

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**February 18, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

The high school diploma is the benchmark achievement in our school system. The diploma signifies readiness for the world after high school. It reflects a body of work and accomplishment, from the early grades through the later grades. It demarcates the line between adolescence and adulthood.

Perhaps the greatest educational shift in America over the last half-century is from a country of people who only occasionally finished high school to a country in which the minimum expectation is to complete high school. This change has been particularly profound in rural communities, for people of color, for immigrants, and, increasingly, for people with disabilities. Our own state has reached record-high graduation rates in recent years, largely thanks to higher levels of attainment among historically disadvantaged student populations.

In order for the diploma to continue embodying an educational standard, it must be backed by stringent sources of validation. It must also evolve, remaining current, even as society and the economy change. Today's diploma must remain relevant to employers and colleges, just as it must maintain its integrity.

To ensure the diploma's relevance and its validity, the Department will present the Superintendent Advisory Council this week with three adjustments to the requirements for earning and processing diplomas.

The first regards oft-used credit recovery programs. Under a proposed change in rules, credit recovery programs will generate a maximum of two credits per year toward a diploma beginning in 2020-2021, unless the student is given a waiver. This will encourage a measured approach to credit recovery, making the tool available while discouraging its use to skirt the requirement that students pass core courses.

The second regards the timing of awarding diplomas. Under a rule change, students will only be granted diplomas upon all courses having been placed on the student's transcript. This practice will discourage attempts to place grades on transcripts after students have already been awarded a diploma.

Finally, as has been much discussed and [recently shared at the Jump Start Convention](#), Jump Start 2.0 will streamline the pathways available to students, taking what was more than 40 career pathways and condensing to 11. While the [Jump Start 2.0 pathways](#), and the related list of [proposed universal Jump Start courses](#), will be available for use in the 2020-2021 school year, only for students entering high school as freshmen in 2021-2022 will they be graduation requirements. This means that the first cohort of students technically required to adhere to Jump Start 2.0 pathways will be the graduating class of 2025.

While these changes may appear to the public as regulatory minutia, they each contribute to a more stringent and relevant high school diploma in Louisiana, one that is valid in the workplace and in colleges across the country. I look forward to discussing them with you later this week.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

## In This Issue

- [School System Support](#)
- [Assessment & Accountability](#)
- [High School Pathways](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Safe and Healthy Schools](#)

## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [Medicaid Eligibility Verification Program Training](#): February 20 at 11:00 a.m.
- **No School System Newsletter**: February 25
- [Leadership Learning Series at TL Summit Webinar](#): March 3 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): March 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Leadership Learning Series at TL Summit Webinar](#): March 3 at 3:00 p.m.
- [March School System Planning Call](#): March 4 at 1:00 p.m.
- [March SPED Leader Webinar](#): March 5 at 2:00 p.m.

### Important Deadlines

- [IDEA Funding Priorities Survey](#) deadline: February 21
- [2019–2020 High Cost Service Round 2 Application](#) deadline: February 25
- [Reevaluation Pilot Partner Interest Application](#) deadline: February 27
- [GOLD Winter Checkpoint](#) deadline: February 28
- [SCA Final Dual Enrollment Reporting](#) deadline: March 1
- [2019-2020 Graduate Diploma Order](#) deadline: March 6
- Deadline to address clarifying questions in Super App within [eGMS](#): March 6

## School System Support

### **New: Every Child Counts – 2020 Census**

**Census Day is observed nationwide on April 1.** By this date, every home will receive 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.

Completion of the census 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. Each activity also teaches students about the importance of a complete count in the 2020 Census.

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

## **New: March School System Planning Call**

The March School System Planning Call will take place on **March 4 at 1:00 p.m.** The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Curriculum and instruction supervisors
  - District test coordinators and accountability contacts
  - Early childhood supervisors
  - English Learner supervisors
  - Federal program supervisors
  - High school and career and technical supervisors
  - Personnel directors
  - Talent (Mentors, Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders) supervisors
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- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 4 at 1:00 p.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
  - **Meeting ID#:** 398 875 849

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

## **New: Whitelisting Summit App Provider**

The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 27–29 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. [Registration](#) is now open. The Department will release a full session list publicly on April 8. Participants will be required to pre-select their sessions in the Summit Sched app prior to attending the event. This is the same process as last year.

