

**Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, all public schools in the State of Louisiana shall close facilities to students until April 13, 2020.** Decisions about whether staff report to school facilities remains the decision of local governing authority.

- Schools may offer complete distance learning, as capabilities exist.
- With appropriate social distancing measures, schools shall continue to provide meals or other essential services with applicable staff.
- Instructional minute requirements shall be temporarily suspended for distance education courses and for curriculum delivery.
- The required 63,720 instructional minute requirement per year shall also be suspended.
- The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall report to the Governor and the Legislature any further actions necessary to ensure that eligible students achieve successful student grading, promotion, and graduation.

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### General

**Q: How will we know if there are any additional confirmed cases in Louisiana?**

A: The Louisiana Department of Health posts twice-daily updated case numbers online at <http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/>.

**Q: What symptoms are associated with COVID-19?**

A: The most commonly-known symptoms associated with COVID-19 include: fever (83-98 percent), cough (76-82 percent), and shortness of breath/difficulty breathing (11-44 percent). Less commonly exhibited symptoms include nausea, diarrhea, and sputum production.

**Q: Can an individual showing potential symptoms of COVID-19 be tested in Louisiana?**

A: Yes. Healthcare providers, such as hospitals, have the capacity to determine individuals in need of testing.

**Q: What preventative actions can be taken?**

A: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Louisiana Department of Health recommend protecting yourself and students in your care by taking some [basic precautions](#):

- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- If you think you are sick, consult your healthcare provider.

**Q: What is the protocol in place if students experience symptoms associated with COVID-19?**

A: If a student exhibits symptoms associated with COVID-19, the student's parent or legal custodian should be advised. School systems should encourage parents or custodians to consult healthcare professionals as soon as possible.

**Q: What preventative actions can staff take within school buildings?**

A: Staff are encouraged to implement cleaning practices of the following areas:

- Door handles, crash bars, doorknobs
- Entry windows
- Office counters and surfaces
- Handrails
- Sinks and drinking fountains
- Dispensers
- Desks, tables
- Bathrooms
- Anything else that is handled frequently by multiple students and staff

**Q: Should individuals and families have a plan if an outbreak occurs?**

A: There are actions we all can take as individuals to be prepared for COVID-19. The same actions you take to prevent the spread of flu put you in a good position for addressing any respiratory illness - cover your cough, wash your hands (especially after being in public spaces, shaking hands), stay home if you

are sick, and get your flu shot. Individuals and families should also monitor the [CDC COVID-19 website](#), as well as the [Louisiana Department of Health website](#), for additional information, including updated travel advisories before making plans to travel internationally.

**Q: Where can we find more information about COVID-19?**

A: If you have questions about Coronavirus, please contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health at 1-855-523-2652 from 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The [CDC COVID-19 website](#), as well as the [Louisiana Department of Health website](#), are also helpful resources.

**Q: Has the State of Louisiana issued an emergency proclamation related to COVID-19?**

A: Yes. On Friday, March 13, 2020, Gov. John Bel Edwards signed a proclamation that, among other actions, closed all K-12 public schools statewide as Louisiana seeks to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Read the [Governor's proclamation](#).

**Q: If a school system's Spring Break is scheduled the week of April 13, may the school system suspend Spring Break or move Spring Break to the period of mandatory facility closure?**

A: Yes, with proper notification to parents.

**Q: If non-12 month staff or teachers work to provide instruction or services, will school systems encounter legal issues if we need to make up school time and need to pay staff and teachers for more time worked?**

A: School systems need to consult with their own legal counsel as contracts and policies may vary.

**Q: Are there waivers relative to charter board meetings, for example, allowing board members to vote via phone instead of in person?**

A: The Governor has requested that the legislature suspend quorum requirements for open meetings. Such would apply to charter board meetings as well.

**Q: Where can school systems find guidance on appropriate cleaning procedures for facilities and buses?**

A: The CDC has issued [guidance on cleaning](#).

## Seat Time and Distance Learning

**Q: Relative to attendance, what are the waiver opportunities for students who may not have the necessary 63,720 instructional minutes per year?**

A: The annual 63,720 instructional minute requirement has been suspended via the [Governor's proclamation](#).

**Q: Can our school system transition to an online learning platform or other Distance Education modality for the remainder of the school year?**

A: Yes, instructional minute requirements have also been suspended for distance education courses and curriculum delivery via the [Governor's proclamation](#).

