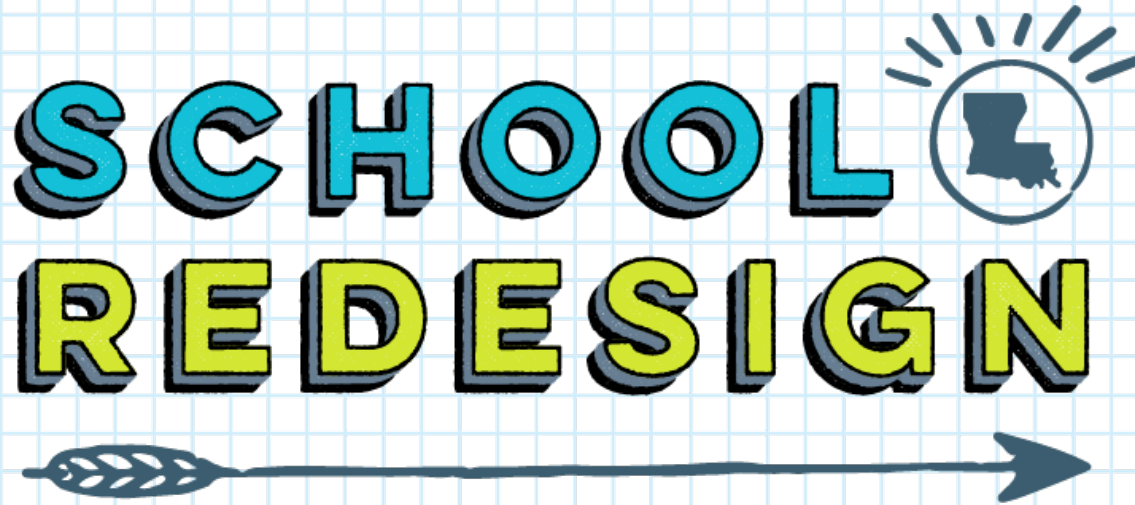


SCHOOL REDESIGN



**School Redesign Grant Release Session
July & August 2017**

Introduction

- We are all committed to helping our most struggling schools to ensure that *all* students have access to the education they need and deserve.
- The School Redesign Grant is an opportunity to expand and strengthen your plan for those schools by providing funds to implement evidence-based strategies and interventions.

Objectives

In this session, we will:

- Explain Louisiana's approach to supporting struggling schools
- Provide an overview of the 2017-18 School Redesign Grant Application process
- Introduce application materials and support resources

Agenda

- I. **Introduction**
- II. Application Process
- III. Application Scoring & Funding
- IV. Monitoring, Support, & Resources
- V. Next Steps & Questions

Excellent Education for All Students

Louisiana educators have made progress in reducing the number of students in struggling schools. In 2016, more than 15,800 fewer students attended D and F schools than did in 2013 across the state.

However, a sizable number of schools continually struggle to provide an excellent education to students.

In all:

- 240 schools, 18% of schools, received a letter grade of D or F in each of the 2014, 2015, and 2016 school years and/or had a 2015 cohort graduation rate below 67%.
- 14% of all Louisiana students, nearly 102,000 students, attend persistently struggling schools. These students are more likely to be low income (90%, compared to 71% state average) and minority (85%, compared to 55% state average)

The LDOE shares districts' commitment to and urgency around supporting our most struggling schools to ensure *all* students receive the education they need and deserve.

Support to Improve Struggling Schools

The LDOE is committed to supporting school systems as they work to improve outcomes in their most struggling schools through three primary strategies:

- **School System-Driven School Redesign Planning:** School systems will develop multi-year plans to address their unique challenges; the LDOE will competitively award funds to support plans that leverage interventions and strategies national and local research and experience have shown lead to the most significant improvements for students.
- **Zone Strategies:** In our state's largest cities, there exist large concentrations of struggling schools. The LDOE recommends that school systems with five or more identified schools create a zone focused on setting ambitious goals, building community-based accountability, recruiting top educators, providing intensive supports for teachers, and broadening decision-making authority for principals.
- **Recovery School School system Intervention:** In New Orleans and Baton Rouge, intervention by the Recovery School School system (RSD) has yielded results for students. The RSD will continue to exist as an option for schools that continue to struggle despite plans for redesign. Involvement by the RSD can include mergers, closures, or transformation by a charter operator.

