

CHARTER SCHOOLS



September 25, 2019

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to your hard work and the hard work of tens of thousands of students and educators, more students graduate from high school today than at any time in our state's history. More earn high-wage industry credentials, statewide dual enrollment credits, and AP or CLEP test credits accepted at colleges across the country. Perhaps most encouraging, more students than ever before earn TOPS, allowing them a funded community college or university education.

However, a difficult question looms over these successes: what happens to the many high school graduates who aren't fully prepared for a traditional college experience-academically, financially, or socially? Is it debt and unpaid tuition bills? Is it low-wage work with limited opportunities for advancement? Is it unemployment? Is it all three?

Last school year, the Department issued a request for proposals to develop pilot Extension Academies, fully funded, grade 13 experiences for TOPS University students not earning TOPS or Jump Start students not earning a high-wage, high-demand industry-based credential after their senior year. Local school systems could submit proposals, partnering high schools with colleges and employers, to provide grade 13 students with a full-year of dual enrollment coursework, workplace-based learning experiences, and coaching that would culminate in advanced statewide industry credentials or significant progress toward an associate degree. The Orleans Parish School Board, in partnership with YouthForce NOLA, submitted a pilot application. BESE and the Board of Regents approved the plan in June.

Schools and school systems across the state can now study the New Orleans pilot, in which roughly 20 students are presently participating. This Thursday, September 26, the Department will issue the RFP again, seeking additional pilot Extension Academy proposals to develop small-scale models for study and potential replication in the future. I hope you will review the RFP and consider the potential impact your school system's involvement could have on young people at a critical point in their lives.

The question we used to ask ourselves was how high we could raise our graduation rate and how low we could push our dropout rate. Now we are compelled to ask what happens to our graduates, and whether they risk dropping out of work and the economy even after they graduate from high school. If this is the case, even with a small number of students, we must rise to meet this new dropout challenge.

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)
9/27/19	Document enrollments with Course Choice and Dual enrollment providers for fall and full-year coursework	SCA administrators and counselors
9/30/19	Submit Title III Consortium intent form	CEOs, school leaders and federal programs coordinators
9/30/19	Certify sponsor site information in the Sponsor Site (SPS) system	Data coordinators
9/30/19	Submit AFR and financial data	Business managers and financial officials
9/30/19	Submit ACT MOUs	Testing coordinators
9/30/19	Submit balanced budget	Business managers and financial officials
10/1/19	Add missing contacts to the Louisiana School System Contact Form	Personnel directors
10/4/19	Order AP exams	School leaders and testing coordinators
10/10/19	Submit nominations for Teacher and Principal of the Year	CEOs, school leaders and teachers
10/18/19	Submit applications for USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	Child Nutrition Supervisors
10/18/19	Submit data to Student Information System (SIS) MFP collection and the Special Education Reporting (SER) IDEA collection	Data coordinators
10/31/19	Apply for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant	Child Nutrition Supervisors
11/15/19	Submit nominations for up to 3 students for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program	CEOs and school leaders
11/20/19	Complete priority application for 2020-21 Extension Academy	CEOs and school leaders
11/29/19	Complete Farm to School census	Child Nutrition Supervisors
12/1/19	Adopt and publish policy on student fee in compliance with Act 240 of 2019	CEOs and school leaders

LEA Support

New: October School System Planning Call

The October School System Planning Call will take place on October 2 at 1:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Curriculum and instruction supervisors
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- Early childhood supervisors
- English learner supervisors
- Federal program supervisors
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Personnel directors
- Talent (Mentors, Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders) supervisors

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 2 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Meeting ID#:** 398 875 849

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Super App Launch

The Department will launch the 2020-2021 School System Planning process and Super App on **November 4**. The Department will host four Super App Launch events: November 4, 7, 8 in Baton Rouge and November 12 in Ruston from **8:00 a.m. to 1:05**

most four Super App Launch events: November 4, 7, 8 in Baton Rouge and November 12 in Ruston from 8:00 a.m. to 1:05 p.m. See the [School System Support Calendar](#) for details.

