



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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D.D. Council Quarterly Report
October 2011
Louisiana Department of Education (LDE)

1. Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) Grant

Schoolchildren across Louisiana will soon benefit from a federal grant valued at approximately \$28.5 million and intended to improve the reading and writing skills of students from birth through twelfth grade. In fact, all total, the state is expected to receive an estimated \$142.4 million over a five-year period from the federal SRCL Grant. Although 35 states applied for the funding, Louisiana is among only six states selected to receive this award from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE).

The SRCL Grant requires states to use at least 15 percent of the grant to serve children from birth through age 5, while 40 percent of the federal funds must go toward supporting students in grades K-5, 20 percent of the federal aid must be allocated to support middle school students, and 20 percent must be designated to support initiatives for high school students. The remaining five percent may be set aside for state administration of the grants. Special education is included within grant activities.

Louisiana's SRCL grant will be used to fund a new program, Literacy is for Everyone (LIFE) Promise, which is modeled after the state's highly successful [K-12 Literacy Pilot Program](#). LIFE Promise will be implemented in two cohorts: the first comprised of 18-21 LEAs, which will begin the program in year one; and a second group of eight to ten LEAs, which will begin the program 18 months later. LEAs will be awarded funds based on the strength of their proposed plans. The [application process](#) begins in fall 2011, when the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) begins accepting pre-applications. Districts may choose to take advantage of [technical assistance](#), which will be made provided by LDOE staff. Successful LEA applicants will be notified in spring 2012.

2. Monitoring Schedule

The following is a list of school systems which are scheduled to be monitored in the fall of 2011 by the Louisiana Department of Education for compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):

Assumption	IDEA Follow-Up	September 19-21
Jefferson	IDEA Follow-Up	September 27-30
Caddo	IDEA Follow-Up	October 10-13
Tangipahoa	IDEA Follow-Up	October 17-20

3. Louisiana Assistance Technology Initiative (LATI)

The Louisiana Department of Education funds a network of Assistive Technology Centers across the state whose mission is to provide leadership and support to local education agencies and families in the development and implementation of assistive technology services that will have meaningful application for the educational, social, recreational, vocational, and developmental experiences of students with disabilities. Detailed information about LATI can be found at http://www.louisianaschools.net/divisions/specialp/assistive_technology.html

4. Accessibility

Governor Bobby Jindal proclaimed the week of September 5-9th as Louisiana Accessibility Awareness Week. The Louisiana Assistive Technology Initiative (LATI), funded by the LDE, started off the celebration with an Assistive Technology Exhibitor Showcase in Baton Rouge and Alexandria. National representatives from Apple, Don Jonston, Smartboard, Promethean, Kurzweil, Low Vision ETC., Ablenet, Text Help, Wynn, and Assistive Technology Inc. were on hand to show the latest in technology for reading, writing, communication, vision and physical access. The proclamation can be found at the following link: <http://www.lati.wikispaces.com>.

5. Data Summits

With support from the Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning, the LDE conducted five one-day data summits in regions across the state between 8/29/11-9/11/11. School systems were asked to send a district team comprised of the following: district superintendent/designee, special education director/supervisor, accountability coordinator, and one additional district key personnel. Participants received a detailed district-specific special education data profile and companion workbook which served as the focal point of the sessions. The sessions were designed to prepare district leaders to understand and take appropriate action related to data (e.g., determine where to allocate resources, provide intervention). Facilitators guided participants in applying a data-to-action process using their own district's data. The LDE is in the process of planning for next-steps to these summits.

6. Parent Involvement Brochure

Cindy Arceneaux, Project Director for the Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center, contacted the LDOE's Office of Federal Programs Support recently to share a new brochure created by the National and Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC) at the PACER Center in Minnesota. The brochure titled "Evidence-Based Practices at School: A Guide for Parent, Information for Families and Parent Centers" is available free of charge by contacting the National PTAC at alliance@taalliance.org, by visiting their website at <http://www.parentscenternetwork.org>, clicking [here](#), or by calling 888.248.0822. The brochure is easy to reproduce and provides resources where parents can receive additional information.

7. LDE Contacts for Special Education Related Issues

Health and Wellness Services Contacts 225.342.3338:

Tavia Crumpler | Section Leader
Debra Duhe | School Psychology Services
Angela Tyrone | School Social Work Services
Angie Estwick | School Nursing Services
Janice Fruge | Adapted PE, OT, PT, School-based Medicaid

IDEA Support Contacts 225.342.3640:

Evelyn Johnson | Section Leader
Angela Randall | Section Leader
Joyce Russo | Visual Impairments
Melodie Sparks | Hearing Impairments
Jennifer Spears | Hospital - Homebound Services
Noah Wartelle | IEPs
Donna Broussard | Assistive Technology

College and Career Readiness Contacts 225.219.0345:

Nancy Hicks | Section Leader
Keita “Kay” Rone Wilson | Secondary Transition Specialist
Kristina Bradford | Region 2 Middle School Transition Specialist
Decarlas O’Neal | Region 1 Middle School Transition Specialist
Patricia McElroy | Education Diagnostician Services
Robyn Hargrave | Autism Specialist

Literacy Office Contacts 225.342.0576:

Debra Dixon | Section Leader
Kristina Braud | Mild Moderate Disabilities
Nanette Olivier | Significant Disabilities
Marian “Suzy” Johnson | Gifted/ Talented
Phyllis Butler | Speech/Language Impairments, Section 504

IDEA Parents/Families Helping Families Contact: 225-342-6339:

Dr. La Tefy Schoen (Latefy.Schoen@la.gov)

