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# Educational Technology Monthly Call

May 11, 2023

https://bit.ly/EdTech-May2023

Agenda

- Digital Learning Updates
- Cybersecurity
- Emergency Connectivity Fund, E-Rate, and ACP
- Important Reminders and Other Information

Suggested participants
for this call:

- Chief Technology Officers
- Information Technology Staff
- E-Rate Coordinators
- Privacy Coordinators
- Digital or Virtual Learning Staff

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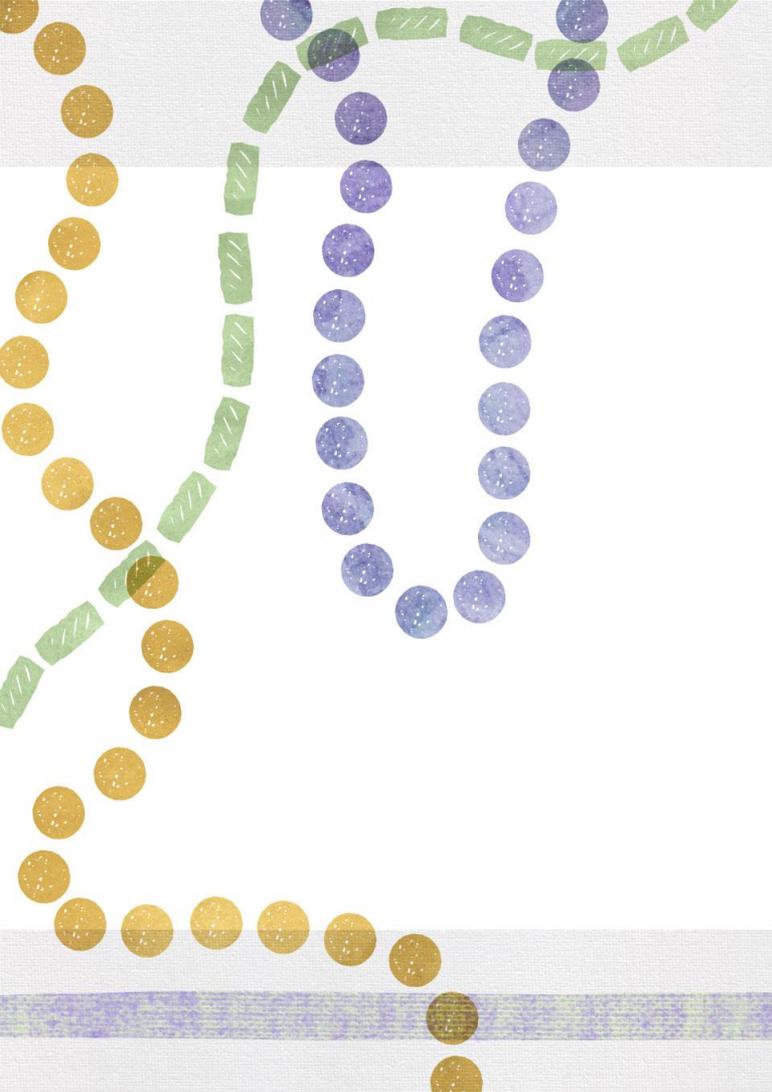
Digital Learning Updates

New AI Information Being Released

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Education Technology will be releasing new information and a report on AI and the future of teaching and learning in next two weeks. The guide will talk about:

- Educational technology is evolving to include artificial intelligence.
- Artificial intelligence will bring "human-like" features and agency into future technologies.
- Policy will have an important role in guiding the uses of artificial intelligence in education to realize benefits while limiting risks.
- Educational applications of many types will be artificial intelligence-enabled, including teaching and learning, guiding and advising, and administration and resource planning applications.
- Use of artificial intelligence systems in school technology is presently light, allowing time for policy to have an impact on safety, equity, and effectiveness.

This will not be a policy guide on if schools should include or ban AI but information to assist school systems on understanding the AI landscape to inform future policies.

