

LDOE Quarterly Report to the DD Council April 2017

Update/progress on agency initiatives

High School Graduation Pathways:

Louisiana was one of 10 states to win the New Skills for Youth grant, which will bring \$2 million to Louisiana to strengthen and expand career training. Click [here](#) for more information on the grant opportunity.

As part of this grant the LDOE is expanding the Jump Start career education initiative to include a new program called Jump Start Summers. This program will help high school students prepare for life success by giving them the opportunity to attain high-demand industry-based credentials during the summer while also earning a summer wage working onsite with sponsoring industry partners. For more information about this program click [here](#).

Additionally, the LDOE's Jump Start team is seeking educators who want to help form a statewide network of workplace mentors dedicated to working with students with disabilities. This initiative is focusing on increasing the number of workplace-based learning experiences available to high school students. Using the online Nepris system, individual workplace mentors can work with students located anywhere in the state. Our goal: to give students with disabilities access to learn more about workplace opportunities and inspirational stories of success, while practicing workplace communication skills with these mentors.

For more information about Jump Start, the Nepris system and our effort to create a statewide network of workplace mentors, please contact JumpStart@la.gov or Ashley Aleman of Nepris at Ashley@Nepris.com

Teacher Preparation:

The Department released a request for applications to deepen and expand teacher preparation efforts to meet workforce needs and to ensure equitable access to effective teachers for all students. This round of the Believe and Prepare request for applications includes a focus on creating teacher preparation programs that increase the number of special education teachers. For more information about the program click [here](#).

IDEA Grant Application:

Historically, Louisiana's IDEA grant applications have been developed with an emphasis on continuing existing activities and partnerships and making minor spending adjustments based on cost inflation and feedback from the field. While there is value in the continuity of how state level IDEA funds are spent, it also limits the states ability to be responsive to current needs of students, LEAs, and the special education

community. Therefore, the LDOE committed to taking a hard look at the use of IDEA set aside funds and developing the [Federal Fiscal Year \(FFY\) 17 IDEA grant application](#) based on the current needs of the state.

In the Fall of 2016 the LDOE began working with stakeholders to analyze the use of IDEA set aside funds and established a process for developing an IDEA grant application based on set of funding priorities that will address the current needs of our state. As a result the FFY 17 IDEA draft grant application is rooted in a set of guiding principles, priority areas, and proposed activities to be considered for funding by the set aside portion of the grant and will culminate with a competitive search for partnerships to carry out the activities and priorities as necessary. Public comment on the draft grant application will be accepted through April 30, 2017. Click [here](#) to access the formal draft application, the application project description, and the public comment form.

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