

CHARTER SCHOOLS

January 20, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

One of our key beliefs at the Louisiana Department of Education is that all graduates must be ready for a career or college. Students across the state benefit from our innovative career and technical education program, [Jump Start](#). This program prepares students to lead productive adult lives, capable of continuing their education after high school while earning certifications in high-wage career sectors.

Next week (January 26-27) marks our annual [Jump Start Convention](#). This event gives us an opportunity to reflect on the progress of the state's career and technical education program, build knowledge, share resources and strategize for the future. We've shifted to a virtual convention to ensure we can still serve educators across the state. This year's theme is *Inspire. Innovate. Impact*, and I'm excited to present a State of CTE in Louisiana address as part of the opening session Tuesday. The convention will also be an opportunity to learn more about our bold, new [Fast Forward](#) initiative that allows high school students to get a head start on a career or college.

Thank you to our team at LDOE as well as our partners in K-12, higher education, business and industry for creating this opportunity to build capacity in our educators as they prepare our students for life after high school.

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	January 21 at 1 p.m.
Super App Office Hours	January 22 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	January 26 at 12 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	January 26 at 3:45 p.m.
AE Leadership Community of Practice	January 27 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	January 28 at 3 p.m.
Education Technology Office Hours	February 1 at 9 a.m.
Educator Development Office Hours	February 23 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Nonpublic Monthly Call	January 20 at 2 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	January 20 at 3:30 p.m.
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	January 21 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	January 21 at 3 p.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	January 27 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	January 28 at 9 a.m.

Roundtable for System Leaders	January 29 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	February 4 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	February 5 at 9 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	February 10 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	February 10 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	February 11 at 2 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	February 22 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	February 23 at 3:45 p.m.
*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library . View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Webinar for Candidates	January 25 at 4 p.m.
Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) Informational Webinar	January 28 at 1 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
ESEA Consolidated State Plan Addendum Request for Public Comment	January 22
Newcomer and Beginner English Learner Curriculum RFA	January 29
Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway Funding Application	January 29
School Health Survey	January 29
Literacy Screening Survey	January 29
Teacher Leader Summit Resource Fair Application	February 2
State-Level Teacher and Principal of the Year (TPOY) Application	February 4
2021 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design	February 5
Diploma and Seal Order Form	February 5

Career and College Readiness

Spring Semester 2021 PPE Supplies

The LDOE, in collaboration with the Special School District, has face coverings available for all public, private, and charter school systems that need to replenish their supply for the spring semester. Each school system may request an appropriate number of masks equivalent to their student and faculty census.

School systems will be responsible for coordinating the pick-up of PPE supplies between 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Special School District Warehouse located at 2888 Brightside Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Requests for face coverings should be made directly to jsnider@lsdvi.org.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Update: BinaxNOW Rapid COVID Testing Kits Survey Extended

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](#).

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

2021 Spring Virtual Counselor Institutes

Please share with school counselors.

The 2021 Spring Virtual Counselor Institutes are scheduled to take place during National School Counseling Week.

For the past several years, the Department has hosted regional school counselor institutes (formerly called counselor collaborations) every fall and spring. In 2020, the Office of Career and College Readiness hosted the Fall Counselor Institute online, and the Spring 2021 Counselor Institute will be offered in the same format.

Please encourage school counselors to register for one of the sessions by following the corresponding hyperlink below. Registrants will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

- [Register](#) to attend on February 2 at 9:30 a.m.
- [Register](#) to attend on February 3 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Advanced Placement Exam Ordering Updates

Please share with AP coordinators, curriculum supervisors, high school principals, and counselors.

AP® coordinators should submit new exam orders and ensure all students who intend to test have an order exam status of yes in [AP Registration and Ordering](#) by **March 12**.

Second-semester class sections should be created in AP Registration and Ordering for all AP courses at each school that began after the fall ordering deadline and join codes have been shared with students.

Ensure students enroll in the class sections for the AP courses they're taking. See the [2020-2021 AP Coordinator's Manual, Part 1](#) for information about creating class sections, distributing join codes, student enrollment, and ordering exams.

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

Advanced Placement Course Audits Updates

Please share with AP coordinators, curriculum supervisors, high school principals, and counselors.

The last day to complete the initial submission of course materials for 2020-2021 AP course authorization is **January 31**. Course authorization for the 2020-2021 school year ensures access to AP Score Reports when they become available next summer and that the course is listed on the [AP Course Ledger](#).

