

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



March 10, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Today's was a particularly consequential set of BESE committee meetings.

A board committee endorsed the legally codified process for appointing an acting state superintendent in my absence. I'm thus pleased to report that deputy superintendent Beth Scioneaux will serve as acting state superintendent during the period in which there is not an appointed state superintendent in office. Beth has served our state and its schools capably for many years, and the Department will be in trusted hands during the period in which she serves in this acting role.

Next, another committee approved 11 [Jump Start 2.0 pathways](#), along with a waiver process for facilitating changes late in students' progressions. As a condition of approving the pathways, the board commissioned a panel that includes CTE directors to bring back to BESE further adjustments to Jump Start 2.0, including further universal courses. I look forward to the panel's work on this issue and to the implementation of Jump Start 2.0.

Finally, a board committee approved an MFP formula in line with recommendations made by the MFP Task Force. The approved formula would provide, if passed by the Legislature, an increase of 2.75 percent in the formula's base per pupil calculation. It would further provide that those currently paying certificated educators at a rate below the Southern regional average rate must dedicate 50 percent of the additional resources to a pay increase for these staff. The formula now heads to the Legislature, which may approve the formula or return it to the board for changes.

I'll close by thanking you for reading these weekly letters. I've written more than 400 of them over the years, providing a chance to summarize events, to elevate issues of importance, and, on occasion, to reflect on matters of particular gravity. I will miss writing them, as I will miss our work together. My best to you, your families, and your communities, now and in years hence.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): March 17 at 1:00 p.m.
- [District Support for Mentor Certification Webinar](#): March 17 at 4:00 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [SPED Fellow Mentor-Coach Interest Survey](#) deadline: March 13
- [Jump Start Construction Scholars Program Application](#) deadline: March 13
- [Louisiana Fit Kids Photo Contest Submission](#) deadline: March 30

School System Support

New: Covid-19 Guidance

On Monday, March 9, the Governor announced that the Louisiana Department of Health reported [the state's first presumptive positive case of COVID-19](#), commonly referred to as coronavirus, in Jefferson Parish. Earlier today, the Governor announced [two new presumptive positive cases](#), bringing the total presumptive positive cases in the state to three. At this time, all three cases are in the New Orleans area. The Governor's [COVID-19 Task Force](#) continues to convene to discuss further planning efforts in response to this development.

As school systems further prepare responses to COVID-19, **please adhere to existing policies that forbid the exclusion of any student for any reason**, including on the basis of immigration status. Such actions do not further efforts toward managing the challenges related to COVID-19. Rather, such actions are counter to the shared purpose of providing a safe and inclusive educational environment for all children and students. The Department appreciates the continued efforts to support staff and students. For more information, please refer to the Office for Civil Rights [letter to education leaders on preventing and addressing potential discrimination associated with COVID-19](#), from the U.S. Department of Education.

For information regarding the coronavirus itself, reference the [Louisiana Department of Health](#) website, which has regularly updated information about the disease, prevention, and any occurrences in Louisiana.

The Department has created a brief [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is specific to the concerns of school systems and that will be regularly updated as the coronavirus impact becomes better known. Child care providers should refer to the [Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions](#) for specific guidance.

Please contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health at 1-855-523-2652 from 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with questions.

New: School System Planning

Super App: School systems will begin receiving feedback on their Professional Development Plan from their network coach. School systems will upload their updated Professional Development Plans in [eGMS](#) in June.

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

New: Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice

Each year, the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Advisory Board hosts a conference that delivers information regarding the current state of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention in Louisiana. National and state experts will once again present powerful and timely messages about the current state of the system and offering innovative solutions to problems facing our juvenile justice professionals.

The [40th Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice](#) will be held in Baton Rouge on April 7-9. [Registration](#) is \$75.

Please contact gc_dana@earthlink.net with questions.

New: Teacher Leader Advisors Application Coming Soon

The Louisiana Department of Education is searching for highly-motivated educators to support the mission and vision of the Department. Educators do not need to be a school-site Teacher Leader in order to apply. Louisiana's [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) are an exceptionally talented group of educators across Louisiana who play an influential role in raising expectations for students and in ensuring that fellow educators across the state have access to high-quality instructional materials and resources, and curriculum-aligned professional development. Teacher Leader Advisors participate in the Department's [Instructional Materials Review](#) process, create tools for the [Teacher Support Toolbox](#), and develop and lead both virtual and in-person professional development for educators across Louisiana. Application links will be available in the [TLA Flyer](#) on April 11. Additional information will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020)

The first round of new Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12 (2020) will soon be available on Louisiana's open source digital platform.

