



News for Louisiana



CHARTER SCHOOLS

March 23, 2022

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	March 24 at 1 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	March 29 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	March 29 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	March 29 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	March 29 at 3:45 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	April 4 at 4 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Education Technology Monthly Call	March 24 at 9 a.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	April 1 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	April 5 at 1 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	April 7 at 1 p.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	April 13 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	April 13 at 3 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	April 20 at 9:30 a.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	April 20 at 3 p.m.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	April 21 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	April 21 at 3 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	April 25 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	April 26 at 3:45 p.m.
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p>	
Upcoming Deadlines	
SPED Fellow Academy: Cohort 3 Application	April 11-May 13

Operations

2021 – 2022 High Cost Services (HCS) Round 2 Application Release

Please share with IDEA directors.

The 2021-2022 High Cost Services (HCS) Round 2 application was released on March 14. The application submission process will close on Friday, April 8.

Special note, that the HCS Round 2 applications should only contain new students. Students who received an allocation in Round 1 cannot be included in the Round 2 application process.

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

FY22 Year-End Deadlines

Please share with school system business managers.

The Office of Fiscal Operations, Appropriation Control has set the deadlines noted below to ensure that the Department uses all of its FY22 funding. **Failure to meet these deadlines risks funding availability.** The Department cannot guarantee the payment of late claims and/or late claims might have to wait until the following fiscal year (June 2023) for funds to be available. We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for helping us be good stewards of our funds.

Travel Deadlines

June 17	All claims for travel that occurred up to May 31, 2022 , due to the Office of Fiscal Operations, Appropriation Control/Travel
June 20	Any June travel to be paid with 8g funds due to the Office of Fiscal Operations, Appropriation Control/Travel
July 6	Any June travel to be paid with TANF or Carl Perkins funds due to the Office of Fiscal Operations, Appropriation Control/Travel
July 8	Any other June_travel due to the Office of Fiscal Operations, Appropriation Control/Travel

LEA/Subgrantee Claims Deadline

June 20	8g claims due in eGMS
July 6	Carl Perkins claims for June expenses are due in eGMS
July 15	All other state and federal awards (excluding 8g and Carl Perkins) ending June 30, 2022 , due in eGMS

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2021-2022 SY (3rd Quarter)

Please share with Federal Programs and IDEA Directors.

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department is releasing the [consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2021-2022 school year](#)*. This schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

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

If you have any questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) or Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), please contact DOE-program.monitoring@la.gov.

**School systems that have been severely impacted by a disaster and are currently listed on the schedule are encouraged to contact DOE-program.monitoring@la.gov.*

Ready to Achieve Operational Guidelines Masking and Transportation Update

Please share with system leaders, site administrators and school nurses.

The Louisiana Department of Health and the CDC released COVID-19 Community Levels to help communities and individuals make masking decisions based on their local context.

- Universal masking is recommended for any school in a parish with a High Community Level.
- Schools may continue to require universal masking regardless of Community Level.
- Individuals attending schools that do not require masking may choose to mask regardless of Community Level.
- School buses are no longer included in the federal mask requirement for transit.
- Schools should use Community Levels to determine their policy for wearing masks on school buses, but can continue to require universal masking regardless of Community Level.

[Community Levels](#) should be checked weekly to evaluate the need for masking in school systems.

Please contact LDOECOVID19support@la.gov with questions.

Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Nominations

Please share with system and school leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is requesting nominations for the [Outstanding School Support Employee Awards Program](#). The awards program provides the Superintendent of each school system the opportunity to honor an outstanding school support employee at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The winners will be those support employees selected by local school systems for having rendered time and talents beyond the call of duty. Nominations are due April 9.

Please contact dana.dauzat@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP 2025

Please share with district test coordinators.

- Available Now: LEAP high school test administration manuals in DRC INSIGHT.
 - LEAP high school manuals are not printed by the vendor for schools.
- Available Now: LEAP grades 3-8 test administration manuals are now available in DRC INSIGHT.
 - LEAP grades 3-8 manuals are printed for schools and will be delivered on March 28.
- Available Now: Test setup is open in DRC INSIGHT for both LEAP grades 3-8 and LEAP high school.
- Due Now: LEAP 2025 testing schedules are due to assessment@la.gov.

ACT

Please share with district test coordinators.