Important: Course authorization also ensures teachers maintain access to AP Classroom in 2021. Teachers who don't have a current year authorization by January 31 will lose access to AP Classroom and other resources.

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

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

AE Leadership Community of Practice Monthly Call

Please share with District Alternative Education Leaders.

The Division of Portfolio Opportunities will be launching a monthly AE Leadership Community of Practice to be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Each month will focus on a different core component of the Site Redesign Plan. This month's focus is *Workforce Talent and Annual Professional Development Plan*. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 27 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99410482851>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 994 1048 2851
- **Passcode:** 216923

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

Strong Start Compensatory Services Funding

[Strong Start Compensatory Services](#) are services offered to students with disabilities to address progress or skills lost due to the extended school facility closure. The Department will award \$1.2 million in competitive funding to school systems to support the cost of providing compensatory services to students with disabilities. The application for this funding is open in eGMS until **March 2**. Please review the Strong Start Compensatory Services Funding section of the [January SPED Leader Webinar](#) for more information, including eligibility criteria.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions on Strong Start Compensatory Services and LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions on the eGMS application.

School System Financial Services

Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Preliminary Mid-Year Adjustments

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The January 2021 MFP payments have been revised. A brief description of the updates is included in the [summary](#). Specific details on the updated payment amounts can be referenced in the Department's Minimum Foundation Program [Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Preliminary Charter School Per-Pupil Amounts for FY2020-2021

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The preliminary FY2020-2021 Charter Per-Pupil amounts have been completed and are [now available](#). The local revenue representation per-pupil amount for charter schools is required to be updated from the initial and used in the MFP formula allocation according to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:3995.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

The School Support Institutes: Addressing Unfinished Learning Series

The School Support Institutes: Addressing Unfinished Learning Series will launch in February. The focus of the **Addressing Unfinished Learning Series** is to ensure educators:

- have the resources and training necessary to continue instruction with high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials for all learners, including students with unfinished learning, across all instructional delivery methods (virtual, hybrid, and in-person);
- identify academic gaps using high-quality screeners and curriculum connected assessments; and
- use the high-quality instructional supports within the curriculum, including the Diverse Learners Cycle, to support students' needs.

The Department requests that all identified CIR schools for the 2020-2021 school year send three members from the Instructional Leadership team to attend each of the four two-hour virtual trainings in this series. Attendees should include the principal (or other administrator), the team member who leads common planning time in ELA, and the team member who leads common planning time in math.

Additionally, each school system will have a designated number of seats, based on the number of CIR schools in their school system.

This week, each school system point of contact will receive an email from SchoolKit that includes the number of seats allocated for each system and registration links. School systems will send the registration links to the CIR schools in their system to register. Once participants register, they will receive a confirmation email and regular reminders about their sessions.

Below please find the table of dates and times available for each session in each track. Participants will be able to choose the set of trainings they would like to attend (for instance, a participant in the "Math Track" can choose to attend the set of trainings on Mondays at 11 a.m.).

Math Track

Session	Dates	Times
Session 1: Core Math Content	Monday, February 8 or Tuesday, February 9	8:30-10:30 a.m. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Session 2: Math-Specific Content	Monday, March 1 or Tuesday, March 2	

Session 3: Math-Specific Content	Monday, March 22 or Tuesday, March 23	
Session 4: Team Time	Tuesday, April 27, Wednesday, April 28, Tuesday, May 25 or Wednesday, May 26	8:30-10:30 a.m.

ELA Track

Session	Dates	Times
Session 1: Core ELA Content	Tuesday, February 9 or Wednesday, February 10	8:30-10:30 a.m. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Session 2: ELA-Specific Content	Tuesday, March 2 or Wednesday, March 3	
Session 3: ELA-Specific Content	Tuesday, March 23 or Wednesday, March 24	
Session 4: Team Time	Tuesday, April 27, Wednesday, April 28, Tuesday, May 25 or Wednesday, May 26	8:30-10:30 p.m.

Leadership Track

Session	Dates	Times
Session 1: Core Math Content	Thursday, February 11 or Friday, February 12	8:30-10:30 a.m. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Session 2: Core ELA Content	Thursday, March 4 or Friday, March 5	
Session 3: Custom Leader Session	Thursday, March 25 or Friday, March 26	
Session 4: Team Time	Tuesday, April 27, Wednesday, April 28, Tuesday, May 25 or Wednesday, May 26	8:30-10:30 a.m.

