

CHARTER SCHOOLS

September 30, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Last week I had the pleasure to visit with the faculty of Bains Elementary in West Feliciana Parish. As a school system superintendent, the highlight of my week was participating in a faculty meeting at a different school. I hope to continue visiting with teachers as your state superintendent. The pandemic has made it a little more challenging, but we must anchor our work in the reality of what's taking place in our classrooms.

One of the most common questions I hear during my first meeting at a school is about my vision for education. As I shared with educators at Bains Elementary, that's the wrong question. It's not my vision that matters. My goal is to bring everyone together so we can collaborate on a shared vision. The [100 day report](#) I released last week is part of that process. It outlines where we are now. I look forward to many more conversations with educators and other key stakeholders in the coming months as we develop a priority plan to further support the ESSA critical goals.

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	October 1 at 2 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	October 1 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	October 6 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	October 1 at 1 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.
Federal Programs and Grants Management Monthly Call	October 15 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	October 15 at 3 p.m.
Reopening Roundtable for System Leaders	October 16 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	October 19 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	October 20 at 3:45 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	October 21 at 3:30 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	October 22 at 9 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	October 28 at 1 p.m.
<i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library.</i>	

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	October 28 at 9 a.m.
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	October 29 at 8 a.m.
LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute	October 29 at 12 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Document Link	Deadline
FY2019-2020 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Collection	September 30
Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application	October 2
2020-2021 Midterm Graduate Diploma Form	October 9
ELA Guidebooks, Grades 3-5 Louisiana Educator Feedback	October 15
2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan	October 16
CTE Mission: CubeSat	October 16
2021 Student of the Year Application	October 16
Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver Request: Public Comment	October 24

School System Support

School System Planning Calendar

The [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar:

- Super App Office Hours
- Updated Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Meeting dates

Please email ldoecomunications@la.gov with questions.

LDH School-Based Flu Vaccination Program

The Louisiana Department of Education is working with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to bring the Health Hero flu vaccination program to school systems. This initiative provides safe, efficient school-located vaccinations, increases immunization coverage, reduces the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, and helps keep children in school.

The Health Hero program provides vaccines in schools to students, teachers, and staff (regardless of insurance coverage) through state licensed nurses. Because many children have limited access to healthcare services, the Health Heroes program ensures that more children can easily get this important vaccination. By offering the flu vaccine at school sites, the program removes barriers for families who might not otherwise be able to take time off work to have their children vaccinated.

For more information, or to schedule a clinic, please contact Liberty Duke from Health Hero at 205-609-0268 or liberty@healthherousa.com. For additional information from LDH, please contact stacy.hall@la.gov.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

Please share with high school principals and counselors.

The Louisiana Department of Education and the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#) are pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Virtual United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to virtually participate in a series of online meetings during the week of March 15, 2021. Upon participation of all of these meetings, each delegate will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. The Department requests assistance in selecting these students.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit an [application packet](#). If students are unable to hold leadership positions this year due to the pandemic, they can submit the position they held during the 2019-2020 academic year. Please ensure students understand the rules and regulations governing this competition. For test security reasons, the test secure essay topics will only be released to school systems and will not be available on our website. High school personnel should contact marian.johnson@la.gov as soon as a student request is made for the essay topics.

U.S. Senate Youth Timeline	
November 16	Submit application portfolio
December 4	Notification sent to finalists
December 15	Final phase selection
March 15-19, 2021	Virtual online meetings

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

LDOE Virtual Fall Counselor Institute

Please share with counselors and school system leaders.

Save the date for the 2020 Virtual Fall Counselor Institute! **Attendees are asked to please set aside three hours on the day and time that works best for them.**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 28 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99489510512>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 994 8951 0512

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 29 at 8 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98233548776>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 982 3354 8776

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 29 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97179412692>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 971 7941 2692

Tentative Agenda

- State Assessment Updates
- 2020-2021 LOSFA TOPS Regulatory Flexibilities
- ACT Superscore
- Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, IB, CLEP
- 2020-2021 Financial Aid
- TOPS Weighted GPA and Credit Recovery
- Jump Start 2.0/STEM Pathways
- Jump Start Convention/Educator Leader Summit

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

2021 Jump Start Virtual Convention

Please share with school system leaders, counselors, LCTCS, and workforce development organizations.

Save the date for the 2021 Jump Start Convention! The convention will be held virtually on the afternoons of January 26 and 27. Registration will open in October.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Multiphase Challenge Building Skills for 21st Century Careers

Please share with career and technical education and math/science leaders and educators.

