

### **Background: Louisiana’s Interests and Opportunities Measure**

A [voluminous series of rankings and reports, as well as self-reported data from Louisiana school systems](#), indicates that many Louisiana students are not being provided with a well-rounded education needed for a productive and healthy life after high school. To better support schools in their efforts to address gaps in students’ access to enriching experiences, Louisiana has proposed adding an Interests and Opportunities indicator to its school accountability formula beginning in 2019-2020.

The Interests and Opportunities indicator, which will make up five percent of each school’s rating, is intended to measure whether schools are providing students with access to a well-rounded education, exposing them to diverse areas of learning in which they can develop their skills and talents and leading to a pathway to prosperity. This will be measured through a “menu” approach that will allow school systems to demonstrate a strong effort in a variety of ways.

This new index will help Louisiana achieve its vision of ensuring that all students have access to quality visual and performing arts, world language instruction, technology consistent with current standards, health and fitness, and life skills and career preparation.

### **Purpose of the Request for Information**

In order to develop a valid and reliable accountability indicator, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is seeking to partner with the country’s best experts in the following enrichment areas: visual and performing arts; world languages; health and fitness; technology and engineering; and life skills and career preparation.

Through this Request for Information (RFI), the LDOE seeks to learn:

- What tools and partners exist to measure school enrichment offerings with validity and reliability, including successful use in other states or districts?
- How will those tools and partners differentiate weak, good, great, and exceptional enrichment offerings?
- Where are there gaps in tools that need to be developed to validly measure school enrichment offerings and how can those tools be developed?

### **The Opportunity for Interested Organizations**

Organizations will have the opportunity to partner with Louisiana to develop, promote, implement, and scale measures of quality school enrichment offerings. Tools that are valid and reliable will be prioritized for use in the state’s accountability system.

Additionally, several other states have proposed similar measures in their ESSA accountability plans, including [Connecticut](#), [Illinois](#), [Kentucky](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Michigan](#), as well as the [District of Columbia](#).

While all are in various stages of development and implementation, there is a clear and growing national interest in elevating the role of enrichment opportunities in K-12 education through accountability measures.

### **Requested Information**

The LDOE is requesting information about organizations, including what model(s) they use and/or propose to develop for evaluating the quality of enrichment experiences in schools. Examples may include measures at the student, classroom, program, school, or school system level across any combination of age/grade levels, and they may be qualitative and/or quantitative in nature. The LDOE welcomes examples that are aligned with its overall vision for the Interests and Opportunities indicator even if they do not meet the specific priorities defined in this request.

Responses to the prompts below should total no more than three pages but may include additional attachments and/or links to online resources as appropriate.

#### 1. Partner Information

- a. Organization name
- b. Organization contact name, position, email, and phone number
- c. Area of expertise: visual arts, performing arts, world languages, technology, health and fitness, life skills and career preparation (e.g. post-secondary planning, apprenticeship or internship experiences), multiple (identify all), or other (describe)
- d. Summary of the organization's mission and its connection to Louisiana's plan for increasing student opportunities and supporting their interests, as described in this document

#### 2. Evaluation Model

- a. Describe the tool, metric, or strategy used to evaluate the quality of enrichment experiences. Be sure to include which enrichment area(s) and ages/grades are covered as well as any other information that is pertinent to understanding the evaluation model.
- b. What is the current level of implementation (design, pilot, early phase, full scale)? Describe where the tool is used, in what types of schools/districts, and how the results are used. If implementing across multiple sites, how does the organization ensure fidelity of implementation?
- c. Describe the data collected, including whether it is at the student, program, school, or system level, and what system or platform is used to analyze data and report results.
- d. What are the estimated costs to develop, pilot, and implement the evaluation model? Please explain how the respondent arrived at this estimate.

- e. If appropriate, please attach or include links to additional documentation, including but not limited to example tools (e.g. rubrics, surveys, etc.) and reporting on results. Materials provided in response to this RFI will not be shared without permission.

Please email all information to [Jill.Zimmerman@la.gov](mailto:Jill.Zimmerman@la.gov) by June 29, 2018.