

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



November 17, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

There's an analogy I frequently use when speaking about the challenge of educating students during the pandemic. I see this school year as a cross-country flight. There will be times we reroute. We may even make a few stops. In the end, we'll complete this together.

COVID-19 cases have risen across our nation and — to a lesser extent thus far — in Louisiana. Based on recent reports and conversations with medical experts, schools have not been “super-spreaders” of the virus. Our efforts to mitigate the virus have been solid. As cases rise in our community, though, it's only natural for those numbers to increase among students and staff.

Schools are able to quickly act now due to planning that took place before the school year began. Our Strong Start guidance was structured on the three phases. School systems detailed what operations would look like in environments that were more or less restrictive. We also prepared for transitions that could occur during the school year as the presence of the virus changed.

The vast majority of our students remain in the hybrid or traditional setting. School systems are making decisions that best serve their local community. Continue to follow your school reopening plans and work closely with local health experts.

This is the last newsletter until the week after Thanksgiving. Words alone do not begin to express how thankful I am for each and every one of you. I'm thankful for our educators who stand in the gaps for our students, thankful for our leaders who give their all to our mission, and thankful to serve during this pivotal time for education.

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving,

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	November 19 at 1 p.m.
Super App Office Hours	November 20 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	December 1 at 3:45 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	December 3 at 9 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	December 3 at 3 p.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	December 15 at 12 p.m.
K-2 CLASS Pilot Office Hours	December 15 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Nonpublic Monthly Call	November 18 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	November 18 at 3:30 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	November 19 at 9 a.m.
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	November 19 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	November 19 at 3 p.m.
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	November 20 at 9 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	December 2 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	December 2 at 3 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	December 3 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	December 4 at 9 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	December 9 at 12:30 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	December 10 at 2 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	December 14 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	December 15 at 3:45 p.m.

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Learning Mode Data Entry Office Hours	November 18 at 11 a.m.
Learning Mode Data Entry Office Hours	November 19 at 8 a.m.
Learning Mode Data Entry Office Hours	November 20 at 10 a.m.
SCA Portal Refresher Webinar	December 1 at 10 a.m.
SCA Portal Refresher Webinar	December 2 at 2:30 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Document Link	Deadline
Act 688 Survey	November 20
SPED Leader Webinar Survey	November 20
BESE Tuition Program For Teachers - Application for Spring 2021 Courses	November 20
FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic Textbooks Application	November 20
BinaxNOW Rapid COVID Testing Kits Survey	November 20
SER User Survey	November 30
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

School System Support

Updating School Reopening Dashboard Learning Environment Data

The Department has created several new fields within SPS that will allow school systems to more quickly and easily update their learning mode data, which was previously submitted via the Learning Environment and Connectivity Tool and reported within the [School Reopening Dashboard](#). [Directions](#) for [submitting](#) and updating SPS will be covered via three 30-minute Office Hour Data Manager/Education Technology support calls being held **November 18 at 11 a.m., November 19 at 8 a.m., and November 20 at 10 a.m.** Information needed to join each of these calls is included below. *Please note: Zoom information remains the same for all of these upcoming office hour calls.*

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 18 at 11 a.m.; November 19 at 8 a.m.; November 20 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97319847670>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
Meeting ID#: 973 1984 7670
- **Dial-In Passcode:** 159753

If a school system wishes to update their Device and Connectivity data, the system can email edtech@la.gov for assistance in the portal update process.

Career and College Readiness

MYACT Student Accounts

To register for the ACT, students will create a MyACT student account by going to www.myact.org. In addition to registering for the ACT, MyACT accounts can also be used to prepare for the test, view and send test scores, explore colleges and careers, and plan for college. Students can also purchase prep material through their account or access our free test prep material. Access the [quick start guide](#) for additional support, and contact ACTcollegeready@act.org or act-cares@act.org for assistance with account issues, including duplicate accounts.

Please contact act-cares@act.org with questions.

SCA Portal Refresher Webinar

Please share with school system administrators, school leaders, and school counselors.

SCA/Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers. These course offerings will enable schools to provide courses not currently available to their students, including:

- career and technical preparation supporting the Jump Start program;
- academic work required to achieve TOPS;
- advanced coursework not available at the school due to limited resources; and
- dual enrollment courses from colleges and universities; and intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation.