ESSA Requirements

We believe we owe it to our students to identify schools who need additional support, create strong plans for those schools, and ramp up support if outcomes do not improve. This approach is also required by the federal [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), which mandates that that school systems and states intervene with persistently struggling schools.

The state is required to:

- Identify persistently struggling schools
- Award school improvement set aside dollars to school systems that have strong evidence-based plans for improving struggling schools
- Intervene in schools that do not improve over time

School systems are required to:

- Develop an evidence-based school improvement plan for each struggling school within their school system
- Engage local stakeholders in the development of the plan

Eligibility Requirements

Schools that meet any of the criteria below are included on Louisiana's [School Redesign List](#):

- Received a D, F, or T-rating (where the “T” SPS score was equivalent to a D or F SPS score) for each of the past three consecutive school years
- Earned graduation rate less than 67 percent in the most recent school year
- New schools (assigned a new site code in fall 2014) that received a D, F or T-rating (where the “T” SPS score was equivalent to a D or F SPS score) for each of their first two years of operation

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The School Redesign Grant

The LDOE is eager to provide districts with funds to help them implement strategies and interventions proven to improve outcomes for students.

The [School Redesign Grant](#) application will double as districts' plan and will support school systems expand and execute plans to improve their struggling schools.

Under the federal [ESSA law](#), every school system that has a school identified as a persistently struggling school is required to develop a plan for improvement. Accordingly, every school system with a school on the list must submit a plan in one of two grant cycles in the 2017-2018 school year.

The School Redesign Grant

School systems' plans will be scored on a [rubric](#) that is organized into four categories:

- 1. Core academics:** To see improvement, struggling schools must have a strong and coherent academic foundation including a plan for curriculum, assessment and teacher professional development across all grade levels and core content areas, including for birth to 4 year olds. This must include a plan for ensuring students have access to advanced coursework, career education and strong academic counselling.
- 2. Special populations:** Schools need plans to address the unique needs of English language learners (ELL), special education students, and other struggling student groups. This should include a plan for early and accurate identification and aligned intervention and instructional plans that ensure meaningful student growth and program exit, as appropriate.

The School Redesign Grant

([rubric](#) categories continued)

- 3. Talent:** School systems with struggling schools face the challenge of recruiting, hiring, supporting and retaining top talent that can meet the needs of students. Building processes to ensure all schools, but particularly those that are chronically failing, have identified workforce needs, retain, coach, and compensate teachers so that all students can achieve excellence.
- 4. LEA Systems:** School systems need to organize themselves in a manner that supports struggling schools to improve. Districts with five or more struggling schools should consider creating an improvement zone led by a single district level leader that concentrates resources and capacity in this network of schools. School systems also have the opportunity to expand the choices that families in struggling schools have by ensuring fair access the highest quality schools and programs across PK-12th grade. This can be accomplished by a unified enrollment system and/or a shifting of attendance zones. In addition, systems can offer additional choices for families in the form of specialized programs, additional programs or charter schools.

The School Redesign Grant

During the 2017-18 school year, LDOE will run two cycles of the School Redesign Grant. There are two options in the first cycle:

- **School Redesign Grant:** An opportunity for school systems with strong plans to apply for ESSA funds.
- **Planning Grant:** An opportunity for school systems seeking more time to develop a strong plan and partner with an organization to assist in the planning process.

