

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



June 25 , 2020

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP, TDC	6/26/20	Submit updated LEAP 360 MOU	District test coordinators
LSP, TDC	6/26/20	Submit summer testing schedules to assessment@la.gov	District test coordinators
All nonpublics	6/28/20	Submit school closure forms	Superintendents or school leaders
LSP	7/1/20	Complete Scholarship End-of-Year Survey	Superintendents, School leaders, and Scholarship contacts
All nonpublics	7/15/20	Submit textbook reimbursements requests	School leaders or finance directors
All nonpublics	7/15/20	Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs	School leaders or finance directors
All nonpublics	7/15/20	Submit school change requests	Superintendents or school leaders
SCP	8/7/20	Submit SCP applications and application spreadsheet to FTP	School leaders or School Choice Contacts

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Strong Start Math Planning Resources

To support school systems, schools and teachers in strategically diagnosing and addressing unfinished learning in math due to school closures and communicating student readiness for on grade-level learning with parents, the Department has released the following

resources:

- [Using LEAP 360 Diagnostic Assessments](#): Guidance on administering and interpreting results of the LEAP 360 Diagnostic assessment
- [LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping](#): Unit-by-unit mapping of LEAP 360 Diagnostic items for all of Tier 1 Math Curricula posted under LEAP 360 Diagnostic Mapping on the [K-12 Math Planning page](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Complete the Scholarship End-of-Year Survey

Last week, Superintendents, school leaders, and Scholarship contacts received the annual Louisiana Scholarship Program End-of-Year survey via email. The 2019-20 End-of-Year Survey is designed to help the Office of School Improvement better understand successes and identify the areas of improvement in our work with Scholarship schools. The feedback gathered from this survey will help the Louisiana Department of Education ensure our tools and structures adequately support the work of teachers and schools. Please complete this survey by **July 1, 2020**.

Contact StudentScholarships@LA.gov if you are a Scholarship school principal who did not receive the link in your inbox.

Reminder: Transfer Window Opened

The Scholarship team has been processing a significant number of transfer requests and will continue to do so in the coming weeks. Please remember, in order for newly awarded students to transfer a Scholarship, the student must have registered at the awarded school by the May 15th deadline. 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. 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 with any questions.

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

LEAP 360

- School systems that plan to administer any or all of the assessments in the LEAP 360 suite in 2020-2021 must submit an [updated MOU](#) by **this Friday, June 26** to assessment@la.gov. A copy of the MOU has been posted to the [Assessment Library](#).

High School Summer Test Administration

- The high school summer test administration schedule has changed to July 13-24.
- Testing manuals have been posted in DRC INSIGHT.
- Test setup for high school summer testing is now open.
- Summer testing schedules should be submitted to assessment@la.gov by **this Friday, June 26**.
- There is no remote access option.

New: ACT

- All school systems that tested students in June 2020 and/or who plan to test students during the October 2020 makeup for 2019-2020 juniors must sign the ACT MOU Addendum that is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- ACT is postponing the option for students to take a single subject test that was planned for September. A new implementation date has not been released.
- ACT announced new flexibilities for summer testing and new test-at-home options that will become available in the fall and winter. Information about at-home testing with remote proctoring will be shared as it becomes available.
- ACT State Administration
 - October 6 and October 20 paper-based administration only for students who were juniors in 2019-2020 and were unable to test in March or June. The Department will cover the cost for one administration per student.

Waivers for Testing

- To date, the only students who have a waiver from the assessment graduation requirements are graduating seniors who were enrolled at the time of school closing and were in the February 1 enrollment report.
- The current waiver does not apply to students who were not enrolled in school or students who are not yet eligible to graduate.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on July 7 at 4:15 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 7 at 4:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

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Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Prior School Check Process Open

The Department is accepting prior school checks from School Tuition Organizations every two weeks. The next prior school check will be accepted Tuesday, June 30th. Verified prior school checks will be returned to STOs within a week. Please upload the [prior school template](#) to your FTP and email lindsey.rhodes@la.gov when uploaded.

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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 three School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Credit Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, 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	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	225-245-3610
Aspiring Scholars	New Orleans Archdiocese	https://aspiringscholarsla.org/	info@aspiringscholarsla.org	504-513-4140
Son of a Saint	Orleans	www.sonofasaint.org	hello@sonofasaint.org	504-561-7508

School Choice Program

New: School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities Applications Available for New

Students

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is now able to accept applications for new students to the School Choice Program (SCP) for the 2020-21 school year. Applications can be found [here](#) and will be accepted until **August 7th**.

Students should submit their paper application and supporting documentation to the school in advance of the August 7th deadline. Once schools have collected applications from all students who wish to apply, school contacts should upload the applications and supporting documentation to the FTP. Applications and supporting documentation should be uploaded as an individual PDF for each student saved as the student's name. The applications should be uploaded to the 2020-21 SCP folder in the FTP.

