



May 28, 2020

HIGHER EDUCATION PREPARING TO OPEN SAFELY THIS FALL

Office of Public Health shares strategies for educating in the age of Covid

BATON ROUGE, La. – Students returning to Louisiana’s colleges and universities can do so safely this fall if they following public health guidance according to experts from the Office of Public Health, but campuses will look and feel different in an effort to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. Dr. Alex Billioux, Assistant Secretary of Health for the Louisiana Office of Public Health shared prevention and mitigation strategies for opening campuses with members of the Board of Regents during their monthly meeting, outlining what the future of higher education may look like in the age of Covid.

“We’ve been particularly hard hit in Louisiana, but we also have a great turn-around story in terms of Covid,” said Dr. Billioux. “Now we want to be sure we’re best prepared to resume the critical work of education, which is so important to restarting our economy. As we anticipate moving into Phase II, we’ve had great input from our colleges and universities in terms of thinking about mask-wearing, dormitories, food service and looking at CDC guidance to come up with solid plans to protect students and campus communities. We look forward to ongoing partnerships to assist with testing and expert guidance throughout this pandemic,” Dr. Billioux said.

“We are laser-focused on both the safety and education of our students. Our unified message to our students is clear: don’t defer your college dreams. You can persist and you must stay safe,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed. “Our campuses are incubators of knowledge - from education and training to innovation and critical research towards a treatment and a vaccine. Each of these items is mission-critical to us and vital to Louisiana’s recovery.”

LSU System President Tom Galligan and University of Louisiana System President Jim Henderson shared the options being considered in their phased return to campus plans, which will be finalized in the coming weeks. Each stressed that flexible in person, hybrid and remote learning opportunities will play a big role in keeping campuses healthy and students on track throughout the semester. New procedures could include:

- Large classes remaining online,
- Smaller classes held in larger lecture halls so social distancing can be achieved,
- In-person career and technical education, labs and clinicals to include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and a focus on social distancing,
- Masks to be worn in all classrooms,

- Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and hand washing stations widely available,
- Two-person dorm rooms with recovery and isolation sites available for students,
- Consideration for adjusting academic calendars to begin early and complete the semester before Thanksgiving with final exams online, and
- High-risk students continuing courses remotely.

“Education is the lifeline people need in this pandemic and this is what makes Louisiana special. We get it done,” said Board of Regents Chairman Marty J. Chabert. “With the strategic leadership of our four system presidents and their campuses, paired with our public health advocates, Louisiana is well positioned to transition back to campus safely this fall and I know we are all looking forward to getting back to the business of educating our students on site.”

Moving forward, Regents will coordinate with the Office of Public Health to host two webinars to ensure all campuses, public, private and proprietary, have the appropriate safety information, guidelines and resources to welcome students back to campus. These online meetings will also connect student health centers and campus medical directors with the state’s Regional Medical Directors who can assist with testing and continued support as transitions are made to different phases of re-entry.

Additionally, Louisiana Community and Technical College System President Monty Sullivan shared that his campuses will be seeking a \$40M investment to focus on rapid workforce development efforts designed to credential as many as 20,000 individuals in the short term. The Reboot Louisiana Program links the state’s community and technical colleges to high demand regional economic development needs to support a post-Covid workforce.

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WHAT DID CARES ACT FUND FOR HIGHER ED?

What did CARES Act fund for HIED?



HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF)

\$186.6M total

\$147M Student & Institutional Funds

\$39.5M Minority-Serving Institutions

\$183K LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport

FEDERAL GUIDANCE & INFORMATION

FUNDS TO STUDENTS & INSTITUTIONS

- Funding allocation to each institution was determined by the federal government.
- Some institutions have already expended more than they were allocated.
- Half of funding (at least \$73.5M) must go into the hands of students.
 - *"Institutions of higher education shall use no less than 50 percent of such funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care)."*
- Half of funding (no more than \$73.5M) must go toward institutions' COVID-19 expenses (sanitization, PPE, online course platforms, laptops, etc.) and lost revenue due to refunds* (see below). Funds cannot be used to supplant future lost revenue from lower enrollment or fewer students living on campus.
 - Lost revenue for institutions consists of refunds to students for room and board, meal plans, and student services that could not be performed due to COVID-19. This was entirely self-generated revenue paid by students and subsequently refunded to students.
 - *"An institution of higher education receiving funds under this section may use the funds received to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus, so long as such costs do not include payment to contractors for the provision of pre-enrollment recruitment activities; endowments; or capital outlays associated with facilities related to athletics, sectarian instruction, or religious worship."*
- Institutions did not shut down and instruction continued online. Faculty and staff continued working full-time. Costs to operate were not reduced.
- Funding cannot be used for general operating expenses unrelated to COVID-19 costs. If the institutions cannot use all of the funding for COVID-19 expenses, it must be returned.