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP Connect

- **(New) January 26:** DTCs apply date that LEAP Connect materials were received on the Receipt Notice found under the Materials tab in DRC INSIGHT.
- **January 20:** Printed materials delivered to sites. Additional materials can be requested through the DRC INSIGHT portal beginning January 21.
- All students in grades 3-8 and 11 must participate in ELA and mathematics assessments which are operational in 2021 and will be included in 2021 school performance scores. Students in grades 4, 8, and 11 must also participate in the science assessment, which is also operational this year.
- All students who are earning a diploma through the Jump Start pathway designed for students participating in LEAP Connect must take the assessments in order to be eligible for this diploma pathway.
- Due to standard setting that must be completed in the summer, scores for LEAP Connect will not be available before August.
- Teachers will have the opportunity to complete a survey related to administration of the science assessment. Teacher feedback is greatly appreciated as the Department continues to refine and improve administrations.
- Doctors' letters should only be used appropriately for students who are too medically fragile to test. The letters cannot use the disability as the only reason to excuse testing.
- All test administrators must complete the TA Quiz and earn a score of 80% or greater to administer assessments. The TA Quiz is available under the materials tab for the LEAP Connect 2021 administration.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The ELPT progress rosters that were distributed during data certification are now updated to include students based on the October 1 site code. The roster can be found on the secure FTP with file name *LEA Code_LEA Name_2019-20 ELPT Progress Roster Post DataCert.update*.
- Accommodated materials were delivered to sites by January 15. Schools need to order any additional materials no later than January 19.
- Students who transfer from one school system to another can only be transferred by the LDOE team. Please send any transfer requests to assessment@la.gov.

ACT Match/No Match Rosters

- The ACT Match/No match rosters have been posted to the secure FTP with the file name *LEA Code_LEA Name_2020-2021 ACT Match_No Match Roster 01072021*. These rosters are very important to the ACT planning process, and they will be updated one final time prior to testing when the Department receives scores from February national testing.
- ACT Match rosters identify the students in grade 12 who have an ACT score on file with the Department. The student can be tested again at the expense of the school system as long as the ACT MOU has been completed and returned to the Department.
- ACT No Match rosters identify the students in grade 12 who do not have an ACT score on file with the Department and will test at no cost to the school system.
- School systems should not submit requests for changes to the rosters at this time.
- All students enrolled in grade 12 must have an ACT score by the end of the academic year as well as any students graduating from grade 11. The only students who are exempt from testing are students with LEAP Connect high school-level scores.
 - The expected cohort graduation year is not considered when identifying students for testing.

- Students in grade 12 who were included in a prior year SPS (2019 or before) will not be included in the ACT index.
- Students with LEAP Connect scores who are not taking the ACT should not be removed from PANext. They should have an accountability code D (94) applied to them.
- Students who do not have an ACT score or LEAP Connect high school-level scores for eligible students, will be assigned a score of zero in the ACT index, which is 25% of the high school SPS.
- WorkKeys scores will only be used for students in the ACT index if there is also an ACT score for the students.
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- **January 22**
 - Deadline to verify enrollment, submit the Enroll or Unenroll student files if needed. January 22 is the deadline to receive barcode labels.
 - Deadline to request reconsideration for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System \(TAA\)](#).
 - Deadline to complete site readiness, including mock administration, proctor cache installation, and setup for online testing.
- **January 18-March 5:** Request late consideration for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System \(TAA\)](#).
- **Resources**
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Test Coordinators](#)
 - [Non-Test Instructions for Students](#)
 - [Taking the ACT PDF](#)

LEAP 2025 Fall High School Administration

- The following flexibilities require notification to the LDOE:
 - Use of January 27 and 28 makeup dates (need to send LASIDs)
 - Use of weekend testing (need to send LASIDs)
- The following flexibilities require documentation using the [Permission to Test in Alternate Environments Form](#)
 - Individual testing of students who do not have the accommodation on an IEP or IAP
 - Testing off-site
- Schools that are testing should plan to allow for state monitors. Schools can follow protocols for safety but should not prevent them from observing testing.

Growth to Master Rosters

- The growth to mastery rosters have been updated using the enrollment site code from the October 1 submission. The rosters can be found on the secure FTP with file name *LEA Code 2020-2021 Grade 3-8 or HS Growth to Mastery Student Roster Update*.

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- **February 28:** Winter Checkpoint Early Childhood TS GOLD deadline. Visit the [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) for additional information.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability office hours will be on **January 26 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 26 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

Pre-Educator Pathway Webpage

The Department is excited to announce the launch of the [pre-educator pathway webpage](#). This webpage and library will house information and resources for high school students, teachers, preparation providers, and system leaders interested in Grow Your Own programs.