- March 16 – 31: Create and assign student to test sessions for the March 22-31 testing window
- March 18 – 31: Precache test content for Testing Window 2 (if utilizing proctor caching)
- March 22 – 31: Administer ACT online with standard time or accommodations and/or supports, non-college reportable, and paper accommodations and/or supports

Interests and Opportunities Preliminary Guidance

Please share this announcement with school system leaders and school leaders.

The preliminary Interests and Opportunities guidance has been published in the [Accountability Library](#). This guidance includes the menu, course codes, and general timeline information. Between now and June, information may be added to the guidance. Nothing will be removed from the menu or course offerings. A final guidance document will be published in June 2022.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Training Catalog

Please share with CTE supervisors, principals, assistant principals, and CTE instructors.

The [Jump Start Training Catalog](#) provides a list of professional development and training opportunities available this summer. Please note that it is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed. School systems can submit training opportunities and/or training requests to erica.spencer@la.gov for review.

Training registration and associated costs for sessions are handled directly between the registrant(s) and the provider; not to LDOE. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration costs. The catalog includes virtual, in-person, and hybrid training options for many IBCs on the State Focus list.

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application Deadline Extended

Please share with professional school counselors, CTE supervisors, and CTE instructors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF) Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program is accepting [applications](#) for up to forty one-time \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarship is geared toward students who have a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma, earned a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential, and plan to enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

[Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Applications](#) are due May 20.

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

School System Financial Services

Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) – March 2022 Update

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Required annual adjustments to the FY2021-2022 MFP allocation have been completed including the October and February student count mid-year adjustments and the calculation of the final Charter Per-Pupil amounts. These adjustments are reflected in the supporting documentation that will be provided this week in the Department's [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Final FY 2021-2022 Charter Per-Pupil Amounts

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The final FY2021-2022 [Charter Per-Pupil](#) amounts have been completed and supporting documents will be available this week. The local revenue representation per-pupil amount for charter schools is required to be updated from the initial to the final amount and used in the MFP formula allocation according to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:3995.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Proposed FY2022-2023 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Formula

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The FY022-2023 proposed BESE adopted MFP resolution and formula was submitted to the Legislature on March 15. The proposed formula documents are available in the Department's [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

New Teacher Of the Year Finalists

Please share with school and system leaders.

The Department is excited to announce the nine finalists for the *New Teacher of the Year* award. These amazing educators have demonstrated excellence in their very first year in the classroom. Finalists will participate in an interview process, and the overall New Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Dream Teachers gala in late July. Please congratulate this outstanding group of new teachers.

Elementary	Riley Benjamin	West Baton Rouge
Elementary	Ally Coburn	Ouachita
Elementary	Charli Hauk	Avoyelles
Middle	Juliana Habisreitinger	West Feliciana
Middle	Annanaquia Smith	Rapides
Middle	Jamie Young	Calcasieu
High	Robert Daly	Collegiate Academy
High	Rachel Ryan	Bossier
High	Jordyn Vicknair	Ascension

Please contact Laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Department Names the 2023 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists

Please share with teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.

The Department is proud to announce the [2023 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists will be honored at the *16th Annual Excellent Educators Awards Gala* that will be held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans on the evening of July 30, 2022. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Three Louisiana Educators Receive National Milken Educator Awards

Please share with teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.

This month, three exceptional Louisiana educators were named as national [Milken Educator Award](#) recipients. Each received an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize during surprise school assemblies.

The recipients were Laura Laiche of East Feliciana Parish, Jay Weisman of Benjamin Franklin High School, and Marco French of Caddo Parish.

- [Learn more about recipient Laura Laiche.](#)
- [Learn more about recipient Jay Weisman.](#)
- [Learn more about recipient Marco French.](#)

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Models of Excellence

Please share with teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.

On Wednesday, March 16, Dr. Cade Brumley and the Louisiana Department of Education held a special ceremony honoring Mansfield Elementary School in DeSoto Parish as a Louisiana Models of Excellence recipient. The [Louisiana Models of Excellence](#) is a statewide award that recognizes schools and school systems that serve as a state model in meeting one of the Louisiana Department of Education's [Believe to Achieve](#) priorities.

Mansfield Elementary School was nominated for this award by the Office of Teaching and Learning for their literacy intervention initiative, Strategic Literacy Focus, based on the priority of providing the highest quality teaching and learning environment. Under the Department's guidance, [literacy interventions](#) are designed to improve literacy outcomes for students by providing students with high-quality core instruction together with explicit literacy interventions and extensions based on individual student needs. Mansfield Elementary School was named a Models of Excellence recipient for the use of an established intervention program, frequently analyzing and discussing literacy data in Instructional Leadership Teams (ILT) and clusters, and utilizing the data to meet the needs of students. Following the ceremony, guests and educational stakeholders were invited to learn more about the literacy intervention program.

