

BESE Course Choice Submission Package: Preamble

The mission of the Louisiana Course Choice program is to expand access to quality course offerings to all Louisiana students. Course Choice provides this access to high quality course offerings to Louisiana students while holding course providers accountable for academic outcomes.

According to statute, BESE authorizes Course Choice course providers. As with charters, course providers will sign a contract with definitive conditions and terms. Unlike with charters, however, the Department maintains a proactive role in insuring Course Choice course provider quality and accountability.

Attached please find a package of Course Choice course provider snapshots. These are the 45 course providers the Department is recommending that BESE Approve for final contract negotiations. These 45 course providers – representing fewer than half the Course Choice applications submitted – have completed a comprehensive vetting process:

Process 1: Applications – every course provider submitted an application that the Department evaluated for instructional quality, credible content, focus on serving special education students, accountability, quality control and a sound enterprise model.

Many course providers had their initial applications deferred or rejected, and then chose to rework and resubmit their applications. The Course Choice team dedicated quite a bit of effort – particularly with Louisiana educational entrepreneurs – to help course providers submit their best possible application;

Process 2: Interviews – every course provider that earned an Accept designation with their application then entered into the multi-phase Interview process. Course providers were required to submit pre-interview descriptions of their course offerings and quality control mechanisms. Trained Department interviewers – with areas of expertise matched to the offerings of the course providers – conducted hour-long interviews with course provider leadership teams. The course providers then responded to post-interview written questions and (in 24 cases) additional follow-up email queries.

The feedback we've received from course providers is that this process has been very demanding, well organized and focused.

Process 3: Independent Panel Reviews – course providers that earned a Proceed designation after their interviews had their credentials submitted to an online panel of independent reviewers. These independent reviewers provided a Favorable or Unfavorable evaluation based solely on the online package of materials we provided to them.

This is not the end of the selection process for Course Choice course providers – they must still negotiate a final, definitive contract with the Department that will include (among many elements) specific and demanding accountability and quality control standards.

Our goal in today's meeting is to receive from BESE their determination of which course providers they will Approve for final, definitive negotiations. During these negotiations, Department team members will reach final agreement with course providers on the specific course titles they will offer, the tuitions associated with each course, their accountability and quality control obligations, their reporting obligations, and many, many other specific conditions.

Each course provider snapshot provides their background, proposed course offerings and tuition levels, and the Department's indication of why we believe each course provider merits inclusion in the program. These snapshots also include the key issues we believe remain to be resolved with each course provider during final post-BESE approval negotiations.

Course Choice "Recommend Approve" Course Providers: Firmographics

No	Course Provider	Modality	Type	Level
1	1 Mind	Hybrid	EE	High School
2	Acadian Companies, National EMS Academy	Hybrid	L	High School
3	Acadiana Symphony	Face2Face	L	Elementary
4	Advanced Academics	Virtual		Grades 6 - 12
5	Alliance Safety Council	Hybrid	L	High School
6	Apex	Virtual		High School
7	ATS Project Success	Virtual		K - 12
8	Bard Early College	Face2Face		High School
9	Bossier Parish Schools	Hybrid	P	High School
10	Bridgewater Academy	Virtual		Grades 6 - 12
11	Caddo Career and Tech Ed.	Face2Face	P	High School
12	Caddo Parish Public Schools	Virtual	P	Grades 6 - 12
13	Cambium Education, Inc. dba Lincoln National Academy	Virtual		High School
14	Connections	Virtual		K - 12
15	Cyber Innovation Center	Face2Face	L	High School
16	Dillard University	Face2Face	L	High School
17	E2020, Inc.	Virtual		Grades 6 - 12
18	Educate, Inc. dba Sylvan Learning Center	Hybrid		High School
19	FastPath Learning (pilot test)	Virtual		K - 8
20	Florida Virtual School	Virtual		Grades 6 - 12
21	Grade Results	Virtual		High School
22	Hype Academy, LLC.	Hybrid	EE	High School
23	Jude Dubois	Virtual	EE	High School

