

# Louisiana Believes

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School System Updates  
March 14, 2020

# Agenda

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Food and Nutrition Services

Fiscal Matters

Special Education

Catherine Pozniak

# Food and Nutrition Services

- USDA has provided flexibilities to schools to provide meals to children 18 years and under during the extended closure.
  - Louisiana has waivers for non-congregant feeding, area-eligibility, elimination of time separation requirements, and alternate meal delivery.
  - School systems should proceed as if these are approved.
- Schools must update the [CNP online application](#) so that they can claim these meals for reimbursement.
- LDOE will maintain a list of school locations operating feeding programs at <https://cnp.doe.louisiana.gov/SchoolSites/>
- Specific information for School Food Service operators is available on the [CNP website](#).

# Fiscal Matters

## **LDOE staff will continue processing payments and reimbursements as usual:**

- MFP payments will be issued per the payment schedule.
- Grant reimbursement requests via eGMS will be processed within 14 days, per usual.
- CCAP payments for childcare will run on the standard weekly schedule.
- LA 4 payments for both state and TANF-funded seats will be paid on schedule at the end of the month.
  - During closures in March and April, LA 4 payments will be based on enrollment rather than attendance.

Payments related to contracts and/or paper payments may be delayed if mail services are affected. LDOE will process invoices as quickly as we receive them.

# Special Education - School Closure

## **School closure**

When the school closure causes educational services for all students to pause within a school or school system, then the school/school system is not required to provide services to students with disabilities during the closure.

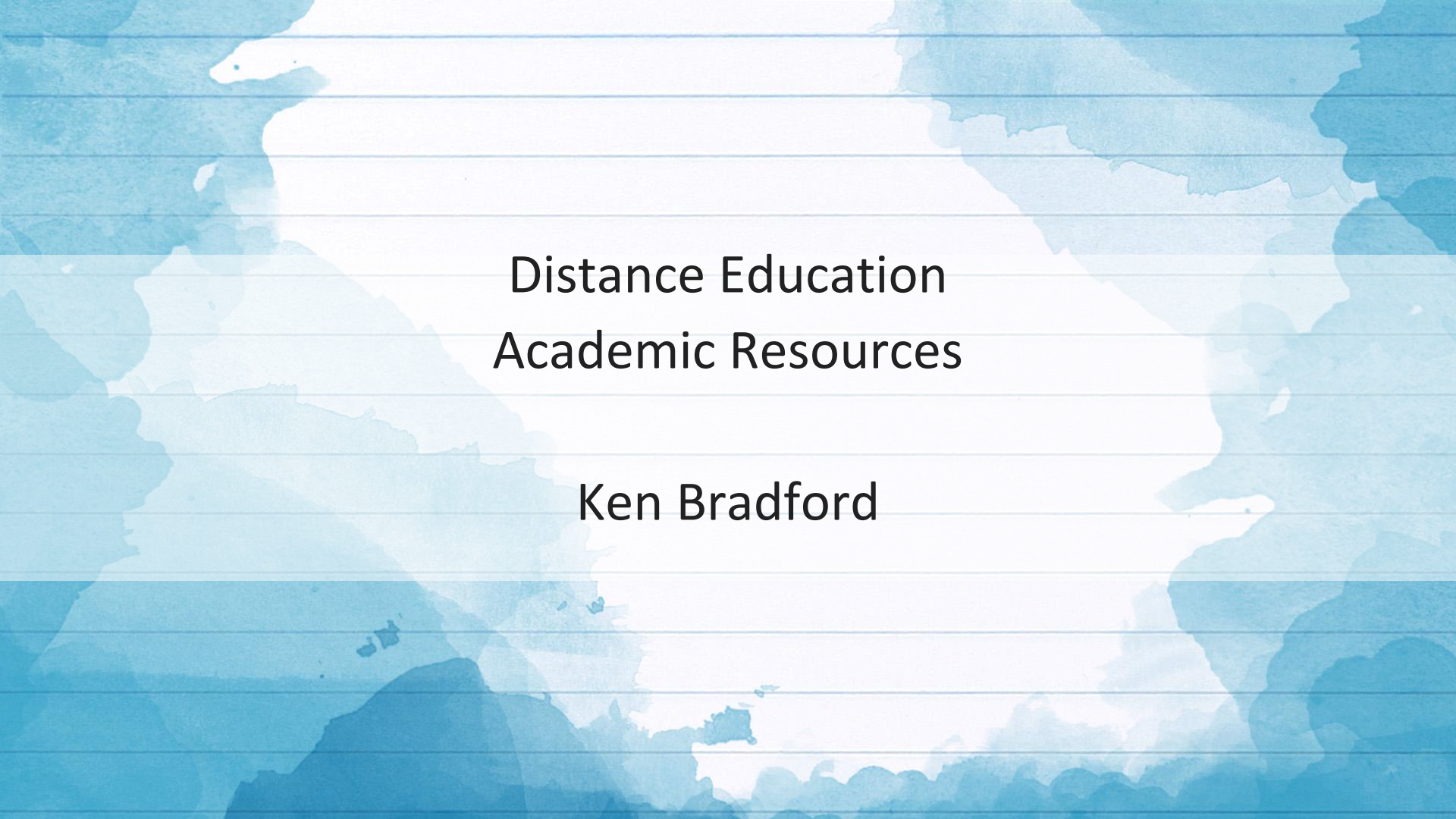
After an extended closure, school systems are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services on each student. If the student lost progress, teams will need to reassess services and determine whether the student requires compensatory education.

