

Louisiana Believes

**2021-2022 - Ninth Grade Academies for
CIR High Schools
November 6, 2020**



Today's Agenda

- I. Objectives
- II. Problem
- III. Ninth Grade Academy Definition
- IV. Funding Opportunity
- V. Support Partners
- VI. Super App Support

Objectives

This presentation is designed to provide essential information related to:

- The purpose of the ninth grade academy planning grant initiative
- LDOE's formal definition of a ninth grade academy
- The process by which school systems can access ninth grade academy funding
- The role of the support partner.
- Support partner deliverables and examples of acceptable expenditures
- LDOE and support partner contact information

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Problem

- In Louisiana, 88 percent of students arriving to ninth grade on-time and on-level graduate in four years, compared to 70 percent of students who arrive on-time but not on-level.
- 75 percent of ninth graders that do not complete and pass Algebra I in ninth grade will not graduate on time.
- 86.4 percent of all ninth graders earned 6 or more credits in 2018-2019, an increase of 0.4 percentage points from 2017-2018. However, just 72 percent of English Learners and 71 percent of students with disabilities earned 6 or more credits.
- Transitional ninth grade students are disproportionately male, African American, and economically disadvantaged. About 85 percent of T9 students persist into the following school year.

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Ninth Grade Academy Definition

A **Ninth Grade Academy**, as defined for the purposes of this initiative, is a comprehensive program designed specifically around the needs of students transitioning from middle school to high school. The pillars of high quality ninth grade academy include:

- **Authentic Learning Experiences** - community outreach, postsecondary/ industry partnerships, research projects etc.
- **Student Centered Resources** - academic intervention, credit recovery, social emotional strategy and early warning system (EWS)
- **Academic Support** - supports specifically designed to address literacy, organizational strategies, note taking in addition to writing and speaking strategies
- **Human Capital** - establish a ninth grade principal or grade level leader, professional school counselor, and academic advisor
- **Professional Learning and Collaboration** - support partner led training and common teacher planning periods

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Funding Opportunity

As a result, the Office of Career and College Readiness is offering an opportunity for CIR high schools in regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 to apply for ninth grade academy planning grants.

- Six \$50,000 grants will be awarded, one representing each region, to support the planning of a 2022-2023 ninth grade academy.
- In order to increase capacity and promote innovation, grant recipients will be required to work collaboratively with a LDOE-approved support partner to design the 2022-2023 academy framework.
- Approved sites will also receive additional funding for a school-level literacy coach
- Prior to selecting an support partner candidate schools are strongly encouraged to contact prospective partners directly and request a crosswalk that is aligned to the five ninth grade academy pillars.

Literacy Engagement and Support

Louisiana is working urgently to improve literacy outcomes. The Literacy Coaching Model is a key initiative in achieving this goal.

Literacy Coaches will:

- Provide high-quality professional development around effective literacy practices.
- Provide feedback, engage in one-on-one coaching, and model best practices.
- Identify where high-quality curricula built-in supports are not being maximized.
- Model and teach new quality literacy intervention activities.
- Coach teachers on using high-quality, evidence-based assessments to determine the most effective interventions required.

School systems can request funding for salaries and benefits for Literacy Coaches for CIR schools through Comprehensive Literacy State Development ([CLSD CIR/UIR-A](#)) funds.

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Role of Support Partner

The LDOE has identified key vendors that have exhibited the services and capacity to provide high-quality support in various areas. As it relates to ninth grade academies all deliverables shall align to the Department's ninth grade academy definition and improve the transition from middle school to high school.

Examples of deliverables include:

- The development of a comprehensive data driven early warning system (EWS)
- Staff and leadership professional development
- Stipend to compensate increased responsibilities of ninth grade academy leader
- Structures that provide enhanced math and literacy support
- Opportunities for authentic career exploration and one to one academic advising

Support Partners

Approved Support Partners:

- [AVID \(Advancement Via Individual Determination\)](#)
Contact Mike DiNicola mdinicola@avid.org
- [BARR \(Building Assets/ Reducing Risks\)](#)
Contact Tom Pellegrina tom.pellegrino@barrcenter.org
- [Southern Regional Education Board \(High Schools that Work\)](#)
Contact Ivy Alford ivy.alford@sreb.org
- [Talent Development Secondary](#)
Contact Tara Madden tmadden@tdschools.org

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Super App Timeline

Date	Item
November 6, 2020	Super App and school system planning resources released
February 5, 2021	Super App submitted to LDOE
March 2021	LDOE provides feedback to school systems on alignment to CIR/UIR-Academics approval and funding requirements
	School systems submit revised Super App to LDOE, as applicable
April 20, 2021	Competitive funding allocations submitted to BESE for approval

Super App Launch Materials

All 2021-2022 Super App and school system planning materials can be found in the Department's [School Improvement Library](#).

To access the presentation recordings, please click on the image below.



Super App Support

Support for completing the Super App will be provided through:

- [School Improvement Library](#)
- [LDOE Weekly Newsletters](#)
- [System Leader Monthly Calls](#)
- [Super App Planning Support Calls](#)
- School System Relations Team
- Office Hours on scheduled Fridays at 10 a.m. (details via LDOE Weekly Newsletter)

Send all questions related to school system planning and Super App to LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov and include “Super App” in the subject line.