

Louisiana’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan includes an Interests and Opportunities Index, which comprises five percent of the School Performance Score (SPS). The purpose of the Interests and Opportunities Index is to measure the degree to which schools are providing students with access to a well-rounded education by offering diverse areas of learning to develop skills and talents.

This document is intended to provide guidance to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on accountability and reporting requirements for the 2021-2022 Interests and Opportunities Index.

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## Section 1: Survey Completion FAQs

### *1. What is the purpose of this survey?*

The purpose of this survey is to gather comparable data across schools about what enrichment programming is offered and perceptions of how well it is being implemented. Information collected via the survey will be used to complete the development of the Interest and Opportunities menu for the Menu-Based Approach for the 2022-2023 school year pending BESE approval of the new policy. The survey questions will be posted publicly in the Accountability Library on September 20, 2021.

### *2. When will the survey open and close?*

- Survey open date: **November 15, 2021**
- Survey close date: **December 17, 2021**

### *3. Who should complete the survey?*

The survey should be completed by the principal or school leader, in coordination with the staff member(s) responsible for enrichment programming and someone who has access to coursework, enrollment, and staffing data (i.e. data manager, operations manager). All schools, regardless of grade configuration, should complete the survey. Each survey must be verified and electronically signed by the superintendent.

### *4. How will principals receive the survey?*

The online survey will be distributed to the email address associated with each school leader in the Sponsor Site data system. Accountability contacts will also receive a notification with directions that can be shared with school leaders. The directions will be shared on **October 1, 2021**. LEAs are responsible for ensuring completion by **December 17, 2021**. Each survey will only be considered complete upon receipt of the superintendent or

head of school’s electronic signature. Principals will receive an email upon submission of the survey and upon receipt of the superintendent’s signature.

The Department will provide weekly survey completion reports to LEAs via the data management secure FTP by close of business on Mondays during the survey window.

**5. How do I complete the survey?**

Below are some of the common technology issues that schools and systems have encountered. Screenshots have been included with examples. If you require additional assistance, please contact [accountability@la.gov](mailto:accountability@la.gov).

a. Unique Codes

In order to complete the first page of the survey, you must have your unique access code. Enter it into the box and then click “Auto Complete Fields” to fill in your site’s information.

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the 'School Information' survey form. Both forms have the title 'School Information' at the top. Below the title is a text prompt: 'Please enter your unique access code here: \*'. In the left screenshot, a text box contains 'ABC123' and a button labeled 'Auto Complete Fields' is highlighted with an orange arrow pointing upwards. Below this are several fields, each with a label and an asterisk: 'School Type \*', 'School System Code \*', 'School System Name \*', 'Site Code \*', and 'Site Name \*'. Each of these fields has a text box below it, and a note below each text box stating 'Automatically populates once you submit your unique access code'. In the right screenshot, the 'Auto Complete Fields' button is also present. The fields are now populated with example data: 'School Type' is 'Public', 'School System Code' is '000', 'School System Name' is 'Crawfish Parish', 'Site Code' is '000999', and 'Site Name' is 'Pelican Elementary'. Each field also has the same 'Automatically populates...' note below it.

b. Email Verification

The second page of the survey will ask you to enter your own information for the survey. Please verify your email address by entering it twice.

**Principal or School Leader Email Address \***

example@la.gov

example@la.gov

Please enter your email address twice to prevent any typos or errors. example@example.com

c. Superintendent Verification

On the final page of the survey, please enter the contact information for your Superintendent (or their designee). Additionally, check off the box "I am ready to submit and send to my superintendent or their designee for review. **Do not** fill out any other information on this page. Once you hit submit, the survey will be sent to this contact to validate your survey submission.

**Validation and Submission**

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**Superintendent or Designee Name \***

Jane Doe

First Name Last Name

**Superintendent or Designee Email \***

janedoe@crawfishparish.com

janedoe@crawfishparish.com

example@example.com

**Superintendent (or Designee) Phone Number \***

(225) 555-5555

\*

I am ready to submit and send to my superintendent or his/her designee for review.

**STOP** here and click submit. An email will be sent to your superintendent for their review and signature.

***6. How will the superintendent or head of school validate the survey after the principal has submitted it?***

The superintendent or head of school will receive an email indicating that a survey has been submitted and requires verification, including a copy of the survey submission. After reviewing the survey, the superintendent, head of school, or his or her designee, will click the link in the email, provide an electronic signature on the last page after verifying the information, and click submit. Additionally, a spreadsheet will list out all schools within a school system and their submission status along with a link to edit the survey (where applicable) will be available on the data management FTP each Monday during the submission window.

***7. What if a school has more than one principal or administrator?***

Only one survey should be submitted for each school (site code). Schools with multiple principals or administrators should coordinate to submit one survey.

