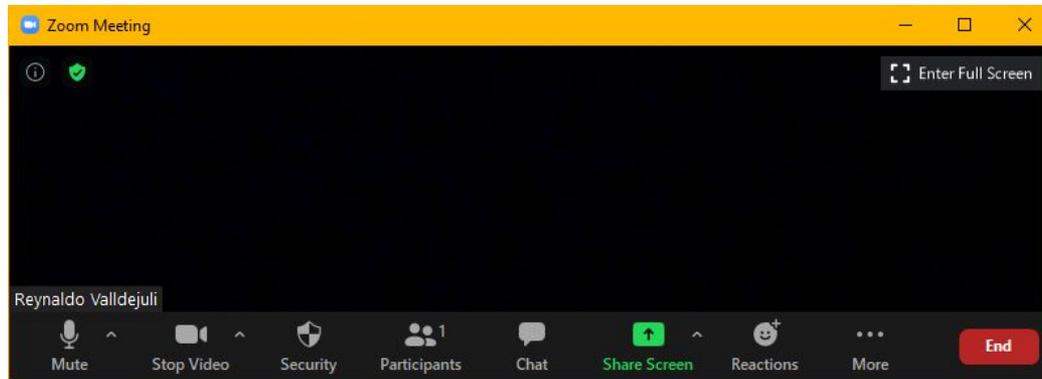


Zoom Meeting Preparation

- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”
- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”
- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.



Louisiana Believes

Special Education Leader Monthly Call
September 10, 2020

Agenda + Logistics

- I. Strong Start 2020**
- II. School System Planning**
- III. Graduation Pathways**
- IV. Teaching and Learning**
- V. Data Systems / SER Updates**
- VI. Measuring Results**
- VII. 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#: 921 3595 1551

STRONG 20
START 20

The image features a blue watercolor background with horizontal lines. The text 'STRONG 20' is written in a bold, yellow and orange font. Below it, the word 'START' is written in white on a blue arrow pointing to the right. To the right of the arrow, the number '20' is written in orange. Sunburst icons are placed around the 'S' and the bottom '20'.

Strong Start 2020: Special Education Guidance

In August, the Department released a suite of resources to guide school systems in supporting students with disabilities in the 2020-2021 school year. The resources are located on the Department's [Strong Start web page](#) and [Students with Disabilities web page](#).



- [Strong Start 2020: Reopening Guidance for Special Education Leaders PDF](#)
- [Strong Start 2020: Reopening Guidance for Direct Service Providers PDF](#)
- [Strong Start 2020: Timelines and Documentation for Students with Disabilities PDF](#)
- [Family Toolbox: Strong Start 2020 Support for Students with Disabilities PDF](#)

Strong Start 2020: Timelines and Documentation for Students with Disabilities

The [Strong Start 2020: Timelines and Documentation for Students with Disabilities](#) guidance provides information to help school systems maintain IDEA compliance and provide continuity of services to students with disabilities. It includes key considerations for school systems in planning and providing services across learning environments including IEP and evaluation timelines, and documentation via amendments and/or contingency plans.



Strong Start 2020:
Timelines and Documentation
For Students with Disabilities

Overview

Regardless of the reopening plan and learning scenario of the 2020-2021 school year, school systems must ensure students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). In July 2020, Louisiana's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) adopted [Minimum Requirements for Reopening and Operating School Facilities](#), stating that students with disabilities must continue to receive special education and related services in their least restrictive environment. School systems must continue to provide FAPE in accordance with a student's IEP and BESE policy. This Timelines, Services and Documentation guidance will help school systems understand key actions system leaders should take when planning and providing services across learning environments.¹ These actions will help school systems maintain IDEA compliance and provide continuity of services to students with disabilities.

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[IDEA Timelines](#)

[Evaluations](#)

[Child Find and Initial Evaluations](#)

[Reevaluations](#)

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[Annual Review Meetings](#)

[Transition to Preschool and Other Programs](#)

[Documenting Services](#)

[IEP Amendments](#)

[Contingency Plans](#)

[Compensatory Services](#)

[Other Considerations](#)

[April Dunn Act \(formerly Act 833\)](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Additional Resources](#)

Strong Start 2020 Partnerships and Key Supports

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Hotline for School Wellness and Virtual Care (504-837-7760) offers guidance to school nurses and school administrators.

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Town Hall Series for Schools will continue through September, every other Tuesday with a **new time of 3 p.m.** The Zoom link and information is included in the Department's weekly newsletter.

The Children's Hospital of New Orleans has provided a [School Wellness page](#) with resources for school systems to use throughout the school year. These resources include:

- [Printable school signage](#) to remind students and visitors of social distancing measures, handwashing hygiene and facial covering use.
- [Parent resources](#) for school systems to use for communication needs with parents surrounding a safe and healthy return to the classroom.

2019-2020 P-EBT Benefits

Louisiana is reopening the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program for families who did not apply in May and June. Families of children who receive free or reduced-price school meals are eligible to receive financial benefits for meals missed in 2019-2020 when schools closed due to the pandemic. This includes all students attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school.