As a reminder, the Department is currently accepting applications for a funding opportunity for schools/school systems interested in starting or expanding a Grow Your Own program. The [application](#) should be submitted to believeandprepare@la.gov no later than **January 29**.

Please reach out to believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Literacy Screening Survey

In an effort to gather data for research, the Department is requesting that all school systems complete this [Literacy Screening Survey](#). Only one survey should be completed for each school system. The person that completes the survey should oversee literacy in the school system. The deadline to complete the survey is January 29.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **[Operations Reminders](#)**
- **[Career and College Readiness Reminders](#)**
- **[School System Relations Reminders](#)**
- **[Teaching and Learning Reminders](#)**
 - **[Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders](#)**

Operations Reminders

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021

On December 21, 2020, Congress released the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA). This legislation includes a COVID-19 relief package specifying appropriations provisions of \$81.9 billion to Governors, state and local educational agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions. Additionally, the legislation includes several other education-related provisions for childcare providers and internet connectivity.

Education Stabilization Funds Summary

- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER 2) - \$4.1 billion
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER 2 Fund)- \$54.3 billion
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER) \$22.7 billion

The K-12 funds amount to an average of just over \$1000 per pupil nationally. Louisiana will receive \$1,160,119 billion in ESSER 2 funds, which can be used for all of those previously allowed under the CARES Act, and additional new uses, including:

- Addressing learning loss such as by administering assessments to assess progress, implementing evidence-based activities
- Purchasing the hardware and software needed to conduct remote and hybrid learning
- Providing services to support student mental health
- Tracking attendance and improving student engagement
- Supporting afterschool and summer learning programs
- School facility repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus
- Efforts to improve indoor air quality
- Purchasing PPE and the supplies needed to clean and disinfect schools. The CDC has provided an [analysis of the costs](#) of such resources.

The Department will provide regular communication and updates in this newsletter, school system monthly call, and the Federal Support and Grantee Relations monthly calls and office hours.

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

ESSER I Funds

As the midpoint of the academic year approaches, it is important that school systems closely review their ESSER I funding to ensure it is drawn down for those expenditures that are one-time cost (i.e. technology, sanitation supplies) as well as to date expenditures relative to salaries and contract expenditures.

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

Super App Updates

The **2020-2021 Super App released final allocations** on January 8 for the following: All ESSA, IDEA and Carl Perkins formula allocations.

The **2021-2022 Super App estimated allocations** were also released on January 8 for the following: Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Neglect and Delinquent, IDEA 611, IDEA 619 and Carl Perkins. The allocations released will not include Title III Immigrant, DSS and Migrant. The 2021-2022 Super App submission deadline is **February 12**. BESE will consider approval of competitive allocations on April 20 and competitive funds will be uploaded to Super App by May 1.

As school system planning teams continue to finalize Super App, teams should include members with expertise in the following areas: academic content, assessment, high school programming, workforce talent, diverse student populations, early childhood, federal grant programs, budgeting, and finance. School systems are encouraged to attend the weekly Super App Office Hours each [Friday at 10 a.m.](#)

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

Super App: School Improvement Best Practices Update

CIR schools are eligible for up to \$12,000 to implement [School Improvement Best Practices](#) through Super App. CIR schools may select one or more best practices to implement which includes training, access to NIET's online portal, and two days of on-site and/or virtual coaching as follow-up support to the training session(s).

How to request funds for School Improvement Best Practices in Super App

Item WT4.1 (School Improvement Best Practices) has an individual funding request box for each identified best practice (instructional leadership team support, teacher collaboration support, teaching standards support, principal standards support, and career pipeline support). School systems should use the tables above to make requests for each best practice in the provided funding request entry blanks within Super App. In addition to making a request, school systems should list each CIR school, with the best practice(s) to be implemented at that site, in the Additional Information box on the School Improvement Best Practices (WT4.1) tab.

Also in the Additional Information box, school systems should include a funding request of \$8,700 per site for Portal Access and Coaching Support at each CIR school which is implementing at least 1 best practice. An example of a correctly completed Additional Information box is below.

