Louisiana Believes

Special Education Leader Webinar
September 2019

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Agenda + Logistics

I. **School System Planning**

II. **Graduation Pathways**

III. **Teaching and Learning**

IV. **Data Systems / SER Updates**
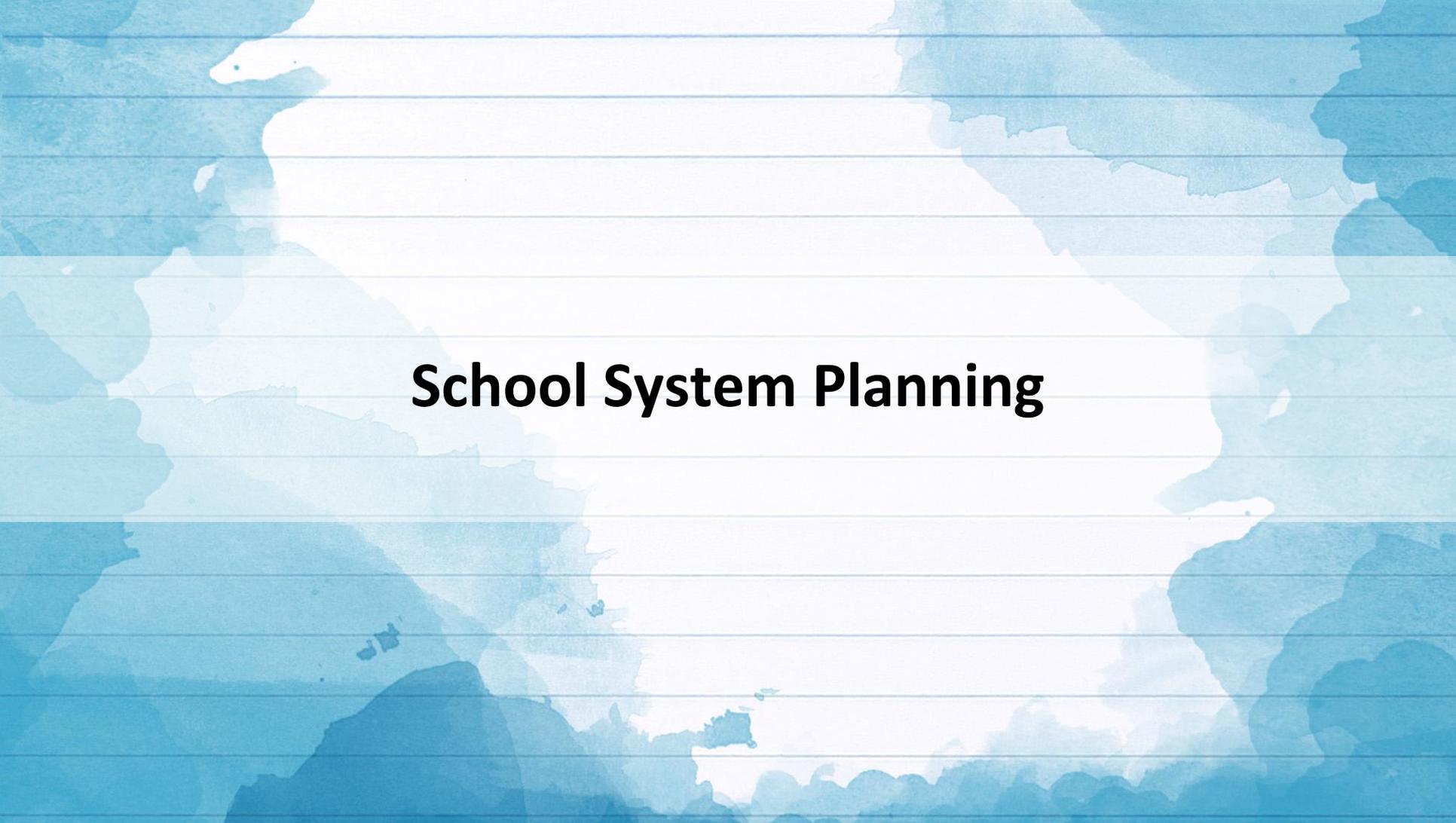
V. **Measuring Results**

VI. **Closeout**

Logistics

If you are experiencing audio difficulties, please make sure that your speakers are on and that your volume is at a suitable level.

