



**Children's Cabinet Advisory
Board**

May 13, 2021

Louisiana 7th nationally for in-person instruction

"Louisiana schools have been at the forefront of safely providing in-person instruction this entire school year. National reports are starting to highlight what we've known for some time in Louisiana; daily face-to-face instruction can be safe and effective when following strong mitigation efforts like we have in our state." - Dr. Brumley



Believe to Achieve

The Department recently released [Believe to Achieve: Educational Priorities](#). This priorities plan serves as the Department's roadmap to improving outcomes for all Louisiana children.

Believe to Achieve includes the Department's new belief statements, state data to help track progress toward Louisiana's six critical goals, and the new priorities that will direct the LDOE's efforts as they work toward achieving the critical goals. Each priority outlines focus areas for the key actions and initiatives.

ACCESS

Believe to Achieve

Belief Statements

Louisiana Believes...



Children are our highest priority



Equity matters



Families are our partners



Choice expands opportunities



Educators are valued professionals



Schools are invaluable to communities



Graduates must be ready



Our future is bright



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.

LOUISIANA SCHOOLS & STUDENTS

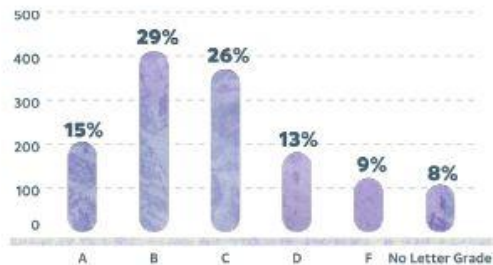
LOUISIANA SCHOOLS & STUDENTS

Local Education Agencies (LEAs)	191
Public and Nonpublic Schools	1,737
Public and Nonpublic Students	804,539
English Learners*	3.8%
Economically Disadvantaged*	74%
Students with Disabilities**	13%
Publicly-Funded Early Childhood Sites	1,629
Publicly-Funded Early Childhood Children	57,400

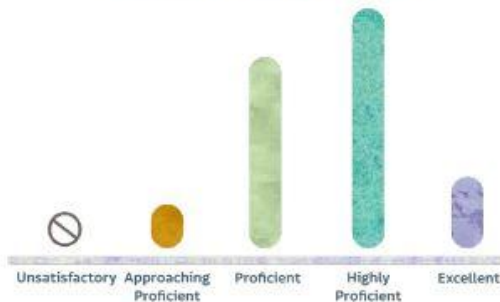
LOUISIANA'S NATIONAL EDUCATION RANKINGS

2020 Education Week Quality Counts	47th
2020 US News and World Report	48th
2019 NAEP 4th Grade Math	49th
2019 NAEP 4th Grade Reading	49th
2019 NAEP 8th Grade Math	48th
2019 NAEP 8th Grade Reading	44th