8. Bright Lights and Great Ideas

There are schools and classrooms across Louisiana where excellence abounds in the area of literacy instruction and outcomes for students with disabilities. We can all learn from these sites and, as such, we are asking stakeholders to help by informing us of these “bright lights.” Please use the **Bright Lights and Great Ideas** form (Click [HERE](#)) to briefly describe a highly effective program/practice (co-teaching, instruction, assessment, inclusive practices, family engagement, etc.) that you know about. We will make a follow-up contact for details and to seek permission about sharing the information via the web-based Access Guide. For further information, contact Nanette Olivier at nanette.olivier@la.gov or Kristina Braud at Kristina.braud@la.gov

9. Autism

LASARD (Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities) Project

The LDE continues to fund the LASARD (Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities) Project through the LSU-Human Development Center as a means of providing support to Louisiana schools on best educational practices for students with autism and related disorders. LASARD provides this support via a variety of means including technical assistance and training to participating districts (Allen, DeSoto, Lafayette, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Recovery, St. Charles, St. Mary, and St. Tammany), as well as professional development offerings (e.g., face-to-face workshops, on-line modules, on-line workgroups) that are available to interested parties outside of these specific districts. Recent activities include the development of a DVD for the LDE entitled "An Intro to ASD and Educational Programming." Related introductory trainer-of-trainer sessions will be conducted in all 8 educational regions of the state during October and November. Representatives from each district are expected to attend. For further information on LASARD offerings, visit their website at the following address:
<http://www.hdc.lsuhs.edu/lasard/index.html>

Acknowledgement of Advanced Professional Development in Autism Spectrum Disorders

In school year 2011-2012, the LDE will field test a process whereby qualified personnel can submit documentation to support an "Acknowledgement of Advanced Professional Development in Autism Spectrum Disorders." The purpose of establishing such a recognition process is to encourage personnel to develop skills related to supporting students with autism, and to recognize these individuals so that their expertise can be tapped into as appropriate.

10. Prevent/Teach/Reinforce 2011-2012

During the 2011-2012 school year, the LDE is rolling out a major Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) tertiary level initiative designed to provide districts a proven, intense new way to deal with the children that are providing the most serious challenges to the learning environments. The new model, being piloted in all eight regions of the state, is known as Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR). Highlights of the initiative are as follows:

- Dr. Don Kincaid, the state's USDOE Liaison through its Office of Special Education (OSEP), and his colleague, Dr. Rose Ivonnone, have been contracted with as the project's primary trainers and will be providing ongoing consultation during the initiative.
- They have conducted a train-the-trainer orientation of the process to an initial group of eight state-recognized experts in tertiary training/issues.
- These "Cohort I" group of eight trainers will then conduct "train-the-trainer" trainings of school social workers, school psychologists, and other behavior interventionists throughout the state's regions.
- District schools that have demonstrated the most **need** and **readiness** for tertiary delivery will be provided the training. PBIS implementation with fidelity (Benchmarks of Quality/internal and SchoolWide Evaluation Tool/external evaluation scores) at the Universal (green) and Secondary (yellow) are

prerequisites for consideration as well as selection being based on the identified districts' excessive suspension and expulsion of students with disabilities.

- Success of the model will be measured by
 - usage of pre/post child outcome measures, including, of course, behavioral change
 - Pre/post technical adequacy of the FBAs (Functional Behavior Assessments)/BIPs (Behavior Intervention Plans) completed by the behavior coaches
 - Fidelity scores of teachers implementing the behavioral interventions
- The model will involve:
 - Two full days of classroom instruction
 - Two full days of actual in the field work of a case being demonstrated to the new behavior coach
 - Two full days of the behavior coach then being shadowed by the coach
 - The completion of a case study by the new behavior coach that must be submitted to the national experts to certify the behavior coach in the process, both as a practitioner and/or future trainer
 - Ongoing consultation of the Cohort I and new behavior coaches by both the Cohort I trainers and the national consultants
- A total of at least 22 districts throughout the state will be trained in this process. At the end of the process the regions will have access to 45 personnel fully trained in the process that can both roll it out in future “train-the-trainer” trainings and use the process within districts.

For further information about this training, contact Michael Coburn at Michael.coburn@la.gov.

11. Transition website

The State Transition website (<http://transition.doe.louisiana.gov:8888>) has been launched. The website has up to date information related to transition services for teachers, students, parents, and community partners. The site's address may change in the near future. Should you have difficulty accessing the site, contact Kieta.rone@la.gov

12. Trainings related to Families

- **Surrogate Parent Workshops: Train the Trainer Model for District Education Staff**

These workshops are intended for IDEA educators from Local Education Agencies, Charter Schools, Private Schools and State Schools (i.e. Special School District, Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired, Special Education Center, Office of Juvenile Justice) that serve students with disabilities. Registration is available at:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ifmaz8bab&oeidk=a07e3z8jxbi20c84114>. For further information, contact Charlene Comstock-Galagan at ccgalagan@fhfjefferson.org

--November 3, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Terrebonne Parish Library Main Branch, 151 Library Drive, Houma, LA 70360, 985-876-5861

--November 4, Families Helping Families of Jefferson, 201 Evans Rd., Bldg. One Suite 100, Harahan, LA 70123, 504-888-9111

- **Annual Parent Education Conference**

This conference, to be held on October 21-22, 2011, is sponsored by Families Helping Families Regions 6, 7 and 8. The event will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Shreveport. For more information, contact Monica Sullivan or Minnie Jenkins at 318-226-4541/877-226-4541 or email msullivan@fhfregion7.com. Parent stipends are available for this conference.