In order for Summit participants who have completed the Eventbrite registration process to receive an invitation to schedule their sessions on April 8, immediate steps are required by each school system.

### **School systems should immediately:**

- require participants to register for the event using their official school-provided email address,
- work with their IT providers to whitelist “[@sched.com](https://www.sched.com),” and
- work with their IT providers to whitelist all communications for the IP address [198.2.136.100](#).

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

## **Reminder: School System Planning**

100 percent of school systems submitted their Super App, and the process for reviewing Super Apps for approval and funding has begun. School systems will receive a letter with clarifying questions later this month to be addressed within [eGMS](#) by **March 6**. In early March, school systems will also receive feedback on their Professional Development Plan from their network coach.

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

## **Reminder: Leadership Learning Series at TL Summit Webinar**

School leadership teams play an important role in ensuring teachers plan for and deliver instruction in a way that meets the needs of their students. The Department launched the [School Support Institutes \(SSI\)](#) during the 2019-2020 school year to support school leaders in this role and will continue this learning at the Leadership Learning Series that will take place at the Teacher Leader Summit.

On March 3, the Department will host two webinars to provide additional information on the Leadership Learning series and the registration process. School system leaders and principals of CIR/UIR-A schools should plan to join one of the two identical webinars.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 3 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/137786065>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 137 786 065
  
- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 3 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/137786065>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 137 786 065

Please email all questions related to the Leadership Learning Series and School Support Institutes to [delaina.larocque@la.gov](mailto:delaina.larocque@la.gov).

## **Assessment and Accountability**

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

#### **Updated Growth to Mastery Student-Level Rosters**

- The growth to mastery student-level rosters have been updated to route students to the site code reported for them during the October 1 SIS collection. Updated rosters are available on the secure FTP.

#### **Important: ELPT**

- The ELPT testing window is now—March 13. **All** students who are identified as English Learners in SIS must test and be included in accountability calculations in 2020.
- The additional materials window is now open. Reminder: There is no K-1 writing supplement used in ELPT this year.
- Please review the [ELPT Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) as plans are made for students with accommodations.
- Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) with questions.

#### **English III EOC School System Administration Materials**

- An English III test materials folder is available on the secure FTP, which includes all materials needed to administer and score English III assessments provided three times yearly through a process determined by the school system. Included in the folder are manuals that include specific directions.
- Requests for braille forms of the test are provided as needed by the Department and should be addressed to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) with questions.

### **LEAP Connect**

- The LEAP Connect testing window is now–March 13. All students who are eligible to take alternate assessments should now be identified with documentation in SER.

### **ACT and WorkKeys**

- Recordings of the ACT Test Administration Q&As [1](#) and [2](#) can be accessed using the links provided.

### **Birth to Pre-K**

February 28: Deadline to submit finalized GOLD winter checkpoints.

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

**There will be no office hours on February 25.** The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **March 3 at 1:00 p.m.** Immediately following Office Hours, there will be a webinar regarding the use of ELPT in accountability calculations. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

### **Reminder: Permission to Test in Alternate Environments**

District Test Coordinators should submit the [Permission to Test in Alternate Environment](#) form for groups of students larger than 40, for students testing outside of their regular educational setting, and for students testing off-campus. The form should be submitted to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) 30 days prior to testing.

### **Reminder: LEAP 360 – EAGLE Items**

EAGLE items will continue to be available to teachers in the online platform for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. To support the use of the EAGLE system as an instructional resource, the platform is being phased out and all items from the EAGLE system will be exported and made available on the [Department's website](#) no later than **July 1**. A subset of the item bank is [available now](#), and additional grades will be posted as available.

These items may be used by Louisiana educators for educational purposes. To access items, a password key will be required to open the file. Please [share these instructions](#) with all educators.

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

## **High School Pathways**

### **New: 2019-2020 Graduate Diploma Orders**

**Please share with principals, professional school counselors, and data coordinators.**

The deadline to order 2019-2020 diplomas and seals is **March 6**. Please use the new [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for the 2019-2020 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the [Diploma Order Form](#). Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

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

## **New: SCA Final Dual Enrollment Reporting**

**Please share with professional school counselors.**

**Reporting for SCA/Course Choice dual enrollment courses ends on March 1 at 12:00 p.m.** Schools should log into the [SCA/Course Choice Reporting System](#) to ensure all dual enrollment registrations with colleges and universities are accurate. Any SCA funds not allocated will be reallocated to other school systems.