There will be an SCA Portal Refresher Webinar for any persons who are new to the SCA Portal or need a refresher in navigating the system.

The Zoom Meeting will be presented twice:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 1 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97453815391>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 5381 5391

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 2 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97126219127>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 971 2621 9127

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

ACT

- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- November 20: Deadline to submit the ACT MOU and Estimation Worksheet.
 - It is no longer required to mail the ACT MOU to the LDOE. MOUs are posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Please complete, sign, scan, and email the MOU and estimation worksheet to patricia.newman@la.gov or assessment@la.gov.
- November 2-27: Manage participation in [PANext](#) by entering test and shipping dates, verify secure shipping address, and contact patricia.newman@la.gov with any contact or address changes. Choose the initial test date, March 9.
- November 2-January 22, 2021: Verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student files, if needed. January 22 is the deadline to receive barcode labels.

LEAP 2025 Fall High School Administration

- The DRC INSIGHT portal is open to complete test setup and assignment of TA numbers.
- Test manuals are available online.
- A new demographic field has been added to collect information regarding students' participation in virtual learning. If the field is not completed, the student will be considered in-person with no virtual learning. For questions about the new demographic field, contact jennifer.baird@la.gov or assessment@la.gov.

NAEP 2021

- All schools selected for participation in the 2021 administration of NAEP have been notified by email from Rebecca Frederick. District test coordinators were copied on these email notifications.
- January 25 and March 19, 2021: Testing window has been extended 2 weeks to accommodate variation in school schedules.
- District test coordinators were copied on notifications and should help schools prepare for the assessment.
 - Review the *School Coordinator Responsibilities: A Guide to MyNAEP* that was emailed to all schools selected for NAEP.
 - Remind principals that they must designate a NAEP school coordinator to serve as the liaison for all NAEP activities.
 - Encourage designated school coordinators to access the MyNAEP site (www.mynaep.com), and register with the ID number they received in the emailed notification.
- For questions or additional information, please contact Rebecca Frederick at 225-963-8197 or email rebecca.frederick@la.gov.

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- The Birth-Grade 3 Assessments has a [suite of resources](#) available to help school systems (and early learning centers) with assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Due November 20:**
 - [Act 688 Survey](#): School systems are required to report the number of students referred for gifted screening based on their performance of the literacy screener, with the literacy screener being at least one indicator used in consideration for gifted screening. DTCs and Special Education Coordinators should work together to submit only one form per district. This data will be reported to BESE.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **December 1 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 1 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!

Educator Development

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. 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 with questions.

New Principals Workshop

The Louisiana Association of Principals (LAP), in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Education, is offering a half-day new principals workshop. This workshop is designed for principals with 0 to 3 years of experience. The New Principals Workshop will be held on December 8 in Lafayette at the Double Tree Hotel. The cost is free for LAP members and \$100 for non-LAP members. Seating is limited to the first 100. Visit the [New Principals Workshop 2020 webpage](#) to register and learn more.

Please contact jeanine.ford@laprincipals.org with questions.

Reminders

- [**School System Support Reminders**](#)
- [**Career and College Readiness Reminders**](#)
- [**Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders**](#)
 - [**Special Education Reminders**](#)
- [**School System Financial Services Reminders**](#)
- [**Teaching and Learning Reminders**](#)
 - [**Academic Content Reminders**](#)
 - [**Educator Development Reminders**](#)

School System Support Reminders

Super App Launch Session List

Each year, school systems build a plan for how to improve student learning for the coming year. This process involves reviewing student achievement and student progress, establishing priorities, and building a budget aligned to these priorities using all available funding sources. Super App is a tool that allows school systems to plan for their needs, access their formula funds, and apply for competitive funds on one timeline.

In an effort to support school systems with this process, the Department launched the 2021-2022 School System Planning process and Super App last week at the Super App Launch Virtual Event. The Super App Launch Virtual Event supports school systems in:

1. Reviewing the progress the state has made in improving Louisiana's persistently struggling schools.
2. Explaining new opportunities to support schools.
3. Describing updates to the School System Planning Framework and Super App process.

To gain access to all Super App launch presentations, view the [2021-2022 Super App Launch Session List](#), which includes virtual session descriptions as well as presentation and recording information.