**Q: Is there a state approval process for general online providers?**

A: There is not a state approval process for general online education providers. School systems have the choice and autonomy to approve and use any online provider that delivers instruction within the provisions of Bulletin 741 Section 2326.

School systems also have an option to utilize online providers that have been vetted and approved as [Course Choice providers](#) by BESE. Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) funds can continue to be used to pay associated course costs with these providers through June 30, 2020.

**Q: Are school systems required to offer distance learning, or is this optional? Will a school system be penalized for not providing formal distance education and instead providing access to materials and resources? Will days or minutes need to be made up?**

A: School systems are not required to offer distance learning. Schools may offer complete distance learning, as capabilities exist. The required 63,720 instructional minute requirement per year shall also be suspended and minutes will **not** have to be made up.

**Q: Are students required to participate in distance learning if it is offered?**

A: Yes. All students should have equal access and participation.

**Q: What is the definition of "distance learning"? Does this include access to online curricular materials or the use of platforms like Google Classroom?**

A: The components of a distance education program can be found in [Bulletin 741 Section 2326](#).

**Q: How are Carnegie units addressed under minutes requirements? Will Carnegie credit be awarded by grade only?**

A: The Bulletin 741 §2314 instructional minute requirements for course credit have been waived. Students can earn Carnegie credit by successfully completing all course requirements for the distance education courses authorized by the school system.

**Q: If teachers are offering lessons through YouTube or other student-directed formats, must teachers take attendance? Can attendance be project-based (i.e., based on the completion of longitudinal projects)?**

A: If school systems offer distance education, **the school system must take student attendance** every school day, and the teacher of record for each class must take attendance at the beginning of each class period.

**Q: Is the Zoom platform CIPA compliant?**

A: The LDOE provides CIPA Guidance in the [Louisiana's Data Governance and Student Privacy Guidebook](#).

**Q: What is the protocol for 12th-grade students who need to pass currently enrolled courses?**

A: These are local school system decisions based on student needs. The school system may opt to employ distance education options to continue student learning or may opt to re-engage in instruction when the student returns to school

**Q: Will JumpStart credential completion remain a mandatory requirement for JumpStart diploma students?**

A: The Bulletin 741 Section §2319 Career Diploma IBC requirement has been waived through August 31, 2020.

## Special Education

**Q: In the event of a school system closure, is the school system responsible for providing special education and related services?**

A: If a school system has extended school closures, the school system will remain responsible for the free appropriate public education (FAPE) of its students eligible for special education services with an individualized education program (IEP). If a school closure causes educational services for all students to pause within a school or school system, then the school/school system is generally not required to provide services to the affected students eligible for special education services during that same period of time. The school system should also consider whether the student could benefit from instructional telephone calls, online learning, and other distance-based learning approaches, to the extent available.

After an extended closure, school systems are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services to students eligible for special education services. An information data review should be conducted on all students with disabilities. If the student lost progress, teams will need to reassess services and determine whether the student requires compensatory education.

School systems should be communicating with parents and guardians prior to, during, and after a school closure regarding their child's IEP services.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued [a Q&A document](#) on providing services to children with disabilities during the coronavirus outbreak.

**Q: If a school system shifts to distance education/online learning during a closure, is the school system responsible for providing special education and related services?**

A: If a school system makes distance education/online learning available for all students during a closure, it must also consider how it will provide online services for its students with disabilities to ensure equal access. School systems must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, students with disabilities can be provided special education and related services identified in their IEP or their Section 504 plan.

**Q: If a school system shifts to distance education/online learning, does the school system need to conduct a change of placement IEP team meeting after 10 consecutive days of school closure?**

A: **UPDATED INFORMATION.** OSEP has clarified that if a school system makes distance education/online learning available for all students during a closure, it is considered an alternate mode of instructional delivery. It **does not** constitute a change of placement. In other words, a school system does not need to follow the prior notice rules in 34 CFR § 300.503 or have an IEP team meeting to make a formal placement determination under 34 CFR § 300.116. If members of the IEP team believe that online or virtual learning should be a part of the IEP once school reopens, the IEP team would need to meet and incorporate that into the IEP.

Please see other Q&As in this section for additional considerations regarding equal access, compensatory services, and the impact on individual students at high-risk for complications.

