



July 30 , 2020

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Message from Assistant Superintendent

Greetings!

I am humbled to serve in the role of Assistant Superintendent of Equity, Inclusion and Opportunities and thus, have the pleasure of working with and for our nonpublic school sector in Louisiana. While my professional experiences have not granted me the opportunity to serve in a role within a nonpublic, I have served in charter schools and have an understanding of the increased student outcomes that are possible through autonomy. I look forward to learning more about the nonpublic school sector from each of you, alongside ways the Louisiana Department of Education can better serve you.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and would love to visit your schools-even virtually as permitted!

Mrs. Lindsey Rhodes will continue to be the point of contact for your needs throughout the year. Additionally, if you have any questions that I can be assistance with, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to kelli.peterson@la.gov.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Peterson

Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublics	8/4/20	Attend CHNOLA Virtual Town Hall webinar	School leaders, teachers, nurses, and coaches
SCP	8/7/20	Submit SCP applications and application spreadsheet to FTP	School leaders or School Choice Contacts
Nonpublics	8/7/20	Attend Reopening Roundtable	Diocesan Superintendents

Reopening Roundtable: A Virtual Series for Superintendents

Superintendents are invited to participate in a Reopening Roundtable virtual series hosted by Dr. Brumley. This call will be held at 9 a.m. each Friday during the month of August beginning **Friday, August 7**. Every week a panel of superintendents and school leaders will share their experiences reopening and operating schools during the health crisis. Along with the panel discussion, each session will include a Q&A session. It's important that the Department is a support agency during these uncertain times, and this series will help facilitate discussions of best practices. Information needed to join this series is included below.

- Webinar Date and Time: Friday at 9 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97826043901>
- Webinar Password: 5v7Dwq
- Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799
- Meeting ID#: 978 2604 3901
- Dial-in Password: 556910

Please enter your full name and school system name when logging in.

Reminder: Distance Learning Requirements for Nonpublic Schools

In light of COVID19, many schools are opting to offer instruction via virtual distance learning. Please see section 2523 of [Bulletin 741 Nonpublic](#) in regards to distance learning. Instructional minutes still apply; however, minutes may be met via an online platform. In this case, schools should check attendance daily, such as an online sessions log which shows when students have logged in. Funding will not be affected for schools that enact distance learning as long as instructional minutes are met. Schools will be required to maintain accurate daily attendance tracking and produce attendance records to the LDOE upon request in order to receive payment.

Please reach out to ldoecovid19support@la.gov with any questions.

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

High School Assessment Student Reports in DRC INSIGHT

- Student reports for the LEAP 2025 high school assessments administered in July will be available in DRC INSIGHT no later than July 31.

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 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.
 - Currently, ACT does not offer remote administrations for any scheduled testing dates.
 - The [Schedule of Events](#) for the October ACT administration is posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site.
 - The [Schedule of Events](#) for the 2020-2021 WorkKeys administration is posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site.
 - On August 3, [PearsonAccess^{next}](#) (PANext) opens to manage participation and verify secure district shipping addresses for both the ACT October administration and the 2020-2021 WorkKeys assessments.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **August 4 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for Office Hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 4 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Password:** 2020202!

Reminder: For School and District Testing Coordinators

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- **Password:** 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 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

Reminder: 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 Award Amounts for 2020 Determined

The School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities award amount is equal to 50% of MFP for the parish in which the student resides. MFP amounts per parish as well as award amounts can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

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: U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program

Due to the many uncertainties posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP)-Washington Week 2021-is currently on hold. Applications nationwide are not being accepted at this time. The Department will post USSYP updates in upcoming newsletters and [on the website](#) when available.

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

New: AT&T Teacher Appreciation Discount

AT&T has [expanded its appreciation offer](#) to now include teachers and their families. Both new and existing AT&T customers that are kindergarten through post-secondary teachers, professors, instructors and their families can [take advantage of this appreciation offer](#), which provides up to 25 percent savings on AT&T's best wireless plans. Interested teachers are encouraged to [complete AT&T's self-assessment](#) to determine eligibility.

Please contact: edtech@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.

New or updated information will be highlighted in yellow within the document.