NSF Funded Research Opportunity

The National Science Foundation (NSF) released a [Dear Colleague Letter (DCL)](#) inviting researchers to submit a Rapid Response Research (RAPID) proposal for research on the teaching of AI and the use of AI in K-12 educational settings. NSF is interested in funding RAPID proposals on the following topics:

- "Developing AI tools and environments to advance age-appropriate equitable learning and inclusive teaching;
- Supporting learning about and interest in AI;
- Using AI to teach AI; and
- Integrating generative AI in education in an ethical, responsible, and effective way."

RAPID proposals must include data-driven research methods. NSF is encouraging proposals that advance DEI in stem education research and will have an impact on underserved schools.

Applicants should submit a one page concept outline detailing their proposed research by email to RAPID-DRL-AI@nsf.gov. After submission of a concept outline, an NSF program manager will be in touch to advise on whether or not a full RAPID proposal should be submitted. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis and there is no deadline to submit. Applicants may request up to $200,000 for a one-year project period.

Additional information on NSF's RAPID funding mechanism is available [here](#).

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EdTech Adoption and Evaluation

- When planning for the upcoming school year, consider reevaluating your school systems' edtech purchases
- OET has released its EdTech Evidence Toolkit Resource, which includes four Evidence One-Pagers
  - [Office of Educational Technology: Using Evidence to Support EdTech adoption in schools](#)
- In addition, EdSurge has provided information on [evaluating edtech effectiveness](#)
- In the 2023-2024 school year, the department will continue to provide support to school systems looking to evaluate their edtech adoption strategy.

Contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

LaCUE Technology Leader Summit

- Registration for the LACUE Technology Leader Summit June 12-14 is now open.
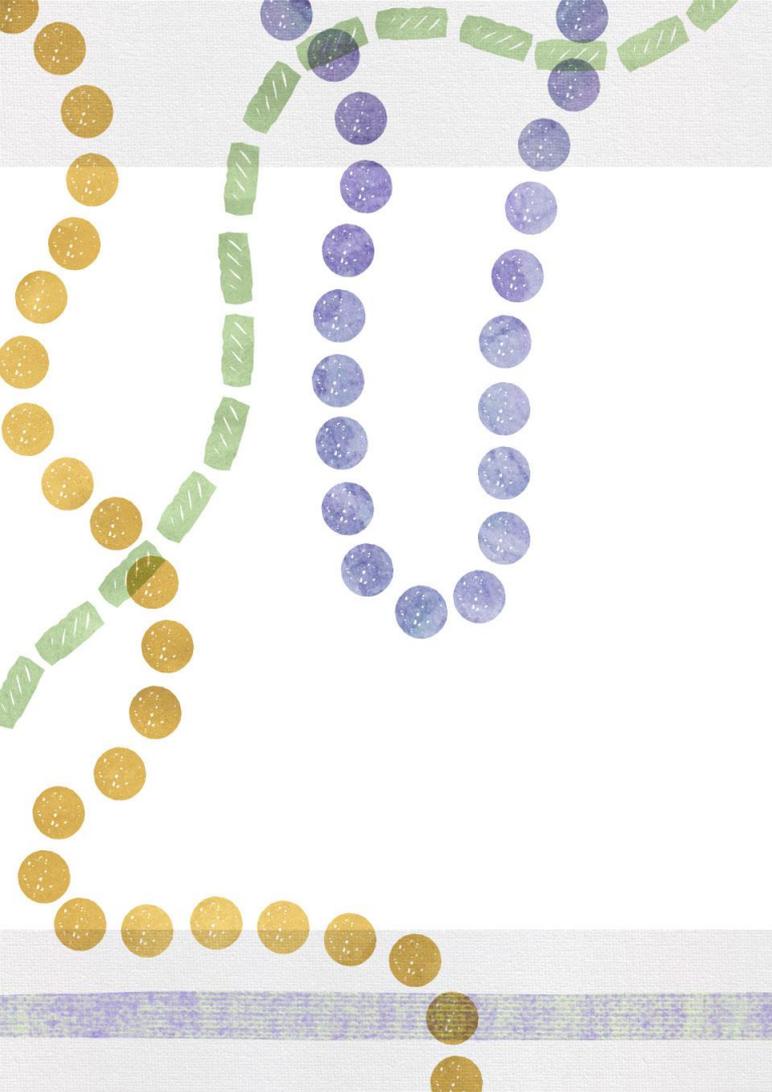
Cybersecurity

Current K-12 CyberSecurity Federal Legislation

Two bills S. 1191 and H.R. 2845 have been introduced at the federal level to provide a school cybersecurity information exchange, cybersecurity incident registry, and a K-12 cybersecurity technology improvement program in addition to requiring Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to establish a program to address cybersecurity threats to school information systems. S. 1191 would authorize $10 million dollars for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to support these efforts.