**Q: If a student with a disability at high-risk for complications is excluded from school during a COVID-19 outbreak, is the exclusion considered a change of placement under IDEA?**

A: If the exclusion is a temporary emergency measure (generally 10 consecutive school days or less), the provision of services such as online or virtual instruction, instructional telephone calls, and other curriculum-based instructional activities, to the extent available, is not considered a change in

placement. If the team decides that an individual student has high-risk needs that should be met through homebound instruction, then the school system must issue a prior written notice proposing the change in placement. Parents should participate in a discussion during an IEP team meeting held by telephone or video conference.

**Q: Will school systems receive flexibility or extensions on mandated timelines for special education compliance, such as initial evaluations and reevaluations, during the COVID-19 school closure?**

A: Federal and state law and state policy define specific timelines for the provision of special education and related services. BESE approved initial waivers for a number of educational policies, including initial evaluation policies that impact students with disabilities. See [the BESE Emergency Waiver Memo](#) for the list of specific educational policies that impact students with disabilities.

Federal regulations govern additional special education compliance timelines including but not limited to Part C to B transition, initial IEP development (30 days from determination of special education and related services), and reevaluation timelines. At this time, there is no guidance from the U. S. Department of Education regarding the waiver of federal timelines related to these elements of special education compliance. School systems should develop a plan to support maintaining timelines and to document clearly if a delay occurs, the nature and extent of the delay and the plan to move as quickly as possible to prevent any further delay.

**Q: Are school systems permitted to provide special education and related services at satellite sites?**

A: If a school system continues to provide special education (e.g. specialized instruction) and related services (e.g. speech language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy) at a satellite site, the school system should follow each student's IEP, including instructional goals and service minutes. See the Q&A above for considerations with Distance Education and for students with disabilities who are at high-risk for complications due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

## LA 4

**Q: Does the attendance requirement still apply for LA 4 payments?**

A: Absences related to COVID-19 will be excused absences.

**Q: What happens to LA 4 monthly payments if a school closes?**

A: LA 4 payments will continue and will be based on enrollment.

## Federal Child Nutrition Feeding Programs

**Q: Can I continue to provide meal services during the mandatory closure of schools?**

A: Yes. Meals may be offered to children at school sites via the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meal patterns must be followed, with the flexibilities offered to schools, described below. Meals must contain all required components at this time (students are not allowed to select).

**Q: Am I required to serve meals at all of my sites during the COVID-19 closure?**

A: No. A school system may decide to provide meals at all sites or to consolidate operations at fewer sites.

**Q: Are schools required to offer both breakfast and lunch meals?**

A: No. Schools have the discretion to offer breakfast, lunch, or both. Through use of the Meal Service Timing Flexibility Waiver, schools may issue both breakfast and lunch simultaneously to children.

**Q: How do I request approval from the State Agency for schools that wish to offer meals?**

A: The Child Nutrition Program (CNP) [online agreement](#) must be updated to include the application for the Seamless Waiver for all school sites that plan to serve meals ([Seamless Waiver Application Instructions](#)). To expedite approval, email [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov) with a complete listing of schools where meals will be served.

**Q: What flexibilities are offered to schools that wish to offer meals?**

A: School systems may request four USDA Feeding Waivers via the Seamless Waiver Application:

1. [Non-Congregate Feeding](#) (grab n' go, curbside pickup, etc.)
2. [Meal Service Timing Flexibility](#)
3. [Operation of SSO by Non-Area Eligible Schools Food Authorities](#)
4. [Alternate Feeding Method/Delivery of Meals](#) (transporting meals to off-site locations)

The school system should list the waiver options that it wishes to exercise in the "sponsor comments" section of the Seamless Waiver application.

**Q: Is notification to households still required during this time?**

A: Yes. Schools must notify households of the availability of meals at specified sites and times through normal means (i.e. flyers posted at schools, school system websites, etc.).

**Q: Are school systems responsible for providing meals to Type 5 charter schools?**

A: If a school is operating an open feeding program, meals are available to all students 18 years of age and younger, regardless of where the child is enrolled in school. School systems/schools decide whether



to operate meal programs, although if they do operate an open feeding program, they must serve all children.

**Q: Are students required to pick up meals, or may caregivers pick up or receive meals on a student's behalf?**

A: Although it is preferable for children to be present to pick up their meals, we understand that might not always be feasible. *For now*, caregivers can pick up meals on behalf of a child/ren. The LDOE will communicate any changes USDA provides regarding this.

**Q: Are transportation costs eligible for reimbursement in the event that school systems decide to deliver meals?**

A: No. Only meals are eligible for reimbursement through the USDA's child nutrition program.

