Louisiana Department of Education
Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council - July 2022

IDEA Final Grant Award Amounts

The total IDEA state set aside grant award amount was $24,231,350. Louisiana's application can be found on our funding landing page.

FFY22 IDEA Set Aside Application
FFY22 Set Aside Project Descriptions

New April Dunn Act Resources

At Teacher Leader Summit, the Division of Diverse Learners released and previewed two new April Dunn Act resources: The April Dunn Act Self-Assessment Guide and The April Dunn Act: Parent Guide to Understanding the Law. The Self-Assessment Guide is intended for school systems to use to assess implementation of April Dunn Act within their school system while the Parent Guide is a parent tool to support understanding of the provisions of the law, basic facts and the influence on the student's high school experience.

Louisiana Literacy Intervention and Foundational Tools (LIFT) Kit Release

The Literacy Division has released a set of activities and resources to support teachers in providing targeted literacy support to struggling readers. These tools can be found in the Literacy Library under Instruction, Intervention, and Extension. The first six guidance documents are available to provide teachers in all content areas with support in annotating text, independent reading, partner reading, using rubrics, using student exemplars, and whole class read alouds. Additional documents to support content literacy are being developed and will be added to the Library by the end of summer.

Special educators and interventionists are encouraged to attend regional literacy professional development this month.

Foundational Literacy in Grades 4-8

The Department will be offering five free asynchronous science of reading modules for grades 4 - 8 educators, specifically targeting special educators, interventionists and reading specialists. The Professional Development Modules are focused on content that is teacher-friendly and provides the knowledge and skills necessary for middle school classroom instruction by applying age-appropriate science of reading strategies. The five topics include understanding the science of reading, exploring phonics and advanced word study, creating fluent readers, developing vocabulary and increasing reading comprehension. Modules will open monthly beginning at the end of the summer and remain available throughout the 2022 - 2023 school year.

Early Childhood Conference

The Department is excited to host the inaugural Early Childhood Conference - Powering Up Early Childhood. The conference will take place from July 22-24, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

The conference will provide opportunities for education and training for child care providers, teachers, and families in all aspects of Early Childhood. The content and breakout sessions will support the following LDOE Believe to Achieve educational priorities:

- Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.
- Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children
- Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships
- Enhance communication and guidance for family engagement and support

The Division of Diverse Learners will be presenting a session titled Early Childhood Inclusion - Make Magic Happen.

Legislative Updates

Following the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, the Department is moving into action.
SCR 31 - Related Service Commission
SB 45 - Special education camera BESE policy
SB 98 - Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SB 176 - Blind Person's Literacy Rights and Education Act