Modalities - Virtual	20
Hybrid	13
Face2Face	12

Grade Levels - High School	28
Grades 6 - 12	9
K - 12	7
Elementary	1

No	Course Provider	Modality	Type	Level
24	K12 Virtual Schools LLC.	Virtual		Grades 6 - 12
25	K12, Inc.	Virtual		Grades 6 - 12
26	Livingston Parish Course Choice	Hybrid	P	High School
27	Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB)	Hybrid	L	High School
28	Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts	Face2Face	L	Grades 6 - 12
29	Louisiana We Educate	Face2Face	EE	High School
30	Louisiana's College Course Choice Collaborative	Face2Face	L	High School
31	Middlebury	Virtual		High School
32	mSchool	Hybrid	EE	K - 12
33	PEC	Face2Face	L	High School
34	Pelican Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.	Face2Face	L	High School
35	Prepworks (pilot test)	Virtual		High School
36	Princeton Review	Hybrid		High School
37	Reaching Every Teacher	Virtual	EE	High School
38	Rocket Learning Partners, LLC.	Hybrid		K - 12
39	S.M.A.R.T. Start	Face2Face	EE	High School
40	SmartStart Education, LLC.	Virtual		Grades 6 - 12
41	South Central Laborers' Training & Apprenticeship Fund	Face2Face	L	High School
42	St. James Parish Schools	Hybrid	P	K - 12
43	The American Academy	Virtual		High School
44	University of New Orleans	Face2Face	L	High School
45	VSCHOOLZ	Virtual		K - 12

Org Type - Educational Entrepreneur	7
Parish School System	5
Other Louisiana-Based Course Provider	13

Other Categories - AP Providers	13
Dual Enrollment (in addition to AP)	6
CTE Providers	13
Internship Providers	6

1 Mind

Contact Name	Juana Domingue one.mind.la@gmail.com
Address	10101 Park Rowe Ste. 180 Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	1 Mind has applied to offer courses in three CTE areas: 1) barbering; 2) cosmetology; and 3) oil and gas production. Their instructional model is a hybrid of face-to-face and online education. Their course tuitions are higher than average because they include all of the materials (uniforms, equipment) a student will require to work professionally in the area he / she is receiving training.
Rationale for Approval	1 Mind team members significantly evolved and improved their application and proposed offerings based on LDE feedback. Team member / experts will be the hands-on teachers in each course offering. The 1 Mind team has significantly narrowed the scope of their offerings and have developed a more effective Year 1 enterprise model.

Acadian Companies, National EMS Academy

Contact Name	Josh Chamblin jchamblin@acadian.com
Address	P. O. Box 98000 Lafayette, LA 70509
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	Hands-on training by a premier emergency response company, helping students grow from basic EMT technicians to fully-trained first responders
Rationale for Approval	Acadian’s long-term commitment to Louisiana – and Acadian’s long-term commitment to training Louisiana’s young people for critical health care / first responder career paths.

Acadiana Symphony

Contact Name	Jenny Kreuger executivedirector@acadinasympphony.org
Address	412 Travis St. Lafayette, LA 70503
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	A music appreciation class for elementary students, utilizing a proven curriculum that helps build language and critical reasoning skills
Rationale for Approval	Arts and language skills enrichment opportunities for elementary students in the Lafayette area.

Advanced Academics

Contact Name	Gary L. Crary gcrary@advancedacademics.com
Address	1 East Sheridan Suite 500 Oklahoma City, OK 73104
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive K – 12 academic and credit recovery course offerings, with a focus on high-quality instruction to accompany online course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Extensive track record of success, focus on high quality instruction.

Alliance Safety Council

Contact Name	Dianna Braud dbraud@alliancesafetycouncil.org
Address	10099 N. Reiger Rd. Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	A single pilot course to help high school students develop the life, safety and job skills necessary to be productive, successful employed adults.
Rationale for Approval	Alliance Safety Council has the statewide infrastructure, premier reputation and industry support necessary to expand this new course offering to all Louisiana students.