**Q: Have the required components of a reimbursable meal been waived?**

A: No. Schools must provide all required meal components to receive reimbursement.

**Q: Must school systems update their CNP application and provide meals, or is a charter school able to partner with the school system by referring families to food delivery sites?**

A: School systems (including charter schools) are not required to operate feeding programs during the school closure. If meals will not be served, the school system does not need to update the CNP application. School systems that do not offer feeding programs should refer families to schools operating food pick-up or delivery sites. Only the school system providing the meal may claim reimbursement. Districts, charter schools, private schools, and early childhood centers are encouraged to collaborate when possible to ensure that all children in the community continue to receive meals.

**Q: Can school systems provide meals to students who are enrolled in a different school system? If so, must the school system claim and account for these students?**

A: Yes. Schools operating open feeding programs must provide meals to all children 18 years of age and younger regardless of the school/school system in which the child is enrolled. In addition, overage students enrolled in public K-12 schools, including students with disabilities through age 22, are eligible for free meals at open sites. Children's meals must be counted and claimed by the school site that served the meal.

**Q: Must school systems track the number of meals served or the individual students who are served?**

A: Yes. School systems are reimbursed by the meal and should keep count of all meals served to children 18 years of age and younger. Each site must maintain documentation (hash mark sheet, meal counter/clicker, etc.) as a record of number of meals provided to eligible children for each meal service provided.

**Q: If a school provides meals to “full pay” students in private schools, must those students pay for meals?**

A: No. Meals served at an open feeding program are free for all children (including reduced and full pay students) whether they attend public or private schools.

**Q: Is there a plan for serving dinner?**

A: Schools may serve a *maximum* of two of the following meals per child, per day: breakfast, lunch, snack, and dinner. Schools may not serve both lunch and dinner on the same day.

## Assessment and Accountability

### Statewide Assessments

**Q: How will the state handle testing as schools are closed?**

A: The U.S. Department of Education has not announced any preemptive statewide waivers of assessment requirements. The LDOE is closely monitoring school systems that have closed and those employing distance learning to inform decisions around statewide assessments.

At this time, with schools reopening no sooner than April 13, the LDOE anticipates the spring 2020 assessment windows for grades 3-8 LEAP 2025 will be adjusted to begin no earlier than April 27 and the LEAP 2025 Humanities no earlier than May 4. Currently, the high school assessment window remains unchanged. Additional information will be shared as we learn more about when school systems will reopen.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued a [Fact Sheet: Impact of COVID-19 on Assessments and Accountability under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#).

**Q: What happens to shipments arriving from the assessment vendor?**

A: The Department is currently working with all assessment vendors to monitor and adjust the shipments of secure testing materials.

**Q: Is the state working with ACT to identify new dates for testing windows?**

A: Yes. Schools that selected March 17 standard time paper-based testing currently have secure materials stored in a secure location. To the extent possible, ACT is asking school staff to meet FedEx on Thursday, March 19 for the regularly scheduled pickup.

If this is not possible, schools can opt to do one of the following:

- Contact ACT directly to arrange an alternative pickup date at 800-553-6244, ext. 2800.
- Bring secure materials to a FedEx location for return to ACT.

**Q: Will ACT testing be rescheduled? Should students plan to test during the make-up window?**

A: The LDOE is working with ACT to identify new testing windows and new make-up windows.

**Q: May school systems voluntarily offer the ACT test on Tuesday, March 17th?**

A: No. The LDOE is working with ACT to reschedule all of the state administration windows.

**Q: When will the LEAP window close given the new April 27 start date? What is the rationale around high school testing remaining the same?**

A: New testing windows have not yet been determined. The LDOE is closely monitoring school system closures and distance learning and working with our testing vendors and school systems to inform decisions around statewide assessments. At this time, the grades 3-8 LEAP window would open no earlier than April 27. Many factors (e.g., graduation requirements, school calendars, number of devices, etc.) will inform the decision.

**Q: Can students complete practice tests remotely, at home, or elsewhere?**

A: Yes. Schools may continue to provide practice test sessions for students with school-issued computers with DRC INSIGHT installed and create a process for sharing reports with families. The LDOE has a [Parent Guide to the LEAP 2025 Practice Tests](#) that provides information about the practice tests as well as instructions on how to access the practice tests. Please note when accessing the practice tests through the *Parent Guide to the LEAP 2025 Practice Tests*, student responses are not saved and reports are not generated but there is a link to answer keys that allow parents to check answers while the student is responding online. Paper tests are available for grades 3 and 4.