The call will be in the listen only mode to ensure we get through the information. Please type questions into the chat box as we go along.

Dial in by phone: 646 876 9923
Meeting ID: 836 904 974

School System Planning

Back-to-School Support: Updated Educator Resource Guide

The Department released updates to the [2019-2020 Educator Resource Guide](#) providing teachers, principals, and school system leaders with the tools they need the most to start the new school year and support 2019-2020 priorities.

Each page of the guide (teacher, principal, or school system leader) contains a list of:
- meetings and events;
- communication streams; and
- planning, instructional, goal-setting, assessment and family engagement resources.

All Special Education Leaders should review page 4: "School System Resources and Support". A final update will be released on October 1.

Back-to-School Support:
Parent Involvement in School Improvement Plans

In the 2019 regular session, the Legislature updated and clarified the requirements for school systems relative to parent involvement in school improvement plans. School systems are required to take two actions:

1. Present the 2019-2020 approved school improvement plans to families within 60 days of the start of the school year. A draft presentation which school systems may adapt is available. As required by law, the Department will report to the Legislature on each school's compliance by March 1. School systems must report their meeting dates to the Department using this survey by December 1.

2. Consult with parents when developing school improvement plans within the Super App for 2020-2021.
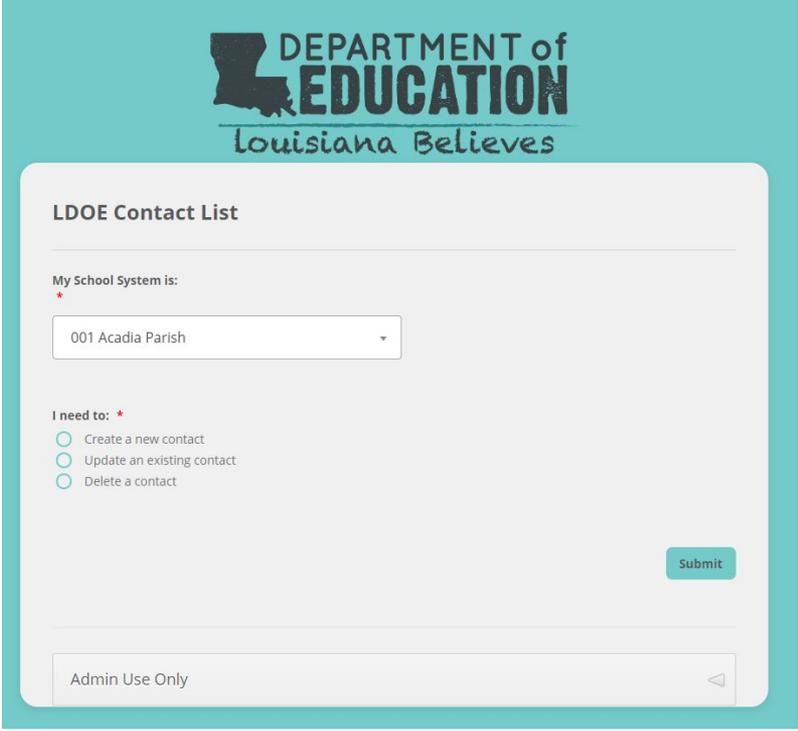
Additional Support: Department Contact Form

In order to streamline the process of collecting contact information from school system supervisors and ensure timely information is sent to school systems throughout the year, the **Department has created the Louisiana School System Contact Form**.

Personnel Directors will serve as the key point of contact for the form within school systems, and will be responsible for entering and updating contacts.

Each school system should **submit NEW contact information for ALL school system supervisors by September 13.**

Please note: In order to ensure an accurate contact list, all contacts, new and pre-existing, must be uploaded into this form.

Access this guide for more information.

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LDOE Contact List

My School System is:
*

001 Acadia Parish ▾

I need to: *
○ Create a new contact
○ Update an existing contact
○ Delete a contact

Submit

Admin Use Only ◁

Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

2020-2021 School System Planning: Super App Launch

In 2018-2019, the Department launched the first Super App and awarded $40M in competitive funds to improve CIR and UIR schools. The Department will launch the 2020-2021 school system planning process and Super App at the Super App Launch in November.

