



**Continuous Learning
Task Force
April 28, 2021**



Call to Order



Roll Call





Agenda



Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Introductions
- IV. Election of Chair
- V. Overview of Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 (2020)
- VI. Overview of LDOE's COVID Response and Recovery
- VII. Consideration of Key Recommendation Areas
- VIII. Adjournment



Introductions





Election of Chair





Overview of SCR 63 (2020)



Continuous Learning Task Force

During the 2020 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 was enrolled to create a continuous learning task force to assist the state Department of Education in developing guidance for Louisiana educators to meet the immediate need of supporting learning outside of our normal practices.

The Continuous Learning Task Force will create recommendations to LDOE on long term continuous learning improvements. During these meetings, task force members will understand the supports and guidance in place since the onset of COVID-19 in Louisiana's schools, the successes in implementing continuous learning plans, and the areas for refinement needed for the future.

What is Continuous Learning?

Continuous learning is provided in school systems through standards-aligned instruction using high-quality curriculum during modified operations which includes:

- System level and school reopening plans,
- Technology access,
- Strategic communications plans,
- Versatile delivery methods,
- Adaptive staffing models, and
- Flexible calendars and schedules.

Task Force Members

Member Name	Appointing Authority	Member Name	Appointing Authority
Richard Hartley	Governor	Cynthia Posey	LA Federation of Teachers
Katrina Jackson	LA Senate	Barry Erwin	Council for a Better LA
Polly Thomas	LA House of Representatives	Lauren Gleason	LA Association of Business and Industry
Em Cooper	State Department of Education	Steven Procopio	Public Affairs Research Council of LA
Ashley Ellis	Board of Elementary and Secondary Education	Jeff Powell	LA Association of School Superintendents
Nancy Tooraen	Louisiana Television Educational Authority	William Kennedy	LA Association of School Superintendents
Wendy Baudoin	LA School Boards Association	Joe David	LA Principals Association
Gordan Ford	LA Public Charter School Association	Beau Brooks	BESE
Keith Courville	Associated Professional Educators of LA	Kristen Steiner	BESE
Blaine Robertson	LA Association of Educators		

Task Force Meetings

All meetings will take place at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, LA.

April 28, 1:00-3:00 PM

May 18, 1:00-3:00 PM

June 21, 1:00-3:00 PM

July 28, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Meeting Procedures

Committee meetings: Meetings will be advertised, open to the public, and held pursuant to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

Committee leadership: The committee will be facilitated by the elected chairperson.

Voting and voting proxies: Other recent education advisory bodies have required appointed members to be present in order to vote. Proxies have been permitted to attend and participate in discussion but have not been allowed to not vote. They have also reserved votes for final recommendations and reports, rather than voting on many individual topics and subtopics in order to support the work of the group to progress. The chair, with input from this commission, will determine how best to address these considerations.

Meeting Procedures

Public comment at meetings: Public comment will be received during each meeting and prior to any votes or at the end of each meeting if no vote is taken. Members of the public may also submit written comments for the record. Public comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes.

Content of public comment: All public comment must relate to the agenda item under consideration.



LDOE Overview



Our Beliefs



Children are our highest priority



Families are our partners



Educators are valued professionals



Graduates must be ready



Equity matters



Choice expands opportunities



Schools are invaluable to communities



Our future is bright

Louisiana's Goals and Priorities

SIX CRITICAL GOALS

Students enter kindergarten ready.

Students will achieve mastery on third-grade assessments and enter fourth grade prepared for grade-level content.

Students will achieve mastery on eighth-grade assessments and enter ninth grade prepared for grade-level content.

Students will graduate on time.

Students will graduate with a college and/or career credential.

Students will graduate eligible for a TOPS award.

EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.

Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.

Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.

Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.

Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships

LDOE Organizational Structure



It takes dedicated professionals to achieve what's possible for our children. We value servant leadership and are grateful for the opportunity to support students, educators, families, and the community. The Louisiana Department of Education is organized to support the work of our priority offices. By focusing on our priorities, we can meet our critical goals and move Louisiana forward.



