

Louisiana Believes

School System Updates

April 2, 2020

ATTENTION: Instructions for participants

During this meeting, participants may submit questions via the online chat feature throughout the presentation. Submitting questions via the chat allows LDOE the opportunity to not only answer your question while on the call but to also add your question and the answer to our publicly disseminated FAQ document(s).

Questions will be addressed at the end of the call. To signify that you would like to ask a verbal question at that time, please **raise your hand in the online system (preferred) or type *9 on your telephone**. The moderator will then acknowledge and unmute your line when requested by the presenter. **You will not have the ability to unmute/mute yourself individually using *6 or the online system**, so please be patient while the moderator assists the presenter in taking questions.

Agenda

- **Teaching and Learning**
- **Student Opportunities**
- **Assessment and Accountability**
- **Early Childhood**
- **Fiscal Operations and Federal Support**
- **Next Steps**
- **Q&A**



Teaching and Learning

Hannah Dietsch

Continuous Education Toolkit

The Department released the following to support school systems with academic and workforce planning:

Continuous Education Guide

Guidance and tools to support school system leaders as they analyze instructional and technology resources, develop an approach to providing distance learning opportunities, and implement a distance learning plan

→ Updating this week to include guidance for supporting students with disabilities.

Academic Resources Guide

A comprehensive listing of academic resources available for distance learning formats, organized by subject and curriculum provider

→ Updating this week to include tools and supports for students with disabilities.

Staffing Guide

A guide to support school system leaders as they determine which essential functions must continue during school facility closures and how to create a staffing plan to ensure the continuation of those functions

Continuous Education Toolkit: Support

The Department is providing direct support to support school systems as they establish or enhance continuous learning plans.

- Over 175 participants joined webinars on Monday and Tuesday to discuss these tools.
- Networks are directly supporting school system leaders as they establish or adjust plans.
- Tools will be updated as we learn more about what is going well and where systems and educators need support.

Technology

Many Internet and educational technology providers are offering free or reduced price tools and services to facilitate distance learning and manage devices. Please see the most up-to-date [compilation of resources](#). Resources are organized by Internet access, devices, virtual communications and platforms, and productivity software.

Highlights:

- Free Internet access for 30 days or more with providers such as AT&T, Comcast, Cox, and Spectrum/Charter
- Free virtual communication tools such as Zoom, Google Classroom, Google Hangouts Meet, and Adobe Connect
- Free productivity tools such as Microsoft Office, StudyBee, Texas Instruments (TI graphing calculator software)

Educator Evaluation: Regulatory Flexibilities and Implications

Waiver of evaluations: Due to extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19, educator evaluations for the 2019-2020 year are waived.