November 4	Super App opens; Super App Launch in Baton Rouge
November 7	Super App Launch in Baton Rouge
November 8	Super App Launch in Baton Rouge
November 12	Super App Launch in Ruston
February 7	Super App due
April	Plans are approved and funds are awarded by BESE
July 1	Grant period begins

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

High Cost Service Update

The Department has established a High Cost Services grant to support school systems and schools who serve our students with the most challenging needs. This High Cost Services grant provides additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities. This grant is funded through the state's IDEA allocation and Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula. The Department would like to share the following updates:

- The 2019 - 2020 High Cost Service Round 1 application is scheduled to be released mid to late October. The state plan is now available.
- The IDEA portion of the LEAs 2018 - 2019 High Cost Services funding is set to expire on September 30, 2019. Funds must be obligated and/or expended by September 30, 2019.

Alternate Assessment Review Process

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to ensure that only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities take the LEAP Connect alternate assessment. The Department conducted a review of student files to verify eligibility for alternate assessment participation for the 2018-2019 school year.

Preliminary eligibility determination letters were sent by email to Special Education Directors/Supervisors on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Any actions stated in these preliminary determinations must be completed on or before Thursday, September 5, 2019.

If additional documentation requested is not provided on or before September 5, students found to be tentatively eligible/ineligible will be considered ineligible and tests voided for accountability.

Bulletin 1530 Updates

BESE approved alternate assessment eligibility criteria revisions to Bulletin 1530, *Louisiana IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities* in December 2018. These are effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Department has issued guidance documents reflecting the updated criteria:
- Bulletin 1530 policy revisions effective for the 2019-2020 school year
- Criteria for students entering a high school cohort during the 2020-2021 SY or beyond
- Criteria for students entering a high school cohort on or before the 2019-2020 SY

In addition, SER updates for the 2019-2020 school year are now available. These policy revisions are reflected throughout the IEP.

Please note the version of Bulletin 1530 on BESE's website contains a technical error. This will be updated in the fall. Until then, use the guidance linked above and the IEP in SER, both reflect the BESE-approved policy changes.

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Graduation Pathways

2019-2020 High School Planning Guidebook

The **online version** of the 2019-2020 High School Planning Guidebook is now available. A **print version** of the guidebook will be presented at upcoming LDOE regional events.

Located on Louisiana's Guidebooks web page, the 2019-2020 High School Planning Guidebook consolidates the policies, programs, and resources that high school educators use throughout the year.

- It includes a section titled, "Alternate Pathways to a High School Diploma for Students with Disabilities".

Teaching + Learning

ELA Guidebook Companion Resources for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Over the 2019-2020 school year, the Department will be partnering with teacher leader advisors to create ELA Guidebooks Companion Resources for students with significant cognitive disabilities (SWSCDs). These Companion Resources, which will include unit and lesson overviews, will make the ELA Guidebooks, grades 3-8, more accessible to SWSCDs.

The Department is seeking talented educators across the state to support the development of these resources. If your school systems has

- Two educators per grade - one ELA, one SWSCD specialist - serving in the same school
- ELA Guidebook grades 3-8 experience preferred

and you want to get involved, please email Kelly.McClure@la.gov by Friday, September 13th for more information.

Louisiana's Accessible Educational Materials Initiative

The Department and the Special School District have partnered together to implement the Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials Center. This center will provide regional support to school systems across the state with:

- Accessible instructional materials,
- Assistive technology, and
- Deaf/hard of hearing and blind outreach

To request a service go to http://bit.ly/LA-AEMServiceReq

Regional Service Centers

LSDVI, **Baton Rouge** - LeBlanc Special Services Center, **Gonzales** - LSEC, **Alexandria** - Vermillion Conference Center, **Lafayette** - J.E. Harper Pathway to Excellence - **Minden**

SER/Data System Updates

2018-19 Special Education Reporting System (SER) Collection Closeouts

Collection	Deadlines / Run Dates
● Enter Extended School Year (ESYS) data and verify reports	●**Deadline: September 6**

