

Louisiana Believes



School Operations and Reopening Office Hours
August 13, 2020

ATTENTION: Instructions for participants

During this meeting, participants may submit questions **via the online chat feature** throughout the presentation. Submitting questions via the chat allows LDOE the opportunity to not only answer your question while on the call but to also add your question and the answer to our publicly disseminated FAQ document(s).

Strong Start Reopening Office Hours

Strong Start School Reopening Office Hours will occur each Thursday, beginning July 23, from 3-4 p.m. and run through September 3

- **Zoom:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91419461028>
- **Meeting ID:** 914 1946 1028
- **Password:** 408891

If you join by calling in, please use one of the following numbers:

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- **Meeting ID:** 914 1946 1028
- **Password:** 408891

Reopening Weekly Office Hour Calls

The purpose of the weekly reopening calls is for school system leaders and support staff to join our Zoom session to hear the **latest updates** on policy implementation, supportive guidance, and tool development.

Each weekly call will begin with an overview of recent updates followed by a moderated Q&A session on policy implementation, supportive guidance, and tool development.

Agenda

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Updated Resources:

1. Room Partition Guidance
2. Physical Education 9-12 Guidance
3. Virtual Learning Resource
4. Gifted and Talented Screening
5. School Staff Safety Best Practices

Regulatory Waivers

6. K-8 Physical Activity
7. Transportation
8. Camp Waiver

Resource Documents

Guidelines: Baseline public health requirements for school systems to follow when reopening school facilities to students in Fall 2020 policy implementation, supportive guidance, and tool development.
****updated during the week as needed - remember to clear your cache for the latest version****

Best Practices: Supportive guidance and resources for implementing guidelines

Planning Template and Checklist: A template with questions to guide school systems in planning for reopening, with an accompanying checklist for reopening

FAQ Document: LDOE released and is maintaining a dynamic FAQ document for implementation support. ****updated during the week as needed****

Self Monitoring Checklist: School system checklist to ensure BESE adopted requirements are being met.



Resource Updates

Resources: Room Partition Usage

Partition Guidance (Updated):

- The materials used for temporary partitions or dividers must, **at minimum, be flame retardant**. Specifically;
 - If materials such as **draperies or curtains** are proposed, they must be certified to meet **NFPA 701 standards** for flame propagation performance (per NFPA 101:14.7.4.1 & 10.3). This test criteria should be identified on the packaging or in the manufacturers data/specs for the proposed products.
 - Other materials, such as **vinyl or plastic**, must have a **“Class A” flame spread rating**. This should also be identified on the packaging or by the manufacturer.
- Textile materials or cellular foam based materials should be avoided.

Resources: Room Partition Usage

Partition Guidance (Updated):

- Partitions **should NOT be located in any egress path nor block access to any exit.** They should be arranged in such a way that will not increase the travel distance to exits, or that will not force travel away from an exit.
- Partitions should be temporary in nature
- For more information and questions, please email: sfmdispatch@gmail.com

Resource Updates: Physical Education 9-12

- Large rooms may include more than one group separated by a wall or partition.
- Have marked off sections with floor tape, cones, visual aids, poly spots, etc.
- Inventory physical education equipment at the school to identify equipment that can be easily and effectively sanitized.
- Designate each cohort, or grade level with specific physical education equipment to help with sanitation and frequently touched equipment.
- Use games, activities and equipment that require no physical contact and do not require students to be in close proximity to each other.
- [Physical Education Re-entry Guidelines](#)

Resource: Virtual Instruction Guide

The [Louisiana Virtual Instruction Guide](#) is designed for educators and outlines the expectations for teaching and learning in a virtual setting.

The guide reviews four characteristics of high quality virtual instruction for students in grades pre-K through 12.

- High-quality, standards-aligned curriculum
- Interactive, engaging instruction
- Monitoring student progress
- Student support

The [Louisiana Virtual Instruction Guide for Parents](#) is also available.

Resource Updates: Gifted and Talented Screening

There are no waivers for mandatory literacy screener administration or reporting for second and third graders per Act 688. The [Guidance for Various Learning Environments](#) specifically addresses completing the screening virtually, and students scoring above grade level shall still be considered for evaluation into a gifted program.

Every effort should be made to continue to evaluate students for Gifted and Talented services in person, meeting Phase II guidelines, or virtually. Services for students identified as Gifted and/or Talented must continue within the [guidelines](#) set forth in Phase II of reopening.

School Staff Safety Recommendations

The protection of school staff should be a priority for the 2020-21 school year. The following are a series of best practice recommendations to keep school staff safe and healthy and prevent the closing of a school site in the event of a COVID outbreak among staff:

- Faculty, PLC, administration and committee meetings should be held virtual when possible. If held in person, social distancing, maximum group size and facial covering guidelines must be followed.
- School staff, including support staff, teachers and administration should be encouraged to not congregate in hallways, shared work spaces or other areas.
- Teacher lounges, copy rooms and other shared work spaces should be closed or limited to one or two identified staff members.

Supports from Key Partners: CHNOLA

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Hotline for School Wellness and Virtual Care (504-837-7760) offers guidance to school nurses and school administrators.

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Town Hall Series for Schools is being conducted every two weeks through July and August. The next Town Hall is August 18, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95976608543?pwd=Wm1YR1dkMXA4TW8vY0NWNTVXZDdXQT09>

Webinar Password: 8182020

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Dial-in ID: 95976608543#

Dial-in Password: 8182020#

Supports from Key Partners: CHNOLA

Children's Hospital of New Orleans has provided a [School Wellness page](#) with resources for school systems to use throughout the school year. These resources include:

- [Printable school signage](#) to remind students and visitors of social distancing measures, handwashing hygiene and facial covering use.
- [Parent resources](#) for school systems to use for communication needs with parents surrounding a safe and healthy return to the classroom.





2020-2021 Regulatory Flexibilities

Camp Waiver

Governor John Bel Edwards recently issued [State of Emergency Proclamation 97](#) (97-JBE-2020) and [State of Emergency Proclamation 102](#) (102-JBE-2020), which temporarily suspends the following statute:

- Prohibition against the operation of camps when school is in session
 - **Camps:** La. Rev. Stat. 17:407.33(A)(1), prohibits camps from operating when school is in session.

K-8 Physical Activity

Governor John Bel Edwards recently issued [State of Emergency Proclamation 97](#) (97-JBE-2020) and [State of Emergency Proclamation 102](#) (102-JBE-2020), which temporarily suspends the following statutes:

- **Physical Activity:** §17.1. Required physical activity in schools A.(1) Each public school that includes any of the grades kindergarten through eight shall provide at least thirty minutes each school day of quality moderate to vigorous physical activity for students.
- This waiver temporarily suspends the thirty minute physical activity requirements for K-8 students

Transportation

Governor John Bel Edwards recently issued [State of Emergency Proclamation 97](#) (97-JBE-2020) and [State of Emergency Proclamation 102](#) (102-JBE-2020), which temporarily suspends the following statutes:

- **Transportation:** S. 17:493.1(C), allows a city or parish school board to select a bus operator to fill a vacant route on a different basis than the one required
- This waiver is for the requirement of bus drivers to bid on routes

Moderated Q&A Session

Additional questions following the Q&A can be sent to:

LDOECOVID19support@la.gov