



**HSS Recovery and RSF3
Integrated Support Services
Model - Scoping Meetings
2021**

Agenda

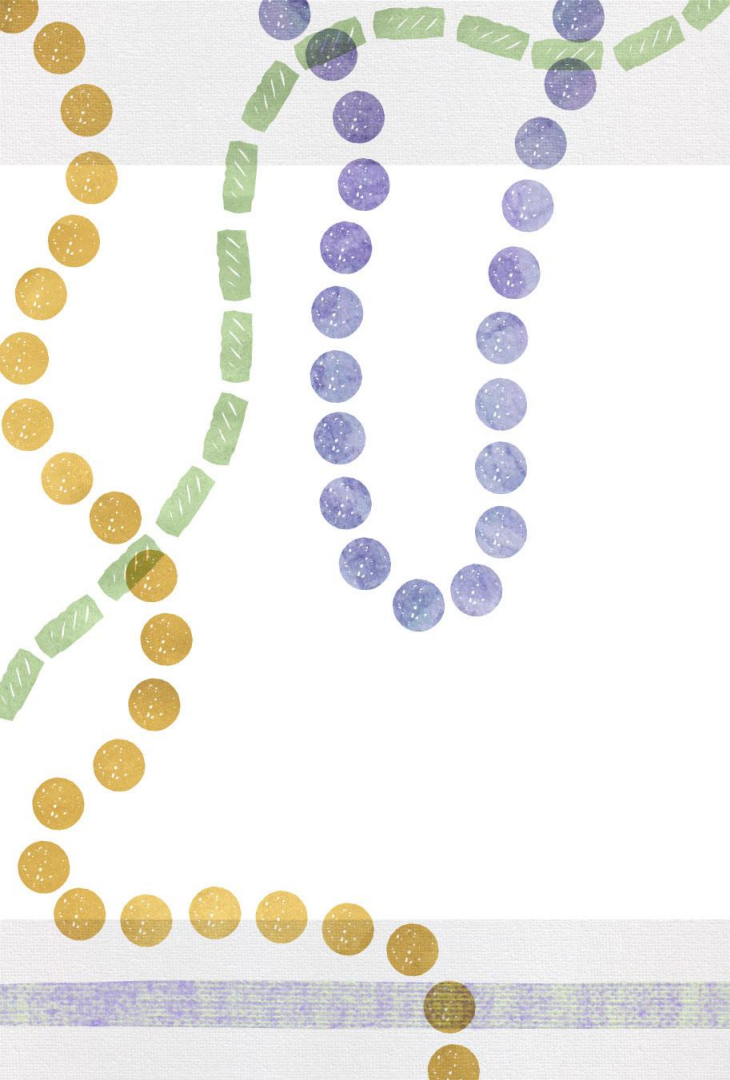
- I. Review of Priorities Plan
- II. Extraordinary Events of 2020
- III. Continued Recovery Efforts
- IV. Looking Forward