# Special Ed and 504 Accommodations - Distance Education

## School Closure with Distance Education

If a school system makes distance education available for all students during a closure, it must ensure equal access, to the greatest extent possible, for students with disabilities and/or students in need of accommodations pursuant to a 504 plan (e.g. closed captioning for deaf/hard of hearing students).

- **UPDATED (3/16/ 2020 at 2 p.m.)** OSEP has clarified that if a school system makes distance education/online learning available for all students during a closure, it is considered an alternate mode of instructional delivery. It **does not** constitute a change of placement. In other words, a school system does not need to follow the prior notice rules or have an IEP team meeting to make a formal placement determination.
- School systems are responsible for reviewing how this period of distance learning impacted the delivery of services for each student. If the student lost progress, teams will need to reassess services and determine whether the student requires compensatory education.



# Distance Education Academic Resources

Ken Bradford



# Distance Education Requirements

## Proclamation Flexibility

- Instructional minute requirements have been suspended for distance education courses and curriculum delivery
- The minimum 63,270 annual instructional time requirement has been suspended

Distance education is allowed under current BESE policy.

- If school systems offer distance education, **the school system must take student attendance** every school day, and the teacher of record for each class must take attendance at the beginning of each class period.

# Distance Education Providers

## Utilization of Distance Education Online Providers

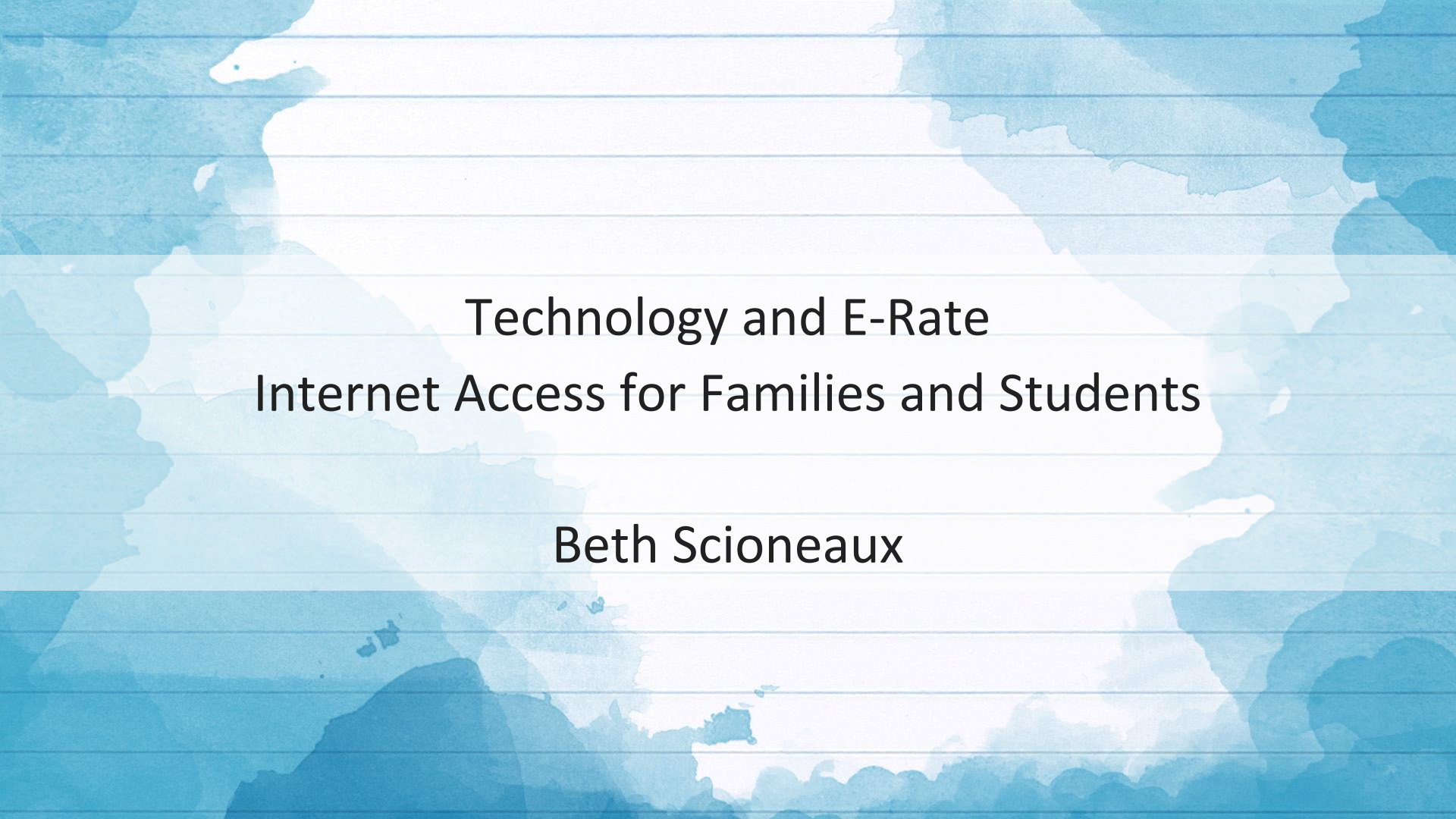
- There is not a state approval process for general online education providers. School systems have the choice and autonomy to approve and use any online provider that delivers instruction within the provisions of [Bulletin 741 Section 2326](#).
- School systems also have an option to utilize online providers that have been vetted and approved as [Course Choice providers](#) by BESE. Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) funds can continue to be used to pay associated course costs with these providers through June 30, 2020.

