

CHARTER SCHOOLS

September 16, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Our thoughts and prayers are with families in Louisiana and across the region being impacted by Hurricane Sally. We began contacting system leaders located in Sally's path over the weekend and will remain in close contact throughout the assessment and any needed recovery. As I've shared previously, recovering from storm damage is made more challenging by the ongoing pandemic.

Systems across the state are beginning to transition to Phase 3 operations. While details on Phase 3 operations will vary from system to system, there are specific impacts to our reopening guidance and minimum health and safety standards. Those pertain to group size, bus capacity and requirements for band, vocal and music activities. We covered those elements in detail during Thursday's reopening office hours webinar. You can [view the slides](#) from that presentation on our website. Thursday's webinar also included information on the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH) early warning system. LDH has since created a [training video](#) to help systems and schools get started in the reporting tool.

While we have been successfully operating schools in Phase 2, we must be thoughtful in the shift to Phase 3. I know our educators look forward to welcoming students back, but they also know this transition has to be done in a way that is mindful and maintains the progress Louisiana has made in pushing back this virus. I encourage you to be mindful in your transition. Don't feel as if the shift from Phase 2 to Phase 3 must happen overnight. Please continue to collaborate with your school families to ensure a successful transition. That open line of two-way communication is just as important now as it was when preparing for the first day of instruction.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
EdLink 360 Office Hours	September 17 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	September 24 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	September 29 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	September 17 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	September 17 at 3 p.m.
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	September 18 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	September 21 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	September 22 at 3:45 p.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	September 23 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	September 24 at 11 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	October 1 at 2 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	October 2 at 9 a.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	October 8 at 2 p.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	October 14 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	October 14 at 3 p.m.
<i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library.</i>	

Recovery

Children's Hospital Town Hall Meeting Rescheduled September 22

The Children's Hospital Town Hall meeting scheduled for September 15 has been rescheduled and will now take place on **September 22 at 3:30 p.m.** This meeting will provide opportunities for school systems to ask questions of CHNOLA regarding COVID-19 and school reopening. Webinar details are included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 22 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/95094135523>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 929-205-6099
- **Meeting ID#:** 950 9413 5523
- **Passcode:** 9222020

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

School System Support

2019-2020 P-EBT Benefit Communication

Louisiana has reopened the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program for families who did not apply in May and June. Schools and systems should notify families that they may be eligible for up to \$285 for free and reduced-price meals children missed when schools were closed during the 2019-2020 school year. Systems and schools can use [this toolkit](#) for sample messages to share with families. It includes sample letters and messages that can be shared through messaging systems and social media. The following communications resources are also available:

- [LDOE P-EBT Flyer](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Louisiana Budget Project Outreach Toolkit \(Includes Translations\)](#)

The [application portal is open](#) until **September 29 at 5 p.m.** **This application window is only for eligible families who did not apply in May and June.** Families of children who receive free or reduced-price school meals are eligible to receive financial benefits for meals missed in 2019-2020 when schools closed due to the pandemic. This includes all students attending a [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) school](#). To receive these benefits, families must complete an application. Without the requested information, the Department of Children and Family Services cannot issue the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and provide benefits. Please note that the information families enter in the application must exactly match what is on file in the student information system.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

2021 Student of the Year Recognition Program Guidelines

Please share with superintendents, supervisors, administrators and counselors.

Each year, the Department recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of students through the Louisiana Student of the Year Awards Program. The application for the 2021 Student of the Year program is now available, and all school systems are encouraged to participate.

To participate, please review the recently revised [Student of the Year Selection Guidelines](#) for the program and current [Student Application Packet](#) for 2021 and complete the following steps:

1. Complete the [School System Information Form](#) and email it to [Marian Johnson](#) by **October 16**. This information will enable the Department to determine zone and regional sites and to communicate directly with coordinators on upcoming events and activities related to this program.
2. Make the [Student Application Packet](#) available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

A webinar is scheduled to share additional information.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 29 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99474941684>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 994 7494 1684
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 547253

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

2020-2021 Midterm Graduate Diploma to Include New Superintendent's Signature

Please share with principals, counselors and data coordinators.

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2020-2021 midterm graduates. Diploma requests should be submitted by **October 9**. Diplomas ordered will include the signature of Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. Diplomas utilized from this point forward should include the new signature.

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

Legislative and Policy Support

Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call

The Department will hold monthly Legislative and Policy Support calls beginning **September 21 at 10 a.m.** During these calls, the Department will share updates on policy, certification, educator workforce and healthy communities. The following contacts are encouraged to join:

- School system human resource/personnel staff
- Nonpublic certification and/or charter school certification contacts
- Health/wellness, physical education, transportation and nursing staff

Webinar details are included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 21 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91297552609>
- **Passcode:** v0sB22
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 912 9755 2609
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 576112

Please contact ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov with questions.

Healthy Communities

American Academy of Pediatrics Free Webinar Series: E-cigarettes 101

The American Academy of Pediatrics is hosting a free webinar series on approaches to addressing youth e-cigarette use and prevention with adolescents, families and communities. These webinars are open to school teachers, nurses, administrators, parents and others invested in adolescent health. The first webinar, "E-cigarettes 101," will identify the known health impacts of e-cigarette use and will describe the appeal of e-cigarettes to adolescents and young adults. The webinar will be held on **September 24 at 7 p.m.** [Registration is required.](#)

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Operations

Grants Management

2020-2021 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application Preparation Overview

To assist school systems in preparing for the upcoming release of the 2020-2021 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application, the Division of Grants Management will host two Zoom meetings on **September 23**. The morning session will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the afternoon session will begin at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting information included provides access to both Zoom sessions. To participate in the Zoom meetings, please click on the webinar link below:

Webinar Date and Time: September 23 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96301521048>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID#:** 963 0152 1048
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 221993

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

School System Relations

Excellent Educators

Searching for Louisiana's Next State Teacher and Principal of the Year

The Department recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues and community members. To assist with the process, a nominations portal was created.

The nominations portal is open now and will close on **October 16**. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share this [nomination portal link](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the Department's [Award's page](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Continuous Learning Updates for Social Studies

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators and social studies teachers.

A [webinar](#) providing guidance on how to use the [social studies distance learning packets](#) has been posted on the [Louisiana Believes YouTube channel](#) under the Distance Learning playlist. This webinar should be viewed by any social studies teachers or supervisors in school systems where the distance learning packets are being used in a virtual, hybrid or in-class setting.

All unit 2 distance learning packets have been posted on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) page. The teacher materials and student materials sections have been separated, and the teacher materials have been [password protected](#) to help ensure only teachers have access to the answer keys. Unit 3 packets will be posted by November. The Department will evaluate the need for more distance learning support throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Science Distance Learning Resources

Please share with science supervisors, administrators and science teachers.

To support school systems and teachers in ensuring continuous student engagement with high-quality science curriculum in fully remote or hybrid school models, the Department will release guidance for implementing OpenSciEd and inquiryHub in a remote learning setting.

Distance learning plans for OpenSciEd Grade 6-8 and inquiryHub Biology will contain the following:

- Links to remote learning resources
- Unit guidance
- Detailed lesson-by-lesson guidance
- Printable lesson documents

The first two OpenSciEd units for Grades 6-8 and inquiry Hub Biology Unit 1 Bends 1 & 2 as well as recorded webinars are available now on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#) in the Distance Learning Box. Additional units will be released on a [rolling schedule](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

Update on 2020 Accountability Data

Due to the lack of 2020 assessments, BESE policy and state and federal waivers, school performance scores and letter grades will not be produced for the 2019-2020 school year. The Department has released an [FAQ](#) to answer common questions related to the pandemic's effect on the release of 2020 accountability data.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP 2025 Grades 3-8 Spring Test Administration

- At the request of many school systems who have had especially difficult challenges to the opening of school, the LEAP 2025 spring testing for grades 3-8 has been rescheduled as follows:
 - April 26-May 26: CBT
 - April 28-30 ELA and Math: PBT
 - May 3-4 Science and Social Studies PBT
- The [2020-2021 Assessment Calendar](#) has been updated and additional key dates will be released in the coming months.

ACT

- Materials for the October administrations of ACT are scheduled to be shipped during the week of September 14. Please notify ACT if there are any unexpected school closures.
- The ACT [Schedule of Events](#) has been updated on the [ACT State Testing](#) site
- Now-October 6: Test coordinators verify, as needed, student information in PANext for initial test date of October 6
- Now-September 25: Test coordinators order non-college reportable accommodations materials for the initial testing window, October 6-16 and additional standard time materials for the initial test date, October 6

Fall LEAP 2025 High School Assessment Administration

- Fall LEAP 2025 High School Assessments administration is currently scheduled for December 1-18. In response to delayed school openings, a second window has been scheduled for January 6-26. School systems will be asked to submit their choice of window to the Department from October 1-9 through DRC INSIGHT.
- Additional dates and reminders are forthcoming.

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- Administer the KEA and K-3 literacy screener within the first 30 school days. Please review the [Pre-K to 3rd Grade Assessment Guidance 2020-2021](#) for additional information.
- Due October 31: Deadline for data managers to submit the KEA and K-3 literacy screener data with the [SIS K-3 Assessment Collection](#).
- Due October 31: Fall Checkpoint for GOLD: Early Childhood (ages 3-5). Visit the [Early Childhood \(pre-K\) Assessment Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) for additional information.
- 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.

- LDOE will work with those school systems that are severely impacted by Hurricane Laura. The Department will review BESE policy to ensure alignment with state law and will consider flexibility in timelines for administration and reporting results during times of crisis or natural disaster. For questions, please contact assessment@la.gov.

Data Certification for DCAI, Partial Assessment and Alternative School Indices

- Data certification for DCAI, ELPT, LEAP Connect and alternative school indices is open until **September 23**. Accountability contacts received individual emails with login credentials and resources.

Screening for English Learners

- School systems must continue to determine if students entering kindergarten through grade 12 for the first time are English Learners (ELs) who require supplementary support services to continue developing language proficiency in English. Guidance is provided to facilitate the identification of ELs and to determine if EL services are needed when it is not possible to administer the ELPS in the [Guidance for the Provisional Identification of English Learners](#) document.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability **Monthly Call** has been rescheduled for **September 22 at 3:45 p.m.** due to threatening weather in Southeast Louisiana. A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 22 at 3:45 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164
- **Password:** 2020202!

Reminders

- ***Recovery Reminders***
- ***School System Support Reminders***
- ***Career and College Readiness Reminders***
- ***Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity Reminders***
 - ***Special Education Reminders***
- ***Legislative and Policy Report Reminders***
 - ***Educator Workforce Reminders***
- ***School System Relations Reminders***
 - ***Excellent Educators Reminders***
- ***Teaching and Learning Reminders***
 - ***Educator Development Reminders***

Recovery Reminders

Disaster Recovery Guidance

The Department has released [disaster recovery guidance](#). Please continue to check [this link](#), as the guidance will be updated as new information becomes available. The document includes guidance and resources on the following topics:

- Enrollment of displaced students
- Damage to facilities and supply needs
- Staffing capacity
- Issues related to the start of the school year
- Charter school specific guidance

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

School System Support Reminders

Learning Environment and Connectivity Tool for Systems

The Department has developed a tool for systems and schools to easily track student learning environments as well as device and connectivity data. This tool will also help the Department and systems identify where additional student connectivity supports are needed. System leaders received an email from LDOE with system specific access information needed to complete a brief survey.

School systems are encouraged to add current data as soon as possible. This will help ensure access to the system, as well as accuracy of the information, well before initial data is pulled for BESE on September 18.

Data submitted to this survey will automatically populate dashboards for systems, charter schools and nonpublic schools. A link to the dashboard will be added to the “School Reopening Resources” section of the [Strong Start](#) page in the coming weeks and will be communicated via the weekly newsletter. LDOE will pull data on September 18 at 5 p.m. to create an initial report for BESE and other stakeholders. Systems should update their dashboard throughout the school year as new information becomes available. The most current data will appear on the dashboard as soon as it is submitted through the survey.

Please contact kim.nesmith@la.gov with questions.

Strong Start Reopening Office Hours Extended Through September

The Department will continue to offer Strong Start reopening office hours through the month of September. These office hours will be rolled into the [Career and Readiness Office Hours](#) and will be held weekly on **Thursdays at 3 p.m.** Information needed to join this call is included in the [Career and College Readiness Office Hours entry below](#).

For more information, please visit [COVID-19 Resources for Schools](#).

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

Career and College Readiness Office Hours

Please share with school system supervisors, administrators and counselors.