Schools will also be required to enter applicant information into [this spreadsheet](#). A completed spreadsheet that includes all new applicant information should be uploaded to the FTP along with scanned copies of paper applications and supporting documentation. This spreadsheet is also due on August 7th.

Only schools that previously submitted a Notice of Intent to Participate for the 2020-21 school year may submit applications for new awards.

Please reach out to nonpublicschools@la.gov with any questions.

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 completed form to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

All Nonpublics

New: 2020-2021 School Reopening Guidance

The Louisiana Department of Education released reopening [guidance](#) this week.

In concert with the Resilient Louisiana Commission, the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Department of Education will soon release additional [guidance](#) for opening school facilities to students in the 2020-2021 school year. School system leaders are invited to join a webinar on June 30. The webinar will provide an overview of the guidance and an opportunity for school systems to hear directly from health experts. All school systems should have a representative join the call. Webinar details are included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 30 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95306836682>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 95306836682
- **Password:** 0V9zz=

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

New: Town Hall Series for Schools

Please share with school system leaders, administrators, school nurses and teachers.

COVID-19 guidance experts from Children's Hospital New Orleans (CHNOLA), in partnership with the Department, will host an upcoming virtual town hall series. During this virtual series, guidance experts will:

- provide updates on the current state of COVID-19 pandemic across Louisiana, specifically in regard to children under ages 18;
- speak to frequently asked questions that will be collected in-between town halls through the [Children's Hospital New Orleans' website](#) in the [Return to School FAQ Entry Form](#);
- provide education/guidance training on targeted topics relevant to schools; and
- facilitate open Q&A.

Virtual series dates and topics are listed below.

Date and Time	Topics Addressed (additional to general overview & FAQ)
July 7 at 1 p.m.	Janitorial Tips
July 21 at 1 p.m.	Sports
August 4 at 1 p.m.	Teacher & Nurse Guidance Training
August 18 at 1 p.m.	TBD based on feedback gathered in late July

July virtual town hall series information is included below. August town hall series information will be communicated in the coming weeks.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 7 at 1 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/97487863417>
 - **Webinar Phone Number:** 929-205-6099
 - **Password:** 77202
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- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 21 at 1 p.m.
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95199319090>
 - **Webinar Phone Number:** 929-205-6099
 - **Password:** 7212020

Please contact school-wellness@LCMHealth.org with questions.

New: 2020-2021 School System Planning Calendar

The [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#) is now available and will be updated monthly. It details training sessions, virtual support, tools and resources and communication streams designed to support educators.

Please contact doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020 Instructional Material and PD Vendor Guide Updates

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, professional development coordinators, and purchasing directors.

The Strong Start 2020 plan includes [Instructional Materials Guidance](#) and [Professional Development Guidance](#), and the Department continues to work with publishers and vendors to update each guide as they build and refine their supports.

This week, the following entries have been **added**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
Children's Literacy Initiative, Blueprint for Early Learning	EL Education, EL Education Language Arts
	inquiryHub, Biology
	McGraw Hill, Illustrative Mathematics

This week, the following entries have been significantly **updated**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
EL Education, EL Education Language Arts	

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Intensive Algebra I School Guidance

To support school systems in strategic planning for the 2020-2021 school year, the Department has released [Intensive Algebra I Guidance for Schools](#), a research-based course designed to support students who persistently struggle in math with passing Algebra I in their first year of high school.

The document linked above includes information on all of the following:

- Course Overview
- Enrolling Students
- Scheduling Recommendations
- Selecting a Curriculum

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New: Science Distance Learning Support - OpenSciEd and Inquiry Hub

To support school systems, schools and teachers in ensuring continuous learning in science in the event of school closures, the Department will release guidance for implementing high-quality, open-source science curricula in a remote learning setting. Distance learning plans for OpenSciEd Grade 6-8 and Inquiry Hub (Biology) will be available on the following schedule:

Resource	Release Date
Sample Unit (OpenSciEd Grade 7 Weather)	July 1
Recorded Webinar: Overview of Distance Learning Units	July 15

Beginning of Year OpenSciEd Lessons for Grades 6, 7, 8 Inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1	August 1
Full OpenSciEd Unit for Grades 6, 7, 8 Inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1	August 15

The guidance documents will contain the following:

- Links to OpenSciEd remote learning resources
- Unit guidance
- Detailed lesson-by-lesson guidance, including activities and slides for virtual classes
- Printable lesson documents to send home with students as needed

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New: Science Professional Development

Inquiry Hub Biology

Registration for Inquiry Hub [virtual professional learning](#) sessions is now open. Biology educators should [register](#) to attend the trainings.

Date	Course	Location
July 13-17	Inquiry Hub Biology 101	Virtual
August 3-7	Inquiry Hub Biology 101	Virtual

Please contact inquiryhub@colorado.edu with questions.

Great Minds, PhD Science K-5

Registration for Great Minds virtual professional development on PhD Science, a Tier 1 curriculum for grades 3-5 is now open. Elementary school educators should [register](#) to attend the trainings.

