

# *Important News for*

# **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**January 7, 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are excited to finish our important work for students this school year.

Last week, Governor Edwards announced that early childhood centers (birth to age four) and school employees are included in Phase 2 of the state's vaccine rollout. It was welcomed news that shows the essential role our educators play to not only their schools, but to our society. We are working with the Louisiana Department of Health and will share more details with you as soon as possible.

While it is more important than ever for us to continue following our mitigation efforts, know that we are entering the final chapters of the pandemic. Thank you for serving children and families during these difficult circumstances. Together, we will defeat this virus and ensure our children continue to receive a quality education.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

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## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Super App Office Hours	<a href="#">January 8 at 10 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">January 12 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Office Hours	<a href="#">January 14 at 1 p.m.</a>
Educator Development Office Hours	<a href="#">January 19 at 12 p.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 11 at 10 a.m.</a>
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 15 at 9 a.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 19 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 20 at 2 p.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 20 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 21 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 21 at 3 p.m.</a>
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	<a href="#">January 22 at 9 a.m.</a>
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 27 at 1 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">January 28 at 9 a.m.</a>

*\*Monthly call presentations are available in the [School Improvement Library](#). View the [School System Support Calendar](#) to access a complete schedule of events.*

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Fast Forward Planning Grant Webinar	<a href="#">January 11 at 2 p.m.</a>
Pre-Educator Statewide Pathway Launch: Support, Partnerships, and Funding Webinar	<a href="#">January 15 at 11 a.m.</a>
Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Informational Webinar	<a href="#">January 28 at 1 p.m.</a>
Important Deadlines	
<a href="#">SEAP Vacancy Application</a>	January 8
<a href="#">Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Application</a>	January 29
<a href="#">2021 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design</a>	February 5

## School System Support

### **School Reopening Dashboard**

The Louisiana Department of Education is updating the [School Reopening Dashboard](#) to include additional information and a more user-friendly experience. LEAs are asked to update the modality and connectivity data in their dashboard by **January 11**. The updated dashboard will be presented during the January 19 BESE meeting. LEA Data Coordinators should update their modality information in Sponsorsite and LEA technology director's will submit the connectivity data via their TRT spreadsheets.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions and/or attend the Education Technology Office hours on [Thursday, January 7 at 9 a.m.](#)

### **LDOE Website Survey**

The LDOE is planning a redesign of its current website — [louisianabelieves.com](http://louisianabelieves.com) — and seeking stakeholder input on how well the current website serves their needs, what current structures can be improved upon, and what new features can be added. Please take a few minutes to offer honest feedback via the [website feedback survey](#).

Please contact [LDOEcommunications@la.gov](mailto:LDOEcommunications@la.gov) with questions.

## **Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)**

[Real-time Early Access to Literacy \(REAL\)](#) provides individualized support for students in pre-K through grade 3 to make progress in their literacy development, with a focus on support for virtual learning. REAL provides devices, connectivity, and tutoring services to eligible students in pre-K through grade 3. In December, eligible school systems received funding to authorize students for tutoring services.

School systems interested in becoming a tutoring service provider and/or systems that need additional information about the REAL Program are encouraged to join an informational webinar. Details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 28 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/4418921159>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 441 892 1159

Please contact [earlyliteracy@la.gov](mailto:earlyliteracy@la.gov) with questions.

## **Career and College Readiness**

### **Fast Forward Planning Grant Webinar**

**Please share with high school and CTE supervisors, counselors, and principals.**

The Louisiana Department of Education will release an RFA on January 6 for the [Fast Forward Planning Grant](#). The purpose of this grant is to expand student access to meaningful dual enrollment opportunities, enable students to leave high school prepared for career or continue advanced postsecondary pursuits, and allow students to receive funded college experiences or employment in high wage/high demand occupations. Planning grants up to \$50,000 will be awarded to a lead regional secondary school system and its higher education partner in each Regional Labor Market Area.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 11 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93645380002>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 936 4538 0002

Please contact [stephanie.marcum@la.gov](mailto:stephanie.marcum@la.gov) with questions.