# Academic Resources

In partnership with **Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB)**, the Department will provide distance and home learning tools for educators, students, and caregivers. This will include:

- **An online hub for distance learning supports** set to launch by March 18. It will include:
  - Lessons and resources for math, ELA, social studies, science and early childhood, including links to Tier 1 [curriculum resources](#).
  - Increased access to Tier 1 curriculum digital content, including virtual lessons.
  - Resources to teach young children about COVID-19.
- **Broadcasted educational programming** through LPB and YouTube Channels, which will launch within the next two weeks.

The Department will announce the availability of these resources through all upcoming school system planning calls and newsletters.



# Technology and E-Rate Internet Access for Families and Students

Beth Scioneaux

# Technology and E-Rate

- The FCC has extended the deadline for schools to submit FY2020 Form 471 applications by 35 days:
  - **E-Rate applicants will now have until April 29 at 11:59 p.m. EDT to submit.**
  - Any school system that may need to post a new Form 470 for additional service(s) can file a Form 470, post an RFP for 28 days and file a Form 471 for FY2020 E-Rate funding.
- The FCC has also directed USAC to provide all applicants undergoing Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) reviews with an automatic, 14-day extension for all PIA requests.
- Waivers for additional deadlines and requests (Form 486, Form 472, COMAD, invoicing, etc.) have been requested and are under review.
- Applicants should monitor [USAC's website](#).

# Internet Access for Families and Students

**Internet Access for Students:** FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has launched the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which many [broadband carriers](#) have signed. For the next 60 days, its core provisions will:

- not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic;
- waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and
- open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them

Additionally limited income households can apply for \$5 to \$10 per month internet access ([AT&T Access](#), [Cox Connect2Compete](#), [CenturyLink Lifeline](#)). [Charter Communication](#) will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a subscription.



# Assessment and Accountability Guidance

Jan Sibley

# Spring 2020 Assessment and Accountability Guidance

**USED has not announced any statewide waivers of assessment requirements.** LDOE is closely monitoring school systems who have closed and those employing distance learning to inform decisions around statewide assessments.

- Spring 2020 assessment windows for grades 3-8 LEAP 2025 will begin no earlier than April 27.
- LEAP 2025 Humanities will begin no earlier than May 4.
- The high school assessment window currently remains unchanged.

Additional information will be shared as we learn more about when school systems will reopen.

The LDOE is currently working with all assessment vendors to monitor and adjust the shipments of secure testing materials.



# Spring 2020 Assessment and Accountability Guidance

## **Accountability Results**

The LDOE will work closely with school system leadership, BESE, and the U.S. Department of Education to consider potential policy adjustments.

## **Cohort Graduation Data Certification**

Cohort graduation data certification has been postponed and will not open during the week of March 16. Accountability contacts will receive information as soon as rescheduling is finalized.

# ACT Rescheduling and Return of Secure Materials

**The LDOE is working with ACT to identify new dates for testing windows.**

Schools that selected March 17 standard time paper-based testing currently have secure materials stored in a secure location. To the extent possible, ACT is asking school staff to meet Fed Ex on Thursday, March 19th for the regularly scheduled pickup.

If this is not possible, schools can opt to do one of the following:

- Contact ACT directly to arrange an alternative pickup date at 1.800.553.6244, ext. 2800
- Bring secure materials to a FedEx location for return to ACT

# Legal and Regulatory Flexibilities

Beth Scioneaux

# Legal and Regulatory Flexibilities

- BESE has approved an initial round of waivers: [BESE Emergency Waiver Memo](#)
- Additional regulation may be requested as necessary.

# Next Steps

Please complete the following survey by Wednesday, March 18, at COB to notify the Department as to whether you will provide educational services while school facilities are closed to children.

[School District/Charter School COVID-19 Education Planning Survey](#)

[LDOE COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)

For education-specific information, contact the Department at [LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov).