

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs:

Leveraging Data to Align  
Budgets and Spending with Priorities

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# Agenda

- I. Louisiana's Core Beliefs and Academic Priorities
- II. Introduction to Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs
- III. Review of Leveraging Data to Align Budgets and Spending to Priorities
- IV. Breakout: Tough Budget Decisions
- V. Closing

# Louisiana Believes



Children are our highest priority



Equity matters



Families are our partners



Choice expands opportunities



Educators are valued professionals



Schools are invaluable to communities



Graduates must be ready



Our future is bright

# SIX CRITICAL GOALS

Students enter kindergarten ready.

Students will achieve mastery on third-grade assessments and enter fourth grade prepared for grade-level content.

Students will achieve mastery on eighth-grade assessments and enter ninth grade prepared for grade-level content.

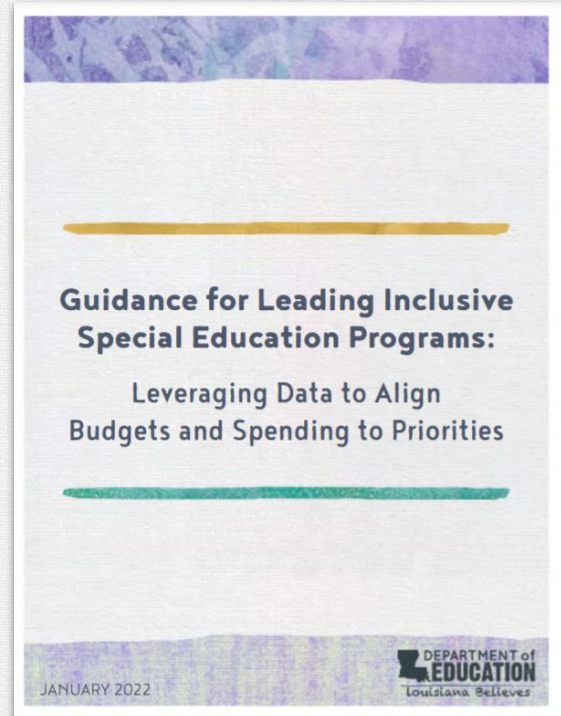
Students will graduate on time.

Students will graduate with a college and/or career credential.

Students will graduate eligible for a TOPS award.

# Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

Every day in Louisiana, educators are committed to ensuring that every child and school has access to equitable and inclusive learning opportunities. To support school systems and educators, the Department has designed [Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs](#).



# Leveraging Data to Align Budgets and Spending to Priorities

This month the Department released guidance on [Leveraging Data to Align Budgets and Spending to Priorities](#). This document will support school systems in examining their budgeting process to assess effectiveness of meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

**Leveraging Data to Align Budgets and Spending to Priorities**  
*How do school systems create a spending plan to support the programming needs of students with disabilities?*