The U.S. Department of Education has launched [CTE Mission: CubeSat](#), a national challenge to inspire high school students to build technical skills for careers in space and beyond. Students from across the country are invited to design and build prototypes of CubeSats (cube satellites), or satellites that aid in space research, bringing space missions out of the clouds and into the classroom. No in-person collaboration or prior experience with CubeSats is required. Teams can use a curated collection of virtual resources in the [CTE Mission: CubeSat resource hub](#) as they develop and submit their mission proposals.

The deadline to submit proposals is **October 16 at 5:59 p.m.**

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Special Education

Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver Request: Public Comment

Under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Louisiana must limit the number of students who are assessed statewide on alternate assessments to 1.0 percent of the total number of students who are required to participate in statewide assessments. The Department intends to seek a waiver extension for the 2020-2021 school year of this federal requirement that would limit the number of students in the state who participate in alternate assessments.

The [notice of intent](#) to submit a waiver is available for public comment until **October 24**. Comments may be submitted via email to specialeducation@la.gov and should include a full name, organization (if applicable), and contact information.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Legislative and Policy Support

Educator Workforce

New Website Launched - Louisiana Teacher Preparation Providers

The Department — in collaboration with the Board of Regents — launched a new [website](#) 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, and the demographics of their 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 sara.delano@la.gov with questions.

Healthy Communities

Louisiana Farm to School Launches Seeds to Success Website

The Louisiana Farm to School Program's new website, [Seeds to Success](#), will launch on **October 1**. The website houses information about how to grow fruits and vegetables in Louisiana and apply these skills to learning, how to start and maintain school gardens (including classroom container gardens), and how to turn student interests into budding careers. Lesson plans and activities are available and organized by grade, group, or by crop interest. Create an account to save crop guides and lesson plans and use the Louisiana Resource page to discover places, events, and organizations related to Farm to School. Louisiana teachers are encouraged to request free growing materials for classroom education.

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks: Future Development

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 3-5.

The Department is excited to announce a partnership with [The Writing Revolution](#) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks.

This work will be completed by Louisiana teachers and a special team of "Revolutionaries" from [Monroe City Schools](#). The first phase of development will happen for grades 3-5 and will be available for piloting in 2021-2022.

Instructional leaders should encourage educators in grades 3-5 to [submit feedback](#) on current units prior to **October 15**. More details about this partnership and future release dates will be announced via this newsletter.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks Resource Bank

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and ELA teachers for grades 3-5.

The Department has created a [form](#) to collect ELA Guidebook resources from teachers to share freely across the state. Examples can be uploaded directly into the form. These resources will be compiled, vetted, and shared by grade-level. Please consider sharing examples of:

- Unit/Lesson Slide Decks
- Unit/Lesson Planning Document(s)
- Unit/Lesson Scope and Sequence/Pacing Examples
- Student and/or Parent Facing Resources

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

MFP and IDEA Data Collections

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The Student Information System (SIS) MFP collection and the Special Education Reporting (SER) IDEA collection are open for submitting student data. **The deadline is October 23.** This collection is important for funding. Please refer to the [2020-2021 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions.

Beginning October 5, 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.

Please contact tara.baylot@la.gov (SPC, SIS) or bernetta.sims@la.gov (SER) with questions.

October Data Coordinator Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly Data Coordinator webinar for data coordinators and data managers of the legacy systems SPC, SIS, SER, PEP, etc. Topics will include 2019-2020 system closeouts, 2020-2021 open collections, upcoming deadlines, updates, and best practices. Webinar information is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 1 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 408-638-0968
- **Meeting ID#:** 976 397 929

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

2019 Class Size Reports for Auditors are Available on DM FTP

The 2019 Class Size characteristics reports for auditors are now available on the Data Management FTP. Please locate the two files named “LEACode_2019 Class Size by Site for Auditors” and “LEACode_2019 Class Size for Auditors” and provide them to finance offices.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Updates to the Louisiana School and Center Finder

K-12 Report Cards

Due to the impact of COVID-19, K-12 accountability results were not calculated for the 2019-2020 school year. Schools' academic performance pages have been kept static with accountability data from the 2018-2019 school year. Available data from the 2019-2020 school year are posted in the Department's [Data Center](#). The Department has compiled a list of [frequently asked questions](#) around the 2019-2020 accountability release.

Early Childhood Performance Profiles

Tomorrow, September 30, the Department will release 2019-2020 [Performance Profiles](#) on the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#), which will include both a Performance Score and Performance Rating (based on CLASS® observations) as well as Informational Metrics (such as curriculum quality, child/teacher ratios, and teacher credentials).

