



News for Louisiana



CHARTER SCHOOLS

December 22, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

With the holidays upon us and 2021 drawing to a close, I want to take a moment to say thank you for your hard work over the past year. In the face of immense obstacles, you've brought passion and dedication to our students every single day. The impact you've made on our children's lives and our state's future has been truly extraordinary.

2021 was a year of great accomplishments that we can look back on with pride as we all prepare for the important work ahead of us in 2022. I wish each and every one of you a happy, restful, and healthy holiday break. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
Cade

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	December 23 at 1 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	December 28 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	December 28 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	January 4 at 3:45 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	January 6 at 3 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	January 4 at 1 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	January 6 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	January 7 at 9 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	January 12 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	January 12 at 3 p.m.
CLSD UIN Communities of Practice	January 14 at 11 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	January 18 at 3:45 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	January 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Nonpublic Monthly Call	January 19 at 2 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call**	January 20 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	January 20 at 3 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	January 24 at 10 a.m.
Teaching and Learning Monthly Call	January 26 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	January 27 at 9 a.m.
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p> <p><i>**Achieve! Incentive Round 2 and Super App application office hours and Q&A will take place during this call.</i></p>	
Upcoming Deadlines	
Leader Evaluation Score Upload window in CIS closes	January 7
Vacancy Survey Due	January 7

Operations

Communications

Ochsner Anywhere Care Holiday Social Media

Please share with your school's Communications Team and Social Media Managers.

While the holidays are the most wonderful time of the year, they can also be the most stressful. That's why LDOE would like to remind educators that there are resources available to help prioritize mental health this holiday season. LDOE has partnered with Ochsner Health to offer four free mental health virtual visits to all public school educators and staff through Ochsner Anywhere Care.

Please help LDOE spread the word about Virtual Therapy through Ochsner Anywhere Care via your school's social media platforms. To assist, Ochsner has provided customizable [Holiday Social Copy](#) along with accompanying images to post:

- [Holiday Post 1](#)
- [Holiday Post 2](#)
- [New Year Post 1](#)
- [New Year Post 2](#)
- [New Year Post 3](#)

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Title I, Part A Excess Funds Waiver Application is Available in eGMS

Please share with District Federal Programs Directors, Business Managers, and Financial Officials.

Upon submission of the 9/30 Periodic Expense Report your school system may have received notification that it exceeded the 15% Title I, Part A carryover limitation, it can request a waiver via the [Electronic Grants Management System](#) (eGMS).

The Title I Waiver application is located with your FY 2022 applications in the Non Funded Section of the GMS Access Select page. The deadline to submit a Waiver Application is January 14.

As a reminder, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LDOE can grant waivers to school systems even if a waiver has been granted in the last three years.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions and comment submissions.

2021-22 Super App Final Allocations

Final allocations for formula funding (ESSA, IDEA, Carl Perkins) in the 2021-22 Super App will be loaded in eGMS on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. If your Super App application is in an "Approved" status, you will need to create an amendment to see the additional funding.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions and comment submissions.

Nutrition Support

Louisiana to Participate in USDA Medicaid Demonstration Project

Please share with District Child Nutrition Program Directors, Federal Programs Directors, and Data Management Coordinators.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service Southwest Region announced that Louisiana is one of eight states selected to participate in the expansion of a demonstration project to evaluate the impact of using Medicaid eligibility data to directly certify students for free and reduced-price school meals, beginning in school year 2022-2023. Technical assistance and support regarding this process will be provided to district child nutrition program staff. Please refer to Division of Nutrition Support [Memo SFS-22-52](#) for additional information.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Growth to Mastery Rosters

Please share with district test coordinators and accountability contacts.

- High school growth to mastery student rosters are now available on the ftp. Grade 3-8 growth to mastery rosters that were provided in summer have been updated with new site codes for applicable students.

LEAP 2025

Please share with district test coordinators.

- Due Now: Window B testing schedules
- December 22: Window B test setup opens
- January 5: Window B LEAP 2025 high school test administration begins

ELPT

Please share with district test coordinators.

- January 5: Exemption requests for listening and speaking domains due
- By January 15: Student data uploaded to TIDE
- New trajectory targets have been shared on the post data certification rosters that were posted to the ftp on Friday, December 31

Innovative Assessment Program

Please share with district test coordinators in school systems that participate in the Innovative Assessment Program.