Welcome

**Dr. Quentina Timoll
Chief of Staff and Operations
Louisiana Department of Education**





Educational Priorities

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



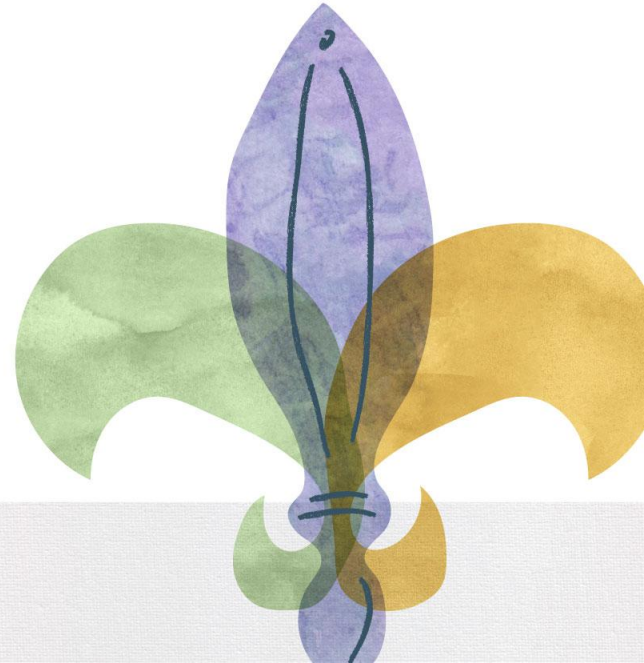
Extraordinary Events of 2020



Louisiana Strong

Two-thousand twenty 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. The following slides tell the story of the impacts to Louisiana's educational system and the resiliency of Louisianians.

Early Childhood



Early Childhood Center Closures Due to Hurricane Laura and Delta

By September 22, 2020, 21 percent of all child care providers (centers and registered homes) in parishes included in the Major Disaster Declaration were still closed.

- Licensed Centers: 22 percent (60 of 270); 25 of the 60 licenses were suspended due to significant damage (e.g. significant structural damage, roof damage, water damage)
- Family Child Care and In-Home Providers: 16 percent (10 of 64); 8 registrations were suspended due to significant damage (e.g. major structural damage)
- Calcasieu Parish had the most long-term closures (over 30 days) with 11

In October, 44 licenses were still suspended as a result of damages sustained from Hurricane Laura and 3 licenses were suspended as a result of damages sustained due to Hurricane Delta.

Overall, 146 child care providers closed their doors in 2020.

Early Childhood Centers After Hurricane Laura



Toddler Junction, DeQuincy, LA - Type I, Licensed Capacity - 41



University United Methodist Day School, Lake Charles, LA - Type III, Licensed Capacity - 171

Early Childhood Centers After Hurricane Laura



Heaven's Precious Angels Daycare, Sulphur, LA - Type III, Licensed Capacity - 49



Hayleigh's Childcare Learning and Development Center, Lake Charles, LA Type III, Licensed Capacity - 39

Child Care Criminal Background Check Program

Challenges

- The Hurricanes left parishes without power, internet, and varying degrees of damage.
- Fingerprint locations were closed again due to lack of power or internet.
- Centers were trying to reopen safely after COVID closures but could not get new staff fingerprinted.
- Some staff could not work due to evacuations and their homes being severely damaged.

The Department had to mobilize fingerprint equipment and staff in order to allow centers to hire staff with fingerprint-based background checks. Many centers had delayed re-openings due to fingerprint vendor closures. Many individuals stayed unemployed due to lack of a fingerprint-based background check.

Key Takeaways for Child Care Providers

Prior to COVID-19 and Hurricane Laura and Delta, there was a staggering unmet need for early care and education for children younger than four in Louisiana. The COVID-19 pandemic and recent hurricanes exacerbated what was already true: the child care ecosystem in Louisiana is extremely fragile and there is insufficient funding to support the need in our state.

- We recognize that unlike K-12 schools, child care centers are small businesses that operate on extremely narrow profit margins in the best of circumstances.
- Without greater financial support, many Louisiana child care providers are at risk of closing their doors permanently. This would be devastating to children, families, and the economy.



Pre-K-12

Hurricane Laura

"If a picture is worth 1,000 words, boots on the ground are worth 5,000."

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley after touring damage in Calcasieu Parish following Hurricane Laura



Hurricane Laura and Delta

All 64 Louisiana parishes were impacted in some manner by Hurricane Laura or Delta.

- FEMA Disaster Declaration covered all 64 parishes among the five levels of assistance.
- Individual and Public Assistance, Categories A-G has been granted to 12 school systems and 4 charter schools:
 - Cameron, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Allen, Beauregard, Vernon, Rapides, Grant, Winn, Jackson, Lincoln, and Ouachita
 - Southwest Charter, Lake Charles Charter Academy, Lake Charles Charter Prep, and Lincoln Prep
- Despite the challenging facility damages, the majority of impacted school systems were able to deliver educational services.
- A few school systems enrolled and educated students displaced by the disaster per guidance provided by the Department.
- Calcasieu and Cameron faced some of the most challenging circumstances.