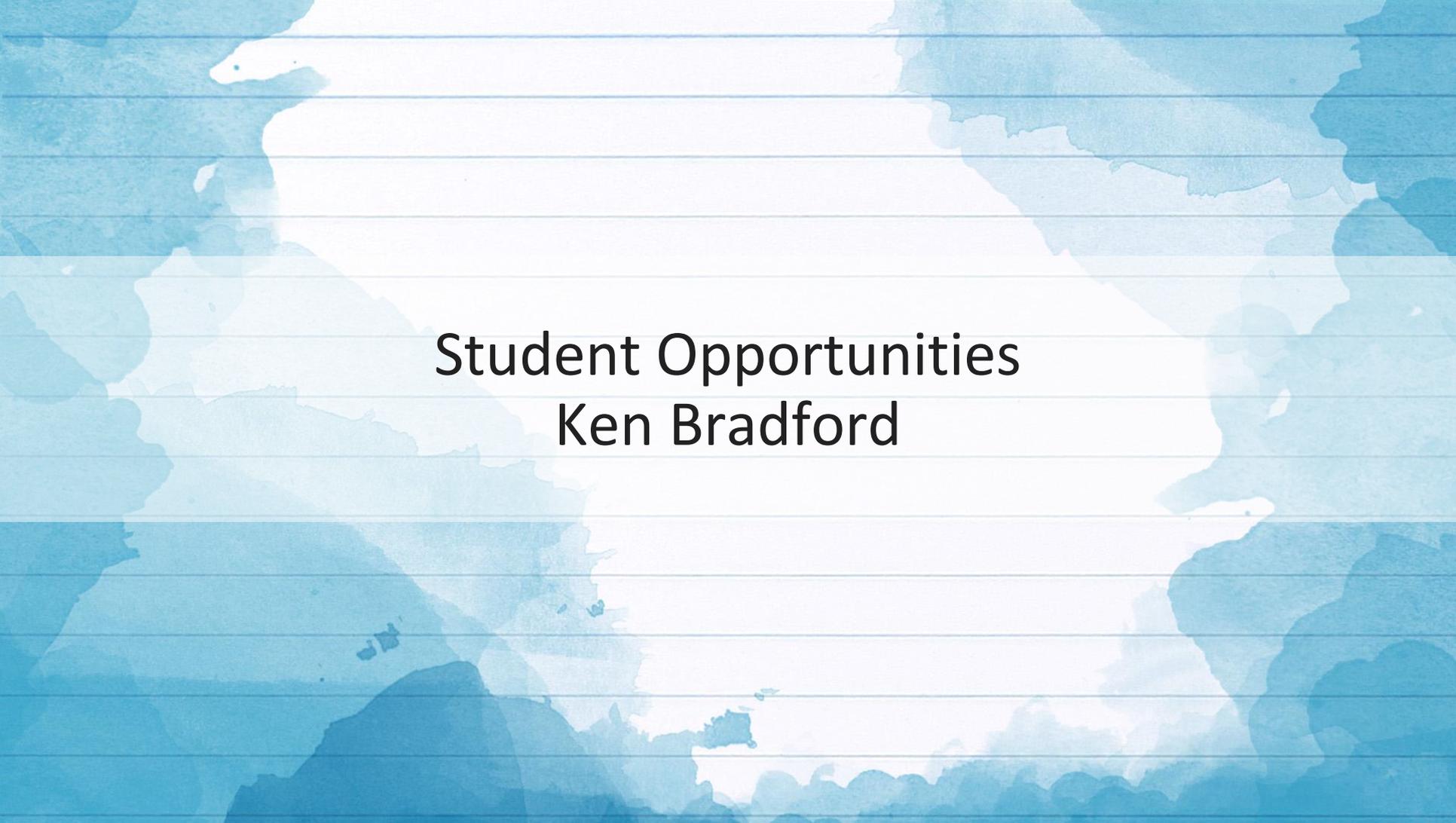
- 2019-2020 valuations will be noted as “Score not calculated”
- School systems may enter data for formative purposes

Certification implications

- Educators who require an evaluation in order to renew or advance their credential and who were employed in 2019-2020 will automatically be awarded a one-year extension of the validity of their certificate.

Compensation implications

- State law requires that salary schedules provide for increases based on performance (based on effectiveness ratings), demand, and experience. Because effectiveness data will not be available, school systems may rebalance the salary schedule to the “demand” or “experience” factors.



Student Opportunities

Ken Bradford

Summarized Guidance

The Department has issued guidance regarding next steps for graduating high school seniors. The guidance, [which is presented as a Q&A document and is now available](#), addresses:

- **Course Credit Flexibilities:** Pass/Fail option, local credit awarding after validating course proficiency, coursework options, Course credit waivers
- **Assessment and Accountability Flexibilities:** Spring state assessments, ACT options, ACT 833, 3rd year graduates, 5th/6th year graduates
- **Graduation and Diploma Information:** Diploma orders, ceremonies, endorsement seals, and GPA calculations
- **Student Transcript System and Reporting:** STS opening date, reporting codes, etc.
- **Regulatory Flexibility Summary**

Course Credit Flexibilities

- School systems will determine if students have demonstrated proficiency in the grade-level content and/or course to award credit.
- If it is determined that seniors have not, schools can provide options that can help students meet credit requirements via distance learning options, online coursework, written work packets, project-based learning, portfolios, proficiency exams, or work-based learning (where current high school course standards align with a student's job).
- A course Pass/Fail option will be available for seniors as part of the uniform grading scale for the 2019-2020 spring semester.