Security Survey

The State is working to identify additional funding to support improving the security posture of our K-12 schools. Funding will be limited, therefore we will have to prioritize support based on information gathered via data collected via school system technology readiness data submissions, the ESF-17 security services interest survey, and this new survey. For those school systems that did not complete the TRT or ESF-17 survey we will provide an additional opportunity to provide that information.   All of this information is critical for determining the scope of work along with network assessments to identify current risks.

To ensure we have the correct contact information for security please update your LEA's contact information here.

Volunteers Wanted

The Department is looking for three school systems volunteers to participate in a free cyber assessment performed by Palo Alto to assess potential holes in security. This review is being conducted to assess Palo Alto's process and the types of reports and information that can be gained. Report results will be provided to the participating school systems. We would also like to get feedback from participants on the reports, information and process.

Please email EdTech@la.gov if your district is interested in participating and want more information.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Louisiana's application for the Fiscal Year 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

The grant will provide $3,326,689.00 in federal funds with a 10% required cost share to support the Louisiana Cybersecurity Assurance Program ("LCAP") Plan and its related projects.

LCAP provides for three projects utilizing two pathways for implementation. Participating entities will need to choose between one of the two pathways and submit all required paperwork to GOHSEP by **4:00 PM CST, Friday, May 26, 2023**. Late filed paperwork will still be accepted but will be move to the end of the list for services.

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State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

LCAP Three Projects include:

1. Cost-free Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) Software for all Local Government Entity (LGE) endpoints (workstations and servers) for a minimum one (1) year period. The EDR Software comes with 24/7 monitoring through the software provider's security operations center, which will contact the LGE directly and notify it's preferred representative of any urgent notifications.

2. Cost-free cyber readiness assessments by the Louisiana Military Department personnel, with documented results designed to identify potential gaps in cybersecurity and offer recommended changes and improvements (as applicable).

3. Assess and update the State of Louisiana Cybersecurity Assurance Plan in response to feedback received from local and rural entities.

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State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Implementation Pathways:

Pathway 1:

Participate in the grant by utilizing the State's cyber coordinator as the service provider for delivering and ensuring the project goals are met. No match or funding will be required for participation in Pathway 1.

Pathway 2:

Receive a proportional SLCGP funding amount ($4,000 per LGE) by submitting a cybersecurity application in accordance with both the Federal and State guidelines and special conditions. Participants will be required to implement project goals as outlined in the grant agreement with the funds provided. Participants selecting Pathway 2 will be required to provide a non-federal 10% match.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Pathway 1 Entity Requirements:

1. Review complete information and requirements for Pathway 1 at FY 2022 SLCGP LCAP Information Overview
2. Review and complete the Louisiana Cyber Data Survey, if not previously completed.
3. Review, sign, and return the Local Consent Agreement by **4:00 PM CST, Friday, May 26, 2023** to NDGrants@la.gov. (This document can be electronically signed)
4. LCAP Team will initiate contact with the entity's point of contact to review LCAP requirements and understandings prior to signing required Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).
5. Review, sign and return the Memorandum of Understanding for Cyber-Readiness Assessments (This document can be electronically signed).
6. Review, sign and return the Memorandum of Understanding for EDR Software (This document can be electronically signed).