Hurricane Recovery: Allen Parish

Damage

- Allen Parish had major damage to Fairview, Reeves, Elizabeth and some of the Kinder schools. They also had minor damages at the remainder of their schools.
- Damages included roof damage, water damage to floors and ceiling tiles, water damage to gym floors, covered walkways destroyed and a lot of trees down.

Funds in Use

- Allen Parish is using insurance money to cover the majority of the repairs. They had about \$200,000 worth of damage not covered by insurance.
- They have about 1.5 to 2 million dollars in deductibles. This money will come out of their general fund.
- They are waiting to see if they will receive support from FEMA.

Hurricane Recovery: Allen Parish

Current Recovery Need

- Allen Parish experienced significant damage but has been able to open all schools five days a week.
- Allen Parish serves a community where 80% of students are economically disadvantaged; therefore, their greatest current need is financial support. Allen Parish has requested help with their deductible from FEMA.

Additional Information

- Allen Parish has experienced some challenges balancing working with FEMA and the need to get students in the classroom quickly. Their ultimate goal is to keep their students in school.

Hurricane Recovery: Beauregard

Damage

- Worked with Cotton Global Disaster Solutions and the BPSB insurance adjusters to begin restoring schools to working conditions; some of the schools sustained more damage than others, but all schools received damage.

Funds in Use

- Utilizing General Funds for disaster recovery
- School system has not received insurance money, which (when received) will not sufficiently cover costs.

Current Recovery Need

- Assistance in getting buildings restored

Additional Information

- Used CARES Act funds to purchase technology

Hurricane Recovery: Calcasieu Parish

Damage

Calcasieu suffered significant loss with damage to 74 of 76 buildings and repair estimates of over \$200 million.

A large percent of the 30,000 students were physically scattered in locations all around the state and country. Educational services were offered through a virtual program with access from anywhere for all students that were located.

Funding

Received \$40 million from insurance.

School system has borrowed (through a loan) \$35 million

- The school system will still need to come up with money plus interest in order to pay off the loan.
- Spent \$9.7 million thus far
- The remainder will be expended through General Funds
- Due to the shortfall in funds for the recovery effort, the school system is facing a huge Reduction in Force (RIF) in SY2021-2022.

Hurricane Recovery: Calcasieu Parish

Current Recovery Need

Assistance around building/structures

- School system will bring in temporary buildings in the near future
- Students are sitting on cement floors
- Roofs are still needing repair or replacement

Assistance in receiving funds

- FEMA requires 10 percent matching funds, which would be around \$30 million for Calcasieu Parish.

Additional Information

Due to the hurricanes, Calcasieu Parish is down 4,400 students. This equates to approximately \$13 million in loss of MFP.

Hurricane Recovery: Cameron Parish

Damage

Cameron started recovery with assessment of damaged buildings and temporary repairs.

- In an initial survey of students, 96 percent of the 1,278 students responded saying:
 - 83 percent anticipated return to system schools;
 - 16 percent were not certain about return;
 - 1 percent would not return.
- Schools were scheduled to open, but due to Hurricane Delta, new damages delayed school openings by a few weeks.

Funds in Use

- Currently utilizing General Funds for the recovery efforts.

Hurricane Recovery: Cameron Parish

Current Recovery Need

Assistance around funding for repairs to current School Board Office building or for building a new or temporary structure

- School system may need a need a temporary building to be used as a School Board Office.
 - The assessment of the School Board Office is scheduled for the start of June 2021.

Assistance in obtaining the \$7 billion FEMA funds owed to the school system from Hurricane Rita

Additional Information

- Currently have enough buildings for students
- Need to rebuild two gymnasiums

Hurricane Recovery: Jefferson Davis

Damage

- The estimated total impact of damages for both storms totaled approximately \$4.5 million. There is an estimated amount of insurance available of \$1.7 million. This leaves an estimated deductible amount of \$2.8 million that the School Board is in the process of applying to FEMA for assistance*.
These numbers are preliminary as the system is still combining through all adjusters reports, insurance documentation and FEMA steps.
- The estimated number of buildings that sustained damages in Hurricane Laura is approximately 130 and approximately 150 in Delta
- Schools closed for a week
- Experienced a lot of water intrusion from the (wind) driven rain, peeled back roofs and water was coming in through the windows. Some windows were broken due to flying debris.
- Experienced damage to gym floors, ceiling tiles, walls, awnings and air conditioning units, as well as outside structures including tractor sheds, agriculture buildings and batting cages.