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

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
Curriculum Associates, Ready Louisiana Math, K-8	

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: World Languages Strong Start Guidance

Please share with World Language Supervisors and teachers.

The Department recently published the [Louisiana World Languages Resources Guidance](#) and the [World Languages Blended and Asynchronous Learning Guidance](#) to help teachers and school systems prepare for the upcoming school year. This guidance contains information on World Languages best practices and tools for teachers as well as alternative scheduling suggestions for schools with immersion.

For school systems that host International Associate Teachers (IATs), the Department published [Strong Start 2020 for International Associate Teachers](#). This guidance includes tips for welcoming and onboarding new IATs as well as the new [International Associate Teacher Exchange Planning Document](#).

Please contact languageacquisition@la.gov with questions.

New: NCCER Module Assessments and Performance Profile Evaluations

Please share with school system secondary supervisors and career and technical education supervisors/coordinators, school leadership and professional school counselors.

NCCER [remote proctoring](#) will continue to be available through December 31 should circumstances prevent classes from meeting in person at accredited training and education facilities. If using the online testing system for written assessments, craft instructors are reminded to continue to submit performance profiles through the registry by creating a registration of training modules using actual dates for the performance profile evaluations. To access the [online testing system](#), contact the sponsor representative,

martha.moore@la.gov.

Please contact martha.moore@la.gov with questions.

New: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded Louisiana \$597,050, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94), to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety and expand access to school meals in the NSLP and School Breakfast Program. Priority will be given to schools where the greatest percentage of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Reference the [2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants](#) document for additional grant-related information. Online applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs website](#) on October 1. A School Food Service (SFS) Memo will be forthcoming to inform SFAs of dates for the open application period.

Please contact helen.folks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Strong Start 2020 Reopening Operations and Resources Office Hours

Please share with school system supervisors, administrators and counselors.

Strong Start School Reopening Office Hours will occur each Thursday at 3 p.m. and will run through September 3rd. The same zoom link will be utilized each week. Details are included below.

- Webinar Date and Time: Thursdays at 3 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91419461028>
- Webinar Phone Number 301-715-8592
- Meeting ID#: 914 1946 1028
- Meeting Password: 408891

Please contact LDOECOV19support@la.gov.

Reminder: Implementing Strong Start 2020: A Toolkit for Teaching and Learning for Schools

Since implementation of most of the [Strong Start priorities](#) happens at the school level, the [Implementing Strong Start 2020: A Toolkit for Teaching and Learning for Schools](#) is now available and will support school leaders and teachers. It is structured around teaching and learning priorities and includes:

- **School Actions:** The high-level actions that principals and teachers take to implement the priority
- **Resources:** One document that includes samples, models and plans for implementing each priority

The [presentation](#) and [recording](#) of the webinar are posted in the [Strong Start Library](#).

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Jump Start Fact Sheet Update

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

The Department released the first set of newly redesigned [Industry-Based Certification Fact Sheets](#). The redesigned fact sheets appear in the file box labeled **updated fact sheets**.

The fact sheets have been improved or have the following additions:

- Industry-based certification (IBC) STS code and an example of each IBC
- Certification resources to prepare for the exam
- System requirements for computer-based testing
- Direct links to accommodations and language access information (when available)
- Information on costs (when available)

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Distance Learning Requirements for Nonpublic Schools

In light of COVID19, many schools are opting to offer instruction via virtual distance learning. Please see section 2523 of [Bulletin 741 Nonpublic](#) in regards to distance learning. Instructional minutes still apply; however, minutes may be met via an online platform. In this case, schools should check attendance daily, such as an online sessions log which shows when students have logged in.

Please reach out to ldoecovid19support@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Virtual 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.

Scheduled topics for the remaining town hall meetings and details needed to join are listed below.

Tips for Teachers, Nurses and Coaches

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 4 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/99297529593>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Webinar ID#:** 992 9752 9593
- **Webinar Password:** 842020

Tips for School Support Staff

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 18 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95976608543>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Webinar ID#:** 959 7660 8543
- **Webinar Password:** 8182020

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

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **July 28th District Newsletter** or the **July 23rd 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](#)

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