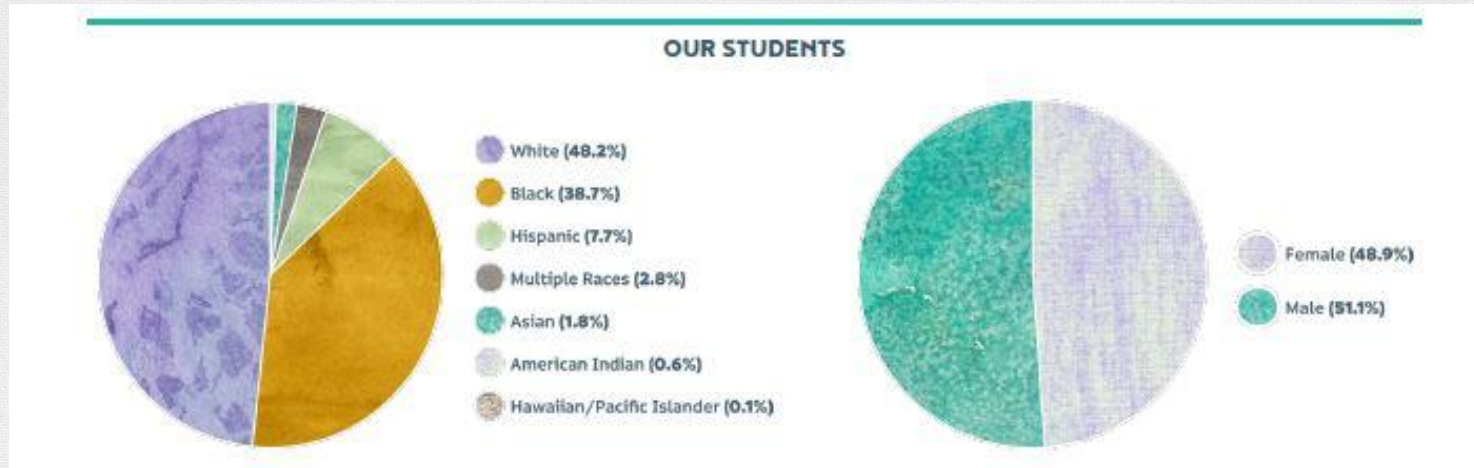
2019 SCHOOL LETTER GRADES



2019-2020 EARLY CHILDHOOD PERFORMANCE PROFILE RESULTS



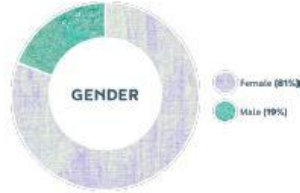
Our Students



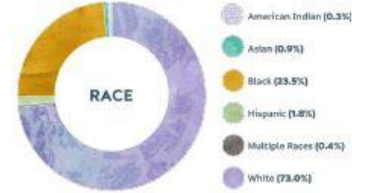
Our Educators

LOUISIANA EDUCATOR WORKFORCE

OUR TEACHERS (2019-2020)



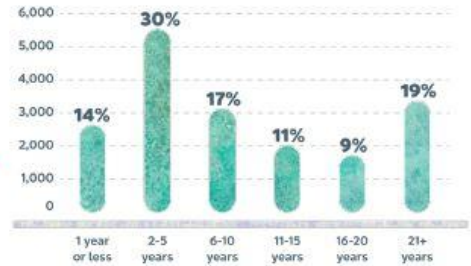
60 PERCENT OF LOUISIANA TEACHERS ARE WHITE FEMALES. 5 PERCENT ARE BLACK MALES.



TEACHERS BY CERTIFICATION STATUS (2019-2020)



YEARS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPERIENCE OF EXITING TEACHERS (2016-2019)



Percentage of Early Childhood Education teachers certified statewide (2019-2020)



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



Extraordinary Events of 2020



Louisiana Strong

2020 was an extraordinary year. The devastating effects of COVID-19 were felt by all. At the same time, Louisiana withstood two natural disasters, Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta.



Current Efforts



Current Efforts

As Louisiana continues to recover from the impacts of 2020, many of the supports that began in early 2020 are still being provided.

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

Pre-K-12 Supports

- Tutoring
- Summer learning programs
- Mental health supports
- *Achieve!* initiative
- Virtual Instruction Guide with expectations and best practices for Virtual Learning
- Teaching and Learning Toolkit for Early Childhood and pre-k-12 which included supports for students with disabilities and English Learners, technology distribution and training, staffing and scheduling models, continuous learning in core and non-core areas, and assessing and addressing unfinished learning
- School Support Institutes: Addressing Unfinished Learning Series (training for educators and leaders)
- Virtual Instruction PD for all teachers and leaders

Child Care Assistance Program

To support all families in accessing high-quality child care, the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance to low-income families while they are working or attending school.

[Apply online](#) or by paper linked below.

English [CCAP Application](#)

Spanish [CCAP Application](#)

Vietnamese [CCAP Application](#)

Any questions concerning CCAP can be addressed by contacting the Louisiana Department of Education at 1-877-453-2721 or emailing LDEccap@la.gov.

→→→ CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE APPLICATION PROCESS ←←←

1. Determine if you are eligible for child care assistance.
2. Are you responsible for paying child care costs for a child under 13 or a child under 18 with a disability who lives with you?
3. Is every adult in your household:
 - Working at least 20 hours a week **OR**
 - Attending an accredited school or a training program as a full-time student **OR**
 - Attending an accredited school or a training program at least 20 hours a week **OR**
 - Actively seeking work **OR**
 - Participating in a transitional living program **OR**
 - Receiving disability income **OR**
 - Experiencing homelessness?
4. Is your household's total monthly gross earned and unearned income less than the amount listed below for your household size?
(*gross income refers to income before any deductions from the paycheck*)

2 PERSONS \$2,927	3 PERSONS \$3,616	4 PERSONS \$4,304	5 PERSONS \$4,993	6 PERSONS \$5,682	7 PERSONS \$5,811	8 PERSONS \$5,940	9 PERSONS \$6,069
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If you answered YES to all of the above questions, you may be eligible for child care assistance. * Limits are Subject to change

CATEGORICALLY ELIGIBLE:

Is your child a participant in the Early Head Start Childcare Partnership, have an IEP or IFSP, Homeless, or STEP/TANF recipient?