Please contact modelsofexcellence@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

The Department conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [Annotated Reviews](#) webpage. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [Weekly Report](#).

Publisher	Title and Grade Levels	Core Subject	Tiered Rating
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Into Literature, Grades 6-8	ELA	Tier 1
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Into Literature, Grades 9-10	ELA	Tier 1

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Overview

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

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Overview document](#) has been updated to include the most up-to-date information about revisions to the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units. The overview document contains the following important information to support school systems in implementing these updated units:

- An overview of updates to ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022)
- Curriculum access and text purchasing information
- Unit text and topic overviews with release schedule
- Master text lists

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Standards Review Update

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-12 social studies teachers

On March 8, 2022, [BESE unanimously approved](#) the [2022 K-12 Student Standards for Social Studies](#). Initial [implementation information](#) can be found in the [Standards Review Library](#). The Department will provide resources and educator professional development to support the implementation of the new social studies standards starting at this year's Teacher Leader Summit.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners Supports

Reminder: SPED Leaders and English Learner Supervisors Join our Monthly Teaching and Learning Call

Please share with Special Education Directors and English Learner Supervisors.

The Division of Diverse Learners reminds all Special Education Directors/Supervisors and English Learner Supervisors to join our monthly Teaching and Learning Call [March 23 at 1 p.m.](#) In January, the Office of Teaching and Learning streamlined our monthly call to include academic content, educator development, literacy, assessment content, and diverse learner updates.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

National Down Syndrome Congress Hosting 2022 Convention in New Orleans

Please share with special educators, students with Down syndrome and their families.

The [National Down Syndrome Congress Convention](#) is a 4-day event designed to provide a meaningful and educational experience for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, caregivers, and medical and educational professionals who dedicate their lives to the Down syndrome community. Attendees will choose one of three conferences that run simultaneously during the Convention:

- the General Conference, intended for parents, grandparents, adult siblings, and professionals
- the Youth & Adults Conference, for individuals with Down syndrome age 15 (by June 23) and older
- the Siblings Conference, a place for siblings only, who are rising 4th through 12th graders in the 2022-23 school year

[Registration](#) opened March 14. The convention will be held in New Orleans June 23-26, 2022.

Please contact info@ndsccenter.org with questions.

LA-AEM Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Network

Please share with Special Education Directors, Pupil Appraisal Supervisors, Special Educators and Related Service Providers.

The Louisiana Accessible Education Materials Center is seeking educators, related service providers and families to join a network aimed at supporting students with significant cognitive disabilities. Network participants will learn about assistive technology supports, communication supports and accessible educational materials and increasing opportunities for student participation with high quality curriculum and instruction. Interested individuals should [register](#) to join the network.

Please contact administrator@ssdla-aem.org with questions.

FFY2 IDEA Draft Grant Application

Please share with special education leaders, educators, families and community members.

Stakeholders across Louisiana submitted 553 comments during the stakeholder input phase of our IDEA budget application process. The Department is now seeking [public comment](#) on our FFY22 IDEA [Draft Budget Application](#). Please submit [public comment](#) by 5 p.m. April 22, 2022.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Principal Webinar Series

Please share with school leaders.

In March's Practicing Principal Webinar series, the LDOE will partner with Teach for America for this month's topic of effectively recruiting and retaining highly effective teachers. Please note the webinar details below.

- Webinar Date/Time: March 24 from 2-3 p.m.
- Webinar Link:
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379
- Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship

Please share with human resources directors.

Human resources professionals have the opportunity to participate in the third cohort of the recruitment and retention fellowship through a partnership with the national non-profit organization, [Urban Schools Human Capital Academy](#). The fellowship gives Louisiana human resources professionals the opportunity to collaborate with human capital professionals from across Louisiana and the country to learn best practices for attracting and retaining effective educators. The fellowship also focuses on how systems can adjust their strategies during emergency events such as natural disasters and pandemics. The goals of the fellowship program are to:

- Transform HR departments into highly-functioning, strategic partners with in their systems to meet the mission of improved student outcomes;
- Build a network of human capital leaders across the state; and
- Change the perception of HR in education to ensure sustainable, long-term success.

HR Directors should complete this short [application](#) to indicate interest and key recruitment challenges from your school system. Applications are due April 30. Fellowship applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 13, 2022.