Course Credit Flexibilities

All students currently enrolled in dual enrollment may choose one of the following three options for Spring 2020, relative to the college credit portion of the course:

- Complete the college coursework on-line during the Spring semester 2020 with a final grade; **OR,**
- Transition the course status to “in-progress”/”incomplete” and complete by August 31, 2020 (if “in- progress” or “incomplete” are selected, the course will end in a final grade); **OR,**
- Withdraw from the course via an “Administrative Withdrawal” (no grades are posted to the student’s college transcript/record).

Assessment and Accountability Flexibilities

- The spring testing window has been waived for currently enrolled graduating seniors. This waiver also applies to Act 833 eligible seniors. Information is forthcoming on documenting the goal summary in SER.
- The National ACT test administration has been moved to June 13.
- The ACT state test administration, originally scheduled for March 17, has been rescheduled for June 2 (Initial-Paper Based)
- The following requirements for graduating seniors have also been waived:
 - completing the Financial Aid requirement
 - completing a terminal Industry-Based Credential
- The testing requirements are also waived if a student is enrolled as a 5th or 6th year senior, was included in the February 1, 2020 MFP student count, and meets course graduation requirements.

Graduation and Diploma Information

- Diploma and seal shipments are scheduled to arrive on time.
- Community service diploma endorsement seal senior year hour requirements have been waived for 2019-2020 seniors.
- The local governing authority determines how to calculate GPAs to determine local class rankings and any other type of local student honors status.
- Students using a Pass/Fail grade option for TOPS will need to review the implications relative to the TOPS GPA requirement. Pass/Fail grades are not assigned a quality point value and they will not be included in the calculation of your high school GPA for TOPS.

Student Transcript System Reporting Information

- The process for submitting data to the Student Transcript System (STS) will remain the same through online update or batch upload.
- STS will open on **May 4, 2020** with new codes required to indicate graduation requirements that have been waived relative to assessments, FAFSA, IBCs, etc.

Regulatory Flexibilities

[Governor's Proclamation](#)

[BESE Waivers](#)

[JBE 2020-27](#)