# Teaching and Learning

## Educator Development

### **Teacher Leader Summit Seat Allocation and Virtual Series**

The [2021 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will take place **May 25-27 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans**. Both the Department and the Convention Center are taking measures to promote the health and safety of all participants and as a result we will have a reduced overall capacity.

Due to social distancing parameters, the Department has allocated a specific allotment of seats to each school system and each early childhood lead agency for the in-person event. The Department has notified each system of their total number of seats and each school system has been issued a unique registration code for all tickets during the registration process. It is up to each school system or each early childhood lead agency to determine the best path for disbursing seats across their schools, sites, and educators.

It is also a school system or lead agency's choice to take advantage of early bird registration or wait until the session lists are publicly released on April 9, which is during the regular registration window. All allocated seats must be used to purchase tickets by April 12. Should any unused seats remain, the Department will and open a first come, first served registration window on April 13.

Additional seats will be disbursed for the following groups of educators at a later date by specific Department teams:

- Environmental Education
- World Languages
- Instructional Coaching
- Aspiring School Leaders
- Aspiring Educators
- Systems Leaders
- Human Capital Leaders
- Teacher Preparation Faculty and Leads
- Ready Start Networks
- EdLinks Report Focus Group
- CTE Supervisors
- Literacy Coordinators

Information on the above ticket types will be shared with the appropriate groups of educators as logistics are finalized.

In addition to the in person Teacher Leader Summit, the **Department will offer a Virtual Series June 1 through June 3**. Specific information regarding registering for the Virtual Series will be released later in the spring via normal communication channels.

To best assist schools systems and school leaders in determining to whom they should distribute their allocated seats, the Department has released a [one-pager](#) outlining which content will be delivered in-person and which content to expect to be delivered virtually. General Summit information can be found in the [overview document](#) posted to the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

## **Teacher Leader Summit Registration**

[Registration](#) for the Teacher Leader Summit opens January 8 and will occur in three phases:

- Early bird registration via allocation (January 8 through March 1)
- Regular registration via allocation (March 2 through April 12)
- First-come, first-serve registration for any remaining tickets (Opens April 13)

**Note:** Due to capacity constraints, there will be no onsite registration this year. All registrations must be completed in advance of arriving at the event.

During the registration process, the code sent to school systems and early childhood lead agencies must be entered. Once the code has reached its maximum number of uses, no other registrations will be accepted for that code. Should an educator register for the event and it is later determined the educator is no longer able to attend, a refund should be requested via Eventbrite.

The Department is unable to transfer tickets automatically from one educator to another. The school system or early childhood lead agency will need to reach out to the Department at [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) to determine the best next steps for registering the educator who is “taking the place” of the educator who can no longer attend, which may include increasing the number of uses on their particular registration code.

Description	1-Day Ticket	3-Day Ticket
<b>Early Bird Registration</b> (January 10-March 1)	\$55	\$108
<b>Regular Registration</b> (March 2-April 12)	\$71	\$140
<b>First Come, First Served*</b> (April 13-May 10)	\$71	\$140

*\*should any seats remain*

Participants who [register](#) for the in-person Summit will also have access to Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series, though a separate registration will be required in order to participate. Participants who register for the Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will only have access to the virtual content. General Summit information can be found in the [overview document](#) posted to the Teacher Leader Library.

**Note:** When registering, the access code must be entered for available tickets to populate. Without entering the access code, no tickets will show as available.

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

## **2021 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest**

The Department is seeking inspiration for the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators and students with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by **February 5** to [ldoecommunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov). The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

## **Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Opportunity**

The Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway launched across the state of Louisiana in order to provide a K-16/pre-education program for both TOPS University and TOPS Tech diploma seeking high school students. This pathway is designed to expose and recruit talented students to the teaching profession while cultivating the next generation of Louisiana's educational leaders. In the 2021-2022 school year, the LDOE will lead a series of support structures for systems and schools interested in launching or expanding the availability of the pathway.

