LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Continuous Learning Task Force

August 24, 2021

Call to Order



Roll Call



Approval of Minutes



Consideration of Recommendations from Working Groups



Key Recommendation Areas

Aligned with the focus of this task force and generated from feedback across the state, there are four key recommendation areas for continuous learning improvements.

- Family Engagement and Support,
- Instructional Quality,
- System and School Planning, and
- Technology.



Working Groups Recap

A working group structure was used for the four key recommendation areas to brainstorm the following for each area:

- Importance
- Ideal state
- Recommendations in three levers: initiatives, guidance and support, and policy and law



General Information for Task Force Report

Define types of emergencies, continuous learning Include virtual and paper options in planning



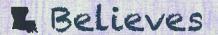
Technology Recommendations

Importance

• Systems must be able to pivot from in-person instruction to virtual learning as soon as possible in the event of an emergency, so that high quality teaching and learning is continued.

Ideal State

- Employees and students have access to the internet and devices at home.
- Parishes have internet access aligned to current standard set forth by Office of Broadband.
- Devices are updated and replaced on a cycle.
- Systems have a strong device and internet access distribution plan and systems in place.
- There is always a 1:1 student to device ratio at school and home.
- Students are using technology in the classroom and at home on a regular basis for meaningful learning, so that using during continuous learning is effortless.
- Systems have a high quality learning management system and usage is effectively implemented during in-person instruction.



Technology Recommendations

Initiatives Recommendations

- Digital literacy implementation with professional learning for systems, schools, and families
- Partnerships with state Broadband Office to ensure connectivity throughout state
- Process for determining high quality instructional materials should include technology integration and supports

Policy Recommendations

State Education Technology Plan to include continuous learning



Technology Recommendations

- Family guidance for using devices and internet at home
- Guidance for leaders and teachers on tracking attendance, administering virtual assessments, and maintaining academic integrity during continuous learning
- Guidance for systems on technology implementation
 - 1:1
 - Replacement
 - Types of Devices
 - Inventory Control
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Family and Educator Technical Support
 - Funding
 - Procurement options

- Issuance policies
- Professional Development
- Tips for Preparation
- IT Support (call center, email)
- Equipment replacement and funding
- Sustainability
- Affordable internet access for families



System and School Planning Recommendations

Importance

• Systems must be prepared, yet flexible, for operating a system under modified operations in the event of an emergency, so that students are safe and learning.

Ideal State

- Systems and schools have aligned, comprehensive plans that are aligned to best practices for emergency planning and that is reviewed and updated by stakeholders annually.
- A continuous learning plan is included, so that there is no interruption in learning.
- There are adequate resources and personnel to implement a system and school plan effectively.
- Communication through multiple channels is frequent, clear, and timely.



System and School Planning Recommendations

Initiatives Recommendations

• LDOE Emergency Team, including community and state partners, which creates and updates a state emergency plan. This should include how to include emergency officials, government agencies, and community organizations as part of the team.

Policy Recommendations

• State policy should include all school systems must create a policy for an emergency plan including continuous learning that is reviewed by stakeholders and updated annually.



System and School Planning Recommendations

- Emergency planning guidance with framework for lead agencies and K-12 systems
- Vendor Guide for emergency planning software or services
- Checklist and/or guidance on creating and updating system and school plan
- Emergency planning should include a section on continuous learning with support from LDH (food, transportation, internet and device access, instruction for all students)



Instructional Quality

Importance

 High expectations and instructional quality must be maintained during continuous learning to ensure all students are on track to mastery of grade level standards.

Ideal State

• School systems ensure equitable access, opportunities, and experiences for all students during continuous learning that are aligned to those of in-person instruction.



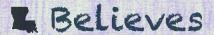
Instructional Quality

Policy Recommendations

- Review policy for updates needed to include "continuous learning"
- Instructional expectations and standards during continuous learning must be maintained for all students

Instructional Quality

- Use best practices from other states to create comprehensive guidance document
- Best practices on how to use instructional minutes (independent work, group work, whole group, office hours) and length of virtual learning minutes by grade
- Share what worked across state from school systems
- Implementing and sustaining high quality virtual learning programs
- Checklist of actions to use when planning for continuous learning
- Processes for documentation of completion of work and attendance
- Attendance and engagement guidance and vendor guide
- Implementation of learning pods



Family Engagement and Support

Importance

• In order for students to be successful, the family-school partnership is critical in continuous learning environments.

Ideal State

- Families are engaged all year, so families are ready for continuous learning as needed.
- All families have the knowledge and resources needed to support expectations for successful continuous learning.
- The expectations for the school and family vary based on the families' needs and the age of their children.



Family Engagement and Support

- Sample Family-Student Contract/MOU
- How to engage in community partnerships to support students with mentors
- Technology training for families
- Parent portal with resources to support families in continuous learning
- Best practices for communications with families
- Establishing a learning coach role



Adjournment