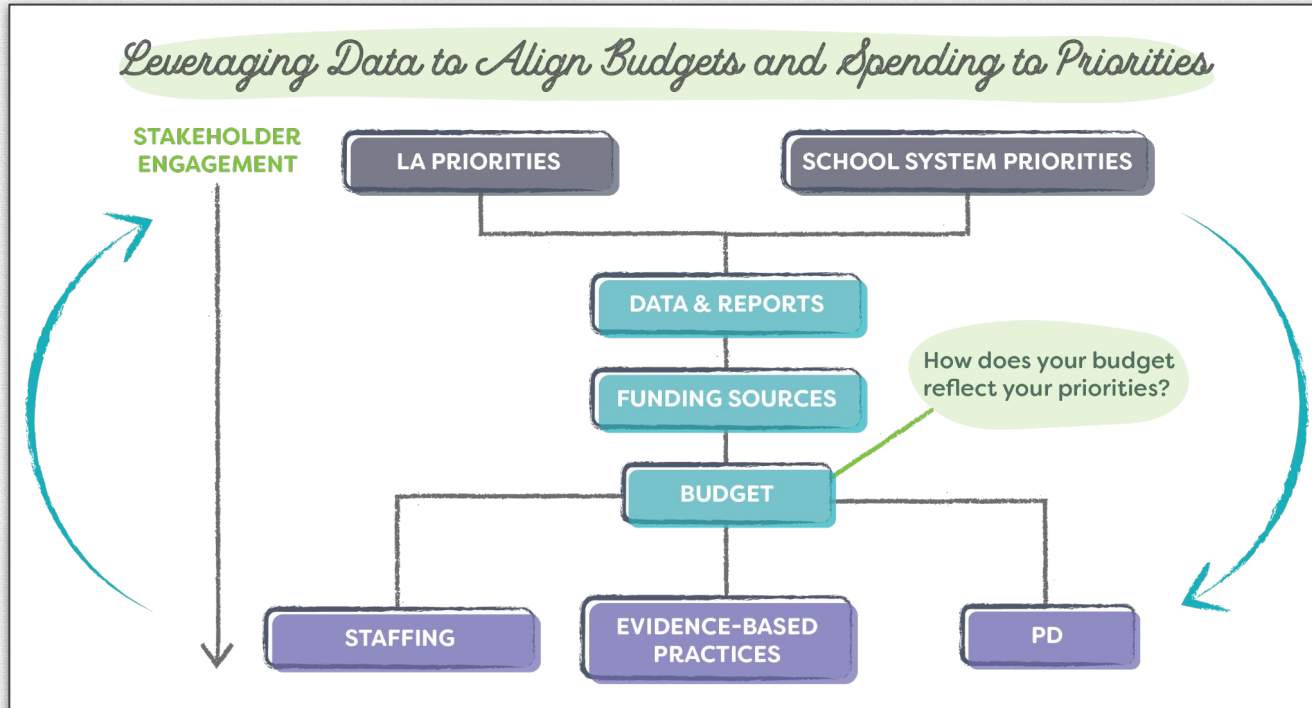
**Purpose**  
Our challenge is to eliminate the barriers to student success by building a seamless support system. Achieving this vision will require all educators – from school system leaders and principals to classroom teachers – to embrace policies and practices that guarantee high-quality educational experiences for the most vulnerable learners. Analyzing data to align budgets and spending to priorities is an important process for school systems to strategically improve outcomes for students with disabilities. This document will support school systems to review both Louisiana’s priorities and school system priorities, analyze key state and local data to provide a comprehensive understanding of student specific needs, and support school systems in aligning their budgets and spending to priorities. At each step in the process, school systems should identify diverse stakeholder groups to be engaged in the process to effectively assess the scope of need and appropriately allocate funding to meet those needs. Key stakeholders should include, but are not limited to: Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Special Education Supervisor, Grants/Budget/Finance Director, principals, teachers, parents, and students. The following chart provides a snapshot of the process that school systems can use to leverage data to align budgets and spending with priorities.

**Self Assessment:** Before reading on, take the **self assessment**. This self-assessment will support school system leaders in identifying areas to strengthen planning structures and processes when aligning budgets and spending to priorities.

**Review Priorities**  
To ensure that funds are used as efficiently and effectively as possible, it’s important to have a clear understanding of state and school system priorities before planning the school system’s budget. Review **Louisiana’s priorities** alongside the priorities of your school system to guide your budget planning process. As you plan with the stakeholders named above, be intentional about

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# Purpose





## **Breakout Groups: Making Tough Budget Decisions**



# Breakout Groups

Dr. Sheila Lockett - Budgeting for Staff Retention

Cheramie Kerth - Budgeting for Telehealth to Address Workforce Needs

Roxane West - Reviewing and restructuring inherited budget

Lynn Hathaway - Leveraging Budgets to Contract Related Services




**Closing**



# Whole Group Questions

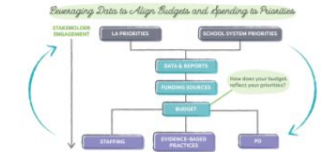
Discussions to continue in your school systems:

- What funding opportunities should your school system spending more time exploring?
- Who is missing from this conversation?
- What step in this process should your school system focus on?
- What supports do you need in order to move forward with this process or make it actionable?




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# Next Guidance Document

- February: [Creating Compliant Systems for Student Success](#)
- Webinar: [February 22 at 1 pm](#)

# Feedback

Please let us know how this session went!

A screenshot of a web-based survey form. At the top, it features the Louisiana Department of Education logo with the text 'DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION' and 'LOUISIANA BELIEVES'. Below the logo is a decorative header with purple and green wavy patterns. The main title of the survey is 'Leveraging Data to Align Budgets and Spending with Priorities'. A subtitle reads: 'This self-assessment will support school system leaders in identifying areas to strengthen planning structures and processes when aligning budgets and spending to priorities.' The user's email is shown as 'rachel.brown@la.gov (not shared)' with a 'Switch account' link and a cloud icon. A red asterisk indicates a required field. The 'Role' section contains a list of radio button options: Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Special Education Supervisor, Grants/Budget/Finance Director, Principal, and Special Education Coordinator.

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## Leveraging Data to Align Budgets and Spending with Priorities

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rachel.brown@la.gov (not shared) [Switch account](#)

\* Required

Role \*

- Superintendent
- Chief Academic Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Special Education Supervisor
- Grants/Budget/Finance Director
- Principal
- Special Education Coordinator