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Pathway 2 Entity Requirements:

1. Review complete information and requirements for Pathway 2 at FY 2022 SLCGP LCAP LGE Application Information Overview.
2. Complete the LGE Cybersecurity Application and submitted by **4:00 PM CST, Friday, May 26, 2023**. Each LGE submitting a cybersecurity application is eligible to receive **$4,000 in federal FY 2022 SLCGP funding**. The LGE will be required to **provide a non-federal 10% match**.
3. Register for access to the State's grant management system at GOHSEPGrants.la.gov. Details instructions can be found online at SLCGP Application Instructions. (Allow for a minimum of 72 hours for access to be granted).
4. Complete the Louisiana SLCGP Investment Justification Form in Microsoft Word.
5. Complete the Louisiana SLCGP Project Worksheet in Microsoft Excel.
6. Log in to GOHSEPGrants.la.gov to complete the application process and upload files.
7. The LGE's application will go through an internal review by the grants team and sent to the Louisiana Cybersecurity Planning Committee for final approval. LGE's should be notified within 45 days if their application is approved.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

A complete copy of the Louisiana Cybersecurity Assurance Plan and all information related to SLCGP can be accessed at GOHSEPGrants.la.gov-Resources-SLCGP.

For questions regarding SLCGP or LCAP please email NDGrants@la.gov or contact the Cybersecurity Program Manager for GOHSEP at lcap@la.gov.

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Update: Request for EdTech and Cyber Security Plans

- **This information will not be shared or published and only used for information purposes.**
- **If your school system has written an Acceptable Use Policy including Artificial Learning, please consider it sending it to support understanding on how our school systems are addressing this.**

- Also, if your school system has an EdTech Plan and/or Cybersecurity Plan, please send a copy or link to digitallearning@la.gov.
- We plan on using these plans to understand key initiatives across our state and ensure that those items are in SuperApp to support funding.

Contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

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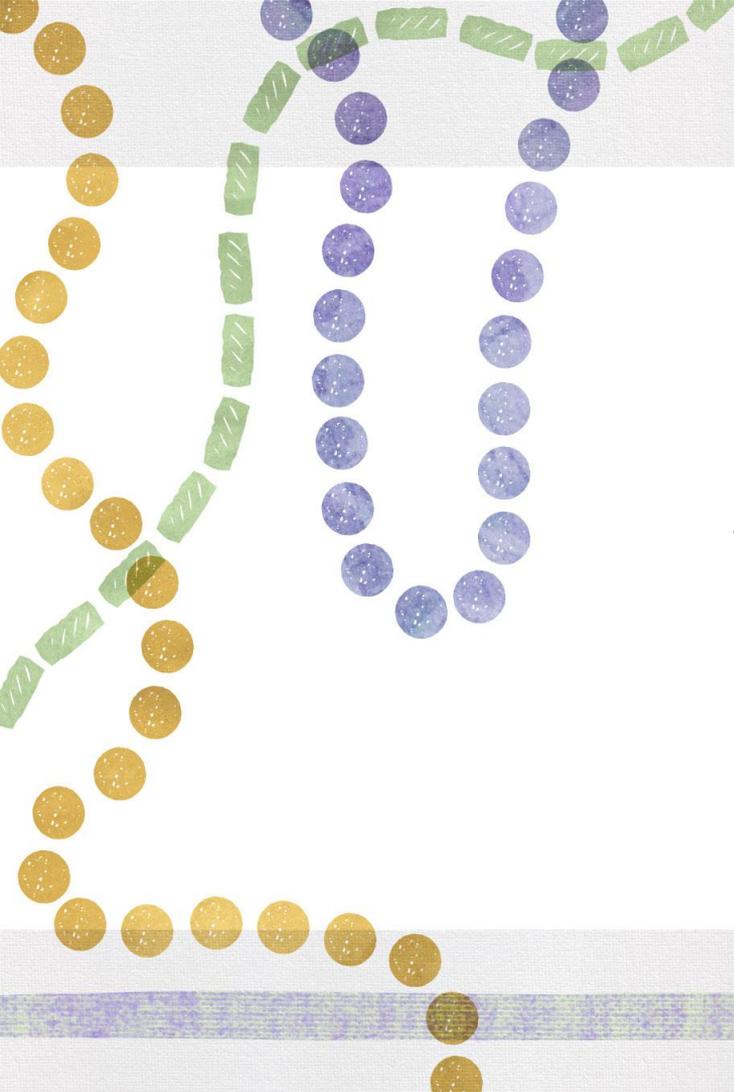
E-Rate,
Affordable Connectivity Program
and
Emergency Connectivity Fund

Funds for Learning 13th Annual E-Rate Survey

For over a decade, Funds For Learning ("FFL") has been conducting an annual nationwide survey asking schools and libraries to contribute their opinions and experiences regarding the E rate program. These surveys have become an increasingly important source of information for Congress, the FCC, and USAC to help them evaluate the E-rate program.