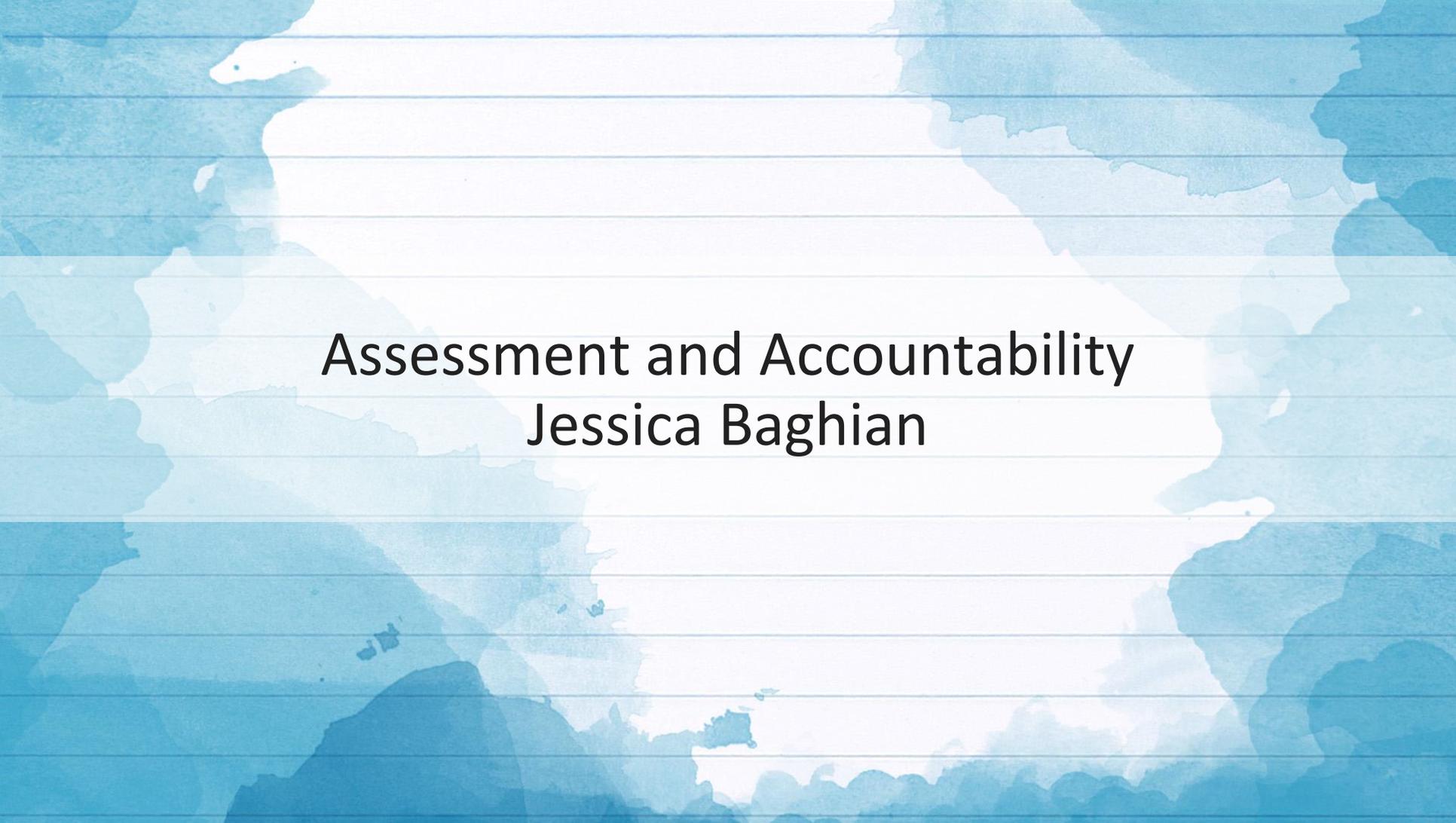
[JBE 2020-32](#)

[U.S. Department of Education Waivers](#)

[Board of Regents Guidance p. 27-28](#)

[ACT Guidance](#)

[Regulatory Flexibilities Guidance Senior Course Credit and Graduation](#)

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 soft, blended washes of light blue and teal. The colors are applied in a painterly, organic manner, with some darker blue accents near the bottom and sides, suggesting a sky or a vast, open space. The overall effect is clean, modern, and professional.

Assessment and Accountability

Jessica Baghian

Assessment and Accountability Updates

ACT

The ACT state test administration, originally scheduled for March 17, has been rescheduled for the following dates:

- June 2: Initial Paper-Based
- June 2-4: Online
- June 2-8: Accommodations Window

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

- Pending the duration of the “stay-at-home” order, cohort graduation data certification will open on May 13th in the Louisiana Data Review online system.
- Accountability contacts will receive individual emails with login credentials and resources.

Assessment and Accountability Updates

LEAP 2025 Assessment Administration

- The Department is working with DRC to provide the regularly-scheduled high school summer administration scheduled in June.
- The Department is considering how to offer optional testing for all grades, if desired by schools or parents.

LEAP 2025 Assessment Waivers of Policy

- The LEAP 2025 high school assessment graduation requirements are waived for students enrolled on February 1 and who meet all other graduation requirements by August 31, 2020.
- The Department will recommend a change in policy that will waive the assessment graduation requirement for a high school assessment eligible course credit that was earned by a student in 2019-2020 at all grade levels if the student would have been an initial tester. The recommendation will not apply to students who need to retake an assessment that they previously failed, and it will not apply to students who earn a credit in summer school.