Limited funding is available to support curriculum adoption, professional development, initial training, and student organization or credentialing costs related to the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway in the 2021-2022 school year. To apply, systems should complete and submit the [Funding Application](#) to [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) by **January 29**. The application will be available on **January 12**.

For more information about the launch of the pathway please join the Pre-Educator Statewide Pathway Launch: Support, Partnerships, and Funding Webinar on **January 15 at 11 a.m.** Information needed to join this webinar is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 15 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 345 504 8179

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

## Literacy

### **Literacy Initiatives**

The Department's Literacy division believes all Louisiana students will have improved literacy outcomes through high-quality instruction and interactions by effective teachers supported by leaders and families. The team's initiatives, which will be launched at the Teacher Leader Summit, focus on:

- Ensuring students receive high-quality instruction from effective teachers,
- Supporting teachers and school and system leaders through ongoing professional development opportunities, and
- Providing diverse opportunities for family literacy engagement.

One initiative currently underway is the Family Literacy Engagement Workgroup, tasked with generating ideas for a family portal of resources and guidance. The workgroup, which kicked off on December 16, will develop a strategic plan to improve communication with families around literacy. Additional information about the Family Literacy Engagement Workgroup and additional literacy initiatives will be communicated in future newsletters.

Please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.

## Reminders

- ***School System Support Reminders***
- ***Career and College Readiness Reminders***
- ***Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders***
  - ***Special Education Reminders***
- ***Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support Reminders***
- ***Operations Reminders***
  - ***Food and Nutrition Reminders***
- ***Teaching and Learning Reminders***
  - ***Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders***
  - ***Educator Development Reminders***

## ***School System Support Reminders***

### **January System Leaders Monthly Call Rescheduled**

The January System Leaders Monthly Call date has been rescheduled and will now take place on **January 15 at 9 a.m.**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 15 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97982207566>
- **Passcode:** @Ax4Q3
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 979 8220 7566
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 744001

Please contact [LDOEcommunications@la.gov](mailto:LDOEcommunications@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Career and College Readiness Reminders***

### **2021 Quest for Success Trainings**

**Please share with career and technical education leaders and school systems.**

Quest for Success is a career exploration course designed to prepare graduates for career and life success. Training opportunities for educators to teach this course will be available throughout the school year. Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Registration is now open for two training sessions in early 2021.

- [January 11-14](#) from 5-9 p.m.
- [February 8 -11](#) from 5-9 p.m.

Additional training sessions will be held as the need arises.

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) with questions.

### **Virtual Spring 2021 Counselor Institutes**

**Please share with middle and high school counselors.**

Thanks to everyone who joined the first-ever [LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute](#) on October 28 and 29. The Department is in the process of developing another set of institutes, which are slated to take place during National School Counseling Week, **February 1 through 5**. Registration details and a tentative agenda will be forthcoming.

Please contact [leslie.gilliland@la.gov](mailto:leslie.gilliland@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders***

### ***Special Education Reminders***

#### **Release of ELA Guidebooks Companion Resources for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities**

This week, the Department released the Companion Resources for the ELA Guidebooks for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SWSCDs). These resources were developed in collaboration with a team of ELA and special education practitioners across the state to support teachers of SWSCDs. They are designed to facilitate the access and success of students with the most significant needs to a high-quality curriculum, improve professional learning partnerships between special education teachers and content-area specialists, and increase opportunities for students with significant cognitive impairments to participate in inclusive, least restrictive environments.

The Companion Resources, case studies, exemplary lesson plans, and unit unpacking overviews can be found in the Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities [Library](#).