For assistance, contact Bernetta.Sims@la.gov

Oct 1 IDEA Collection
SIS/SER Validation Reports and Rosters

- The Validation Reports and Rosters will be dropped to the DM FTP on 9/30, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28 and 11/11 ***Check with your Security Coordinator or DM FTP contact to retrieve this document from your LEA DM FTP**

Validation Report	Validation Roster
Funding - SER IDEA ● IDEA Counted ● IDEA Not Counted SER without SIS: ● SER/SIS Cross Check (Child Count Compare) Report ● SIS/SER Cross Check Report ● SER/SIS Cross Check Report	● Roster of student in SER but not in SIS

For assistance, contact Bernetta.Sims@la.gov

Special Education Reporting System (SER)
October 1 IDEA Collection

Oct 1: The count for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) collection is as of October 1. The collection of this data is used for funding and federal reporting.

IDEA Count Deadline: October 31, 2019
IDEA SER Data Criteria: Students with disabilities must have the following in SER to be included in the IDEA Child Count
- a current Evaluation,
- a current IEP,
- and receiving services as of October 1 to be included in the IDEA Child Count.

IDEA Preliminary Run Date: (September 9, 2019)

IDEA Preliminary Reports: Reports to run and verify
- IDEA - IDEA Counted, Not Counted, NEW FAPE Counted, Not Counted, and summary, FED Eval Listing Pub/Private and summary, SER/SIS, SER/SIS (Child Count Compare), SIS/SER Cross Checks
- Personnel Table - Personnel Table 2 Detail, Personnel Table 2 Summary, and IDEA Services Listings

For assistance, contact Bernetta.Sims@la.gov

Special Education Reporting System (SER)
Post School Transition Survey

All states must now include elements of competitive integrated employment into required post school transition (PST) surveys. In response, the Department is adding enhancements to the SER system to integrate the new federal definition of Competitive Integrated Employment into the Post-School Transition (PST) Survey. These enhancements include:

- PST Survey questions will appear on the Post-School Transition page, when Exit Year Follow-up is selected
- Each question will contain a dropdown box to select the answer offered by the student
- Work Type will populate based off of the answers from the PST Survey

Enhancements will be deployed in **late-September**.

Measuring Results

State Personnel Development Grant Celebrates Outstanding School Systems

A cohort of school systems partner with the Department, through our State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), to improve literacy outcomes for students with disabilities in third through fifth grade. A number of these school systems were recently recognized by the Department as [outstanding school systems](#) for top growth on statewide assessments in 2019. The Department would like to recognize and congratulate these school systems on their partnership and commitment to students with disabilities.

• Calcasieu Parish	• East Baton Rouge	• Jefferson Parish
• Lafayette Parish	• Sabine Parish	

TS GOLD for OSEP

As a reminder, all children with disabilities age 3 through 5 currently receiving special education services must be assessed annually within TS GOLD™ OSEP license as required for federal reporting. Entry assessments must be finalized within 6 weeks of the start of 619B services.

The following resources are available to support school systems and TS GOLD OSEP site administrators:

- a 'back-to-school' webinar for your TS GOLD™ OSEP administrator (one-time registration required to access webinar);
- TS GOLD™ FAQ document;
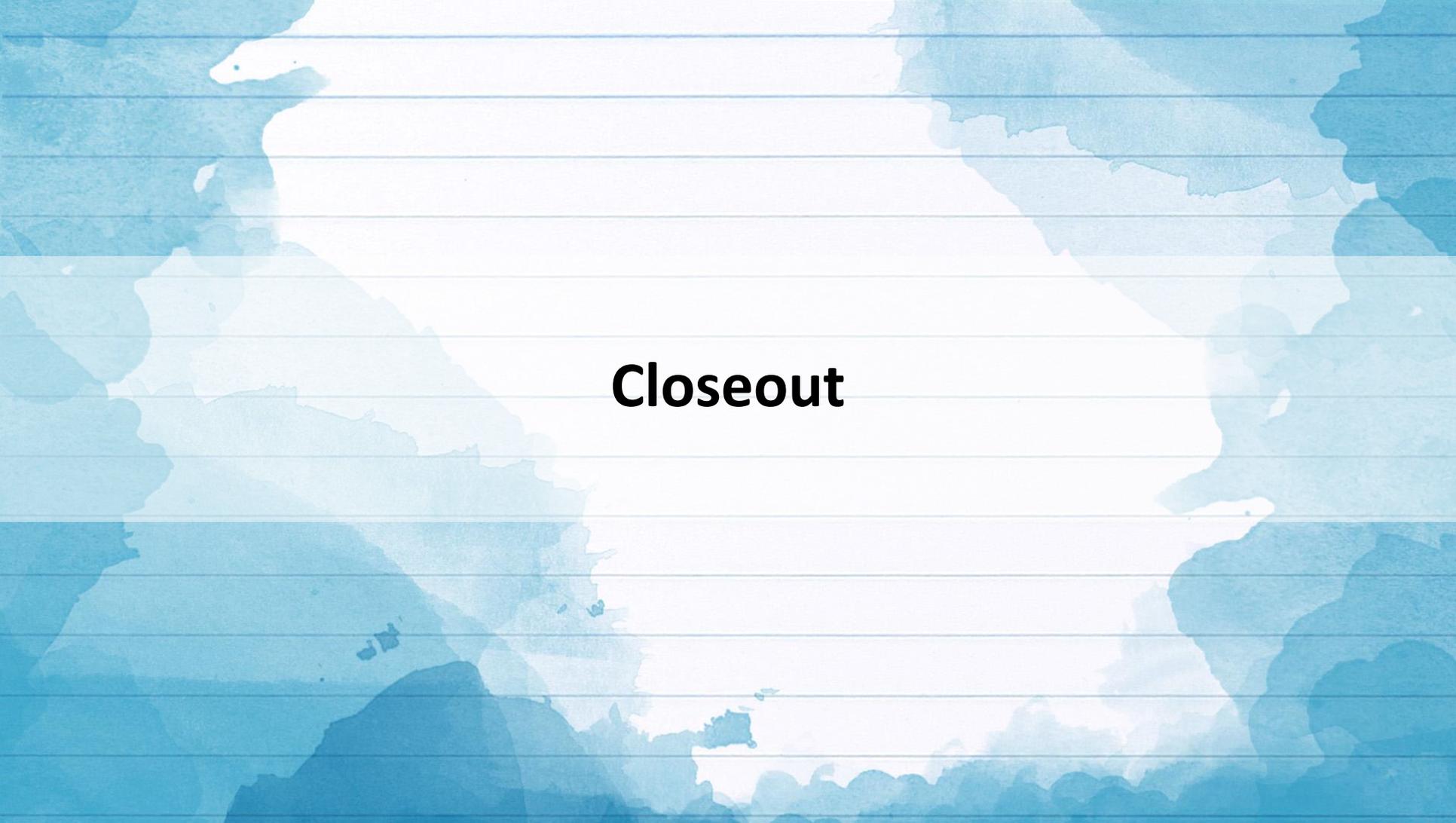- an overview of the different TS GOLD licenses;

Additional resources will be shared with TS GOLD™ OSEP administrators later in the fall. If you have a new TS GOLD OSEP administrator, please email Brittany.Braun@la.gov so that we can update our contact list.

SPP / APR Indicator 8 Parent Survey

Each year, the Department is required to report on the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report their school facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

School systems can expect to receive their results on **tomorrow, September 6th** via the FTP site. Please contact your LEA's FTP coordinator to retrieve the report.

The Department will conduct the 2019-2020 school year parent survey in Spring 2020.

Closeout

Summary: Key Actions

✓ School systems that participated in the 2018-2019 school year family survey can expect results on **September 6**

✓ Ensure your contact information is included in the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](), due on **September 13**

✓ Email Kelly.McClure@la.gov to apply as Teacher Leader Advisors for the ELA Guidebooks Companion Guide by **September 13**

✓ Keep a lookout for the PST survey enhancements to be released in SER in **late-September**

✓ Super App opens **November 4**

Newsletters

LDOE has a series of weekly newsletters to keep you informed. Of particular interest,

For School Districts - click here to subscribe

For Charters - click here to subscribe

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