Course and Grade Level	Dates
Launch PhD Science K-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 7, 14, 16 • August 4
Launch PhD Science 3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 14 • August 4
Focus on Instructional Techniques 3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 7 and 16 • August 4

Please contact phdscience@greatminds.org with questions.

New: Strong Start: July 2020 Math Lesson Broadcasting

The Department, in partnership with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), Great Minds, Illustrative Math (IM) and SchoolKit, is broadcasting Eureka (K-5) and Illustrative Math (6-Algebra I) lessons. These lessons are **airing on LPB from July 6 through July 31** on a regular daily schedule. They are also available on-demand at the [Great Minds](#) and [Illustrative Mathematics](#) websites.

To ensure accessibility for students with disabilities, live broadcasts have closed captioning and on-demand videos are available with closed captioning and audio description.

[The math broadcasting guidance document](#) contains information about purchasing student materials, watching LPB broadcasts, watching on-demand and lesson details.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New: Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities

Please share with CTE supervisors/coordinators, school system leaders and counselors.

The dynamic [2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities](#) guide has been updated to include additional Quest for Success, Emergency Medical Responder Initial, CPR Instructor and NCCER training opportunities. This training opportunities document will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed.

Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

funding sources for registration.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Education Excellence Funds Application

The system is currently open and school systems may begin submitting the 6/30 PERs. If the school system or agency received a payment from the 2019-2020 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) this year, please be advised of the following important dates:

- **June 30:** Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds
- **July 15:** Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs

Please note: final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the following year, so EEF recipients that do not submit a final PER by **July 15** may experience delays in accessing EEF funds for 2020-2021.

In order to report the PER as final, check the box for Final Expenditure on the first tab labeled Expenditure Obligation Summary. Otherwise the PER will have to be corrected and resubmitted.

For assistance in preparing the final 6/30 PER for EEF, see the Training section on the eGMS login page. Access the available resource, [Tips & Reminders: Preparing the Periodic Expense Report \(PER\)](#).

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Details Regarding P-EBT Card Distribution

Louisiana's online application for the [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\) program](#) closed on Monday afternoon. All families who successfully submitted an application, and therefore were approved, should receive their benefits by mail by the end of the month.

Benefits, which are pre-loaded onto a debit card, will arrive in a plain white envelope with a return address from Austin, TX. Instructions on how to activate the card will be included. Families who have trouble activating the card or who have not received a card by June 30th can call the [LAHelpU Customer Service Center](#) for assistance at 1-888-524-3578. The hours for the customer service center are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Families can also email LAHelpU.DCFS@la.gov to request a replacement for a missing card. If reaching out by e-mail, applicants should use the subject line "Replacement P-EBT card" and include their name as it appears on the P-EBT application, contact information, date of birth, and if available, the last four digits of their Social Security Number. If a replacement is requested, the original card will be deactivated, and the replacement card will take up to 10 business days to arrive by mail.

P-EBT benefits will be available for 365 days, and the cards may be used at [any store that accepts SNAP](#) to buy SNAP-eligible food items.

Reminder: FAFSA Assistance Available

Please share with school counselors and administrators.

Assistance is available for any student still needing to complete the FAFSA to assist with attending a postsecondary institution. Help is accessible via phone or by setting up a Zoom session.

Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2020-2021 Sponsor Site System (SPS)

Please share with data managers.

Sponsor Site requests for the 2020-2021 school year are still being accepted. This includes closure of existing schools/sites, changes to existing schools/sites, and the addition of new schools/sites. Submit requests via the [2020-2021 Sponsor Site Information Forms](#) by **June 28** (for school closures) and **July 15** (for new schools and changes to existing schools).

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Advanced Placement Exam Updates

Please share with Advanced Placement coordinators, high school counselors, and principals.

AP Exam final invoices will be generated through [AP Registration and Ordering](#). Schools will be emailed when the invoice is available. The postmark deadline for payment is June 26.

To ensure accurate score reporting for Spring 2020 AP Exams, confirm students have the **correct school code** listed on the student roster in [AP Registration and Ordering](#) and help them correct any mistakes. For more information, view a short video on [Student Rosters](#).

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: COVID-19 Guidance

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Please reference the Department's [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#) webpage for regularly updated guidance. Review the [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is specific to the concerns of school systems for the most up-to-date information. Child care providers should refer to the [Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions](#) for specific guidance. For education-specific information, contact the Department at LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov.

Please contact the Louisiana 211 Network with questions about coronavirus, or text the keyword LACOVID to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

Reminder: Every Child Counts - 2020 Census

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 national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#).

Self-responses, which can be completed [online](#), by phone, or by mail until October 31, **ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students**. The Department encourages school systems to explore the newly available [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.

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Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **June 23rd District Newsletter** or the **June 18th Nonpublic Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)
State Superintendent of Education
877.453.2721 (toll-free)
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