***8. What type of questions will the survey ask?***

The survey questions will be posted in the Accountability Library under Interests and Opportunities on September 20, 2021. The questions will be centered around the Menu-Based Approach and include the opportunity to give feedback on the draft menu.

***9. Will the survey be scored?***

No, only survey completion will count towards the Interests and Opportunities score. Principals should enter their best estimate of what services and programs are being provided during the 2021-2022 school year. This will be the last year that the survey will gather feedback.

***10. Where are the results from 2020-2021?***

Statewide course enrollment results will be posted to the [Data Center](#) at the end of October 2021.

## Section 2: Course Enrollment FAQs

### ***11. Which courses will count towards the Interests & Opportunities Index?***

There are specific course codes that are aligned with Interests and Opportunities. Please review the updated course code list for the 2021-2022 school year [here](#). Please be advised that these course code numbers have been updated since June 2021.

### ***12. Where is course enrollment reported to the LDOE?***

The percentage of students enrolled in each course category (physical education/health, visual arts, performing arts, and world languages) is based on student schedules as reported to EdLink.

EdLink Extract	Description of Class Schedule Data Reporting
<a href="#">student_schedules.tsv</a>	Student Class Schedules contain information regarding each class a student is enrolled in. Student class schedules are required to be submitted to EdLink during the fall data collection. Updates to student class schedules should be submitted regularly throughout the school year as student schedules change.
<a href="#">course_offerings.tsv &amp; course_offerings_ext.tsv</a>	Course offerings information describe the classes in which the students are enrolled. These class offerings should be a reflection of your LEA's classes offered/planned for the entire school year. These class schedules are required to be submitted during the fall but should be updated as class offerings change throughout the school year.

For the purpose of calculating the Interests and Opportunities index, the following must be true:

1. Students are enrolled in the school on October 1, 2021, according to the October 1, 2021 EdLink submission.
2. Classes are reported to EdLink during the October 1 CLASS collection.
3. Course codes match the enrichment course code list provided by LDOE.

### ***13. Will there be a data verification process for course enrollment reporting in 2021-2022?***

**There will not be a data verification process for course enrollment after the data systems close in January.**

LEA data managers can access a CLASS data validation dashboard and student rosters in EdLink. The dashboards are available under Usage and Data, Data Validation in EdLink.

This dashboard will highlight class schedule data that may impact Interests and Opportunities.

LEA data managers should review this dashboard carefully to ensure accurate information has been reported for calculating the Interests and Opportunities index. A statement of affirmation must be signed by the data manager and superintendent. No additional data verification period will be provided.

**14. Do after school activities count?**

After school offerings are not classes and may not be included in the course enrollment measure. However, pending survey results and stakeholder feedback, certain after school activities may be included in the Menu-Based Approach starting in the 2022-2023 school year.

**15. My school offers enrichment courses not included in the visual and performing arts, health and physical education, and/or world language categories. Will these courses be counted?**

In the 2021-2022 school year, only courses in the four required enrichment categories (physical education/health, visual arts, performing arts, and world languages) will be included in the course enrollment component.

**16. How frequently must a course meet to be included in the Interests and Opportunities measure?**

A course is dedicated instruction on a particular topic provided during the school day. Courses must be part of a student's regular class schedule (e.g. daily, every other day, or once a week). There is no minimum number of minutes required in order to earn credit in the 2021-2022 Interests and Opportunities measure; however, all schools are required to follow the policy outlined in [Bulletin 741](#) regarding seat time requirements for all students.

Many schools have a dedicated enrichment block in which students rotate through different enrichment courses. For example, students may have music class on Mondays, Physical Education on Tuesdays, and so on; or students may rotate through a different enrichment class each quarter. For schools with this type of scheduling, be sure to report each course (e.g. music, PE) via EdLink.

Bulletin 741 provides guidance for the number of minutes for physical education, visual arts, performing arts, and world language courses.

For specific guidance:

K-8: Chapter 23 Section 2313 Subchapter D,E,&F

9-12: Chapter 23 Section 2317

**17. Are courses required to be taught by certified teachers in order to earn credit in Interests and Opportunities?**

No, a teacher does not have to have a specific certification for course enrollment in 2021-2022. Currently courses included in the Interests and Opportunities measure must be offered during regular class time and lead by a classroom teacher. However, pending survey results and stakeholder feedback, certain menu options may require certification under the Menu-Based Approach starting in the 2022-2023 school year.

**18. Do students have to receive a grade in enrichment courses?**

No. Schools and school systems should continue to award grades to students following local policies.

***19. Will LEAs with a world language waiver include a world language course measure for Interests and Opportunities?***

Yes. The Interests and Opportunities measure will include student enrollment in world language courses for all schools enrolling grades 4-8.