- The department will host the *Innovative Assessment Program Winter Administration* webinar on Monday, January 10 at 2:00 pm for district test coordinators in school systems that are participating in the Innovative Assessment Program grade 7 operational, field, or pilot assessments.
 - <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95612887528>
 - Meeting ID: 956 1288 7528
 - One tap mobile
 - +14703812552,,95612887528# US (Atlanta)
 - +13126266799,,95612887528# US (Chicago)
 - Dial by your location
 - 1 470 381 2552 US (Atlanta)
 - 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 - 1 470 250 9358 US (Atlanta)
 - 1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

Please share with district test coordinators and accountability contacts.

- Office Hours have been cancelled December 21 and December 28. Office Hours will resume on January 4,

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity

Student Well-Being Calls Resume and Contact Information Requested

Please share with District Leaders, Student Well-Being Leadership Team members, Counselors, and Social Workers.

The Office of Student Well-Being is resuming the monthly call this January 19 at 9:30 a.m. With that in mind, Student Well-Being is requesting the contact information of the district's appointed Well-Being Leadership personnel. Use the [SWB Leaders Contact Survey](#), to submit the name and contact information of who should be contacted concerning webinars and calls for the district's Student Well-Being work.

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

Coupon Code for Employee's Access to Ochsner Telehealth

Please share with District Leaders, Principals, Student Well-Being Leadership Team members, Counselors, and Social Workers.

As the year comes to a close, it's the perfect time to remind employees of the free telehealth services available to all personnel working in birth to 12th grade education. Marketing messages direct educators to contact their local districts to receive the Coupon Code allowing them to book with the service provider of their choice for free. This code is TEACH. LDOE has distributed [flyers](#) and [FAQs](#) that you can share with your employees to encourage participation in this important healthcare service.

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

The Department conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [Annotated Reviews](#) webpage.

Publisher	Title and Grade Levels	Core Subject	Tiered Rating
K12 Inc.	MTH128 Summit Algebra I LA	Math	Tier I

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Submit Pictures

Please share with all educators, including school system leaders, school leaders, and teacher leaders.

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You'll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

Share Your Stories: Educators can submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations**
 - *Federal Support and Grantee Relations*
- **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **School System Financial Services**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - *Educator Development*
 - *Diverse Learners Supports*

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Achieve! Incentive Planning Round 2 - P5.9.4 System-wide Impact

Please share with District Federal Programs Directors, Business Managers, and Financial Officials.

The Achieve! Incentive Planning Round 2 application is due Thursday, December 16. For information and planning resources, please refer to the 2022-2023 School System Planning Resources section at the top of the [School Improvement Library](#).

Item P5.9.4 System-wide Impact offers school systems the opportunity to request additional funding for initiatives identified in the school system's Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan which will have a system-wide impact and need additional funding in order to fully implement. In order to be eligible for this funding, as stated in the application question, school systems must upload an [Alternate Evidence-based Option form](#) for each activity for which funding is requested.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

NAEP 2022

- The NAEP 2022 administration will include three assessment programs:
 - **January 10 to March 18, 2022:** National long-term trend mathematics and reading assessments: age 9
 - **January 24 to March 4, 2022:**
 - State-level mathematics and reading assessments: grades 4 and 8
 - National civics and U.S. history assessments: grade 8

- Superintendents of selected school systems have received a letter and the Principals received an email in September. Please note that:
 - School systems will play an important role by supporting participation.
 - NAEP will continue to adapt to new processes and procedures as the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve.
 - As in previous years, NAEP representatives will provide significant support to schools by administering the assessment and bringing all necessary materials and equipment, including sanitized tablets, on which students take the assessment.
 - NAEP representatives' top priority is to protect the health and safety of students and school staff.
 - School Coordinators will be responsible for completing the PSI (Provide School Information) in the MyNAEP for School's website.

- The school coordinator will be responsible for:
 - Confirming the scheduled assessment date with the NAEP State Coordinator;
 - Registering for the MyNAEP website and providing information about the school;
 - If requested, overseeing the submission of an electronic list of fourth-grade and/or eighth-grade students;
 - Using the MyNAEP website to prepare for the assessment;
 - Notifying parents of the assessment (more information will be provided on how to complete this task);
 - Communicating with NAEP representatives and participating in a preassessment review call to finalize assessment preparations
 - Reserving space for the assessment, including room(s), desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location (the school will not need to provide internet access); and
 - Collaborating with school staff to ensure a high rate of student participation.

