

LDOE

Quarterly Report to the DD Council June 2015

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Early Childhood

In April 2015 the Louisiana Department of Education released an application for local agencies to receive grant funds allowing them to serve as “Lead Agencies,” coordinating limited but important activities among child care, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten providers in their parishes or communities. Lead Agencies will be responsible for ensuring all early childhood centers are included in the *CLASS* observation and improvement system and that all families may participate in a school or program choice enrollment process. Both responsibilities are final elements of the state’s implementation of Act 3 of the 2012 legislative session, unifying the state’s previously fragmented system of early childhood education. Click [here](#) to view the list of Lead Agencies BESE approved during the June 2015 meeting.

In 2012, to address a fragmented early childhood system that prepares a little more than half of children for kindergarten, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 3 to unify the publicly-funded programs that serve children from birth to age 5 into a statewide early childhood network. Communities created and piloted local networks of publicly-funded child care, Head Start, publicly-funded private preschools, and public school PreK. These local networks are now under a unified state system of academic and development standards, enrollment, and teacher preparation expectations. Along with the nearly \$5 million in funding, the new Early Childhood Guidebook will support Lead Agencies to achieve the following:

- Ensure every classroom is observed twice, reporting results to the State and sharing feedback with all publicly-funded programs so they can support teachers to improve.
- Put procedures in place to make sure observers are well-trained and conflicts of interest are avoided.
- Work with all publicly-funded programs to coordinate enrollment for children under age 5 through a unified application process for families.
- Apply for new funding sources such as the Preschool Development Grant which will provide approximately \$10 million to serve more at-risk children in the 2016-2017 year.

As a result of these requirements, more children will benefit from higher quality interactions and instruction and families will benefit from easier enrollment processes and increased access to quality options.

Jump Start

The 2015 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) is being held at South Louisiana Community College in Lafayette, LA, from July 20-24. SSI will provide teacher certification training for Statewide Jump Start Industry-Based Certifications and is being

co-hosted by the Louisiana Department of Education, South Louisiana Community College, and Louisiana Community and Technical College System. For more information on BESE approved Jump Start pathways for Act 833 eligible students click [here](#).

Instructional Support

This month more than 5,000 Louisiana educators, representing every school in the state, gathered at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans for the third annual Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit. The Teacher Leader initiative is a nationally-recognized effort to ensure classroom educators are making decisions and visibly leading academic changes in the state. This year, Teacher Leaders themselves lead many of the approximately 250 professional development sessions being held at the Summit. Topics included challenging standards and curriculum, unifying the early childhood system, supporting learners with unique needs (including Act 833 implementation, the Career Diploma pathway for students assessed on the LAA 1, writing effective IEP goals, differentiating instruction, and using assistive technology), and Jump Start career pathways.

The Teacher Leader initiative was created at the urging of teachers who believed classroom educators needed a greater voice in statewide academic decisions. Louisiana's Teacher Leaders held their first statewide summit in April 2013 with 2,000 educators in attendance. Over the last two years, the number of Teacher Leaders has grown to more than 5,000. During that same time, the Department of Education has expanded the opportunities available to Teacher Leaders, offering a blend of in-person and online trainings not just during the summer but throughout the school year. These professional development opportunities cover a variety of topics related to ELA, math, social studies, science, early childhood education, and special education.

In April, the Department released a comprehensive package of supports for districts and principals, including its first ever Principal Instructional Guidebook. This series of Guidebooks offers educators a simple reference guide for state policies and tools. Each Guidebook provides practitioners with detailed information on state policies, statewide programs, and access to tools that help individual educators achieve goals with their students. The Department released the following guidebooks for districts and schools:

- [Louisiana's Principals' Teaching & Learning Guidebook: A Path to High-Quality Instruction in Every Classroom](#)
- [Louisiana's High School Student Planning Guidebook: A Path to Prosperity for Every Student](#)
- [Louisiana's Early Childhood Guidebook: Preparing Children for Kindergarten; Strengthening Early Childhood Programs & Community Networks](#)

LAA 1

The Department has been working on three phases of a revised approach to educating and recognizing the achievement of students assessed on the LAA 1. This includes

defining the student population, a successful high school experience, and connection to the accountability system. BESE approved the creation of an alternate pathway to a Career Diploma for these students at their April meeting.

LAA 1 Policy Component	Question to Consider	Proposed Timeline
Eligibility Criteria	Should IEP teams have flexibility beyond the three standard deviations when identifying students as eligible for LAA 1 assessments?	Complete
High School Completion	What does a successful high school experience look like for students assessed on the LAA 1?	Complete
Accountability	How should we amend the high school accountability formula to recognize achievements of students assessed on the LAA 1?	Summer 2015

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)

Action Item	Status
LDOE will send DD Council information regarding effective transition planning	Completed 1/22/15 via email to Sandee, Shawn, and Sam from Jamie Wong
LDOE will include LRS information specific to transition planning and services in electronic newsletter	LRS did a presentation on their services at the June 2015 Superintendents Collaborative which was part of the Teacher Leader Summit. Materials were available for download in the May 19, May 26, and June 2 newsletter. LDOE will continue to include resources as provided.