Overview of LDOE's COVID Response and Recovery



Strong Start

In order to ensure a strong start for every student and for school systems to have a continuous education plan, LDOE released the Strong Start 2020 plan to support school systems in planning for and funding priorities aligned to their current, coherent school system plan.

Strong Start for Every Student

- Identifying students needs
- Plans for every student
- Supporting high school students and graduates

Continuous Education Planning

- 1:1 device and internet access
- Strategy communications plan
- Versatile delivery methods
- Adaptive staffing models
- Flexible and opportunistic calendars and school schedules

Reopening Supports

- [School Reopening Guidelines & Resources](#) and [School Reopening FAQ](#)
- School Reopening Dashboard
- Adopted School Reopening Guidance
- System Leader Reopening Roundtables
- 2 million face covers, 2 million bottles of hand sanitizer, and hundreds of thousands of test kits distributed
- Vaccine priority for educators
- Processed over 10,500 School Reopening Support emails
- All school systems created reopening/operational plans and LDOE provided technical support and reviews for more than 300 school reopening plans
- Held a weekly office hour session with medical experts from CHNOLA and LDH
- Facilitated 12 bi-weekly Town Hall Meetings with CHNOLA
- Additional resources developed alongside public health officials, medical experts, educators & community leaders

Early Childhood Supports

- Reimbursing all CCAP authorized children based on enrollment rather than attendance
- Using the maximum daily CCAP rate
- Waiving CCAP copayments for families
- Providing grants to financially support centers
- Absorbing the fees for license renewals and CCCBCs
- Providing trauma informed supports and mental health supports

Instructional Supports

- Strong Start Tutoring
- Accelerate
- [Summer Learning Program](#)
- Staffing and Scheduling
- LPB Partnership
- Family Supports
- Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL)
- Learning Management System (LMS) vendor guide
- [Implementing Strong Start 2020](#)
- Virtual Instruction Guides for [Educators](#) & [Families](#)
- Teaching and Learning Toolkit for [Early Childhood](#) and [Pre-k-12](#)

Instructional Supports

- Created virtual adaptations to common planning, ELA, and Math observation tools for school and school system leaders
- Professional Development opportunities for teachers and leaders (NIET and Google)
- Held statewide Working Groups in key areas for school system leaders to share progress, provide feedback to LDOE on current and future resources, and remain abreast of statewide implementation measures
- Adjusted Assessment Calendar to have more flexible testing windows
- School Support Institutes: Addressing Unfinished Learning Series

Technology Supports

- The Louisiana legislature allocated \$8 million to the LDOE for distance learning devices. LDOE purchased **23,118 Chromebooks** for **school systems across the state for schools serving grades K-8**.
- Ratio of Total Students to Devices: **0.72:1**
- School Reopening Dashboard
- Creation of State Office of Broadband
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#).

Supports for ELs and SWD

- Family Toolbox Resource to support families of students with disabilities
- Guidance to support EL
- Reopening Guidance for Direct Service Providers
- Reopening Guidance for Special Education Leaders
- Guidance for Compensatory Services for students with disabilities
- Support for ELs during distance learning
- Guidance for virtual small group instruction for students with disabilities
- [Strong Start Guidance for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Guidance to Support English Learners](#)

Well-being Supports

- [Guidance](#) on universal social, emotional, and behavioral screening
- Feeding Louisiana Partnership
- Guidance to support the well-being of students and staff
- Social-Emotional Learning and Academic Integration Program
- Tulane Infant & Early Childhood Consultation Supports and Services (TIKES) Partnership
- Partnership with Ochsner Medical Center to offer **free teletherapy** to all educators and school support staff across the state
- Stakeholder collaboration on supporting school systems to maintain contact, regular attendance, and engagement with students and families

Funding Supports



LOUISIANA'S PLAN

A PLANNING GUIDE
FOR SCHOOL SYSTEMS
IN IMPLEMENTING PRIORITIES
AND ALIGNING FUNDING

UPDATED
JUNE 25, 2020
10:00 AM



EARLY CHILDHOOD
PLANNING GUIDANCE

MARCH 29, 2021



PRIORITIES-BASED
PLANNING GUIDE
FOR SCHOOL SYSTEMS
ESSER II AND ESSER III FUNDING

MARCH 30, 2021



Funding Supports: Believe!