LEAP 2025

Please share with district and school test coordinators.

Window A LEAP High School

- Please be sure all void forms are returned to assessment@la.gov by the close of the testing window on December 17.
- All makeup testing must be completed during this window. School systems that tested during Window A will not have access to Window B.

Window B LEAP High School

- Schools can begin adding students and their accommodations now. Test setup will not be available until December 22, 2021.

ACT

Please share with district and school test coordinators.

- Date selection for the state's spring administration in PANext is now past due. District test coordinators should make sure that all schools have made their selections.
- There is no paper option for standard time ACT. All testing will be completed online.
- The 2021-2022 ACT MOU is now past due. The documents are posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Please submit to patricia.newman@la.gov as soon as possible.
- ACT has provided a [What's New for the ACT Spring 2022](#) document on the [ACT State Testing](#) website. This is a general overview document that covers any major changes that would impact all states participating in the ACT.
- The [ACT Schedule of Events](#) is posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site. Please be sure to use this to keep up with important dates and deadlines for ACT.
- Now - 01/07/2022-window to request initial ACT approved accommodations in [TAA](#)
 - 10/6/21- 4/29/22 - register students in Validus for the WorkKeys assessment during the online window.
 - Now-1/17/2022 – Upload student data in [PANext](#) for WorkKeys for paper testers.
 - Now-1/21/2022 – Verify student information, submit the Enroll and Unenroll Students file in [PANext](#) to ensure appropriate quantities of paper test materials are shipped for initial testing.
 - 12/10/2021-01/21/2022-Verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student file, review student identifying information in [PANext](#), and correct each examinee's grade level. Students taking paper accommodated tests loaded after 1/21/2022 will not receive barcode labels.
 - Now-2/24/22-Complete Site Readiness,including mock administration, ProctorCache installation (if needed), validate configuration, and freeze test environment for ACT online testing.
 - 12/13/2021-12/17/2021-Receive the training package shipment from ACT.
 - See the Preparing for [State Testing FAQs](#)
 - ACT Customer Care
 - Phone – 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 for standard time and ext. 1788 for accommodations and supports

Career and College Readiness

2022 Jump Start Convention Updates

Please share with CTE Supervisors, Principals, Assistant Principals, and Counselors.

The Jump Start Convention will take place on January 25, 2022 and is currently at capacity. A [waiting list](#) is open, and as tickets become available, those on the waiting list will have the opportunity to secure tickets on a first-come, first-serve basis. To accommodate the overflow of stakeholders looking to attend the Convention, a curated selection of sessions will be livestreamed. Information on how to access the livestream is forthcoming.

As a courtesy to attendees, [hotel blocks](#) have been reserved at several neighboring hotels around the Raising Cane's River Center.

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2021-2022 Nonpublic Textbooks Application

Please share with Business Managers.

The FY 2021-2022 Nonpublic Textbooks Application is now available in the Department's electronic grants management system (eGMS) and the system is now ready to accept reimbursement requests. Orders for textbooks, etc. must be delivered to (and received by) the eligible nonpublic school during the period of **July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**, in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

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 in eGMS.

Please contact nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning Monthly Calls

Please share with Chief Academic Officers/Curriculum Supervisors, Literacy Coordinators, Special Education Directors, Early Childhood Supervisors, Content and Mentor Leader Coordinators, and Talent Supervisors.

In an effort to streamline communication and integrate content seamlessly, the Office of Teaching and Learning will shift from multiple calls to a comprehensive monthly call beginning January 2022. (The Early Childhood monthly call will remain unchanged.)

The Teaching and Learning Monthly Call will focus on academic content, educator development, diverse learner supports (students with disabilities and English learners) and literacy supports. We hope that this will allow your system to streamline communication internally and coordinate efforts across your teams. The call will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month and details can be found on the [School System Support Calendar](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Mentor Stipends

Please share with system leaders of Mentor work and finance.

Thank you for your work and cooperation in ensuring our 2021-2022 undergraduate residents and their Mentors receive funding. Initial Believe and Prepare Formula funding allocations for Mentor stipends were approved by BESE on December 15. These allocations were based on the data submitted by school systems that was verified before the December BESE deadline. A second round of funds will go to BESE in January with the remaining funding requests.