This new application window is only for eligible families who did not apply in May and June. To receive these benefits, families must complete an application. Without the requested information, the Department of Children and Family Services cannot issue the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and provide benefits.

The [application portal will be open](#) until **September 29 at 5 p.m.** A link to P-EBT information and the application portal is available on the [Department's COVID-19 webpage](#). The Department will publicize the eligibility of these benefits, and in an effort to ensure families receive these benefits, school systems received communications to share with eligible families in the September 8 newsletter. Schools can use this toolkit for sample messages to share with families.

School System Planning

Alternate Assessment Participation Review Actions and Timeline

Below are school system actions and timeline for the alternate assessment review process.

Month	School System Actions
Early August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive and review alternate assessment packages, including data
August 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend webinar (PDF) to receive support and guidance on completing the alternate assessment review process
Mid August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review data, prepare student-specific files, and complete review request
September 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upload the requested student-specific files to the FTP and submit review request document
Late September - Early October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive notification of alternate assessment participation review outcomes

High Cost Services Webinar

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund supports school systems and schools who serve Louisiana's students with the most difficult needs by providing additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities. The 2020-2021 HCS application will open on October 5.

The Department will provide an overview of the HCS Fund for the 2020-2021 school year in an upcoming webinar. SPED Directors or personnel responsible for the HCS application should attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 24 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [Zoom Link](#)
- **Passcode:** 926076
- **Webinar Phone Number:** +13126266799,,91486316321
- **Meeting ID#:** 914 8631 6321

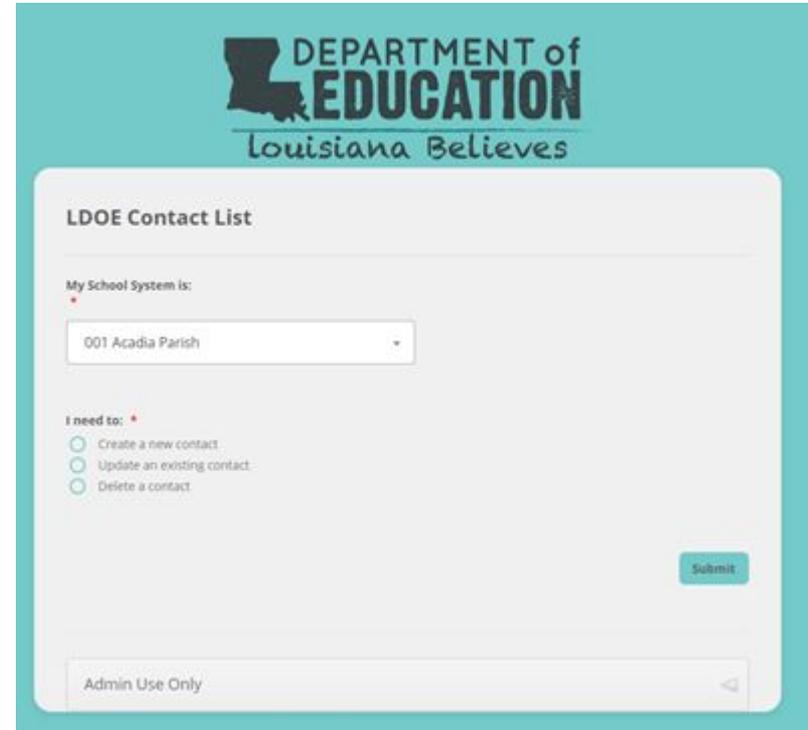
Department Contact Form

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 will continue to use the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#)**.

As a reminder, **personnel directors serve as the key point of contact for the form within school systems and are responsible for entering and updating contacts**. Please make sure that all contacts entered in the form are up-to-date.

Please note: In order to ensure an accurate contact list, all contacts, new and pre-existing, must be uploaded into this form. Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov for a list of current contacts in the form.

Access this [guide](#) for more information.



The screenshot shows the 'LDOE Contact List' form. At the top, it features the Louisiana Department of Education logo with the text 'DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION' and the slogan 'Louisiana Believes'. The form title is 'LDOE Contact List'. Below the title, there is a section for 'My School System is:' with a dropdown menu currently showing '001 Acadia Parish'. Underneath, there is a section for 'I need to:' with three radio button options: 'Create a new contact', 'Update an existing contact', and 'Delete a contact'. A 'Submit' button is located on the right side of the form. At the bottom, there is a field labeled 'Admin Use Only' with a small arrow icon on the right.



Graduation Pathways

Jump Start 2.0 Updates

In August, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved additions to [Jump Start 2.0 pathways](#) including an additional 19 courses such as Customer Service, Foreign Language, STAR, Accounting, Law Studies and Biodefense in the Workforce.

- Jump Start 1.0 course sequences will be available for incoming freshmen through 2020-2021.
- Jump Start 2.0 course sequences will be available for incoming freshmen beginning in 2020-2021 and beyond.

Teaching + Learning

Early Childhood Resources for OSEP Administrators

The early childhood classroom supports [library](#) has been updated to include resources for supporting young children with disabilities.