Please see the updated [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9–12 \(2020\) Overview](#) for the most up-to-date information related to:

- text access and purchasing,
- Teacher Leader Summit, and
- professional development opportunities.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: School Support Institutes

To support school-based leadership teams from CIR and UIR-A schools 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 (SSIs) in the fall of 2019. Year one of SSIs concluded in February. All resources from Days 1, 2, and 3 of the SSIs are posted in the [School Improvement Library](#), including a recap of all pathways and next steps for school systems.

To continue supporting schools implement their improvement plans, the Department will resume the SSIs at the Teacher Leader Summit in May. Attendees will dive deeply into the creation of a Leadership Action Plan by attending one of the following pathways: Building Leadership, Effective Common Planning, and Observation & Feedback.

Please contact delaina.larocque@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Leadership Learning Series Webinars

Earlier today, the Department hosted a webinar announcing the Leadership Learning Series as part of the Teacher Leader Summit and shared plans for year two of the School Support Institutes (SSIs).

The Leadership Learning Series is a series of sessions at the Teacher Leader Summit that will equip school leaders and their leadership teams of CIR and UIR-A schools to develop strong school-based academic plans. Principals of CIR/UIR-A schools should now be [registering](#) their three-person leadership team to attend the Teacher Leader Summit and [registering](#) their team for the Leadership Learning series. Both registrations are separate and required. The registration for the Leadership Learning series should be completed only once by the principal.

The webinar deck is posted in the [School Improvement Library](#).

Please contact delaina.larocque@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Please contact doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Update: ACT Match/No Match Rosters

- The March updated ACT Match/No Match Rosters are now available on the secure FTP.
 - The updated ACT Match list should be used to identify students who have an ACT score on file with the Department and can only be retested at the expense of the school system.
 - The updated ACT No Match list includes the names of students who do not have an ACT score on file and who will need to either test or have an accountability code applied to excuse them from testing (including students who took LEAP Connect).

LEAP Testing Schedules

- All school systems must submit online testing schedules to assessment@la.gov by the deadlines provided below.
 - March 13: LEAP 2025 Grades 3-8
 - March 27: LEAP 2025 High School

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

- Data certification for the 2018-2019 graduation cohort will open through Louisiana Data Review the week of March 16. All accountability contacts will receive an individual email with login credentials and resources. There will be a webinar immediately following the March 10 monthly call to review cohort graduation policy and to provide directions for using the online data certification system.

ELPT

- The ELPT testing window closes on March 13. **All** students who are identified as English Learners in SIS must test and be included in accountability calculations in 2020.
- Please review the [ELPT Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) as plans are made for students with accommodations.
- Requests for braille forms of the test are provided as needed by the Department and should be addressed to assessment@la.gov.
- Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect

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

ACT and WorkKeys

- Standard time paper administration: March 17
- FedEx pre-scheduled pickup for ACT test booklets, answer documents and test administration forms from standard time administration. For alternate pickup, school systems should [contact ACT](#). Answer documents will not be scored if received by ACT after March 24.
- Online Administration: March 17-26
- Recordings of the ACT Test Administration Q&As [1](#) and [2](#) can be accessed using the links provided.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **March 17 at 1:00 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 17 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

High School Pathways

Reminder: Jump Start Super Summer Institute

Please share with administrators and CTE supervisors.

Registration for Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) is open and will close on May 11. Please reference the available [2020 Jump Start Summer Institutes](#) document for a list of host sites, sessions offered, and registration links. The Department is pleased to announce a new session added to the Bossier host site July 13–16: Adobe Certified Associate Visual Design Specialist.

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.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Jump Start Construction Scholars Program

Please share with counselors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF) [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program](#) is now accepting applications for a \$1,000 scholarship. **The deadline to submit applications is March 13.** The scholarship is geared toward students who have earned the Jump Start Diploma, earned a National Center for Construction Education and Research credential, and enrolled in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

This is the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates. This effort is a collaboration of the Louisiana Construction Education Foundation, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the Louisiana Department of Education.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

New: Mentor Certification Support for School Systems

The Department is holding a webinar on **March 17 at 4:00 p.m.** to share best practices that school systems are using to support Mentor candidates working toward certification. The webinar will be led by Talent Pipeline Lead Rebecca Freeland, of Richland Parish who serves as one of the part-time Talent Coaches with the Department. Information to join the webinar is detailed below.