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

#### **Special Education Advisory Panel Vacancy**

The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) advises the Department on the provision of free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for children with disabilities and provides guidance on special education programs and services. The panel is now accepting [applications](#) for a parent of a child with a disability to serve until July 2022.

The Department asks school systems to please encourage interested parents to apply. Prospective members should email applications to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) by **January 8**.

## ***Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support Reminders***

### **Practitioner License Policy Reminder**

Practitioner Licenses (PL) are issued to candidates admitted to and enrolled in teacher preparation programs. Teacher preparation providers and employing school systems are responsible for applying for practitioner licenses on behalf of candidates enrolled in preparation programs. School systems and preparation providers must apply for candidates' practitioner licenses as soon as they are employed and enrolled in a teacher preparation program. Beginning this year, candidates who have a practitioner license must receive five hours of mentoring to be eligible for a Level 1 certificate. The chart below provides an overview of policy requirements outlined in Chapter 313 of Bulletin 746.

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Application Submission</b>
PL 1	The PL 1 is issued to candidates enrolled in practitioner teacher preparation programs.	Teacher preparation provider
PL 2	The PL 2 is issued to candidates enrolled in certification-only alternative certification programs.	Employing school system
PL 3	The PL 3 is issued to candidates enrolled in master's degree alternative certification programs.	Employing school system

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Operations Reminders***

### ***Food and Nutrition Reminders***

#### **Free/Reduced Price Meal Applications in Non-CEP Schools**

School Food Authorities should continue to accept Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications throughout the 2020-2021 school year at all Non-Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) participating schools. Although schools may have transitioned to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), school meal applications may establish eligibility for Pandemic EBT (P-EBT). School Food Authorities should encourage families, through public outreach, to complete and submit these applications.

Please contact [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Teaching and Learning Reminders***

### ***Educator Development Reminders***

#### **Educator Development December Office Hours Canceled**

The [Educator Development Office Hours](#) scheduled for December 15 was canceled. The Department will resume these office hours after the holidays on **January 19**. As a reminder, attendees can submit topics for office hour calls using this [survey](#).

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

## **Louisiana Scholarship Program News**

### **Interests & Opportunities Survey for K-12 Accountability**

Beginning in 2019-2020, Louisiana's K-12 accountability system now includes an Interests & Opportunities Index. For the 2020-2021 school year, the index is calculated based on course enrollment in grades K-8 in certain enrichment categories and on completion of a survey. The survey makes up 50% of the K-8 index and 100% of the high school index.

The Interests & Opportunities survey will be released on **January 14** and will be open until **February 22**. Schools will receive an email with information on how to access and complete the survey at their email address listed in Sponsor Site. School system accountability contacts will also receive an email with information for their respective schools.

**Survey completion is requested for all Louisiana Scholarship Program sites. The Interests and Opportunities Index is part of the calculation for the Scholarship Cohort Index.**

Please contact [andrew.shachat@la.gov](mailto:andrew.shachat@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: 2021-2022 Scholarship Program Application Window Now Open**

The application for the Louisiana Scholarship Program is now available for schools located outside Orleans at [www.louisianabelieves.com/scholarship](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/scholarship). Families interested in applying to a Scholarship school in Orleans Parish should do so via the OneApp at [www.EnrollNOLA.org](http://www.EnrollNOLA.org). Both applications will close on January 29, 2021.

Important materials are below:

[Application Webinar PowerPoint](#)- Instructions for marking a student eligible in SEE can be found at the end of the Application Webinar PPT, beginning on slide 19.

[2021-2022 Scholarship Application Guide](#)--recommended that schools familiarize themselves with this document and print a copy to have on hand for anyone interacting with families

[LSP Application Receipt form](#)--provide a completed form to parents after verifying that the application is in SEE and that the family meets income and residency eligibility requirements

For questions about the application, contact [StudentScholarships@LA.gov](mailto:StudentScholarships@LA.gov). For schools located in Orleans that have questions about OneApp, please contact [Enrollment\\_Support@nolapublicschools.com](mailto:Enrollment_Support@nolapublicschools.com).

