

LDOE

Quarterly Report to the DD Council October 2015

Update/progress on agency initiatives

Early Childhood

The Department overhauled the early childhood call center to be more accessible for families and child care providers. Now, early childhood call center representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Additionally, there is a dedicated team responding to child care assistance calls and emails sent to LDEccap@la.gov.

High School Graduation Pathways Funding

The Louisiana Department of Education released a Request for Applications for “Building Pathways to High School Diplomas for Students with Disabilities Opportunity Grants” to improve graduation rates and provide career preparation and opportunities for students with disabilities after high school. Through IDEA, Part B, federal funds, up to \$4 million is available for districts and charter schools serving high school students.

Applicants will use these grant funds to:

- Provide necessary equipment to offer students with disabilities access to career preparation experiences,
- Establish new partnerships with local businesses providing hands-on workplace experiences for students with disabilities adhering to Jump Start Internship Guidelines,
- Train and certify career education professionals through channels such as the Jump Start Super Summer Institute, and
- Provide research-based curriculum and high-quality instruction for students assessed on LAA 1.

Additionally, districts and charter organizations receiving grant awards will be expected to increase district and school collaboration with Jump Start Regional Teams, supporting student success and leading to more students with disabilities graduating with an industry-valued credential through a Jump Start pathway.

Believe and Prepare

The Louisiana Department of Education announced the third and largest cohort of Believe and Prepare Educator Preparation grants totaling \$2.85 million. The proposed grants, to be considered by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during its October 13 meeting, will be awarded to 45 school districts and charter schools partnering with educator preparation programs around the state. These partnerships will build a statewide corps of over 500 mentor teachers who will work with teachers preparing for certification, grow the number of aspiring teachers in full-year residencies

up to 1,000 for the 2016-2017 school year, and increase the number of special education teachers preparing to teach in Louisiana.

Cohort 3 of the Believe and Prepare Educator Grants is made up of 32 separate pilot programs representing 33 school districts, 12 charter organizations, and 18 teacher preparation programs. Of these grantees, 16 school districts and five preparation programs are new to the Believe and Prepare grant program. Through this cohort alone, approximately 500 teacher candidates are estimated to enter year-long residencies during the 2016-2017 school year and more than 500 mentor teachers will be identified and trained this school year to support those residents. Grant recipients will collaborate with cohorts 1 and 2 to develop tools, resources, and guides enabling the success of new partnerships. Through this third round of Believe and Prepare grants, the Department will make awards of up to \$200,000 per partnership to develop programs to strengthen Louisiana's teacher workforce.

Eight central Louisiana school districts (Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Concordia, Catahoula, Evangeline, Grant, and Rapides) are partnering with Louisiana State University at Alexandria to prepare special education teachers through coursework and mentoring by highly-effective special education teachers. They have projected to impact 60 total participants: 20 certified special education teachers will be trained to mentor, 20 paraprofessionals will be trained alongside the mentors, and 20 teachers seeking mild/moderate certification. LSU-A will also develop teacher preparation programs for teachers of students with significant disabilities and adaptive physical education.

Status of Council recommendations to agency (if applicable)

Action Item	Status
EM 10. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will encourage local education agencies (LEAs) to collaborate with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)/Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) in fully implementing Work Incentives and Planning Assistance (WIOA) initiatives.	Complete