



*STATE OF LOUISIANA*  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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**D.D. Council Quarterly Report**  
**April 2010**  
**Division of Special Populations**

**1. Race to the Top**

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) submitted an application for the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top grant funding. Race to the Top is a \$4.35 billion incentive program established by the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to support innovative reforms in K-12 education. On March 29, two states - Delaware and Tennessee – were announced as the first round of winners out of 16 finalists. There will be another opportunity to submit for funding in June 2010.

**2. Annual Performance Report (APR)**

On behalf of the LDE, the Division of Special Populations submitted the Annual Performance Report on February 1, 2010. For a copy of the report, refer to <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/15529.pdf>. Though the report was submitted by the Division of Special Populations, multiple sections, divisions and offices were responsible for providing data for the report. Louisiana's progress on the indicators will be used by the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education to make our annual determination. Louisiana is currently operating under the "Needs Assistance" determination. Information on the purpose of the determinations and how these are made can be found at the following link: <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/data/report/idea/partbspap/allyears.html> For further information on Louisiana's APR, contact Bonnie Boulton at [bonnie.boulton@la.gov](mailto:bonnie.boulton@la.gov) or (225) 342-3513.

**3. LA Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders (LASARD) Project**

The LASARDD Project, funded by the LDE, will host its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Summer Institute on June 15- 17 in New Orleans at the Hampton Inn Convention Center. Five autism training modules are located on the LASARD webpage (<http://www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu/lasard/>) free of charge and available 24/7 for both professionals and parents. The Louisiana Autism Quality Indicators (LAQI) have been revised and are also accessible on the LASARD webpage. For further information on the Louisiana Department of Education's initiatives related to autism, contact Robyn Hargrave at [robyn.hargrave@la.gov](mailto:robyn.hargrave@la.gov) or (225) 342-3661.

4. **e-Mentoring Program for Special Education**

Louisiana has partnered with the education departments of the state of Nevada, City of Chicago and the New Teacher Center to develop an e-mentoring program for special education teachers in their 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching. This is the first national project of this sort and it is considered one example of the next generation of induction support for Special Education teachers. The capacity of mentors have been reached and recruitment of mentees continues (limited number of slots remain). The pilot begins on March 1st and ends on May 31, 2010. A positive evaluation and full scale implementation is planned with LEAs financially supporting this effort in the fall. For further information on the Louisiana component of the e-mentoring project, contact Debra Dixon at [debra.dixon@la.gov](mailto:debra.dixon@la.gov) or (225) 342-3661.

5. ***Bulletin 1706-Subpart 1: Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act***

Proposed revisions are currently published in the Louisiana Register and will be submitted for BESE's final adoption at the June meeting. The revisions include changes in complaint procedures, participation in assessments, jurisdiction, parental consent, hearing rights, monitoring, and subgrants. Comments may be made through May 9. The Louisiana Register can be found at <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/register.htm>

6. ***Monitoring***

The Division of Special Populations (DSP) is closing-out the 2009-2010 monitoring season. All 31 local education agency monitoring visits are complete. The staff is currently negotiating corrective actions with those districts found non-compliant. In addition, DSP staff members are working to develop a new comprehensive monitoring process that would allow staff to review key areas that more directly relate to student performance. The comprehensive monitoring process will be piloted with 4 districts during the 2010-2011 school year. For further information, contact Ellen Dunlap Spears at [Ellen.spears@la.gov](mailto:Ellen.spears@la.gov) or (225) 342-3730.

7. ***Coordination of Services to Children***

The Division of Special Populations (DSP) collaborated with other Divisions in the Louisiana Department of Education to develop and submit a \$400,000 grant application for the Integration of Mental Health Services and Schools. DSP staff members are working with the Department of Social Services as part of the Core Team for Louisiana. This group includes representatives from the Department of Social Services, Office of Addictive Disorders, Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Office of Community Services, Office of Juvenile Justice, and the Behavior Health Unit of Medicaid. Work has continued to build support for the Integration of Schools and Mental Health grant that was written to affect Tangipahoa and St. Helena Parish. The LDE state supervisor for school social work services has served on the

planning group for the Louisiana Coordinated System of Care being developed to provide wrap around services for the targeted group of students that are defined as being at risk for out of home placement. This includes children in alternative schools and homeless children as defined by the DOE. For further information, contact Angela Tyrone at [angela.tyrone@la.gov](mailto:angela.tyrone@la.gov) or (225) 342-3661.

## **8. Assistive Technology (AT) Centers**

Grant reviews for continuation of the Louisiana Department of Education funded regional AT Centers are underway. Each Center provides training, technical assistance, and resources related to assistive technology for students with disabilities. The eight Centers and their website addresses are listed below. For further information related to the assistive technology initiative at the Louisiana Department of Education, contact Donna Broussard at [donna.broussard@la.gov](mailto:donna.broussard@la.gov) or (225) 342-3661.

### Region 1 Assistive Technology Center Website

[http://www1.eboard.com/eboard/servlet/BoardServlet?ACTION=BOARD\\_SHOW&SITE\\_NAME=Destination&BOARD\\_NAME=R1ATCenter&SESSION\\_ID=2selnqaoegf35200](http://www1.eboard.com/eboard/servlet/BoardServlet?ACTION=BOARD_SHOW&SITE_NAME=Destination&BOARD_NAME=R1ATCenter&SESSION_ID=2selnqaoegf35200)

### Region 2 Assistive Technology Center Website

<http://www.region2at.org/>

### Region 3 Assistive Technology Center Website

<http://www.lati3.com/>

### Region 4/6 Assistive Technology Center Website

<http://www.atanswers.com/about%20us.htm>

### Region 5 Assistive Technology Center Website

<http://bb.lati.cpsb.org/>

### Region 7 Assistive Technology Center Website

<http://www.region7atc.com/index.html>

### Region 8 Assistive Technology Center Website

<http://www.r8at.com/>

## **9. The LDE website talks!**

As part of the Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) initiative, the Louisiana Department of Education's website now utilizes BrowseAloud technology to provide text-to-speech capabilities for any visitor to the LDE site. To enable speech, users need to download the free BrowseAloud application

([www.browsealoud.com](http://www.browsealoud.com)). Once installed, the users can select text on the LDE site to have it read to them. This application creates one more accommodation to enable all visitors greater access to our website and information. Please pass this information on to parents, teachers, therapists, administrators, and students.