College and Career Credentials

Advanced Placement Assessment Updates:

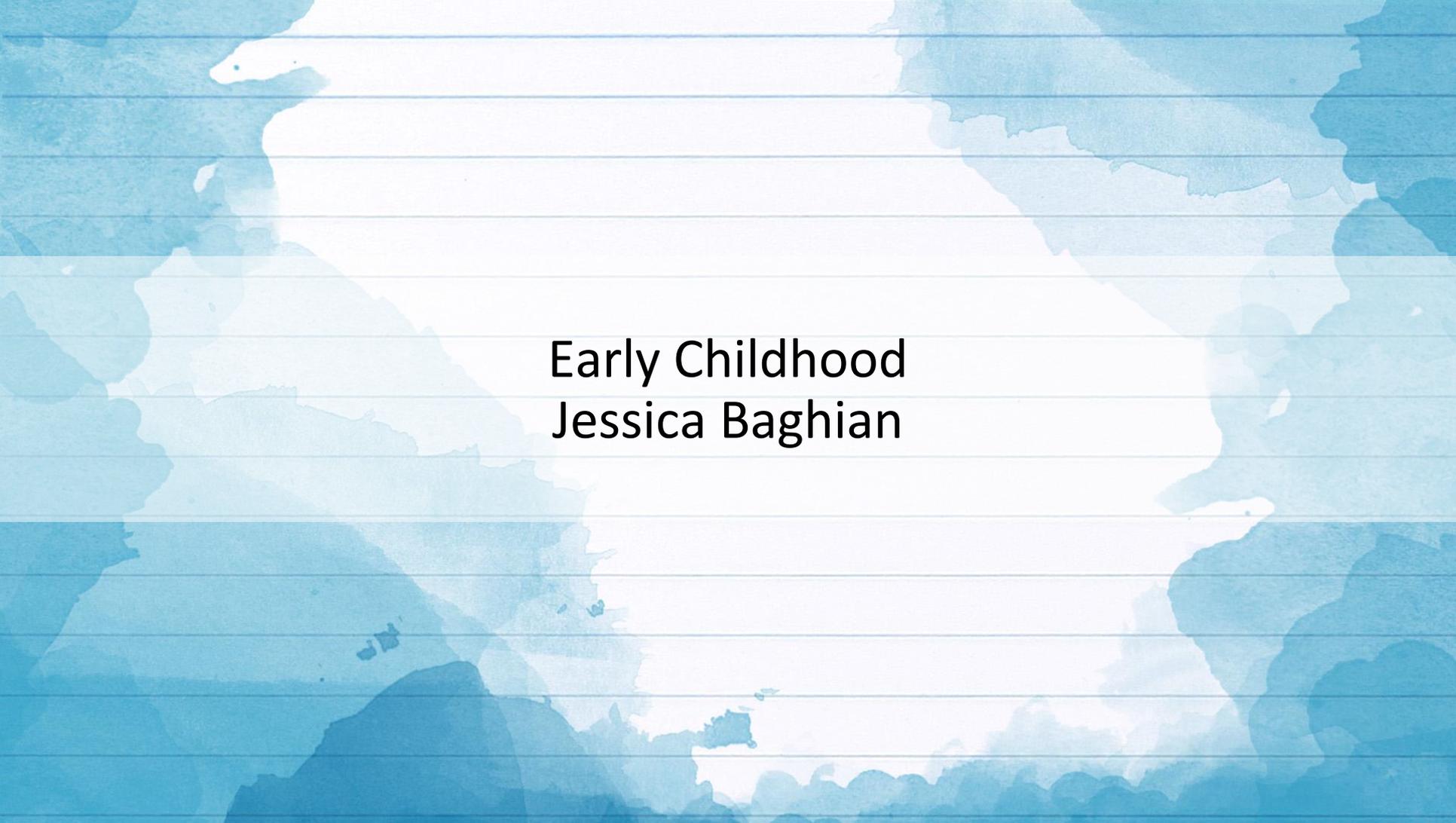
- In-person exams are canceled and instead a 45 minute AP exam will be taken online at home.
- The College Board has provided [online review classes](#) for students
- Exam dates will be released April 3.