Louisiana received, in total, more than \$1 billion via the Child Care and Development Block Grant distribution formula for states. The Department developed *Believe!* planning guidance to support community networks in accessing funding opportunities in these four strategies:

- **Strategy 1: Child care is stabilized immediately**, with a focus on providers and the early childhood workforce.
- **Strategy 2: Communities expand child care supply and increase access** to opportunities for high-quality early childhood care and education this year.
- **Strategy 3: Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions** for children every day.
- **Strategy 4: Families with young children who experienced unfinished learning this year are given opportunities and support.**

Funding Supports: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)

Grant Fund	<u>ESSER I</u>	<u>ESSER II</u>	<u>ESSER III</u>
Total ESSER Allocation	\$13.2 billion	\$54.3 billion	\$122 billion
LDOE Total Award Amount	\$286,980,175	\$1,160,119,378	\$2,605,462,325
Minimum LEA Allocation	\$258,282,158	\$ 1,044,107,100	\$2,344,916,922
Available for Obligation*	9/30/2022	9/30/2023	9/30/2024
LDOE Application			

Funding Supports: Achieve!

The Department developed *Achieve!* planning guidance to support school systems as they begin planning for the development of *Achieve!* budgets using ESSER II and ESSER III formula funds.

There are new, updated, and previously released high-impact initiatives aligned to each priority and corresponding focus areas.

Funding Supports: GEER

Through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, all public and private schools and students will be provided free access to an online Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Purpose Prep content library and curriculum.

CRRSA dollars provided through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund to K-12 systems will support the following initiatives.

- ACT Vouchers
- Student Re-engagement
- Literacy Loss Professional Development
- Educator Health Coaches
- Dual Enrollment Portal and Fast Forward Program Evaluation
- Louisiana Office of Financial Aid Outreach & FAFSA Campaign

Student Stats

- 99% of childcare centers are open.
 - 71 % of pre-k-12 students are in-person.
 - 9% of pre-k-12 students are hybrid.
 - 20% of pre-k-12 students are virtual
-
- 2% of students in Louisiana tested positive for COVID-19.

National Reopening Leaders

- American Enterprise Institute's [Return to Learn Tracker](#) ranked Louisiana **No. 7 in the nation** for the highest number of students participating in face-to-face learning as of March 15, 2021.
- Louisiana's school reopening plan was ranked as the **eighth most aggressive in the nation** on the tracker prior to March 15.
- LDOE's Accelerate strategy and Summer Learning Program guidance are national models.
- Harvard University's [Opportunity Insights](#) data shows Louisiana students led nation for math gains from May 2020 to March 2021.



Consideration of Key Recommendation Areas



Outreach Efforts

- Survey and focus groups on virtual lessons learned
- 60+ listening sessions (students, families, educators, leaders, community, business)
- Numerous reopening webinars w/ 800+ school and system leaders
- Monthly virtual roundtables with school system leaders and chief academic officers
- New Office of School System Relations
- Bi-weekly virtual town halls with Children's Hospital New Orleans for educators, families
- 10,500+ emails to account designated for school reopening
- Weekly office hours
- Statewide working groups

Areas for Improvement

- Access and training for technology and broadband required for successful virtual learning for teachers and families
- Communication structures and resources to support families
- Student engagement (absenteeism/truancy)
- Consistent, high quality instruction across state during continuous learning
- System and school level emergency planning and preparedness structures in various situations
- Staffing and scheduling models and supports
- Supports for ELs and SWD

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

During the next two task force meetings, we will use a working group structure to brainstorm the following for each key recommendation area:

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

This structure will allow all members to provide input in each area to generate recommendation suggestions. Based on the recommendations from the working groups, LDOE will present research, plans, and more information in each category at the subsequent meeting in order to formulate recommendations.

Adjournment



Next Steps

- The May task force meeting will be held May 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the Claiborne Building.