FUNDS TO MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS

- Louisiana's 24 minority and low-income-serving institutions received additional allocations (\$39.5M) that can go toward COVID-19-related expenses, lost revenue and/or student grants.
- In addition, LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport received \$183K.

Allocation of CARES Act Higher Ed Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) \$186.8M

Institution	HEERF Student Funds	HEERF Institution Funds	MSI Funds	FIPSE Funds	Total CARES Act Funds
Baton Rouge Community College	\$3,210,013	\$3,210,013	\$411,933	\$0	\$6,831,958
Bossier Parish Community College	\$1,957,956	\$1,957,956	\$189,948	\$0	\$4,105,859
Central Louisiana Technical Community College	\$731,361	\$731,361	\$71,750	\$0	\$1,534,471
Delgado Community College	\$5,655,191	\$5,655,191	\$716,518	\$0	\$12,026,899
Nunez Community College	\$780,550	\$780,550	\$76,017	\$0	\$1,637,116
Fletcher Technical Community College	\$687,560	\$687,560	\$66,937	\$0	\$1,442,057
Louisiana Delta Community College	\$1,481,878	\$1,481,878	\$143,748	\$0	\$3,107,504
Northshore Technical Community College	\$1,025,650	\$1,025,650	\$100,609	\$0	\$2,151,909
Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College	\$568,335	\$568,335	\$72,199	\$0	\$1,208,868
River Parishes Community College	\$481,842	\$481,842		\$0	\$963,683
South Louisiana Community College	\$2,822,975	\$2,822,975	\$371,441	\$0	\$6,017,390
Sowela Technical Community College	\$1,246,692	\$1,246,692	\$121,475	\$0	\$2,614,858
Louisiana State University & A&M College	\$9,441,144	\$9,441,144	\$0	\$0	\$18,882,288
Louisiana State University At Alexandria	\$999,278	\$999,278	\$97,538	\$0	\$2,096,093
Louisiana State University At Eunice	\$1,030,100	\$1,030,100	\$100,407	\$0	\$2,160,606
LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans	\$695,618	\$695,618	\$0	\$0	\$1,391,236
LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport	\$158,496	\$158,496	\$0	\$183,008	\$500,000
Louisiana State University At Shreveport	\$912,943	\$912,943	\$89,314	\$0	\$1,915,200
Southern University And A&M College*	\$4,698,402	\$4,698,402	\$18,132,717	\$0	\$27,529,520
Southern University At New Orleans	\$1,240,832	\$1,240,832	\$3,300,516	\$0	\$5,782,179
Southern University At Shreveport	\$1,297,558	\$1,297,558	\$3,360,433	\$0	\$5,955,548
Grambling State University	\$3,505,194	\$3,505,194	\$9,854,862	\$0	\$16,865,250
Louisiana Tech University	\$3,547,444	\$3,547,444	\$0	\$0	\$7,094,887
McNeese State University	\$2,728,181	\$2,728,181	\$268,069	\$0	\$5,724,430
Nicholls State University	\$2,528,760	\$2,528,760	\$247,710	\$0	\$5,305,230
Northwestern State University	\$2,823,517	\$2,823,517	\$275,646	\$0	\$5,922,680
Southeastern Louisiana University	\$5,290,142	\$5,290,142	\$519,358	\$0	\$11,099,642
University Of Louisiana At Lafayette	\$6,343,004	\$6,343,004	\$623,129	\$0	\$13,309,136
University Of Louisiana At Monroe	\$2,888,882	\$2,888,882	\$0	\$0	\$5,777,764
University Of New Orleans	\$2,790,944	\$2,790,944	\$274,114	\$0	\$5,856,001
Grand Total	\$73,570,433	\$73,570,433	\$39,486,388	\$183,008	\$186,810,262
*Southern University-Baton Rouge and Southern University Law Center use the same institution ID.					