School systems that have schools on the School Redesign Eligibility List will take the following steps to complete the School Redesign Grant Application:

1. Select an application round and application type
2. Conduct a needs assessment
3. Build a plan to address the biggest needs
4. Align a budget to fund prioritized projects and initiatives
5. Participate in an interview process, if selected

Step 1: Select an Application Type and Round

School Redesign Grant Timeline

All school systems with a school identified as being in need of comprehensive support must complete a full School Redesign grant application in one of the two cycles. School systems should select the application window that best meets their needs.

	Application Released	Application Due	Interviews	Funds Awarded
Round 1	August 2017	Sept. 29, 2017	Week of Nov. 27, 2017	Jan. 23, 2018
Round 2	February 2018	March 2018	May 2018	Summer 2018

Planning Grant Timeline

The LDOE encourages school systems who would like additional time to create a strong plan to submit a planning grant in round 1 and a School Redesign Grant application in round 2.

	Application Released	Application Due	Funds Awarded
Planning Grant	August 2017	September 2017	October 2017

Step 2: Conduct a Needs Assessment

School systems must assess their unique needs to create a plan that is tailored to the specific context of each school. Conducting a needs assessment is a required component of the grant application. School systems should take the following steps as part of their needs analysis:

- Analyze progress and gaps in all data sets
- Establish areas of greatest need and the reasons behind these needs
- Set school system- and school-level improvement goals for the areas of greatest need and interim goals that indicate progress

Please review the [School Redesign Grant Application](#).

Applications will receive an “Evidence of Process” score for each rubric metric in part 1 of the [School Redesign rubric](#).

Step 3: Build a Plan

School systems must build a plan that reflects the [evidence-based](#) strategies and initiatives they believe will lead to the most significant positive changes in student achievement.

Planning areas are organized into four categories:

- Core academics
- Talent
- Special Populations
- Systems-level changes

All school systems are **required** to have a plan that addresses three indicators foundational to student achievement:

- High quality curricula across core academic areas in PK-12
- High quality assessments across core academic areas in PK-12
- High quality teacher professional development in core academic areas in PK-12

School systems who do not include a plan to implement these required components in all of their qualifying schools will not receive funding. Beyond these requirements, school systems are not required to build a plan that addresses all four categories but instead should focus on solutions that will address their most pressing areas of need.

Step 3: Build a Plan

Evidence-Based Strategies

The federal [ESSA legislation](#) requires that states use designated school improvement funds to support interventions that have a strong evidence base. The law further defines [evidence-based strategies](#) as falling within one of 4 categories:

- Demonstrate a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on:
 - **Category 1:** *strong evidence* from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;
 - **Category 2:** *moderate evidence* from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or
 - **Category 3:** *promising evidence* from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or
- Demonstrate a rationale based on:
 - **Category 4:** high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and
 - includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention.

Step 3: Build a Plan

Evidence-Based Strategies

ESSA requires that school improvement funding be used for interventions meeting only the top three tiers of evidence. All interventions proposed by school systems must have an evidence base that falls within Category 1, 2, or 3.

To meet this requirement, school systems are strongly encouraged to engage highly-qualified external partners to support them in conducting needs assessments, developing strong improvement plans, and implementing their plans.

In many cases, the LDOE has reviewed resources from partner organizations to determine the degree to which they are likely to contribute to significant improvements in student outcomes.

For a list of these resources, please see Appendix A in the [School Redesign LEA guidance](#). Contact your Regional Turnaround Support Manager if you require assistance choosing a highly-qualified external partner.

Step 3: Build a Plan

The School Redesign Plan portion of the application will be evaluated against part 2 of the [School Redesign rubric](#).

In part 2, applications will only be evaluated on the rubric metrics that that apply to the specifics of the individual plan. Each metric will receive:

- a “Strength of Plan” score
- a determination as to whether or not the selected intervention maps back to the completed needs assessment
- a “Level of Evidence” score which evaluates how an intervention aligns to the [ESSA definitions for strength of evidence](#)

Step 3: Build a Plan

School systems with five or more schools identified on the [School Redesign List](#) should consider creating an improvement zone lead by a single school system-level leader that concentrates resources and capacity in this network of schools.