OSEP Administrators can now access updated OSEP guidance and support, including the following support webinars:

- [TS GOLD® OSEP Webinar Background Information](#)
- [TS GOLD® OSEP Webinar Administrator Getting Started Checklist](#)
- [TS GOLD® OSEP Webinar Managing and Monitoring the OSEP License](#)

SUPPORTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

File

[Early Childhood Developmental Screenings Guidebook PDF](#)

[LDOE TS GOLD OSEP Guidance and Support PDF](#)

[TS GOLD OSEP Administrator Contact List PDF](#)

[TS GOLD® OSEP Webinar_ Administrator Getting Started Checklist PDF](#)

[TS GOLD® OSEP Webinar_ Background and General Information PDF](#)

For additional support, visit the [Students with Disabilities Library](#).

The background of the slide is a watercolor-style illustration. It features a central white area that tapers towards the top and bottom, creating a sense of depth. This white area is surrounded by various shades of blue, from light sky blue to deep, dark teal. The colors are blended together with soft, irregular edges, giving it a painterly, artistic feel. The overall composition is balanced and modern.

SER/Data System Updates

SER Modification for Hurricane Laura Recovery

The Department is committed to supporting school systems that were impacted by Hurricane Laura. To ensure LEAs can provide timely special education services to students, SER has been temporarily modified to allow LEAs to pick up jurisdiction for students from affected LEAs only without contacting the previous LEA or LDOE. Any students in affected LEAs not moving will remain unchanged and will require the previous LEA to release jurisdiction.

For more information on emergency LEA transfers, please refer to the [Understanding an Emergency LEA Transfer](#) guidance.

SER October 1 IDEA Collection

Collection Name	Data Collected	Schedule
Special Education Reporting (SER) Oct 1 IDEA Collection	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary Run Date: September 18• Deadline: October 30

To be included in the IDEA Child Count, students must have a current evaluation and current IEP in SER and be receiving services as of October 1.

October 1 MFP/IDEA Fall Collection SIS SER Combined Validation Reports

SIS/SER combined Validation Reports and Rosters for the October 1 MFP/IDEA collections will be dropped to the [DM FTP](#) during the week 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, and 11/9 (Final).

SER Validation Report Elements	SER Validation Roster Elements
<p>Funding - SER IDEA</p> <p>IDEA Enrollment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● SER Oct 1 IDEA Counted● 2019-2020 Oct 1 IDEA Counted● SER Oct 1 IDEA Not Counted <p>SER without SIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● SER/SIS Cross Check (Child Count Compare) Report● SIS/SER Cross Check Report● SER/SIS Cross Check Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Roster of students reported in SER but not in SIS

SER Q&A Office Hours

To assist LEAs with using SER, the Department will host two SER Q&A Office Hour Sessions this month. SER managers, clerks, and coordinators with questions about SER should plan to attend.

- **September 17 at 10 a.m.** This session will address the benefits of utilizing LEADS Inquiry (LIQ). Participants should [pre-register](#) to receive the webinar link.
- **September 24 at 10 a.m.** The session will be an opportunity to ask questions about SER and the October 1 IDEA Child Count. Participants should [pre-register](#) to receive the webinar link.

Educational Environments - 5 Year Olds in Kindergarten

The US Department of Education updated data collection packages in January. This impacts how IDEA Part B Child Count and Educational Environments Data are defined and collected.

- States are required to report the 5 year old children with disabilities who are in kindergarten disaggregated by the school-age educational environment categories (e.g., Inside regular class 80% or more of the day, Inside regular class 40% through 79% of the day, Separate School).
- States are able to report staff employed or contracted to provide services to 5 year old children with disabilities who are in kindergarten under the “age 6-21”/ school age reporting category.

The Department released enhancements in SER earlier this year to reflect these changes.

Measuring Results

Assessment Administration: Important Dates

Test Type	Date	Reporting
KEA and K-3 Literacy	Completed first 30 days of school	Submit data to Department by October 31
LEAP 360 Diagnostic	Completed at the beginning of the school year	Reports available for systems, schools and to share with parents in DRC INSIGHT
ACT	October 6 or October 20	Available in November; used in 2021 SPS if highest score for grade 12
LEAP High School Fall Administration	December 1-18 January 6-26 (new) *Systems must select one window	Reports available in window in DRC INSIGHT; used in 2021 SPS if initial test

Every Child Counts: Census 2020

By now every home has received an invitation to participate in the [2020 Census](#).

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and [younger children](#), such as:

- **Special education**, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology.
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches.
- Maternal and child health programs.
- Planning, preparedness, and recovery efforts for all types of national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#).



Self-responses, which can be completed [online](#), by phone, or by mail until September 30, **ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students**. The Department encourages school systems to explore the [2020 Census Toolbox](#) to find activities specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for each grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

Call Summary

Call Summary

Month	Key Deadlines	Support and Resources
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attend the SER Q&A Office Hour sessions on September 17 and September 24.● Attend the High Cost Services overview webinar on September 24.● Encourage families to apply for P-EBT benefits by September 29.● Encourage families to complete the 2020 Census by September 30.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Strong Start 2020: Timelines and Documentation for Students with Disabilities
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ensure data is complete for the SER October 1 IDEA collection by October 30.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● October 8 Special Education Leader Webinar