The Office of Career and College Readiness will hold weekly office hours each Thursday at 3 p.m. beginning September 10. **Throughout the month of September the focus will be on school reopening.** Office hours provide an opportunity for school system leaders to receive updates on reopening guidance and support documents.

September 10 office hours topics included:

- Phase 3 Information for School Systems
- Learning Environment and Connectivity Tool
- [Louisiana Department of Health Early Warning System Update](#)
- [CHNOLA Town Hall Updates and Resources](#)

Details for next week's office hours are below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursdays at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94130675139>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID#:** 941 3067 5139
- **Meeting Passcode:** 573243

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov for reopening questions or highschooladacemics@la.gov for career and college readiness with questions.

NCCER Updates for School System and School Leadership

Please share with career and technical education (CTE) supervisors/coordinators and school leadership.

Tomorrow, September 16, the Department will host a webinar to review the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) updated [guidelines](#) for the 2020-2021 school year. In addition to reviewing the [guidelines](#), the Department will share expectations and responsibilities, including the assurance letter, craft instructor requirements, Department processes, testing guidelines, facility visits, trainings and the [registry](#). There will be two opportunities to attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 16 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95397520753>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 953 952 0753
- **Passcode:** nccer1

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 16 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95397520753>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID:** 953 952 0753
- **Passcode:** nccer1

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

NCCER Updates for Craft Instructors

Please share with NCCER craft instructors and school leadership.

On September 23, the Department will host a webinar to support NCCER craft instructors. The webinar will provide support for implementing [NCCER guidelines](#) at Accredited Training and Education Facilities and will include review of instructor training, certifications and processes, facility visits, testing guidelines, training module registration and [registry](#) access. There will be two opportunities to attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 23 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97806508237>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 978 0650 8237
- **Passcode:** nccer2

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 23 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97806508237>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 978 0650 8237
- **Passcode:** nccer2

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

Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity Reminders

Special Education Reminders

High Cost Services Webinar

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund supports school systems and schools who serve Louisiana's students with the most difficult needs by providing additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities. The 2020-2021 HCS application will open on **October 5**.

The Department will provide an overview of the HCS Fund for the 2020-2021 school year in an upcoming webinar. SPED directors or personnel responsible for the HCS application should attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 24 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91486316321>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 914 8631 6321
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 926076

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

Legislative and Policy Support Reminders

Educator Workforce Reminders

Teacher Preparation Program Website Launch

The Department — in collaboration with the Board of Regents — launched a new website, LouisianaTeacherPrep.com, that allows prospective educators to explore teacher preparation programs. The website includes information on Louisiana's 29 teacher preparation programs, including certification areas offered, testimonials, as well as the demographics of program completers and retention data. Each provider's performance on Louisiana's [Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System](#) will be added to the website this winter. Prospective educators can use the website to select teacher preparation programs that best meet their needs, and school systems can use the information to address their educator workforce needs.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations Reminders

Excellent Educators Reminders

Department Names 2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Winners

The Department — in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) — recently celebrated the 2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year state-level honorees at the 14th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, which was held virtually this year. On this evening, the Teacher and Principal of the Year division-level and statewide winners were also named.

View the [2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Educator Development Reminders

New Teacher Induction Survey

In order to be successful, new teachers need support. Support can take on many forms including but not limited to:

- Individual mentoring
- Targeted professional development sessions
- PLCs
- Sheltered schedules

The Division of Educator Development is interested in learning from school systems across the state who provide support to early career teachers. School systems are encouraged to complete this brief [New Teacher Induction Survey](#) by **this Friday, September 18** to help the Department understand where best practices are already happening and what supports may be needed to further develop new teacher induction programs. The survey should be completed by the leader in each school system who supports new teachers.

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

SLT Guidance

Teachers and leaders should develop SLTs by **December 1** in order to understand teaching goals and plan for instruction accordingly. SLTs can be based upon data such as:

- performance data from the first unit or module of this school year
- formative assessment data
- diagnostic data

[Guidance](#) for creating student learning targets is available in the Department's [COMPASS Library](#). Please refer to the [2020-2021 CIS timeline](#) for suggested times to complete the necessary steps.

Teachers are encouraged to progress monitor SLTs using student work throughout the year.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.