



2020-2021 PARENT BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE

For students in grades 3-12

The Department is focused on ensuring school systems are prepared for a **strong start to the 2020-2021 academic year**. A new school year means new experiences, new teachers, and new learning goals for your child. This guide provides you with a quick overview of what you can expect this school year, how you can engage with your child's teacher(s) to ensure your child is on track throughout the school year, and what resources are available to support learning at home.

WHAT ARE *Educational Standards*? WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

- ➔ Set clear and consistent learning expectations for students and teachers
- ➔ Define what students should know and be able to do by the end of the year in a particular subject at each grade level
- ➔ Help set high goals for all students

THE LOUISIANA STUDENT STANDARDS

ensure that all students, regardless of their address, background, or ability, have a clear roadmap to success in college or a career. Clearly defined goals help families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed, have access to extra assistance when they need it, and are challenged appropriately.

WHAT WILL LEARNING *look like this year?*

STUDENT LEARNING

- ✔ Investigate, evaluate, and reason scientifically
- ✔ Connect scientific thinking and ideas across different disciplines
- ✔ Examine sources to learn content and make connections among people, events, and ideas across time and place
- ✔ Express claims supported by evidence from sources and outside knowledge
- ✔ Develop deep understanding, skill, and fluency in math
- ✔ Think critically in math through speaking, writing, and solving problems
- ✔ Apply math and science content knowledge to real-world problems and tasks
- ✔ Build knowledge, discuss, and write about topics, themes, and ideas in complex texts
- ✔ Support thoughts and opinions about complex texts using evidence

ASSESSMENTS/SCREENERS

Beginning of the Year

To address unfinished learning from the previous school year, school systems will:

- 🕒 administer an appropriate screener or diagnostic assessment;
- 🕒 analyze student results and communicate each student's readiness with parents; and
- 🕒 address unfinished learning gaps within the grade-level work using curriculum-specific guidance.

During the Year

School systems continue to monitor learning throughout the year to ensure students are making adequate progress.

End of the Year

Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the LEAP 2025 tests for ELA, math, science, and social studies; students in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, and US History courses will take the LEAP 2025 tests.

School systems can choose to provide students in grades 3 and 4 the LEAP 2025 tests online or on paper, while students in grades 5-8 and high school will take the tests online.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT *student learning at home (grades 3-8)?*

At home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations for learning and supporting your child. Building this understanding of what your child knows and should be able to do begins with meaningful conversations with your child and your child's teacher(s). By taking these small steps, you will be helping your child become successful.

STUDENT CONVERSATIONS

Take the time each week to talk with your child about what they are learning.

ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS:

What are you learning in _____ class?

Do you understand what you are learning?

Do you want to learn more about a subject that you are doing really well in or about a topic being discussed?

Is there anything in this subject or class that you don't understand and feel you need more help with?



TEACHER CONVERSATIONS

Start off the school year by having a conversation with your child's teacher(s) about how your child performed last year, and what supports or challenges they may need this year to ensure success with the skills required in each class or subject.

ASK THE TEACHER QUESTIONS:

Where did my child do well and where do they need improvement?

What can be done to help improve their area(s) of weakness?

What can be done to appropriately challenge my child in areas where they exceeded the expectations?

How can I help support my child's learning at home?

Tools and Resources TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Below are additional resources that you can access to further support your child's learning at home.

STRONG START 2020 LIBRARY

Resources and guidance dedicated to ensuring that school systems are prepared for a strong start to the 2020-2021 academic year.

LOUISIANA'S FAMILY SUPPORT TOOLBOX LIBRARY

Information on standards, test results, and other assessment resources

PTA FAMILY GUIDES

Tips for helping your child succeed in key learning areas

PBS EDUCATION

Online tools from PBS to support ELA, math, science, music, and arts

GREAT KIDS MILESTONES

Free, online collection of videos showing what success looks like in reading, writing, and math in grades K-12

WHOM DO I CONTACT *with questions?*

Please call or email your child's teacher with questions about their learning. Additional questions that can't be addressed by your child's teacher should be directed to the school principal.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT *my high school student at home?*

Student success is more than what can be measured in course grades and test scores. One of the many ways families support high school students is by showing interest in their social/emotional needs as well as their academic success.

STUDENT CONVERSATIONS

Talk with your child about what they are thinking, feeling, and learning.

What are your long-term goals after **graduation**?

What can I do to help you pursue your goals?

How can we work together to **fund your postsecondary education**?

Do you feel challenged enough at school?

Do you need support with anything?



COUNSELOR CONVERSATIONS

What kinds of college and career activities are planned for students this year?

Which postsecondary options do you think would be the best fit for my child after high school?

What can I do at home to explore colleges, universities, or training programs?

What are the **financial aid access events** planned this year?

When will we be completing the **Individual Graduation Plan** (IGP)?

Resources TO SUPPORT FAMILIES DURING THE HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

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LOUISIANA'S FAMILY SUPPORT TOOLBOX LIBRARY

Information on standards, test results, and other assessment resources

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

FINANCIAL AID LIBRARY

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

LOUISIANA STEM PATHWAYS

ALL THINGS JUMP START

WHOM DO I CONTACT *with questions?*

Please call or email the school to schedule an appointment with your child's teacher, counselor, or principal. Contact your school system with questions that can't be addressed by your child's school.