CLEP

- CLEP Testing Centers are closed to due to COVID-19.
- The College Board will be providing CLEP exam vouchers for registration tickets that expired after March 1, 2020. The exam voucher will be good through June 30, 2021, and all scores earned by 2020 cohort members through June 30 will be used for accountability purposes.

International Baccalaureate

- May 2020 IB Exams are canceled due to COVID-19 disruptions in schools.
- Full details were sent to schools by March 27



Early Childhood
Jessica Baghian

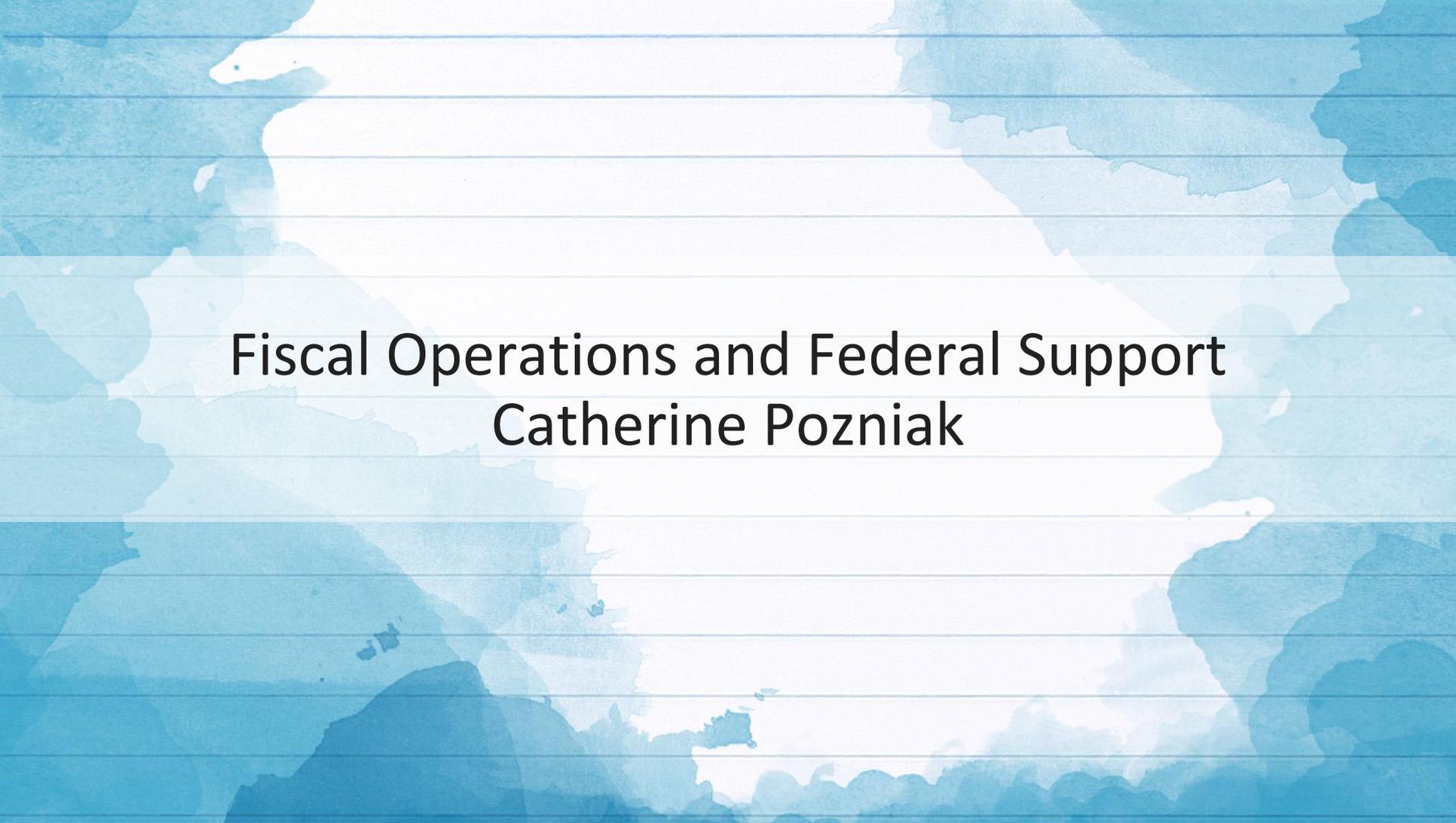
ECE COVID-19 Response

There are numerous ECE updates as a result of ECE COVID-19:

- [CCAP applications](#) for critical personnel: ~1,400, with ~1,000 approved
- Number of child care center remaining open: 34% open (64% verified closed)
- In partnership with CCR&Rs, 11 contracts set up with centers to provide care in high-need areas
- [Next ECE webinar](#): Thursday, April 2 at 2pm

The LDOE has prepared several COVID-19 resources specifically to support ECE:

- Recent [webinar](#) from March 23 with information for centers and schools
- [Map](#) and [flyer](#) for critical staff to find open child care in the state
- COVID-19 [FAQ](#) for early childhood
- [LDH guidance](#) for early learning centers
- Local public health [contact map and directory](#)
- ECE [Academic Resources](#)



Fiscal Operations and Federal Support

Catherine Pozniak

Food and Nutrition

- **Meal component waiver:** Districts may apply for a waiver of meal component requirements, but must be able to demonstrate necessity of the waiver.
- **Meal reimbursement rates:**
 - USDA has not made any announcements with respect to per meal reimbursement. Congress has not addressed this issue specifically in any of the COVID-19 packages.
 - We have asked GOHSEP for guidance on whether FEMA funds will be available to make up the difference between the federal reimbursement rate and actual costs.
- **Cleaning non-disposable PPE:** [CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfection](#)
 - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or
 - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Federal CARES Act - Education Stabilization Fund

Allocation and Uses of the Education Stabilization Funds:

- While the Title I, Part A formula will be the mechanism for distributing the CARES Act funding, this is **not** part of the Title I, Part A federal program. LEAs must track spending of CARES funding separately from Title I program expenses.
- Under the law, Education Stabilization funds can be used for any activity authorized by ESEA, IDEA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento, in addition to response and preparedness efforts, sanitation, mental health services, distance learning, technology purchases, etc.
- Section 1117 of ESEA, the provision of equitable services to private school children will apply.
- Period of availability: While the law stipulates that Education Stabilization Funds will be available for obligation until September 30, 2021, the start date for the funds is unclear. Until we receive further guidance from ED, LEAs should hold on making purchases with the intent of coding them to the Education Stabilization funding.

Federal CARES Act - Waivers

Under the new National Emergency Waivers authority, LEAs will be able to apply directly to ED for waivers of certain ESEA requirements.

- **Title I** - SEAs and LEAs may request a waiver from the Secretary to waive the cap of 15% on the amount of Title I funds that can be carried over.
- **Title IV, Part A** - Upon request of a LEA, the Secretary the authority to waive the requirement that an LEA spend at least 20% on providing a well-rounded education, the requirement to spend 20% on safe and healthy students, and the requirement to spend funds on educational technology.
- **Applicability** - ED will have the authority to grant the new waivers only for school year 2019-2020.
 - The only exception is for maintenance-of-effort determinations; for those, a state may receive a waiver the covers its spending in 2019-2020 and the waiver may extend through additional fiscal years as applicable to the implementation.

Federal CARES Act - Waiver Application

An application for a waiver under the National Emergency Waiver authority must include:

- A description of the federal programs that will be affected;
- A description of the statutory or regulatory requirements proposed to be waived;
- A description of how the federally declared emergency prevents or restricts the requesting entity from complying with those requirements; and
- An assurance that the entity will work to mitigate any negative effects of the waiver