Hurricane Recovery: Jefferson Davis

Current Recovery Need

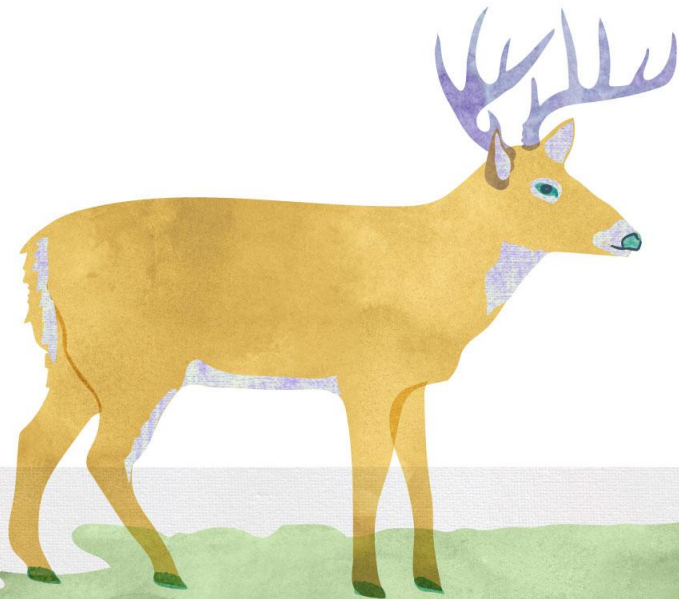
- Assistance in getting buildings restored
- Assistance with FEMA

Additional Information

The superintendents of Beauregard, Calcasieu, and Cameron conveyed that, in many instances, they would rather complete/submit the paperwork directly to the appropriate agency or vendor than to go through the Department of Education.

Each conveyed that having to go through the LDOE could potentially slow down the process of obtaining needed items or getting concerns resolved, which would ultimately negatively impact teaching and learning.

**Immediate Supports Provided
to Systems and Child Care
Providers**



Support for Impacted Providers, Families, and Children During and After Hurricane Laura and Delta

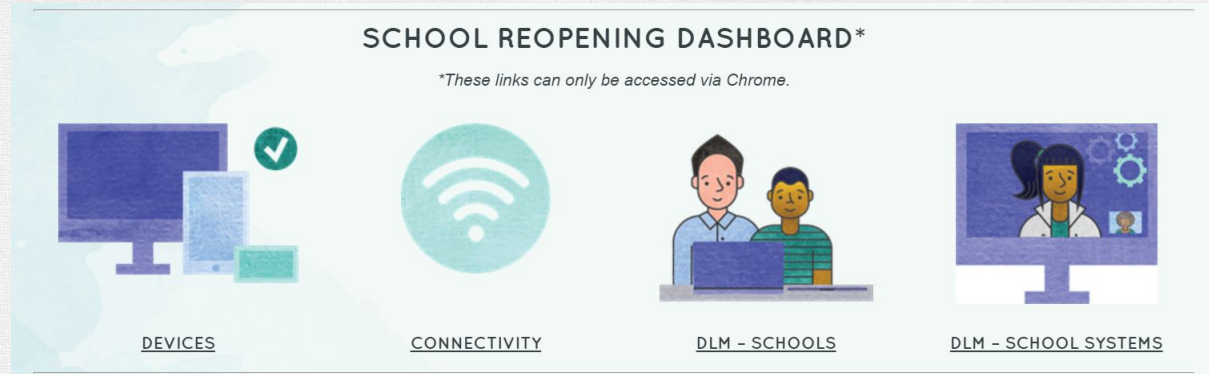
The Department took recovery action prior to landfall as well as after landfall.