**Q: How should school systems handle LEAP Connect materials?**

A: The LEAP Connect 2020 UPS pickup deadline for test materials is Monday, March 16. District Test Coordinators should contact the UPS at 866-857-1501 to schedule a pickup. If you are not able to return materials by the deadline due to school closures, District Test Coordinators should notify DRC Customer Service.

[Accountability](#)

**Q: How does the school closure affect state and federal accountability?**

A: The Department will work closely with school system leadership, BESE, and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to consider potential policy adjustments. At this time, ED has provided guidance that it “generally does not grant statewide waivers of assessments requirements.”

**Q: Has cohort graduation data certification been postponed?**

A: Yes. It will not open during the week of March 16. Accountability contacts will receive information as soon as rescheduling is finalized.

**Q: Will the State provide waivers for teacher observations or Student Learning Targets (SLTs) given student absences? What about formal observations?**

A: BESE has waived the requirement for two formal observations and, for the 2019-2020 school year, only one formal observation is required in order to complete the Compass evaluation.

Student Learning Targets (SLTs) are measurable so long as an educator/class absence does not extend beyond 60 days. The LDOE will ask BESE to consider waiving this policy should school closures persist beyond April 13.

[Teacher Preparation](#)

**Q: May universities recommend undergraduate candidates for certification if the candidates were unable to complete 270 clock hours of student teaching or the yearlong residency?**

A: Yes. If school or university closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak prevent undergraduate candidates from completing the required number of student teaching hours, universities may recommend candidates for certification so long as they have successfully completed their courses. Each university will have its own policy relative to successful completion of courses during this time.

[Instructional Preparation](#)

**Q: Can our school system transition to an online learning platform or other distance education modality for the remainder of the school year?**

A: Distance education is allowed under current BESE policy.

If school systems offer distance education, the school system must take student attendance every school day, and the teacher of record for each class must take attendance at the beginning of each class period.

For special education students: excluding a child from school on a temporary, emergency basis while utilizing distance learning will generally not require convening the child's IEP team to consider a continuum of placements. Once the exclusion reaches 11 consecutive school days, however, it is no longer considered temporary, and the IDEA's procedural protections for changes in placement apply.

Furthermore, exclusion of a child due to his or her susceptibility to an epidemic, no matter its duration, must be based on the child's unique susceptibility, as determined by established high-risk criteria, not on mere stereotypes regarding the child's disability.

**Q: What software can the school/school system access for free if I need to do online instruction?  
What resources are vendors offering?**

A: The Department is being proactive and reaching out to vendors to provide Louisiana teachers and students with multiple options for delivering or accessing online instruction and educational materials. The Department will continue to update this information as it is received. A list of educational resources and software options are currently being curated and will be posted by end of day Monday, March 16.

**Q: What resources are available for teachers to plan online assignments?**

A: The Department is taking steps to curate academic resources for schools, teachers, students, and parents. It is:

- Creating a landing page which will include curated lessons and resources for the core content areas. *Link coming soon.*
- Working with Tier 1 curriculum publishers to increase access to digital content, including virtual lessons available through smartphones. [A list of offerings by content and curriculum is available.](#)

The Department will continue to update this information regularly.

### [Student Technology Support](#)

**Q: How can we help students access computers?**

A: Schools need to review their current device policies to decide if students will be able to utilize school-owned student devices at home in order to continue learning opportunities. To address school system/school concerns relative to tracking and managing school devices off-campus, the Department is working with Absolute Software to create a low-cost offering that will provide hardware tracking, monitoring, and reporting as well as investigating and recovering stolen/missing devices. Additional details will be provided to the school system technology directors the week of March 16.

**Q: What resources are available if students do not have internet at home and/or need assistance with accessing the Internet?**

A: FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has launched the “Keep Americans Connected Pledge,” which many [broadband carriers](#) have signed. For the next 60 days, its provisions will:

- not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic;

- waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and
- open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them.

Additionally, limited income households can apply for \$5 to \$10 per month internet access ([AT&T Access](#), [Cox Connect2Compete](#), [CenturyLink Lifeline](#)). [Charter Communication](#) will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a subscription.