We recommend school systems complete the survey which provide the FCC with important information. The 2023 survey can be found here. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete and all submissions are confidential.

To view a copy of the 2022 survey results can be found here.

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GAO Study of Broadband Program

Because broadband internet has become critical to daily life and provides a digital lifeline to education, work, and healthcare, the GAO did a study of all federal broadband programs. The study found Federal broadband efforts are fragmented and overlapping, with more than 133 funding programs administered by 15 agencies. Among these programs, 25 have broadband as their main purpose, and 13 of those programs overlap because they can each be used for the purpose of broadband deployment.

The report recommends that (1) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration should identify key statutory limitations to broadband program alignment, develop legislative proposals as appropriate, and provide a report on these topics to Congress; and (2) the Executive Office of the President should develop and implement a national broadband strategy.

GAO Study of Broadband Program
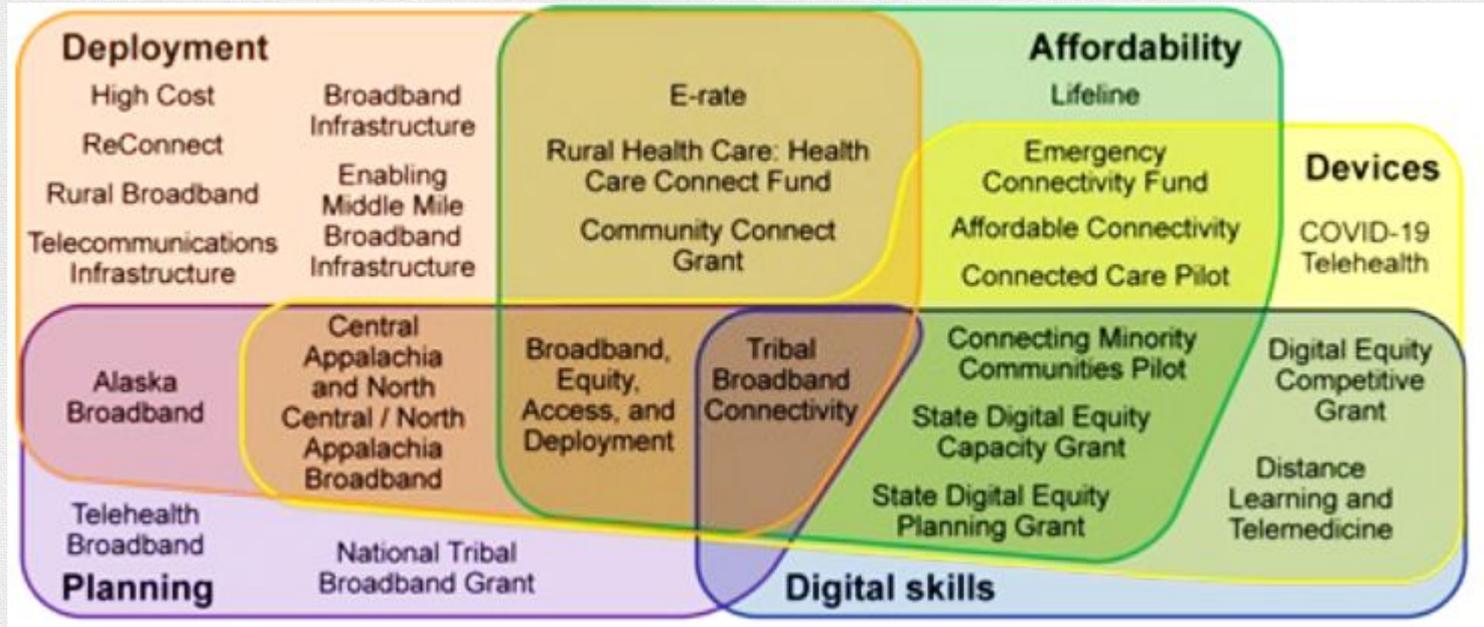
The Mosaic of 25 Federal Programs with Broadband as a Main Purpose, as of November 2021, by Purpose Category