School systems are encouraged to bring members of their school system planning team, including superintendents, CAOs, and supervisors overseeing special education, human resources, teacher support, curriculum, high school and career/technical education, federal programs, and budget/finance. Each event will provide sessions and information on the Department's Academic Strategy, school system planning process, and CIR/UIR strategy. Registration information will be available soon.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: 10th Annual Louisiana Elementary Math Olympiad

The [10th Annual Louisiana Elementary Math Olympiad](#) is a free, paper-and-pencil test of mathematical skills open to 5th grade students. Students will compete for prizes, including gold medals, a 3D printing pen, and an iPad Mini. The winning students' teachers also will receive gift cards. The event will take place on **November 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at Kenilworth Science and Technology School (7600 Boone Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70808) and includes workshops that parents can attend while students are taking tests. **The deadline to [register](#) is October 31.**

Please visit the [Louisiana Elementary Math Olympiad webpage](#) for additional information and contact lfischer@kenilworthst.org with questions.

Reminder: U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The U.S. Department of Education has invited chief state school officers to nominate outstanding students for the [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#). This year, states are allowed to submit nominations for up to twenty-five outstanding students who would otherwise not qualify under the program's traditional academic component (automatically qualified based on ACT/SAT scores) or arts component. Nominations may also include students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in career and technical education (CTE).

The Department invites school systems to submit nominations for up to three outstanding students. The nominations must include a male and female student for the general category, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in CTE. Students must be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January and August of 2020. Please review the [additional program requirements](#) to learn more.

Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total) signed by the local superintendent or school leader, and emailed to leslie.hill@la.gov no later than November 15 at 4:30 p.m. Please include the student's name, home mailing address, gender, and email address, as well as the high school name, mailing address, and CEEB code. Selected nominees will be sent through a secure online form to the U.S. Department of Education. Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

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

Reminder: Louisiana School System Contact Form Updates

Please share with personnel directors.

Last month, the Department released the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#) as a way to streamline the process of collecting contact information for key school system-level supervisors. Personnel directors can email ldoecommunications@la.gov to request a current list of contacts. If any contact information is missing from the contact list, please add the information to the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#) by October 1.

Based on feedback from school systems, the Department has updated the [guide](#) for personnel directors to provide definitions for certain roles collected in the form and offers the following tips for completion:

- All contacts should be entered as "new contact" initially. No contact information from any previous collection process will be carried over into the new form.
- The new contact form will replace all other processes for collecting contact information for school system supervisors starting October 1.
- If any school or school system is not listed in the form, please email ldoecommunications@la.gov.

Please email ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: For District Testing Coordinators

Important: Interests and Opportunities Online Principals Survey

- The Online Principals Survey that will be used to award points for the new Interests and Opportunities index will be distributed to all District Testing Coordinators on October 22. Principals will receive an email with a link to the survey and a deadline to complete the survey by October 29.

- distributed via data managers on **September 30**. Principals will have until **November 1** to complete the survey, which is 2.5 percent of the 2020 SPS in schools with grade combinations from the K-8 range and 5 percent for high schools.
- For K-8 schools, the October Class Collection (CUR, PEP, SIS) will be used to identify the students enrolled in PE, visual art, performance art, and world language courses, which determines an additional 2.5 percent of the SPS.

General:

- Data certification opening announcements are only sent to accountability contacts who are on file with the Department. Please "create a new contact" for all contacts in the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#). **As of September 13, only contacts added to this form will receive communications from the Department.**

Accountability Release

- 2019 high school Growth-to-Mastery Target Rosters are now available on the secure FTP. Site codes for both grades 3-8 and high school rosters reflect enrollment at the time of testing.
- After the October 1 SIS collection closes, both grade 3-8 and high school rosters will be updated and released with student inclusion based on the October 1 enrollment in SIS.

K-3

- **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
- **October 31:** [Early Childhood Fall Checkpoint](#) for Pre-k is due in the [Teaching Strategies Platform for GOLD](#).

ACT and WorkKeys

- **September 30:** ACT MOUs deadline. Originals must be mailed with the **Estimated Number of Testers Form**. There are two MOUs posted in the [Assessment Library](#), one for public and charter schools and one for non-public schools receiving state funding. School systems should make sure that the appropriate MOU type is completed.
- All test preparations should be completed prior to the opening of the WorkKeys testing window on **October 1**.
- Resources can be found on the [ACT State Testing](#) site or by contacting the WorkKeys helpdesk at 800-967-5539.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be October 1 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

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

High School Pathways

New: Louisiana Extension Academy Request for Applications

Please share with administrators.

On September 26, the Department will release a request for applications for **2020-2021 Extension Academies**. The purpose of this innovation is to provide students, who are on track to graduate but not on track to participate in a low-cost postsecondary college or training program, with an additional year to attain a Regents-recognized associate degree, participate in a registered pre-apprenticeship, or attain an advanced Industry Based Credential (IBC).