Apex

Contact Name	Lars Gaarde larsga@apexlearning.com
Address	1215 Fourth Ave, Suite 1500 Seattle, WA 98161
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive high school and advance placement / college credit course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

ATS Project Success

Contact Name	Renee Weaver-Wright info@atsprojectsuccessworks.com
Address	20674 Hall Road Clinton Township, MI 48038
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive K – 12 academic and credit recovery course offerings, with a focus on high-quality instruction to accompany online course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Extensive track record of success, focus on high quality instruction.

Bard Early College

Contact Name	Stephen Tremaine tremaine@bard.edu
Address	727 Carondelet New Orleans, LA 70130
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Two intensive liberal arts course offerings that will challenge high school students to develop college-level critical thinking and communications / writing skills.
Rationale for Approval	Amazing curricula, subsidized transportation and tuition costs, dedication to lifetime success for enrolled students.

Bossier Parish Schools

Contact Name	Sally Namie sally.namie@bossierschools.org
Address	P. O. Box 2000 Benton, LA 71006
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	AP, academic and CTE courses offered using a hybrid modality (online and face-to-face).
Rationale for Approval	Strong track record of AP exam success over two times the state average by Bossier students should earn Bossier Parish approval despite the IEP Unfavorable rating.

Bridgewater Academy

Contact Name	Heather Clark hclark@glynlyon.com
Address	300 N. McKemy Ave.
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive online academic offerings for students grades 6 -12
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success.

Caddo Career and Tech Ed.

Contact Name	Gayle Flowers gflowers@caddo.k12.la.us
Address	P.O. Box 32000 Shreveport, LA 71130
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive CTE course offerings – with opportunities for students to earn multiple industry-based certifications (IBCs) – in a proven-effective face-to-face setting for students in Northwest Louisiana.
Rationale for Approval	Proven track record of effective instruction and student outcomes.

Caddo Parish Public Schools

Contact Name	Rosemary Woodard rwoodard@caddo.k12.la.us
Address	1961 Midway Shreveport, LA 71108
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive grades 6 - 12 academic and high tech CTE course offerings, delivered online with strong available instruction / mentoring.
Rationale for Approval	Proven effective technical platform, focus on effective instruction and superior student outcomes.

Cambium Education, Inc. dba Lincoln National Academy

Contact Name	Cathy Sump Cathy.sump@cambiumlearning.com
Address	4093 Specialty Place Longmont, CO 80504
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive high school academic course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

Connections

Contact Name	Tim Jones tjones@connectionseducation.com
Address	8621 Robert Fulton Drive Columbia, MD 21046
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive K - 12 and advance placement / college credit course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

Cyber Innovation Center

Contact Name	G.B. Cazes gb.cazes@cyberinnovationcenter.org
Address	6300 East Texas, Suite 100 Bossier City, LA 71111
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Cutting-edge physics courses involving highly trained instructors and online resources
Rationale for Approval	The gateway to utilizing CIC and a network of LEAs to deliver high impact STEM courses throughout the State . . . potentially catalyzing the development of new cyber-technology jobs in Louisiana.

Dillard University

Contact Name	Alecia Cyprian acyprian@dillard.edu
Address	2601 Gentilly Boulevard New Orleans, LA
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	A limited selection of core liberal arts academic courses (writing, biology, Spanish and French, basic math / algebra) available to students in the New Orleans / Baton Rouge areas
Rationale for Approval	Ability for a university with a track record of excellence to provide beginning liberal arts curriculum to Louisiana students.

E2020, Inc.

Contact Name	Lynette McVay lmcvay@education2020.com
Address	7303 E. Earll Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive course offerings for middle and high school students, including core academic subjects, AP courses, introductory CTE courses and test preparation courses.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

Educate, Inc. dba Sylvan Learning Center

Contact Name	Tabatha Sweeny-Gehrt tabatha.sweeney-gehart@sylvanlearning.com
Address	1001 Fleet Street Baltimore, MD 21202
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	AP and ACT test preparation courses, and an algebra course.
Rationale for Approval	Long track record of successfully helping students learn key subject areas and perform well on critical high stakes tests.

