Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) Quarterly Report to the DD Council

January 2013

UPDATE/PROGESS ON AGENCY INITIATIVES

1. Believe and Include – Contact: Cindy Hilton (cindy.hilton@la.gov)

In August, the Department launched Believe and Include, a \$4 million competitive grant program aimed at providing funding to schools to develop innovative programs that help students with disabilities achieve proficiency of the more rigorous Common Core State Standards. Believe and Include represents an effort to drive achievement by empowering our district leaders, school leaders, and special education teachers to pursue innovation in special education in our state. Each grant recipient included at least three schools inside a district or charter organization to be funded at a maximum rate of \$50,000 per school. Sixteen districts or charter organizations, representing 85 schools, will benefit from this grant as part of the Department's Believe and Include initiative. The recipients are KIPP New Orleans, Inc. (10 schools), Lafayette Parish (3 schools), Ascension Parish (3 schools), Zachary Community Schools (3 schools), Rapides Parish (6 schools), Red River Parish (4 schools), Lincoln Parish (5 schools), Bossier Parish (7 schools), Richland Parish (4 schools), Ouachita (3 schools), Morris Jeff Community School (4 schools), Algiers Charter (8 schools), Livingston Parish (3 schools), Desoto Parish (12 schools), Choice Foundation (3 schools) and FirstLine Schools, Inc. (6 schools).

2. Risk Pool – Contact: Bonnie Boulton (bonnie.boulton@la.gov)

Twenty-five LEAs (district and charters) received funding in 2011-12. The total allocation was \$1,884,567.00. The allocation for 2012-13 was increased by more than 150% to \$4,752,952.00. In order to increase funding to the High Risk Pool, LDOE cut funding from State level initiatives. Twenty-nine LEAs are approved for participation in the High Risk Pool.

3. LaSPDG – Louisiana State Personnel Development Grant - December 2012 – Contact – Robin Clark: robin.clark@la.gov

Culturally Responsive Practices - LaSPDG has begun several activities to support districts in the area of Culturally Responsive Practices:

Professional Development

Dr. Kimberly Sherman – LaSPDG hosted several events led by Dr. Sherman on the effective development and use of Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans. The content was delivered in three regions across the state to support the needs of all participating districts.

Dr. Troy Allen – LaSPDG has hosted district-wide professional development to support specific district needs related to culturally responsive practices.

LaSPDG Staff – Technical assistance was provided to districts to assist them in understanding behavior data to uncover specific problem areas in the overuse of suspension and expulsion. The Root Cause Analysis procedure was developed for each district to analyze SPP indicator 4a & 4b data to better understand district practices and make improvements where necessary.

Webinars

Dr. Kimberly Sherman – LaSPDG hosted "Webinar Wednesday" with Dr. Sherman who presented a behavior "tool kit" to support positive behavior practices for all participating districts.

On-Line Networking, Sharing and Support

In an effort to share professional development opportunities, event announcements and resources from LaSPDG partners, LaSPDG's website is used to help district personnel remain current on research and best practices related to Culturally Responsive Practices (www.laspdg.org).