TIKES Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program

Tulane Infant & Early Childhood Consultation Supports and Services (TIKES) is a partnership between the Louisiana Department of Education, Tulane University, and local non-profits throughout the State to provide **FREE** mental health consultation across Louisiana.

TIKES mental health consultants are licensed mental health professionals who have been trained in infant and early childhood mental health.

The TIKES Tele-MHC line is available to anyone caring for young children. They would receive basic support and referrals to community agencies where they can receive more in-depth support and/or treatment.

TIKES consultants are available to collaborate with community agencies to provide professional seminars for families on topics related to the social and emotional health of young children. Topics could include: sleep hygiene, conscious discipline, maintaining a home schedule, and more!

To make an appointment for a teleMHC session or connect with TIKES go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/TulaneTIKES>

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

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

- Character & Leadership Development
- College & Career Readiness
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Personal Development
- Social & Emotional Success
- Unlock Your Purpose

School systems and schools can sign-up to participate in this program by completing an addendum with the State and working directly with Edgenuity's sales representative [Roe Wilkinson](#) to implement and manage their student's access to the content library. The [agreement and addendum](#) can be found on the Department's Data Sharing Agreement webpage.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Emergency Broadband Benefit for Families

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched an [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#) to assist eligible households or school systems in paying for home internet services during the pandemic.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a single discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service being provided to eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price. In cases where the school system is purchasing home internet services for an eligible student, the school system can utilize the EBB discount to help defray the cost of service.

Households of students who currently attend a school that participated in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) in 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 qualify for this discount. Additionally households of students who attend a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and are receiving free or reduced-price meals also qualify. To assist families in determining if they qualify for the EBB program based on NSLP and CEP participation, the Department will be launching an eligibility and information [document](#) and providing updates as they are released by the FCC.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Summer learning programs (SLPs) are designed to provide students with additional opportunities for learning and growing during the summer months. Systems should strive to create opportunities for all students to access a summer learning program.

To support school systems in providing summer learning programs for incoming K-8 students, [guidance](#) was released that includes:

- Structure and elements of a summer program
- Resources for implementing elements
- Staffing and scheduling considerations
- Sample schedules
- Checklists for action steps during the spring and summer
- Funding information

Pandemic EBT Program

The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has received federal approval to distribute a second round of Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits to eligible families for the 2020-2021 school year. **There is no application needed.**

- Parents do not need to apply.
- Schools will report to DCFS which students meet the criteria for eligibility and whether they are on a hybrid or fully virtual learning schedule.
- P-EBT benefits will be issued on Louisiana Purchase EBT cards in each eligible child's name. The cards will be mailed to the address provided by your school.
- Parents who received P-EBT in 2020: DO NOT ORDER NEW P-EBT CARDS. New Louisiana Purchase cards will arrive in the mail.
- DCFS will issue P-EBT benefits beginning this summer.

Access the [informational flyer](#) for additional details.



LDOE + Ochsner Partnership: Educator Mental Health and Well-Being

- Ensuring the health, safety, and mental well-being of the school support staff that have been serving on the front lines for the good of Louisiana students is a top priority for the Department.
- The LDOE has just finalized a partnership with Ochsner Medical Center to offer **free teletherapy** to all educators and school support staff across the state.
- The Department has committed \$1M to this project to ensure that we can take care of those that are taking care of our students. **Educators and support staff will have access to four, completely free and 100% confidential counseling sessions with licensed mental health professionals.**

LDOE + Ochsner Partnership: Educator Mental Health and Well-Being

How will this work?

- Ochsner has built a custom, online platform and hired additional mental health professionals to staff this initiative specifically with the needs of our teachers and support staff in mind.
- Using a laptop, tablet, or smartphone, educators will be able to schedule and **participate in virtual teletherapy from anywhere** and, due to the increased staffing of Ochsner and after-work appointments available, **during a time that works best for them.**
- Information will be communicated through all LDOE channels including our website in the coming weeks.

Strong Start Spring Survey

The Department is releasing the Strong Start Spring survey in two phases:

Phase 1: To be completed by school leaders, teachers, students, families, and the community

- [Survey](#) was released on Monday, **May 10**.
- The deadline for survey responses to be submitted is **May 24**.

Phase 2: To be completed by school systems

- Survey released in July

The survey links will be accessible through: LDOE Weekly Newsletter, Important News for Nonpublic Schools, and News for Louisiana Charter Schools.

The Department will develop a report of the data collected from the survey and utilize the data to determine support provided to school systems for the 2021-2022 school year.

Please contact kathryn.perry@la.gov with questions.



Thank you!

Please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov with questions.

