



NEWS

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ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF LOUISIANA

UPDATE for Louisiana Educators

Fellow Educators,

We hope this email finds each one of you safe and well. Since the order for statewide closures of all schools went out on March 13 (currently in effect until April 13), there have been many important developments regarding education in Louisiana. There were many requests for waivers, exceptions, and cancellations that were made by several different officials. Included in these collaborated efforts were the Louisiana Department of Education, Acting Louisiana State Superintendent Beth Scioneaux, BESE president Sandy Holloway, Board of Regents Chair Marty Chabert, Governor John Bel Edwards, and the US Department of Education. As of late Friday, these requests have been approved as required by Federal Officials under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

On 3/17/20, Gov. Edwards sent [a letter to the Education Community](#) informing us of his intentions to seek several waivers and exceptions to legal requirements surrounding education in Louisiana. [The proclamation made by Gov. Edwards on 3/19/20](#) was approved by the US DOE on 3/20/20. A press release detailing nationwide waivers can be [found here](#). **These actions effectually cancel all LEAP tests, EOC exams, teacher evaluations, and school/district accountability for the 2019-2020 school year. Students will not have to make up the school days or instructional minutes. The legal requirement that all teachers work a minimum of 180 days has also been waived.** These mandates apply to both public schools and non-public schools participating in the La. Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program.

It's important to note that decisions about teachers and other staff reporting remains a decision to be made by the local governing authority. That is, each school board, charter board, etc. has the authority to determine if, how, and where the work of their employees will continue. **Should you have any questions or concerns about your current situation, please reach out to our legal team for assistance.**

The Board of Regents is expected to ask the Legislature to waive the requirement that graduating seniors applying for TOPS have a qualifying ACT score no later than April to qualify for TOPS without penalty, as the ACT exams that were scheduled for April 4th have been rescheduled for June 13th. The Louisiana Legislature is currently in adjournment until March 31st.

A+PEL remains open and dedicated to serving Louisiana's Educators and students. Our office hours may be altered as needed for staff and to comply with orders, but all calls and emails are being returned. Our Directors continue to create meaningful resources for

educators to use during this digital learning time, and our legal team remains hard at work ensuring that your rights remain protected. You can continue to count on us to serve and fight for you in this most trying time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keith Courville

Executive Director

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