

**Louisiana Department of Education
Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council - July 2023**

Louisiana's Special Education Playbook

The [Special Education Playbook for System Leaders](#) was officially launched during Teacher Leader Summit in May. Dr. Brumley and Meredith Jordan presented the playbook during the June SEAP meeting and led an interactive session to solicit additional feedback from members. This new resource was created alongside education experts at the national, state, and local levels to help students with disabilities reach their full potential. The guidance is based on research and the experiences of schools that have successfully narrowed the learning gap and accelerated academic outcomes for students with disabilities. Implementation support will continue through the upcoming school year for school system leaders.

Teacher Leader Summit 2023 Debrief

early 6,000 system leaders, school leaders, and educators were in attendance at May's Teacher Leader Summit. Sessions that were focused on supporting students with disabilities include:

- 3 best instructional practices
- High-quality teaching and learning aligned to high-quality curriculum for students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Utilizing paraeducators to support the needs of diverse learners
- Highlighting the strengths of special educators
- Navigating dyslexia, a review of Bulletin 1903
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Connecting the evaluation to the IEP
- Helen Keller Deafblind Institute
- Executive functioning skills

SPED Fellow Cohort 3 Completion and Cohort 4 Launch

[SPED Fellow Academy](#) is a year-long, comprehensive development program for novice special education leaders across the state and is aimed at recruiting and retaining high-quality special education leaders. At June BESE, Cohort 3 fellows were recognized for completion of their learning cycle and project.

The application and selection process for Cohort 4 is complete and Cohort 4 will launch in September.

Aspiring Special Education Leaders Cohort 2 Launch

The first group of aspiring special education leaders was recognized during the June BESE meeting. In an effort to expand support of special education leaders throughout the state, this past year, the Department launched a professional development track focused on building the capacity of aspiring special education leaders. Nineteen aspiring leaders completed this track that included a cohort of special education coordinators, facilitators, program managers, compliance specialists, and school psychologists from across the state.

Aspiring Special Education Leaders Cohort 2 is set to launch in September.

Summer Regional Literacy Tour

The Literacy Division traveled the state for the [2nd Annual Louisiana Literacy Regional PD Tour](#). This year's tour included six stops across the state: Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, Central (Rapides and Baton Rouge), and Southeast. The tour included relevant and requested sessions for teachers, leaders, coaches, and interventionists around Literacy Best Practices from Screener to Core will focus on helping students who score below benchmark on the screener access and master content and skills inside HQIM, Using Screener Data to Support Literacy Growth will show participants what the indicators of the screener look like inside HQIM and how to build proficiency, and Best Practices in Comprehension and Fluency will focus on key components of comprehension and fluency and how to target them inside HQIM.

EPIC Launch

The Department officially launched the Educational Progress and Investment Charts or [EPIC](#) dashboard in June and is already working on updates for the near future. Upcoming updates will include: spring 2023 statewide assessments, NAEP data for grades 4 and 8, alternate assessments, updated ESSER investments, and updated objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

New Teacher Experience Summer Kick-Off

The Department will host a Summer Kick-off for the New Teacher Experience on July 26 in Baton Rouge for 500 first year teachers. The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome new teachers to the profession.
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience.
- Engage in professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers.
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers.

New Family Resources

The Department has released several new family resources:

- [Family Summer Support Toolkit](#)
This toolkit is designed for schools to be able to easily access resources and activities to share directly with families over the summer months.
- [Mathematics Grab and Go Family Resources](#)
These family activities are intended to support foundational skills (lower elementary, upper elementary, and middle school) using everyday items or easy at-home activities.

SEAP Update

SEAP met in June. The panel discussed the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), including the state's key gains and continued areas for growth. The Department announced it will add a SPP/APR workgroup to continue to dive into the indicator data and make necessary updates moving forward and sought volunteers from SEAP members. The panel also discussed the recently released Special Education Playbook for System Leaders and engaged in planning steps moving forward. Members who are ending 1st and 2nd terms were also recognized for their contributions. The next SEAP meeting will be held September 20.