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following priority pieces of legislation are making their way towards final passage during the 2020 Regular Legislative Session. Additionally, Regents will coordinate and collaborate with our postsecondary education partners in the coming months on several study resolutions relating to higher education that emerged in the process.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS - REGENTS.LA.GOV



"Higher education's talent development imperative is not paused during this pandemic. In fact, it is amplified."

Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education



HB734
DUAL ENROLLMENT



HB689
AUTONOMIES EXTENSION



HB676
FREE THE TRANSCRIPT



HB740 ANTI-HACKING/
STUDENT INFO PROTECTION



SB481 & HB870
TOPS COVID-19 ADJUSTMENTS



Board of Regents

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY RESOLUTIONS



HCR33
Employment of grads



HR34
Data sharing needs



HCR45
Faculty issues and data



SB365
Degree cost averages



HR52
LCTCS COVID changes



Board of Regents

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The budget bill, HB 105, was adopted by the House of Representatives this week and included a \$21M reduction to higher education. However, it is not expected to clear the Senate before the regular session's deadline on Monday, June 1st at 6:00 pm. A special session of the legislature has been called to address the budget as well as additional items listed in the call. The Special Session will begin at 6:01 pm, Monday, June 1st.

BOARD ACTIONS

The Board of Regents also approved these additional items during its virtual meeting on

Academic and Student Affairs

- Consent Agenda
 - Academic Unit Reconfiguration – LSU Alexandria
 - Routine Staff Reports
 - Progress Reports
- Academic Program Proposal
 - BS Cloud Computing – Grambling State University

Research and Sponsored Initiatives

- Consent Agenda
 - Transfer of BoRSF Match and Associated Earnings to Unmatched Professorships: Tulane University
 - Appointment of Endowed Chairholders without National Search: LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans
- Blanket Exception: Endowed Chairs/Endowed Professorships Cap on Retention of Expendable Funds, FY 2019-20

Planning, Research and Performance

- Consent Agenda
 - R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
 - Initial License
 - Oxford Teachers Academy
 - Rasmussen College
 - License Renewals
 - National University
 - Relay Graduate School of Education
 - Nova Southeastern University
 - Central Texas College
 - San Joaquin Valley College
 - Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
 - Initial License
 - CDL Mentors of Baton Rouge Truck Driving School (Baton Rouge)
 - MedCerts, LLC (Livonia, MI)
 - Renewal Applications
 - Academy of Acadiana, Inc. (03/22/06)
 - At-Home Professions (04/22/99)
 - Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy (03/26/14)
 - Blue Cliff College--Houma (03/24/05)
 - Blue Cliff College--Metairie (03/23/00)
 - Blue Cliff College--Metairie, Satellite Campus (03/23/11)
 - CDL Mentors, LLC (03/27/19)
 - Coastal College--Lafayette (04/23/98)
 - Coastal College--Monroe (03/28/96)
 - Delta College of Arts & Technology--Lafayette Branch (03/24/05)
 - Goodwill Technical College (03/25/15)
 - Lenora School of Phlebotomy (04/28/94)
 - Louisiana Culinary Institute (03/27/03)
 - Pilut Healthcare Training Institute (03/21/18)
 - Saint Christopher College (03/20/17)
 - Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center (03/25/15)
 - Unitech Training Academy (04/24/97)
 - Unitech Training Academy--Houma (03/22/06)
 - Universal Technical Institute -Florida Branch (04/23/98)
 - Universal Technical Institute of Texas, Inc. (06/28/84)

Other Business

- Request for staff to study a Master Plan HBCU designation for consideration in June

STAFFING UPDATES



Dr. Susannah Craig has been promoted to Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation, overseeing K-12 & higher education partnerships, access & affordability, and policy, research & academic services.



Dr. Randall Brumfield has been named Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Student Success, focusing on master planning policy & programming, student success initiatives, regional engagement and research/analysis.



Victor Jones, Esq. joins the Board of Regents as Executive Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor. He brings experience as an education and children's rights attorney, having previously served as a senior leader at the Southern Poverty Law Center, and a background in utilizing integrated advocacy models including direct and impact litigation, public policy (administrative and legislative) and public education and outreach, to address systemic maladies for at-risk youth and young adult populations in the Deep South. Before SPLC, Victor practiced law as an attorney at multi-disciplinary law firms in New Orleans, specializing in commercial litigation, labor and employment, insurance defense, and education law. Victor received a B.A. in Literature from Xavier University of Louisiana, a Master's Degree in Education from Harvard University, and a law degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He is a native of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and has lived in New Orleans for 15 years.