***20. How do students who are enrolled in multiple enrichment courses count in the measure?***

Each student counts one time in each enrichment category. If a student is enrolled in multiple courses in the same category (e.g. band and choir), that still counts as one student enrolled in that category. If a student is enrolled in multiple categories (e.g. Visual Arts and Performing Arts), that student will count only once in each category.

***21. Can classes count for both DCAI and Interests and Opportunities?***

Yes. If an 8th grade student earns high school credit for an enrichment course, the school may earn DCAI points in the following year in addition to earning credit in Interests and Opportunities in the current year.

### Section 3: Accountability FAQs

#### **22. How will the Interests and Opportunities measure be calculated?**

**Schools will receive an Interests and Opportunities score based on the current approach in effect since the 2019-2020 school year.** Since this year is not hold-harmless, your score for the Interests and Opportunities Index will count in your SPS regardless of the impact. In 2021-2022 the Interests and Opportunities index for high schools will be based solely on survey completion. The index for grades K-8 will be based in equal parts on survey completion and course enrollment.

The course enrollment score is defined as the percent of grade K-8 students enrolled in physical education and/or health courses, visual arts courses, performing arts courses, and of grade 4-8 students enrolled in world language courses.

To calculate the numerator, sum the following based on October 1 enrollment:

- Total grade K-8 students enrolled in physical education and/or health courses;
- Total grade K-8 students enrolled in visual arts courses;
- Total grade K-8 students enrolled in performing arts courses; and
- Total grade K-8 students enrolled in world language courses.

To calculate the denominator, sum the following:

- Total grade K-8 students enrolled as of October 1, multiplied by 3; and
- Total grade 4-8 students enrolled as of October 1.

Divide the numerator by the denominator and multiply the result by 75.

#### **23. How will Interests and Opportunities be determined for K-2 schools?**

K-2 school principals will complete the survey for their schools. Survey completion will be worth 75 points, and up to 75 points will be awarded for course enrollment. The SPS for K-2 schools will be calculated using the unique Interests and Opportunities survey index points for the K-2 school, combined with the other indices (assessment and other applicable indices) that are shared by the school with which they are paired.

#### **24. How will the Interests and Opportunities index be calculated for combination schools?**

For the 2021-2022 school year in order to calculate a SPS for a combination school, a K-8 SPS is calculated using all of the students in grades K-8 at the site and a high school SPS is calculated using all of the students in high school grades. The two School Performance Scores are then averaged using a weighting formula. Principals at combination schools will complete a single survey, including information for all grades at the site. The results from the survey for the K-8 portion of the SPS will include 75 points for survey completion and up to 75 points for course enrollment. The results from the survey for the high school portion of the SPS will include 150 points for survey completion. *Beginning in 2022-23, the Interests and Opportunities index will be calculated in the same manner for all schools.*



**25. How will Interest and Opportunities affect my SPS Score?**

Interest and Opportunities will count for 5% of the overall SPS for all K-12 schools. For the 2021-2022 school year, Interest and Opportunities will count towards your SPS. Since this year is not hold-harmless, your score for the Interests and Opportunities Index will count in your SPS regardless of the impact.

## Section 4: The Future of Interest and Opportunities FAQs

### ***26. What will happen to Interest and Opportunities after the 2021-2022 school year?***

For the 2022-2023 school year and beyond, the LDOE will be adapting the Interests and Opportunities Index to a Menu-Based Approach. In the Menu-Based Approach, the LDOE will annually publish a list of domains with associated indicators that schools will select as the basis for their Interests and Opportunities Index calculation. Schools will have the opportunity to select indicators across four domains. Domains serve as broad groupings of offerings related to students' interests.

The proposed domains are as follows:

- The Arts
- Extracurricular Activities
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- World Languages

Within each of the four domains there will be a variety of possible indicators that a school may select as the basis for their index score. The Indicators are the specific measures that capture the extent to which a school is advancing students' interests and opportunities. Schools would be required to choose four (4) indicators from at least two (2) domains. At least three (3) of those indicators would be based on data already collected by the LDOE from school systems.

In late summer the LDOE will annually release a survey asking schools to identify indicators that will be used to calculate their Interests & Opportunities Index score for the upcoming school year. Completion of the survey will be due October 1.

### ***27. How will we know which domains and indicators are available annually?***

Starting in the summer of 2022 and every summer thereafter, the LDOE will publish a list of the domains and indicators for the upcoming school year to be used in the Interests and Opportunities Index. Along with this list, a survey would be released for sites to indicate which indicators they would like used in the calculation of their Interests and Opportunities Index.

### ***28. What if we do something that isn't captured in the domains and indicators available?***

As a part of this collection the survey would solicit optional feedback from schools on the list of domains and indicators provided. The survey will play no part in the calculation of the index. The optional survey will be used to allow an opportunity for feedback and suggestions on future indicators. On an annual basis, the published list of domains and indicators will be reviewed and potentially updated based on the data collected and new emerging priorities.