Please contact School System Relations Coaches (formerly Network Coach) prior to emailing LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

BinaxNOW Rapid COVID Testing Kits Survey Extended

Please share with school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits available upon request for school systems to access when a CLIA Waived Certificate Number or community health provider has been identified. In order to access these test kits, school systems will need a designated point of contact to complete a survey.

The survey will request the following information:

- Name of the delivery location
- Point of contact (Need name, email, phone number)
- Delivery address
- CLIA Waived Certificate # or the community provider who will be testing so LDH can obtain all the same information on the number of BINAX tests requested (recommend estimating number based on 20 percent of school system's census)

School systems that would like to request BinaxNOW Rapid Testing kits are encouraged to [complete this survey](#) by **November 20**.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Program

[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. School systems receive funding to authorize families to establish microgrant accounts in the REAL Family Portal, where families can browse and select services.

A [webinar was recently held](#) to provide school systems with information about the REAL Program.

Please contact earlyliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

LaNEXT Magazine Digital Edition Now Available

Louisiana NEXT is making the digital edition of their annual magazine available to schools and students. School systems and schools can [share this link](#) with middle or high school students.

LaNEXT is an annual magazine that provides a unique, comprehensive source of information and guidance to high school students. It offers insight, tools, and encouragement to students as they develop their educational and career goals. This includes information on choosing a career, jobs, salaries, and education and training options for a variety of career tracks, as well as financial aid and scholarships and details on the college application process.

Please contact leslie.gilliland@la.gov with questions.

Quest for Success Training

Please share with career and technical education leaders.

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. These additional training opportunities will include a variety of flexible training opportunities for new Quest for Success instructors such as once a week, weekly, and weekend opportunities.

[Registration is open](#) for the next virtual training, December 14-17 from 5-9 p.m. Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities Reminders

English Learner Extension Activities

New English Learner (EL) Extension Activities to help ELs practice their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing are now available in the [English Learner Library](#) under Classroom Resources. These activities can be used for at-home or in-school learning. Each comes with suggestions of how to extend the practice beyond the assigned task.

Please contact alice.garcia@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Reminders

SER User Survey

The Department is in the process of enhancing the SER system and seeks feedback from the field. All users of SER, including teachers, related service providers, special education coordinators, special education directors, and data managers are encouraged to fill out the survey about their experience with the SER system and potential improvements. The [SER User Survey](#) will be open until **November 30**.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with any questions.

School System Financial Services Reminders

FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic Textbooks Application

The FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic Textbooks Application is now available in the Department's electronic grants management system (eGMS). The submission deadline is **November 20**. Please review the Nonpublic Textbooks Application information under the Announcement section in [eGMS](#).

All applicants are encouraged to ensure Nonpublic Textbooks Contact Information is updated and saved.

Please contact nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic School Lunch Salary Supplement Application

The FY 2020-2021 Nonpublic School Lunch Salary Supplement Application is now available in the Department's electronic grants management system (eGMS). The submission deadline is **December 31**. Please review the Nonpublic School Lunch Salary Supplement Application information under the Announcement section in [eGMS](#).

All applicants are encouraged to ensure Nonpublic School Lunch Salary Supplement Contact Information is updated and saved.

Please contact nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Academic Content Reminders

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers - Applications for Spring 2021 Open Now

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. [Online applications](#) for coursework funding for the spring 2021 semester are open now through **November 20**. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact STEM@la.gov.

Louisiana Important Prerequisite Math Standards

The Department, building on resources provided by the Achievement Network, has released the [Louisiana Important Prerequisite Math Standards](#) guidance for teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

This new document identifies critical prerequisite math standards from previous grade levels needed to anticipate potential unfinished learning and suggestions for prioritizing content to save instructional time. It also includes aligned lessons for the most widely used Tier 1 curricula. A brief [video overview](#) of the document is also available.

To find these tools and all other math planning resources, visit the [K-12 Math Planning](#) page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development Reminders

Apply to Lead a Session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021

Louisiana teachers and leaders are invited to share their expertise with educators statewide by applying to facilitate a session at Teacher Leader Summit 2021. [Applications are now available](#) and are due by **January 6, 2021**. Look out for more information and the application link in the [Teacher Leader Library](#) and upcoming newsletters.

The Teacher Leader Summit will take place from Tuesday, May 25 through Thursday, May 27, 2021, in New Orleans. Registration will open on January 8, 2021.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.