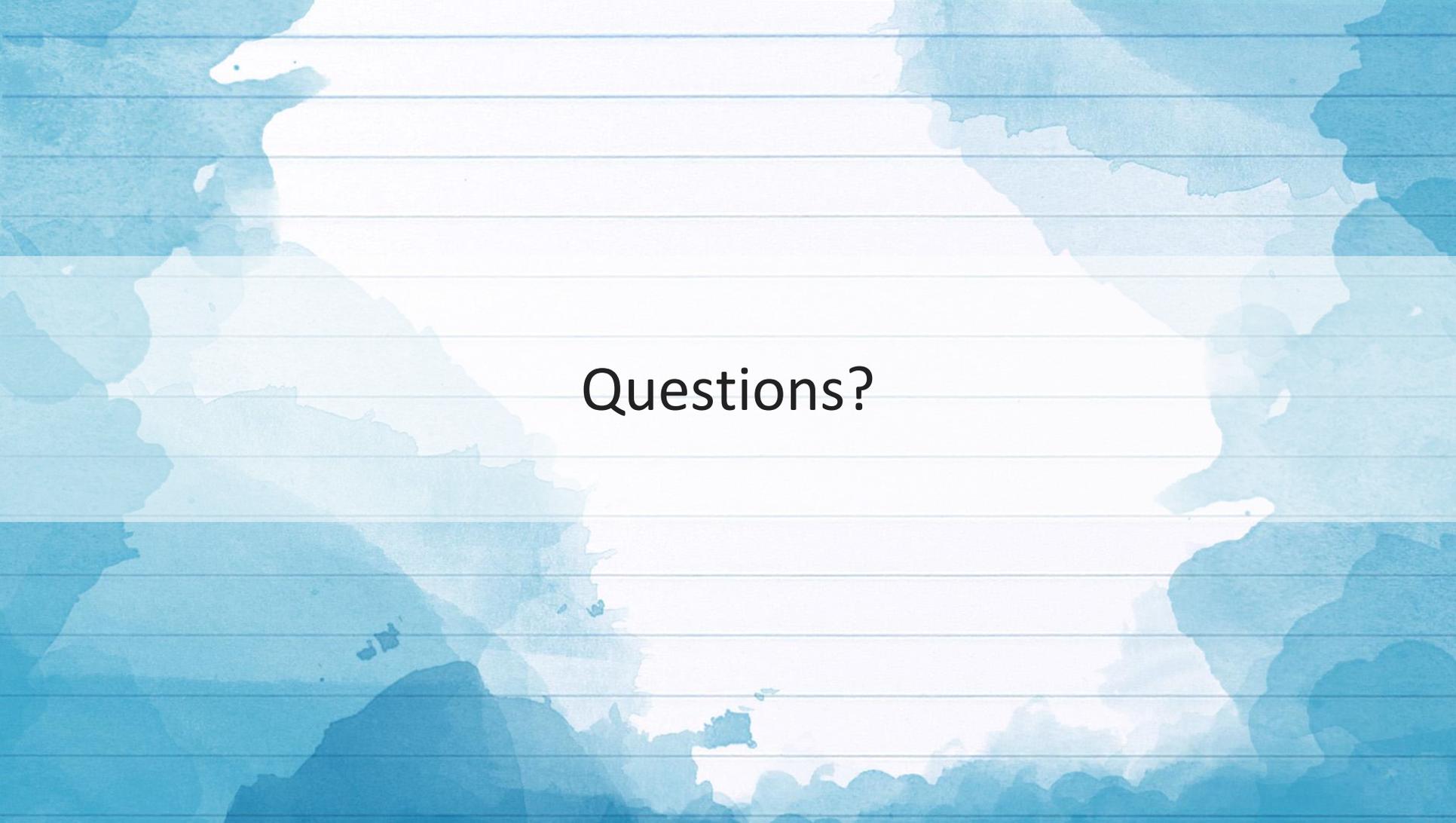
Waiver provisions:

- ED must rule on a waiver request within 30 days of receipt and must approve it unless the Department determines that the request does not meet the statutory requirements or that the requesting entity has not demonstrated that the waiver is necessary or appropriate.
- The bill specifies public notice and Congressional notification.



Next Steps

Beth Scioneaux



Questions?