An informational webinar will be held on **October 7 at 3:00 p.m.** to answer any questions about the RFA. Webinar details are listed below:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 7 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/644881662>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 644 881 662

The [RFA](#) priority deadline is **November 20 at 4:00 p.m.**

For more information, please contact jumpstart@la.gov

Reminder: AP Coordinator Exam Order Training Dates

Please share with administrators and AP coordinators.

The preferred AP exam ordering deadline is October 4. Please register for one of the nine remaining [Preparing and Submitting the Exam Order](#) sessions for AP coordinators to prepare for the changes. The sessions will be offered at varying times on the following dates.

- October 2 at 8:00 a.m.
- October 10 at 6:00 p.m.
- October 31 at 3:00 p.m.
- November 6 at 11:00 a.m.
- November 12 at 8:00 a.m.

The final deadline for submitting AP exam orders is November 15.

For more information, please contact collegereadiness@la.gov.

Educator Preparation

Update: Teacher and Principal of the Year Nomination Period Extended

Please share with principals.

The Department recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, school system employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. Please share the [criteria overview](#) and [nomination portal](#) with school leaders and teachers and encourage them to submit nominations. Multiple nominations and self-nominations are accepted.

The nominations portal deadline has been extended. Please submit nominations via the [nominations portal](#) by October 10.

Nominations will be sent to local school systems for consideration as they select their top candidates to participate in the state-level process.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Science Content Leader Request for Application (RFA)

To expand the [Content Leader](#) initiative, the Department is releasing a Request for Application (RFA) for partners who have the expertise to design Science Content Modules and train Science Content Leaders during the 2020-2021 school year. Approved providers will collaborate on the design elements. Important deadlines are listed below.

Science Content Leader RFA Timeline	
Deadline for written inquiries	October 1 at 5:00 p.m.
Deadline for receipt of proposals	October 15 at 2:00 p.m.
Notice of Intent to Award	November 15
Approved partners sent to BESE	January 28-29
Approved partners design deliverables	January-June
Training execution	June-December

Please contact rfp_ide@la.gov with questions or to be included on future communication regarding the Science RFA.

Reminder: Teacher Resident Compensation

Please share with business managers.

The 2019-2020 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula funded by the Legislature included compensation of \$1,000 for public school, undergraduate teacher residents participating in a yearlong residency.

Please reference the [Teacher Resident Compensation Guidance FAQs](#) for additional information, or contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: Alternate Assessment Eligibility Review Determination Letter

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires states to ensure that only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities take the LEAP Connect alternate assessment. The Department conducted its review of student files to verify eligibility for alternate assessment participation for the 2018-2019 school year. Determination letters **were issued to school systems on September 20**. Letters were emailed to special education directors and school system superintendents. Assessment scores for students found to be ineligible will be converted to the lowest scale score and assigned zero points in the school performance score, for the applicable content areas.

Please email specialeducation@la.gov with any questions.

Policy

Reminder: Student Fee Policy Submission

[Act 240](#) of 2019, a new state law passed this spring, requires each public school governing authority, including charter schools, to **adopt and publish on its website a policy for the assessment, collection, and use of fees**. Policies must be adopted no later than **December 1**, and the Department must provide a written report to the Legislature by December 31, regarding each governing authority's compliance with the law. School systems should review this [guidance](#) for support in implementing the law.

Please contact david.maestas@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

Reminder: Intent to Join 2020-2021 Title III Consortium

Under Section 3114(b) of the ESEA, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, a state educational agency shall not award a Title III subgrant to school systems if the amount is less than \$10,000. However, school systems that do not meet the \$10,000 threshold may form a consortium to qualify for these funds. School systems must designate a member of the group to serve as the fiscal agent.

Any school systems that wish to either **join an existing consortium or to form a new one** should complete the [Intent to Join](#)

[Title III Consortium Form](#) and email it to ldegrants@la.gov no later than **September 30**. The form should designate the school system that will serve as fiscal agent and be signed by all consortium members.

Please contact melanie.mayeux@la.gov with questions.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

Applications for the 2019-2020 FFVP will be available for returning sponsors via the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage, beginning on October 1. **Applications must be submitted by October 18.**

Please contact trandra.scott@la.gov with questions.

New: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant

The USDA has awarded Louisiana \$602,468.00, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6), to be

distributed to School Food Authorities (SFA's) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and expand access to school meals. Priority will be given to schools where fifty percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals and have not received equipment grant funding in 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, or 2018. Grant related information is [now available](#).

The online application period starts October 1 and ends on October 31. Applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Please contact helen.folks@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Contacts

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