## **Reminder: Transfer Window Opened**

If a family is interested in a transfer, please have the family complete the [transfer form](#) and submit it to a school representative. The representative at the school must then sign the form and email it to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov). Forms submitted by parents will not be considered.

Transfers are at the discretion of the receiving school; however, schools may not exceed new student caps (if applicable) based on [accountability results](#) for the 2019 school year.

Please email [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with any questions.

## **For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts**

### **Growth to Mastery Rosters**

- The growth to mastery rosters have been updated using the enrollment site code from the October 1 submission. The rosters can be found on the secure FTP with file name *LEA Code 2020-2021 Grade 3-8 or HS Growth to Mastery Student Roster Update*.

### **LEAP 2025 Fall High School Administration**

- **January 8:** Deadline for DTCs to submit to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) the list of students — by LASID and limited PII — who had excused absences that prevented them from testing in December and will need to make up the high school assessment on January 27-28.
- **Important:** It is extremely important that no accountability codes be applied this fall for any reason other than code 81 for EL. An accountability code applied to a student record in December will prevent the student with an opportunity to participate in the January makeup window. Please make sure all test coordinators know that codes should not be applied for **any** students (initial or retester) who do not test during the fall administration.
- The following flexibilities require notification to the LDOE:
  - Use of January 27 and 28 makeup dates (need to send LASIDs)
  - Use of weekend testing (need to send LASIDs)
- The following flexibilities require documentation using the [Permission to Test in Alternate Environments Form](#)
  - Individual testing of students who do not have the accommodation on an IEP or IAP
  - Testing off-site
- Schools that are testing should plan to allow for state monitors. Schools can follow protocols for safety but should not prevent them from observing testing.

### **LEAP 2025 Spring High School Testing**

- The LEAP 2025 spring high school testing window has been extended by one week. The spring window is now April 15-May 21 and the assessment calendar has been updated.

### **ACT**

- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- Now-January 22: Verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student files, if needed. January 22 is the deadline to receive barcode labels.
- January 12: ACT will load all eligible 11 and 12 grade students into [PANext](#).
- Now-January 15: Request ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System](#) (TAA).
- Resources
  - [Non-Test Instructions for Test Coordinators](#)
  - [Non-Test Instructions for Students](#)
  - [Taking the ACT PDF](#)

### **Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours**

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **January 12 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 12 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Passcode:** 2020202!

## Tuition Donation Credit Program News

### For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

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- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Passcode:** 2020202!

## **Reminder: Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information**

Information about the Tuition Donation Credit Program can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart](#). Currently, Louisiana has four School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Credit Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, Aspiring Scholars, and Son of a Saint. Schools interested in participating in the TDC program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

School Tuition Organization	Regional Focus	STO Website	Email	Phone
ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.acescholarships.org">www.acescholarships.org</a>	<a href="mailto:TDR@acescholarships.org">TDR@acescholarships.org</a>	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.aretescholars.org">www.aretescholars.org</a>	<a href="mailto:maryhw@aretescholars.org">maryhw@aretescholars.org</a>	225-245-3610
Aspiring Scholars	New Orleans Archdiocese	<a href="https://aspiringscholarsla.org/">https://aspiringscholarsla.org/</a>	<a href="mailto:info@aspiringscholarsla.org">info@aspiringscholarsla.org</a>	504-513-4140
Son of a Saint	Orleans	<a href="http://www.sonofasaint.org">www.sonofasaint.org</a>	<a href="mailto:hello@sonofasaint.org">hello@sonofasaint.org</a>	504-561-7508

## **School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities News**

### **Reminder: SCP Transfer Window Open**

Students wishing to transfer SCP awards from one school to another participating school for the 2020 school year can complete the [SCP transfer form](#). The form must also be signed by a representative of the receiving school.

Please send the completed form to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).