Due to COVID-19, the Department implemented a "hold harmless" approach for 2019-2020 Early Childhood Performance Profiles:

- Sites with a higher 2019-2020 Performance Score were given the opportunity to opt-in to receiving an updated Performance Profile based on 2019-2020 results.
 - For all other sites, the Department is extending 2018-2019 Performance Scores.

The Department has released resources for systems, lead agencies, and early childhood providers to interpret the 2019-2020 Performance Profiles:

- [Site Performance Profile Key and Guide](#)
- [Performance Profile FAQs](#) and [COVID-19 Impact on Performance Profile FAQs](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

ACT

- **Important:** Test coordinators are reminded to only use ACT test materials sent for the October test. Answer documents from spring 2019 will be rejected if used in October, as well as any spring 2019 answer documents that are returned with barcode labels from October placed over the spring barcode labels.
- October 6-April 30: The 2020-2021 WorkKeys testing window is open.
 - Please refer to the *Quick Start Guide for Assigning TTS to a Single Examinee* for WorkKeys. The document will be posted to the ACT State Testing site in the [WorkKeys](#) section.
 - The Department will cover the cost for one WorkKeys administration for students who are on the Jump Start pathway and are in grade 11.
- Please check the [ACT State Testing](#) site for an updated [Schedule of Events](#).
- Now-October 6: Verify, as needed, student information in PANext for initial test date of October 6

LEAP 2025 Enrollment Verification and High School Window Selection

- October 1-31: School systems should log into DRC INSIGHT and complete the enrollment information for third and fourth grade that is required no later than October 31.
 - Schools testing third or fourth grade on paper should also indicate the number of test booklets needed.
 - School systems need to verify the number of braille tests necessary for testing grades 3-8 for both paper-based or computer-based testing formats.

- October 1-9: School systems need to log into DRC INSIGHT and complete the enrollment information indicating their choice of LEAP 2025 high school fall window.
 - Systems may select only one of the two testing windows: December 1-18 or January 6-26.
 - School systems should keep in mind that LEAP 2025 high school test scores must be factored into the final grade per policy when selecting the window.
 - Schools who do not complete this information will automatically be added to the January testing window.

LEAP 2025 Grades 3-8 Spring Test Administration

- At the request of many school systems that 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.

NAEP 2021

- After careful deliberation, it has been determined that the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will proceed with a reduced administration of the mandated mathematics and reading assessments.
 - The sample has been reduced to about half, impacting the number of sampled schools and students selected in Louisiana.
 - NAEP will be administered in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8 at the state level.
 - The NAEP assessment window will occur from January 25 through March 19, 2021.
 - School system leaders will receive an email letter by the end of September.
 - As in previous years, NAEP representatives will provide significant support to schools by administering the assessment and bringing all necessary materials and equipment, including sanitized tablets, on which students take the assessment.
 - Considerations will continue to monitor processes and procedures in response to any safety or health concerns related to COVID-19.

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.
- The Department will work with those school systems that have been 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.

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.

2020-2021 Growth Target Rosters

- The 2020-2021 growth target rosters will be posted to secure FTP on Wednesday, September 30. The rosters include a target scale score for eligible students. Students are assigned to schools based on the 2019-2020 site code. The rosters will be updated with this year's site codes in November. For information about how the targets were calculated without scores from 2020, please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov.

Interests and Opportunities Index Results

- School systems recently received a roster file with their schools' results on the 2019-2020 Interests and Opportunities Index via their secure FTPs. As a reminder, these results will not be used in official accountability calculations, as school performance scores will not be produced for the 2019-2020 school year. The Department has compiled a list of [frequently asked questions](#) around the 2019-2020 accountability release. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be on **October 6 at 3:45 p.m.** A password will now be required for office hours. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 6 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!

Reminders

- [**School System Support Reminders**](#)
- [**Career and College Readiness Reminders**](#)
- [**Equity, Inclusion and Opportunities Reminders**](#)
- [**Legislative and Policy Report Reminders**](#)
 - [**Educator Workforce Reminders**](#)
 - [**Healthy Communities Reminders**](#)
- [**Teaching and Learning Reminders**](#)
 - [**Academic Content Reminders**](#)

School System Support Reminders

System Leaders Monthly Call

Superintendents and charter leaders are invited to participate in a System Leaders Monthly Call hosted by Dr. Brumley and the LDOE team **this Friday, October 2 at 9 a.m.** Information needed to join this call is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 2 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97982207566>
- **Webinar Passcode:** @Ax4Q3
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 979 8220 7566
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 744001

System leaders are asked to enter their full name and school system name when logging in.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

2019-2020 (FY20) Carl Perkins Grant Funds Allocations

Please share with school system finance and career and technical education (CTE) leadership.