Additional information can be found in this [overview](#) of the fellowship.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Aspiring Principal Fellowship

Please share with school leaders and school leader supervisors.

In order to prepare future principals for success in their first year as a principal, the Aspiring Principal Fellowship will support the development of aspiring school leaders across the state. The Louisiana Department of Education launched a pilot cohort in 2021-2022 for aspiring principals and is expanding the Aspiring Principal Fellowship for the 2022-2023 school year. The fellowship will prepare up to 50 individuals with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve in the principal role. This selective statewide fellowship is rooted in Louisiana's five priorities:

1. Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.
2. Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.
3. Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.
4. Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.
5. Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships

APF cohort participants will meet monthly (Orientation at Teacher Leader Summit, commencing monthly in September) and explore best practices with regional experts, school visits, and reflection. Participants will exit this fellowship with a robust leadership portfolio, the guidance of Louisiana's most successful principals, and a strong network of lifelong colleagues.

Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems need to cover the cost of the \$1000 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than April 30.

Additional information in this [overview](#) of the fellowship.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Educator Workforce Reports

Please share with HR Directors, School Systems Leaders, and Data Managers.

The 2021-2022 Educator Workforce Report will be released as a live dashboard with information that is updated in real-time. This means the data release will shift to real time reports in lieu of annual, static reporting.

The dashboard will be released and housed on EdLink 360 by early summer. EdLink 360 Workforce Reports will

- grant access for system and school leaders, as well as data managers, to real-time workforce data
- provide data inclusive of Out-of-Field/Uncertified teachers; salary over time; incentive pay over time; experience of departing teachers; effectiveness of departing teachers; certified teacher need for students with disabilities; percentage of SPED classes being taught by certified teachers

Dates for system and site leader trainings for this new platform will be forthcoming this summer.

Please contact Emily.Smiley@la.gov with questions.

CLASS® Train-the-Trainer Funding Opportunity

Please share with school and system leaders of K-2 schools.

During the 2022-2023 school year, schools are encouraged to choose CLASS® or NIET (TAP/Best Practices) as an option to replace Compass for [K-2 Professional Practice](#).

Maintaining trained, certified observers is an important component sustaining the use of CLASS® in K-2. Funding is available for the [CLASS® Observer Train-the-Trainer](#) model for systems with CIR/UIR-A schools. At the school system level, the Train-the-Trainer model will allow school system leaders to build and sustain a cadre of certified observers. Systems who wish to apply for this opportunity should complete the [K-2 Professional Practice Information Survey](#) no later than **April 1, 2022**. It will be used to help allocate seats for affiliate trainers.

Please contact lori.pennison@la.gov with questions.

CIS End of Year Closeout for Teacher Evaluations

Please share with school leaders.

The Department has issued a [CIS Timeline](#) to guide all school systems through the evaluation process deadlines for the 2021-2022 school year. To create a streamlined teacher evaluation upload process at the end of the year, it is recommended that all sites complete the following tasks in [CIS](#):

- Updated rosters to reflect only 2021-2022 educators
- Assigned evaluators and correct evaluation types to each educator
- Assigned SLTs to each educator

The Compass Information System (CIS) will shut down for the 2021-2022 school year on September 1, 2022. Following this date, no teacher evaluation data for the 2021-2022 school year will be able to be amended or added. Please prepare to complete the following no later than August 26, 2022, in [CIS](#):

- Rate both SLTs for teachers and staff
- Enter professional practice scores for teachers and staff (A reminder that any teacher scoring a 2.5 or above is only required to have one professional practice score for the 2021-2022 school year only. This will be entered two times to ensure the CIS average is correct. Further guidance will be forthcoming.)
- Once data is uploaded, finalize teacher evaluations

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

The [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both "Making a Comeback" and our 10th year for this event.

[Regular registration](#) will close on April 15 or at sellout. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

The following educators would directly benefit from the sessions provided:

- Teachers
- Teacher Leaders
- Early Childhood Directors
- Teacher Preparation Providers
- Arts Teachers
- Librarians
- Counselors
- School Leaders
- System Leaders

When selecting educators to attend, systems should prioritize sending those that work directly within content areas such as:

- Career and Technical Education
- Arts
- High School Experience
- Diverse Learners
- ELA
- Early Childhood
- STEM
- Science
- Literacy
- Social Studies
- Technology
- Instructional Best Practices
- Student Well-being
- System/School Planning
- Curriculum and Assessment
- World Languages

Based on participant feedback, enhancements have been made to Teacher Leader Summit, including:

- An improved event app that allows networking with other attendees, Whova
- Increased registration value by including t-shirts and tote bags in the ticket price
- Networking opportunities throughout the event, including evening socials
- Length of day adjusted to meet the needs of participants

The Education Expo returns with high quality professional learning partners and non-profit organizations.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Middle and High School Professional Development Series

Please share with middle and high school teachers, leaders, and support staff.