- Provided information to 211 on CCAP for families experiencing homelessness prior to Hurricane Laura landfall
- Provided CCAP applications and mental health consultation information
- Assessed the need for Respite Care and on-site CCAP application processing complicated by COVID-19 precautions
- Worked with FEMA on child care assistance for families
- Worked in conjunction with DCFS on Social Service Block Grant to assist child care in rebuilding and replacing lost supplies (furniture, cribs, etc)

Distance Learning

Since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, school systems have provided instruction virtually, in-person, or using a hybrid of the two. Many systems provided families the choice of instruction method and continue to do so. The LDOE maintains the school reopening dashboard on our [Strong Start webpage](#) at louisianabelieves.com.

This dashboard provides near to real time data regarding the mode of learning as well as the availability of devices and connectivity.



Lack of Connectivity

The lack of internet connectivity felt throughout Louisiana due to the pandemic and/or hurricanes added a layer of difficulty to teaching students remotely.

- According to a school survey in March of 2020, 29 percent of students did not have internet connectivity in their home.
- The Department worked with each school system to find short term solutions to the lack of connectivity while at the same time pursuing long-term, more effective connectivity solutions.
- When possible school systems have provided supports directly to families to ensure connectivity in the home.

Mental Health Impacts

The impact of COVID-19 and the multiple natural disasters led to students and school staff experiencing significant stress, adversity, and/or trauma.

LDOE provided school systems [guidance](#) that recommend all schools conduct universal social, emotional and behavioral screening with all students within the first 9-weeks of in-person learning for elementary students, and within the first 6-weeks of virtual or hybrid learning for middle and high school students.

Emotionally supporting the mental health needs of students can lead to teachers experiencing secondary traumatic stress. LDOE provided school systems [guidance](#) that recommended supporting the well-being of school staff.

Continued Recovery 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

PreK-12 Supports

- Tutoring
- Summer learning programs
- Mental health supports
- *Achieve!* initiative (will include guidance and resources)
- 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



**Looking Forward:
Additional supports leveraging the
Coronavirus Response and Relief
Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2021
(CRRSA)**

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act)

On December 21, 2020, Congress released the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CCA\)](#). This legislation includes the [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act \(CRRSA Act\)](#), which includes \$81.9* billion to Governors, State Education Agencies (SEAs), Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions.

In addition, the bill provides \$10 billion in childcare funding for assistance to providers and families and \$3.2 billion for a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) broadband fund providing monthly subsidies for internet service and subsidized Wi-Fi-connected devices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

K-12 Key Initiatives

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

ESSERF II Areas of Focus

Although the [ESSER II uses of funds](#) are similar to those for ESSER, there are new allowable costs that prioritize **learning recovery** and improvements to school facilities so students can get back to **in-person learning safely**.

1. Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English Learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including:
 - a. Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including differentiating instruction.
 - b. Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.
 - c. Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.
 - d. Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.
2. School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
3. Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities.



Pandemic Relief Funding Support

The Department wants to support school systems and teams in planning for the new pandemic relief funding in a strategic, priorities-based way to ensure every dollar is going toward the highest-impact work.

LDOE is taking this opportunity to stress the importance of spending within the outlined priorities, [*Believe to Achieve: Louisiana's Educational Priorities*](#). By doing this, the Department is leveraging funds on high-impact opportunities and is part of a collective, statewide effort. This will also be helpful as LDOE tracks spending based on priority and communicates the thoughtfulness of school systems' use of these one-time funds.

To facilitate this effort the Department is releasing *Achieve!*, targeted supports for school systems in planning for the use of relief funds and continued recovery from the pandemic.



The Department's Plan to Support Early Childhood

Based on feedback from the public and stakeholders, the Department is planning to focus on the following strategies when administering CRRSA funding and planning for transitions to the next school year.

- **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.**

Thank you!

Please contact quentina.timoll@la.gov
with questions.