To be reimbursed for unexpended 2019-2020 (FY20) Perkins funds, these funds must be budgeted and approved in the Super App as well as reimbursements submitted by **October 31**. Use the process below to meet this deadline.

1. Designate on the Allocations Tab to one of the following: Diverse Learners; Core Academics; Workforce Talent; or LEA Systems.
2. Include as expenditure in Program Specific Questions using FY20 as part of the descriptor.
3. Delineate, in Budget Details, using FY20 as part of the descriptor.

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

Equity, Inclusion and Opportunities Reminders

Strong Start 2020: Guidance to Support English Learners (ELs)

The Department recently released the [Strong Start 2020: Guidance to Support English Learners](#) to help school systems ensure that ELs continue to have equitable access to high-quality instruction across virtual, hybrid and traditional learning scenarios. The guidance includes specific considerations for providing ELs with language support services across learning scenarios including preparation and delivery of supportive instruction, accommodations, and frequently asked questions.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Legislative and Policy Support Reminders

Educator Workforce Reminders

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship: Applications Due October 2

The Department is pleased to announce an opportunity for school systems to participate in a **recruitment and retention fellowship** through a national non-profit organization, [USHCA](#). Through this fellowship, human capital leaders will:

- network with other human capital leaders throughout the nation, learn from one another, and discuss best practices with regard to recruiting and retaining teachers; and
- work with a small cohort of Louisiana school systems to develop strategies to recruit and retain teachers in Louisiana's highest-need certification areas, with a particular focus on math and science.

Time Commitment and Cost

The time commitment for this opportunity includes two, all-day virtual meetings (one during the week of October 26 and one in the spring) as well as meetings in between for the Louisiana cohort to brainstorm with one another regarding teacher recruitment strategies. There is no cost to school systems.

Application Process

Please apply for the fellowship by completing this [short application](#) by **October 2**. Fellowship participants will be announced in early October.

Please contact sara.delano@la.gov with questions.

Healthy Communities Reminders

2020 Farm to School Conference Registration Available

The *2020 Louisiana Farm to School Conference: Farm to School - Virtually Everywhere* will be held entirely online over four days and will occur in two-hour sessions from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on September 30, October 1, 7, and 8. While there is no charge, attendees must [register](#). The sessions scheduled on October 1 (School Gardens) and October 7 (Farm to School Education Resources) may be of special interest to teachers.

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

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Academic Content Reminders

K-2 CLASS® Pilot Overview Webinar

The Department hosted a K-2 CLASS® Pilot Overview Webinar on September 9 to provide information around the CLASS® tool, including current pilot updates and future opportunities to join. CLASS® is an observation instrument that measures the effectiveness of teacher-student interactions that promote academic learning, engagement, and social development. It is used statewide in publicly funded birth through pre-K classrooms and is now in its fifth pilot year for early elementary. The [recording](#) of the webinar and [resources](#) for the K-2 CLASS pilot are available.

Please contact lisa.holliday@la.gov with questions.

Guidance for School Systems Hosting International Associate Teachers

Please share with world language supervisors and administrators.

To support school systems that host or anticipate hosting international associate teachers, the Department has published the [Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Handbook](#). This handbook provides information on program participation, goals, and timelines. It also outlines the U.S. Department of State and State of Louisiana requirements for hosting international teachers.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Google Training: Virtual Professional Development

Please share with teachers interested in professional development for virtual learning.

The Department has partnered with [Google](#) and [friEd Technology](#) to provide a series of Facilitated Online Learning Experiences (FOLE) that will enhance teachers' Google Skills and best practices for Digital Learning.

- Teachers can register for all three FOLEs or single events.
- Three session topics will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 500 registered participants.
- Training dates range from October 7 to October 29. Registration is now [available](#).

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

LaCUE Cares: Virtual Professional Development

Please share with teachers interested in professional development for virtual learning.

The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LaCUE) is offering free professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators through December. Each event will be focused on key education technology topics:

- October 17 - Tech Talk with Northwestern State University
- November 13-14 - Blended Learning with Weston Kieschnick
- December 4-5 - Celebrating Teachers and Technology with Eric Sheninger

[Register](#) to attend each session.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.