Each system received individualized communication from BelieveandPrepare@la.gov on Wednesday, November 24 about the schedule of your system's allocations.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Human Resources Directors: Vacancy Survey Due January 7

Please share with Human Resource Directors.

The LDOE is releasing a survey to school system human resources directors to identify staffing vacancies across schools within school systems.

For this survey, a vacancy is defined as a position where there is a substitute or no one filling that position as of December 10, 2021.

This survey should be accurately completed by a system-level HR director to their best knowledge and ability. Please complete one survey for each school in your school system. Surveys submitted by January 7, 2022, will be included in the January BESE report. The final date to submit the survey is January 21, 2022.

HR directors should use this [link](#) to complete the survey.

If you have any questions concerning this survey, please contact victoria.dunn@la.gov.

Principal Webinar Series

Please share with school leaders.

In January's webinar, the LDOE will partner with NIET for this month's topic of building and managing high-performing instructional leadership teams.

- Webinar Date/Time: January 31 from 2-4 p.m.
- Webinar Link:
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379
- Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

Acceleration Professional Development

Please share with math teachers and school and district leadership teams.

Beginning in January, the next session in the [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) is Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Learning Recovery in Math. During this session, participants will identify skills critical to student mastery of math standards and will deconstruct those in order to scaffold and segment accelerated learning. Participants will develop thinking strategies that support student mastery of critical skills and define ways to incorporate techniques for increasing student engagement and student ownership of learning. The target audience for this session is math teachers and school and district leadership teams.

For a complete list of training dates and locations and to register, visit NIET.org. Educators can receive a certificate upon completion of each training.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Please share with system and school leaders.

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the months of November through December, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2022 program. Some of the checklist items include:

- Release SLP dates to educators and families,
- Outreach for preliminary community support,
- Develop and distribute an interest survey for students,
- Develop a distribute an interest survey for staff, and
- Develop a needs assessment with stakeholder input.

In Super App, school systems must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students at CIR and UIR-A schools next summer.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement Best Practices

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy is designed to support schools in adopting the essential components that drive professional and student growth and will continue during the 2022-2023 school year. LDOE has partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to develop, implement, and support five [School Improvement Best Practices](#). The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support,
- teacher collaboration support,
- teaching standards support,
- principal standards support, and
- career pipeline support.

All CIR and UIR-A schools are required to participate in the Instructional Leadership Team Support and Teacher Collaboration Support training sessions as well as the accompanying online portal and two days of on-site and/or virtual coaching as follow-up support to the training.

- If a CIR or UIR-A school participated in ILT Support or Teacher Collaboration Support trainings in Summer 2021, then it is required that they complete the “next level” training in that area in Summer 2022.
- If a CIR or UIR-A school did not participate in ILT Support or Teacher Collaboration Support trainings in Summer 2021, then it is required that they complete the “foundational” training in those areas in Summer 2022.

Interest Inventory

All schools in Louisiana can [register](#) to attend this professional development [opportunity](#) during Summer 2022. School systems should complete this [form](#) to indicate the training they anticipate their schools will participate in. Upon receipt of the form, NIET will connect with the school system contact to begin planning. Completing the form does not commit you to selecting these trainings, but it helps to inform the conversation and planning with NIET.

Below are some of the actions and recommended timelines for all school systems.

Task	Timeline
Complete Louisiana Best Practices Interest Inventory .	Immediately
Planning meeting with NIET regarding potential selected training(s).	Upon receipt of the Louisiana Best Practices Interest Inventory , NIET will contact school systems to schedule a planning meeting.
Discuss plans for this work with all schools selected and required to attend.	At least a week after finalized discussion with NIET
Finalize a statement of work with NIET.	February 2022
Ensure that all schools have registered for the contracted, required trainings.	April 2022

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Balanced School Calendar: Key Considerations for Implementation **Please share with system leaders.**

At its August 2020 meeting, BESE directed the Louisiana Department of Education to research the potential development of a Louisiana “balanced” school calendar model or other possible alternative school calendar options.

Year-round education (YRE), also referred to as the balanced school calendar model, is a concept that reorganizes minimum instructional time requirements across the academic year to provide learning that is more continuous by reducing the time students spend on summer vacation.

The Department hosted a roundtable discussion on Balanced School Calendar: Key Considerations for Implementation. Educators may access the presentation using the following [link](#).

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners Supports

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 **in the FTP on December 17**. 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 **January 14**.

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

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