**Q: Will the current E-Rate application deadline of March 25, 2020, be extended?**

A: Yes. The FCC has extended the deadline for schools to submit Funding Year (FY) 2020 FCC Form 471 applications by an additional 35 days. E-Rate applicants will now have until Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. EDT to submit. This also means, any school system who may need to post a new Form 470 for additional service(s), can file a form 470, post an RFP for 28 days and file a Form 471 for FY2020 E-Rate funding.

The FCC has also directed USAC to provide all applicants undergoing Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) reviews with an automatic, 14-day extension for all PIA requests.

Waivers for additional deadlines and Requests (Form 486, Form 472, COMAD, invoicing, etc.) have been requested and are under review.

Applicants are encouraged to also monitor USAC's webpage (<https://www.usac.org/>) and news feed for relevant information in addition to Department communications.

**Q: Are school systems required to provide internet access?**

A: If a school system enrolls a student in a distance education program, the school shall ensure that all students enrolled in a distance learning course are provided with the necessary course materials and technical support.

**Q: How quickly do you anticipate access to hotspots and WiFi? What does it mean for a hotspot to be "open" and how will caregivers access these hotspots?**

A: FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has launched the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which many [broadband carriers](#) have signed. For the next 60 days, its provisions include opening its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them. Information specific to the pledge can be found [here](#).

## Data Systems

**Q: What adjustments have been made for statewide data collection periods?**

A: Data system EOY collections with deadlines in May–June will proceed as normal. Data system collections with deadlines in March will be extended once normal business hours resume. All other data system work will be at the discretion of the school systems and their vendors.

- Sending of files to eScholar (Staff ID, Unique ID, LocationID, etc.)
- Sending of EdLink 360 extract files to the EdLink FTP server

**Q: Who should I contact for assistance with LDOE data systems?**

A: Email requests from school systems for support will proceed as normal. LEAs may contact the system data manager or [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov). Vendor discussions and weekly check-ins (eScholar, Hoonuit, EdLink 360 Pilot) will proceed as scheduled.

**Q: Are Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD) payments going to be paid as scheduled also?**

A: Yes, all payments for NSECD and other early childhood programs will be issued as scheduled.

## Teacher Leader Summit

**Q: Has the Teacher Leader Summit been canceled?**

A: No. The 2020 Teacher Leader Summit is scheduled for May 27-29 and will continue as planned at this time. We are closely monitoring and will follow State and local guidance regarding large-group gatherings. Those who plan to attend the event should make refundable travel arrangements. The Department will ensure prompt updates should the status of the event change.

**Q: What happens if the Summit is canceled? Will the LDOE refund my registration fee?**

A: The Department is coordinating with State and local health officials and will adhere to guidance regarding large gatherings. If the Summit must be canceled, all registration fees will be refunded minus processing fees. Should you need assistance, reach out to [LDOEEvent@la.gov](mailto:LDOEEvent@la.gov).

**Q: Can I still register to attend the Teacher Leader Summit?**

A: Yes, [registration](#) is currently open. More specific information on the event is located in the [Overview Document](#). The Department will ensure prompt updates should the status of the event change.

**Q: I no longer plan to attend the Summit. Will the LDOE refund my registration fee?**

A: The LDOE will honor all refund requests minus any processing fees charged by Eventbrite. You can request a refund for your paid registration through Eventbrite. Should you need assistance, reach out to [LDOEEvents@la.gov](mailto:LDOEEvents@la.gov). Please include your full name and the order number found on the top right-hand corner of your ticket confirmation. We ask for your patience as we process requests as quickly as possible.

## Events

**Q: Have any events or meetings been postponed or canceled?**

A: Out of an abundance of caution, the following events or convenings will be postponed or canceled:

- Accountability Commission (3/16 meeting postponed; new date TBA)
- EL Community of Practice Session 3 Cohort Meetings (3/16 – 3/18 meetings postponed; new date TBA)
- Early Childhood March Collaboratives- (3/17- Bossier City; 3/20- Lafayette; changed to a [webinar](#) on Friday, March 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)
- Superintendent Advisory Council (3/19 meeting canceled)
- Early Literacy Commission (3/23; new date TBA)
- Special Education Advisory Panel (3/25 meeting canceled)
- Student of the Year events (More information about virtual interviews will be sent to participants next week)
- Spring 2020 Counselor Institutes (April 2020; rescheduled as virtual institutes)
- Teacher Certification Appeals Council (3/27 meeting postponed; new date TBA)