Caddo Parish has recently developed the [Transformation Next Zone](#). This Zone includes:

- A single leader for the Zone that manages all the schools within the Zone
- Additional autonomy for principals to choose high quality curriculum, establish the school day schedule and the school year schedule
- Additional funds to implement the TAP model
- Additional pay for principals and teachers in the Zone
- An advisory committee of community leaders to oversee progress in the zone schools
- A sustainability analysis to determine how to sustain these reforms past the grant allocation

Though not all of these components are required, school systems who set up a zone must identify a single zone leader to manage all the schools within the zone.

Step 4: Align Budget

School systems must submit a single completed [budget template](#) that describes the cost associated with the interventions described in their plans. If the budget draws upon other state or federal funds to support related work at the school site or school system-level, indicate that within the budget file.

Budgets will receive an “Evidence of Successful Process” score for each rubric metric found in part 1 of the [School Redesign rubric](#).

Planning Grant

The LDOE encourages school systems who would like additional time to create a strong plan to submit a planning grant in round 1 and a School Redesign Grant application in round 2.

Planning grant funds should be used to partner with high-quality vendors who specialize in helping school systems conduct needs assessments and create tailored plans to address each school's greatest needs.

[Planning grant application](#)

	Application Released	Application Due	Funds Awarded
Planning Grant	August 2017	September 15, 2017	October 17, 2017

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Application Scoring

Because districts have different needs and therefore different strategies for how to best improve student performance, the way in which the LDOE will score districts' plans will also be differentiated. Plans are only scored on the required indicators and any additional indicators that school systems chose to address based on their unique needs assessment.

The needs assessment and each applicable indicator will receive a *strength of plan* score of 0, 1, 2, or 3. A score of 3 will typically mean the school system has prioritized the areas of greatest need, aligned evidence-based interventions to those needs, and set goals for measuring the impact of implemented interventions.

A description of each score can be found in the [LEA Guidance document](#).

All applications will be evaluated by a combination of independent reviewers and LDOE staff.

Reviews of written applications will be followed by in-person interviews. Interviews will take place in Baton Rouge the week of November 27.

Application Funding

The amount of funding given to each school system will be based on the quality of its application and information gathered during the interview process.

LDOE may grant the full amount requested, a portion of the requested amount, or no funding at all.

Funding for round 1 will be awarded at January BESE.

The LDOE is committed to sharing additional details about how funds will be awarded to help districts put together the strongest plans possible. To this end, the LDOE will host a webinar leading up to the September Collaborations and will also offer sessions at the Collaboration on this topic.

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Monitoring, Support, & Resources

Helping students in our most persistently struggling schools is challenging work. The LDOE is committed to providing support to districts throughout both the planning and implementation process.

Each school system can expect to receive support from their Regional Turnaround Support Manager (RTSM). The RTSMs will schedule regular time with school systems to review progress on both planning and implementation.

Appendix A of the [School Redesign LEA guidance](#) contains a compiled list of resources for use while completing the School Redesign grant application, in particular for the required components (high quality curriculum, assessments, and professional development).

Agenda

- I. School Redesign Vision, Background, & Purpose
- II. Application Process
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Materials

Available Now:

- [School Redesign LEA Guidance](#)
- [School Redesign Grant Application](#)
- [School Redesign Scoring Rubric](#)
- [School Redesign List](#)
- [Planning Grant Application](#)

Available in August:

- [School Redesign Grant Budget Form](#)
- [Planning Grant Budget Form](#)

Next Steps

1. Review the [School Redesign application](#) and support materials
2. Select an application type (School Redesign grant or planning grant) and timeline (round 1 or round 2).
3. If applying for a School Redesign grant in round 1, complete the application by September 29.
4. If applying for a Planning grant in round 1, complete the application by September 15.
5. Attend a School Redesign Grant webinar before the [September Collaborations](#) and attend a School Redesign Grant session at the Collaborations.
6. Reach out to [Delaina Larocque](#) or [Shavonne Price](#) with questions

Questions?