

**Louisiana Department of Education**  
**Quarterly Report to the DD Council - January 2021**

**COVID-19 Updates**

- The Louisiana legislature allocated \$8 million to the Louisiana Department of Education for distance learning devices. The Department will utilize the funds to purchase over 23,000 Chromebooks.
- In a letter to the Louisiana Department of Health, Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley asked that approximately 166,000 early childcare workers, PK-12 teachers, bus drivers, custodians and other education staff are prioritized for voluntary access to COVID-19 vaccines as essential workers on frontlines.
- School systems are planning for LEAP administration this coming spring. In light of the continued challenges of COVID-19, testing windows have been expanded and more virtual practice tests are being offered.

**Guidance Released**

The Department has developed a [Developmental Screening Guidebook Webinar](#) to accompany the updated [Developmental Screening Guidebook](#), which can be found on the [Young Children with Disabilities Landing Page](#). The recorded webinar provides an in-depth review of the guidebook, including a four-step framework for implementing an early identification system and key action steps with accompanying resources for educators and providers, families and community entities. The Department also released an updated resource guide on the [Early Childhood Transition Process](#), which is intended to help families navigate the complex system of special education.

**Partnership with DM Group**

The District Management group is currently partnering with the LDOE Office of Equity, Inclusion and Opportunities to develop a comprehensive plan to guide the work of the LDOE to better serve students with special needs. The team is currently reaching out to stakeholders across the state to collect feedback.

**Jump Start Convention**

Registration for the 2021 Jump Start Virtual Convention is now open. This year's convention will be held during the afternoons of January 26 and January 27 from 1-3:30. As in past years, the convention will include specific information on Jump Start for students with disabilities.

**Teacher Leader Summit**

The 2021 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 25–27 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Both the Department and the Convention Center are taking measures to promote the health and safety of all participants and will have a reduced overall capacity, so each school system will receive a specific allotment of seats. Topics will include addressing unfinished learning, lessons learned from adapting high-quality curriculum for hybrid and/or virtual instruction, foundations of reading, including implementing the ELA Guidebooks Foundations Supports in Grades 3-5, and language and literacy.