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

## **New: 2020 Super Summer Institute – Save the Dates**

**Please share with CTE supervisors, professional school counselors, CTE teachers.**

Super Summer Institute (SSI) will be offered regionally across the state to secondary and post-secondary educators. SSI provides educators the opportunity to attend training sessions with many offering the opportunity to earn statewide industry-based certifications aligned to Jump Start pathways.

**Registration will open in Eventbrite on March 3 and will close on May 11.** Registration for National Emergency Services Academy (NEMSA) only will end on April 17. Registration costs must be paid through Eventbrite at the time of registration by credit card only. Lunch will be provided for educators attending SSI.

School systems are responsible for all travel expenses, textbooks, and the registration fee of \$250 per session. **School systems may use their Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2019-2020 Carl Perkins Funds to pay the fee.**

Information regarding locations, dates, and trainings currently scheduled are listed below.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Trainings</b>
Lafourche	June 1–5	Quest for Success, Cyber Society, New Instructor Workshop (CTTIE), Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA), FAA Drone Part 107, Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) (specific modules TBD)
Winn	June 8–12	Quest for Success, Cyber Society, Adobe Visual Design Specialist, CompTIA IT Fundamentals, FAA Drone Part 107
Calcasieu	June 15–19	Quest for Success, Cyber Society, CompTIA IT Fundamentals, CIW Web Foundations Series, AutoDesk Inventor
Bossier	July 13–16 (10/hr day)	Quest for Success, Cyber Society, CompTIA A+, CIW Web Foundations Series, FAA Drone Part 107
Livingston	July 13–17	Quest for Success, Cyber Society, Adobe Visual Design Specialist, CompTIA IT Fundamentals, Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)
NEMSA	May 4–July 17	EMR Refresher, BLS Provider, BLS Instructor, EMR Initial Skills
Operation Spark	TBD	Fundamentals of JavaScript, Functional Programming and Web Development

Additional training opportunities for Universal courses are being developed. Please visit the [Jump Start Training Calendar](#) to learn about additional training opportunities related to NCCER, ESRI Industry-Based Certification, and other CTE related topics.

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

**New: 2020 Spring Counselor Institutes**  
**Please share with professional school counselors.**

[Registration](#) for the Department's Spring Counselor Institutes is now open. Topics to be discussed include school counseling resources, middle and high school updates, and Jump Start 2.0.

Please click on the date in the chart below to register for the Spring Counselor Institutes. **All events are from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.** Please email the network point of contact (POC) for registration support and with questions about locations.

Network **South** POC: [jamie.blanchard@la.gov](mailto:jamie.blanchard@la.gov)

Date	Location
<a href="#">March 31</a>	Acadia Parish Education Center 2402 N. Parkerson Avenue Crowley, LA 70526
<a href="#">April 1</a>	St. Charles Professional Learning Center 12727 US-90 Luling, LA 70070
<a href="#">April 2</a>	Tangipahoa Parish School Board Office 59656 Puleston Road Amite, LA 70422

Network **North** POC: [emily.bradley@la.gov](mailto:emily.bradley@la.gov)

Date	Location
<a href="#">April 7</a>	Bossier Parish School for Technology and Innovative Learning 1020 Innovation Drive Bossier City, LA 71111
<a href="#">April 8</a>	Ouachita Parish School Board 1600 North 7th Street West Monroe, LA 71291
<a href="#">April 9</a>	St. Landry Parish School Board 1013 E Creswell Lane Opelousas, LA 70571

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

## Special Education

### **New: Reevaluation Pilot Partner Interest Application**

The Department is conducting a Reevaluation Pilot and is currently seeking partnerships with school systems across Louisiana to engage in this work. Pilot partners will collaborate to implement, revise, and finalize potential reevaluation process enhancements in the Special Education Reporting (SER) System.

Any school systems interested in participating in the Reevaluation Pilot should complete the partnership [application](#) by **February 27**.