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Tribal NPRM Comments (FCC 23-10)

The comments submitted expressed broad support for the FCC's proposed changes related to Tribal applicants along with by the State E-Rate Coordinators' Alliance ("SECA"), Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition ("SHLB"), Consortium for School Networking ("CoSN"), and State Educational Technology Directors Association ("SETDA") supporting additional broader changes which would simplify the program for all applicants. Those recommendations included:

- Relief from many existing cost allocation requirements including:
  - Shared equipment costs in NIFs
  - All equipment attached to cabling
  - Next generation firewall features
  - Non-teaching services (e.g., health clinics) located inside schools and libraries

Tribal NPRM Comments (FCC 23-10)

Clarification and/or revisions of competitive bidding procedures including:

- Simplified filing for small public libraries
- Resolution of confusing Form 470 sections
- Consistent treatment of technical support services and equipment licenses
- Use of Category 2 funds for cabling between campus buildings
- Simplification of leased dark fiber and self-provisioned networks
- Better guidance on "cardinal changes"
- Robo-bid exclusions from bid evaluation consideration
- Treatment of bids received after the Form 470 Allowable Contract Date
- Allowance for the use of multiple providers to obtain needed bandwidth
- Allowance for mid-year bandwidth upgrades

Tribal NPRM Comments (FCC 23-10)

- Form 471 simplifications including:
    - Revision of provisions regarding proof of legally binding agreements
    - Options to certify CIPA compliance and service start dates (avoiding the need to file a separate Form 486)
- Relaxation of stringent enforcement of invoice deadlines in line with the flexibility provided on other program deadlines.

E-Rate Important Dates and Reminders

- Upcoming Form 486 Deadlines for FY 2022
    - May 12 - Wave 39
    - May 19 - Wave 40
    - May 26 - Wave 41
    - June 2 - Wave 42
- **May 23 -** Deadline for submitting reply comments on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 23-10) to further improve E-rate program rules and encourage greater Tribal participation (and potentially other small applicants) in the E-rate program.
- **June 30 -** Unless subsequently extended by the FCC, at least for late-approved ECF Window 1 and Window 2 applications, June 30th is the last day to receive service for home internet access and device purchases. The invoice deadline for these services is August 29, 2023.

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Reminders and Other Information

2022-2023 Education Technology Webinar and Office Hours

Slides from each meeting will be posted on the Educational Technology Leaders website. Recordings are available on request. A complete calendar of LDOE events can be found on the Louisiana Believes website.

Monthly Call Dates
March 9, 2023
April 13, 2023
May 11, 2023
June - Meet at LaCUE TLS
July - No Call

Time:	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Webinar Link	https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/575223228?pwd=NDNlN01SS3c0Rk4wV25aNkZhTEc2Zz09
Phone Number	1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID	Meeting ID: 575 223 228 Password: 2020-202!

Thank you for joining today's call.

Schedules, access links, and information for the Department's webinars can be found in the LDOE Weekly Newsletter and LDOE School System Support Calendar.

Helpful Links

- A+PEL PD for Educators
- LACUE
- Louisiana Believes Homepage
- School Improvement Library

Support Toolboxes

- Teacher
- System
- Principal
- Counselor
- Education Technology Staff

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Reminders and Repeats

Urgent: Technology Contacts

- For cybersecurity and funding information, please update your contacts as soon as possible. If you are unsure if your school system has submitted, please submit again.
- Submit this form to update contact information.

Contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Request for EdTech and Cyber Security Plans

- If your school system has an EdTech Plan and/or Cybersecurity Plan, please send a copy or link to digitallearning@la.gov.
  - Thank you to everyone who has already submitted.
- We plan on using these plans to understand key initiatives across our state and ensure that those items are in SuperApp to support funding.
- School Systems are encouraged to highlight their plan at one of our monthly meetings to demonstrate their success and support other school systems.

Please

Reminder: Change in Office Hours

- Moving forward, we will not hold regular office hours.
- We will only hold office hours during major projects and upon request.

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