The [seventh session](#) of a new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy was released today! This session shares ways to build reading comprehension and implement support for struggling readers by identifying topics and utilizing writing strategies. Additional sessions will be released weekly on Tuesdays in the [Literacy Library](#). Pre-recorded sessions will include topics designed to build knowledge around implementing literacy strategies and best practices across all content areas in the middle and high school grades. Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a listing of session titles, session descriptions, and release dates.

Session Links:

- [Recording: Session 7 - Building Comprehension - Writing](#)
- [Slide deck: Session 7 - Reading Comprehension - Writing](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- *Operations*
- *Career and College Readiness*
- *Teaching and Learning*
 - *Educator Development*
 - *Literacy*

Operations

Ready to Achieve Operational Guidelines Masking and Transportation Update

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Please contact dana.dauzat@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Perkins Super App Webinar

Please share with Perkins coordinators.

Join this webinar for more information related to the 2022-2023 Perkins Super App submission. In this webinar, we will address frequently asked questions related to Program Specific Questions, budget and required uses of funds.

Webinar Date and Time: April 1 at 9:30 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95187252545>

Passcode: 656326

Meeting ID: 951 8725 2545

Webinar Phone Number: 1-470-250-9358

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

LOSFA TOPS Processing Webinars

Please share with school counselors.

LOSFA will be hosting the 2022 TOPS Processing Webinars for Professional School Counselors. These interactive, virtual events are designed to help minimize TOPS processing errors for graduating seniors.

Part 1: A Comprehensive Review of TOPS Processing. This webinar will provide an overview of the TOPS processing cycle and review solutions to common errors that prevent or delay TOPS processing, including best practices for submitting documents to LOSFA.

[March 29, 2022 at 9 a.m.](#)

[March 30, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.](#)

Part 2: Preparing Your Seniors for TOPS Processing. This webinar will take an in-depth look at residency verification for TOPS, STS requirements for LOSFA, and navigating the Student Hub.

[March 29, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.](#)

[March 30, 2022 at 9 a.m.](#)

Use the links above to register for the webinar(s) of your choice. You will receive an email confirmation containing the Zoom login information after registering. The email will come from Rhonda Bridevaux <no-reply@zoom.us>. Please check your junk or spam mail if you do not receive the email in your inbox.

Please contact Rhonda.Bridevaux@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Educator Development

Mentor Teacher Funding Increase for 2021-2022

Please share with system leaders who support Mentors.

The Department has determined that Mentors supporting **year-long undergraduate residents** in the 2021-2022 school year will receive a \$1,800 stipend, instead of the usual \$1,000 stipend. These funds will be added to school system allocations in eGMS. School systems should have received an email with details regarding the Mentor allocations the week of March 7.

This additional funding is for **one year only**, based on availability of funds.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Post- Baccalaureate Mentors

Please share with system leaders who support Mentors.

Policy requires that alternate certification candidates in their first year on a Practitioner's License (PL) need to be mentored for five hours per week. School systems will verify this mentoring through an attestation form that is part of a candidate's application for a Level 1 certificate or renewal of a Practitioner License. Candidates without the mentoring will be unable to renew the PL or advance to the Level 1 certificate.

A list of [current first year PLs](#) was sent to school systems on **February 17**. School systems may access this [list](#) using the link provided. The Department will send an updated list to school systems monthly.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Middle and High School Professional Development Series

Please share with middle and high school teachers, leaders, and support staff.

The [sixth session](#) of a new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy was released today! This session shares ways to build reading comprehension and implement support for struggling readers by providing instruction on how to identify topics to write about in order to help develop expertise in that content area. Additional sessions will be released weekly on Tuesdays in the [Literacy Library](#). Pre-recorded sessions will include topics designed to build knowledge around implementing literacy strategies and best practices across all content areas in the middle and high school grades. Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a listing of session titles, session descriptions, and release dates.

Session Links:

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- [Slide deck: Session 6 - Reading Comprehension - Writing Summaries](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.