Additional Information

- Beignet Elementary: Instructional Leadership Team Support, Teacher Collaboration Support, Teaching Standards Support, Principal Standards Support, and Career Pipeline Support
- Pelican Middle School: Instructional Leadership Team Support, Teacher Collaboration Support, Teaching Standards Support
- Mardi Gras High: Instructional Leadership Team Support, Teacher Collaboration Support, Teaching Standards Support, Principal Standards Support
- Funding Request for Portal Access and Coaching Support: 3 schools x \$8700 = \$26,100

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

Healthy Communities

As required by state law, the Louisiana Department of Education monitors and evaluates health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature.

Participation is critical to providing accurate, high-quality data to the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare.

Each school should complete the [survey](#) by or before **January 29**.

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

2020-2021 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders

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

The [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) is open for school systems to submit orders for 2020-2021 graduates. All diploma requests should be submitted through the electronic form by **February 5**. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services Reminders

FY2020-2021 Second Quarter Financial Report

Please share with business managers and financial officials of Type 2 and Type 5 Charter Schools.

The Second Quarter Financial Report for FY2020-2021 is due **February 1**. The [quarterly report form](#), along with the [Statement of Affirmation](#), are included for your reference and should be submitted to charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov.

- The MFP Resolution provides for a mid-year adjustment equal to the total per pupil amount times the number of students gained or lost from the February 1, 2019, student count to the October 1, 2020, student count.
- School Boards must revise their budget, as necessary, to maintain a balanced budget and accurately reflect the revenues and expenditures based on the October 1, 2020, student count as reported in SIS. The Second Quarter Financial Report shall contain year to date actual data from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 along with budgeted data for FY2020-21 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021). Organizations that operate more than one charter school must submit the financial reports for each individual school.

Please contact karen.mccarvy@la.gov or call 225-342-3776 with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Sessions Still Available: Virtual Instruction Training for Teachers and Leaders

The Louisiana Department of Education has partnered with NIET to help equip teachers and school leaders to plan for and strengthen virtual instruction. Louisiana educators have free access to three, 90-minute professional learning sessions that model effective virtual teaching. These sessions are taught live (synchronously) and offered several times a week this semester.

There are different options for teachers and principals to receive more tailored support based on their role. Sessions for principals and administrators will focus on remote observation and coaching practices, while teacher sessions will provide more content teachers can directly use in their virtual instruction.

Registration is still open, but seats are limited for each district or school system. Educators should connect with their immediate supervisor to see if seats are available to attend. More details and registration information can be accessed via [NIET's website](#).

Louisiana educators [now have free, asynchronous access](#) to these training sessions. The three, 60-minute self-study modules showcase different aspects of effective virtual teaching. Through the asynchronous sessions, which are similar to the live training, educators will learn about tips, templates, and strategies to use immediately in their virtual classrooms.

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics Reminders

Economically Disadvantaged

Please share with data managers and grant managers.

Today, the Department released the October 2020 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system for the purposes of informing grants, federal funding, and subgroup determinations. The single Excel file, *LEA Code LEA Name Oct 2020 Economically Disadvantaged*, will be available through April 1 on the [Data Management FTP](#) site. FTP coordinators should locate their individual school system file and share it with their federal program and finance staff.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Feb 1 MFP Data Collection

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The Feb 1 MFP collection for the Student Information System (SIS) and Special Education Reporting (SER) systems is now open for submitting student data. The deadline is **February 12**. This collection is important for funding. Please refer to the [2020-2021 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions. Beginning January 25, validation reports will be dropped to the [Data Management FTP](#) (Data Validation folder) for download, review, and for making any needed corrections in the data systems. For assistance with data submissions, please contact tara.baylot@la.gov (SIS) and bernetta.sims@la.gov (SER).

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Interests & Opportunities Survey for K-12 Accountability

Beginning in 2019-2020, Louisiana's K-12 accountability system now includes an Interests & Opportunities Index. For the 2020-2021 school year, the index is calculated based on course enrollment in grades K-8 in certain enrichment categories and on completion of a survey. The survey makes up 50% of the K-8 index and 100% of the high school index.

The Interests & Opportunities survey [has been released](#) and will be open until **February 22**. Schools will receive an email with information on how to access and complete the survey at their email address listed in Sponsor Site. School system accountability contacts will also receive an email with information for their respective schools. Unique access codes are also available on the secure FTP as part of the weekly completion report. Surveys must be validated by the school system superintendent in order to be counted for accountability. Weekly completion reports will be uploaded to secure FTPs on each Friday for systems to track which schools have or have not completed the survey. A complete FAQ on the Interests and Opportunities Index, including accountability calculation information, is [now available](#).

Please contact andrew.shachat@la.gov with questions.