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

### **New: March SPED Leader Webinar**

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on **March 5 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 5 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/836904974>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 836 904 974

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

### **Reminder: IDEA Funding Priorities**

Each year, the Department submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the Department is seeking feedback from members of the special education community on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. **Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete this [survey](#) by February 21.**

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

## Data

### **Reminder: Medicaid Eligibility Verification Program**

Beginning in March, the process by which school systems receive student Medicaid eligibility information for Medicaid billing will change. Training on the new Medicaid Eligibility Verification Program will be held **this Thursday, February 20** from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 20 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/638675138>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 638 675 138

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

### **Reminder: File Available via FTP – January Quarterly Home Study Reports**

The Quarterly Home Study Reports for January 2020 are available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named “LEACode\_LEAName\_January2020HomeStudy” and will remain on the FTP until April 30. Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- Detailed list of students within the specific school system enrolled in Home Study program
- Each student’s home study approval notification letter

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

## Finance

### **New: Instructional Material for Agriculture Courses Additional Guidance**

The Department is providing additional guidance related to the Agricultural Science [allocation](#) that was recently released to school systems. Please refer to the attached [FAQ](#) to answer some of the commonly posed questions.

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

### **New: FY2019-2020 Final MFP - Career Development Fund (CDF) Payments**

Final MFP - CDF payments for FY 2019-2020 will be released by the Department on **February 27**. Funds should appear in school systems’ and schools’ bank accounts within one to three business days depending on the banking institution with which a school system or school conducts business. Additional details regarding these payments are available for reference in the [MFP Library](#).

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

## Safe and Healthy Schools

### **New: Annual Vaccination Assessment**

In accordance with [RS 17:170](#), chief administrators of schools are responsible for electronically reporting student immunization or exemption information to the Office of Public Health (OPH). School immunization requirements help safeguard children and adolescents by making sure they are protected when they get to school, where the potential for vaccine-preventable disease transmission is higher. School vaccination assessments identify pockets of under-vaccinated Students.

The [Annual Vaccination Assessment Memo](#) and ranked parish reports for both [kindergarten](#) and [grade 6](#) for school year 2019-2020 are now available. Please note: These reports reflect parish-level results for the percentage of complete records and, for the first year, exemption data is available for [kindergarten](#) and [grade 6](#).

Maps depicting these results are on the [LDH Immunization](#) webpage under “Data & Charts.” In collaboration with Public Health Informatics, the Immunization Program anticipates being able to share data to the school-level within the next month.

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

### **Reminder: School System Health Leads**

The Healthy Communities Section has been working with select school systems to implement the Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community (WSCC) model. This framework is designed to improve students' health and academic achievement through improving statewide school health infrastructure and to increase professional development/technical assistance opportunities that support best practices in nutrition, physical activity, and the management of chronic conditions in school settings.

To expand this work statewide, the Healthy Communities Section is working to establish a directory of School System Health Leads, or a point of contact in each school system, who is responsible for implementing strategies to improve student health in schools. The Department is seeking individuals at the system level that supervise physical education, health, nutrition, wellness, or related areas.

Please email the name of the appointed person, title, and contact information to [stephen.guccione@la.gov](mailto:stephen.guccione@la.gov).

### **Reminder: Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards Program Now Accepting Applications**

The Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Awards Program is now accepting [applications](#) through April 9. Reference the [OSSE Awards Program](#) document to learn more.

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

## **Reminder: School Emergency Management Workshops**

The Department and LSU NCBRT/ACE have partnered with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to host the following school emergency management workshops. These courses build on the concepts outlined in the [Developing and Enhancing School Emergency Operations Plans](#) workshop. Attendees are encouraged, but not required, to take this workshop before registering for the following classes. All workshops are available to Louisiana school and school system crisis teams at no cost through the Grants to States for School Emergency Management (GSEM) Program. Register for a scheduled workshop at the links below, or contact [schoolsafety@ncbrt.lsu.edu](mailto:schoolsafety@ncbrt.lsu.edu) to schedule a workshop.

<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Data and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<a href="#">Risk Assessments for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile</a>	March 19 from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806
<a href="#">Emergency Operations Functional Planning</a>	March 19 from 12:30–4:30 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806
<a href="#">Integrating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in K-12 Schools</a>	March 20 from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806
<a href="#">Introduction and Application of Exercise Planning for Schools</a>	March 20 from 12:30–4:30 p.m.	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness 7667 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Please contact [rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu](mailto:rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu) with questions.