.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development Reminders

Teacher Leader Summit 2021 - Save the Date

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 will have a reduced overall capacity. Due to social distancing parameters, school systems will receive a specific allotment of seats. The Department will notify each school system of their total number of allocated seats in early December.

[Registration](#) for the Summit will occur in three phases:

- Early bird registration (January 8 through March 1)
- Regular registration (March 2 through May 10)
- On-site registration for those who do not register by May 10

To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, the Department will charge a registration fee for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit.

Description	1-Day Ticket	3-Day Ticket
Early Bird Registration (January 10-March 1)	\$55	\$108
Regular Registration (March 2-May 11)	\$71	\$140
Onsite Registration* (May 25-May 27)	\$87	N/A

**only if open seats remain unused from allocations after May 11*

This fee will cover:

- Admission to conference
- Conference sessions
- Lunch May 25 and May 26

Educators can receive a discount by registering early and registering for all three days at once. Educators can choose to not eat the lunch provided, but may not opt-out of the registration fee.

Prior to registration opening, the Department will provide more information on:

- Education tracks being offered
- Ed Talk speakers and topics
- Virtual learning opportunities

Hotel room block information will be released in December in an overview document posted to the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.