District Support for Mentor Certification Webinar

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 17 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/207180196>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 207 180 196

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: Special Education Parent Involvement Surveys

Each year, the Department samples a group of school systems to participate in a parent survey, as required by the IDEA. The parent survey measures how school systems engage parents to improve services and results for students with disabilities.

The Department notified school systems included in the 2019-2020 school year parent survey via email. School systems will receive survey packages next week and should plan to distribute surveys to parents using their preferred method. School systems should also encourage parents to complete the survey to ensure good representation of parent responses across the state.

Please contact ashley.augustine@la.gov with questions.

New: Teacher Leader Pupil Appraisal Sessions

The Department will host an **expanded selection of sessions for special education professionals** at the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit, including a full-day session for pupil appraisal staff focusing on special education evaluations.

Special education evaluation sessions are scheduled for May 28 and include:

- Connecting Evaluation Recommendations to High-Quality Instruction
- Assessment Administration for Students with Significant Limitations
- Evaluating English Learners for Special Education and Related Services
- Implementation and Oversight of Alternate Assessment Eligibility
- Evaluating Assistive Technology Needs

The full session schedule will be released in early April. Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: SPED Fellow Mentor-Coach Interest Survey

The Department is recruiting mentor-coaches to support participants in Louisiana's Special Education Leader Fellowship. The Special Education Leader Fellowship is a year-long, comprehensive development program for novice special education leaders across the state. Mentor-coaches will build a strong relationship with their Fellows, provide expert guidance and feedback on the Fellows' executive learning project, deliver resources and coaching to Fellows based on their development, and facilitate self-reflection and growth.

Mentor-coaches should have extensive special education experience leading a school system's special education program (ex: director, supervisor) and should be able to demonstrate strong interpersonal relationship-building skills, a track record of effective leadership, an understanding of Louisiana's academic strategy, and a strong willingness to support the Fellowship. Mentor-coaches must commit to supporting the Fellowship from May 2020 to June 2021 and will receive a stipend to support their contributions to the Special Education Leader Fellowship.

Interested mentor-coaches should complete the [interest survey](#) by **this Friday, March 13**. Phone interviews will take place in the following weeks.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Data

Reminder: 2019-2020 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM

Please share with principals and teachers.

The [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analyses. The data in CVR will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, math, science, social studies (grades 4-8), and Algebra, Geometry, English I and English II courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores.

March 3–March 27: CVR Open for View-only

- Users can view and check the roster data for accuracy and make changes in the source system (SIS, CUR, PEP). The CVR Help Desk will be able to assist with any issues that a school system must correct in the source data systems.

May 4–22 (3 weeks): CVR Open for Roster Verification

- This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school level in the system.

An updated user guide for CVR is [now available](#).

Please contact ldoecvr@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

Reminder: FY19-20 High Cost Service Round 1 Allocations

Allocations for Round 1 of the High Cost Services grant have been loaded in [eGMS](#). School systems that have been approved through the application process must now create a budget by creating an amendment in the High Cost Services Round 1 application in eGMS. Amendment 1 must be created in order to budget for all students for whom an allocation was received.

Reminder: Only budget for those students, items, and services that have been deemed eligible and allowable.

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

Program Monitoring

Reminder: Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2019-2020SY (Third Quarter)

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department has released the [consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2019-2020 school year](#). This schedule remains tentative as the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

Quarterly updates will follow this newsletter announcement. Additionally, the assigned Program Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to Superintendents and Federal Program Directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule. The [third quarter monitoring schedule](#) is also available.

Please contact tasha.anthony@la.gov with questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). For questions related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), please contact iris.jones@la.gov.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: Louisiana Fit Kids Photo Contest

Louisiana Fit Kids is hosting the “Eat Right, Bite by Bite” photo contest to celebrate National Nutrition Month. Schools are invited to submit photos that showcase Louisiana school meals programs in their school system. The deadline to submit photos is **March 30**. Submission details and additional information can be found on the [Louisiana Fit Kids](#) website.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov with questions.