FastPath Learning

Contact Name	David Callaway dcallaway@fastpathlearning.com
Address	6851 Austin Centre Blvd., #320 Austin, TX 78731
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Highest quality K – 12 online materials to help young students develop effective ELA / math skills.
Rationale for Approval	Proven national offering that helps build critical ELA and math skills in students of all grades and abilities. As a pilot program, this provider is willing to make its second tuition payment contingent on the achievement of specified student outcomes, including “stretch” outcomes on key high stakes tests.

Florida Virtual School

Contact Name	Lori Gully lgully@flvs.net
Address	2145 Metrocenter Blvd., Ste 200 Orlando, FL 32835
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Focused set of course offerings for middle and high school students, including core academic subjects, AP courses, and extensive foreign language courses.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

Grade Results, Inc.

Contact Name	Suzanne McElyea smcelyea@graderesults.com
Address	1316 Newport Dr. Carrollton, TX 75006
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Focused set of core academic course offerings for high school students
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

Hype Academy, LLC.

Contact Name	Arianne Craig Jolla youngpeopleexcel@hypeacademy.com
Address	5951 Bullard Ave. New Orleans, LA 70128
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	Face-to-face Small Business Entrepreneurship course.
Rationale for Approval	Effective, responsive instruction provided by a dedicated New Orleans-area educator / entrepreneur.

Jude Dubois

Contact Name	Gerald "Jude" Dubois jduboislt@gmail.com
Address	203 Pilgrimage Drive Lafayette, LA 70506
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Online Algebra course taught by an award-winning Louisiana educator.
Rationale for Approval	Focused course offering provided by an award-winning instructor of proven excellence.

K12 Virtual Schools LLC.

Contact Name	John Olsen jolsen@k12.com
Address	2300 Corporate Park Drive Herndon, VA 20171
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive grades 6 - 12 academic and AP course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

K12, Inc.

Contact Name	Rikki Black rikki@edsolcorp.com
Address	P. O. Box 1008 Ruston, LA 71273
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive grades 6 - 12 academic and CTE course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

Livingston Parish Course Choice

Contact Name	Jody W. Purvis Jody.purvis@lpsb.org
Address	P.O. Box 1130 Livingston, LA 70754
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	Focused set of core academic course offerings for high school students.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB)

Contact Name	Ellen Wydra ewydra@lpb.org
Address	7733 Perkins Road Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	Select courses (science, foreign language, fine arts) utilizing LPB's unique intellectual property.
Rationale for Approval	Continuation of LBP's core mission of enhancing the education of Louisiana students.

Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts

Contact Name	Natalie Istre nistre@lsmsa.edu
Address	715 University Parkway Natchitoches, LA
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Select STEM, arts and AP courses delivered by LSMSA face-to-face in Northwest Louisiana, and for select courses statewide via online offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Critical course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective instruction.

Louisiana We Educate

Contact Name	Michael Phillips mjphillips10@hotmail.com
Address	7000 Red Fox Trail #179 Shreveport, LA 71129
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Test preparation instruction by a long-time Louisiana educator / entrepreneur.
Rationale for Approval	Effective, responsive instruction provided by a dedicated Northwest Louisiana-area educator / entrepreneur.

Louisiana's College Course Choice Collaborative

Contact Name	James Purcell jim.purcell@la.gov
Address	Louisiana Board of Regents 1201 North Third St Baton Rouge, LA 70807
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Extremely broad selection of dual enrollment and CTE course offerings from all Louisiana public 4 year and 2 year degree institutions.
Rationale for Approval	Critical course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective instruction.

Middlebury

Contact Name	Chad Schaedler cschaedler@k12.com
Address	152 Maple St. Middlebury, VT 5753
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	High quality online foreign language instruction.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

mSchool

Contact Name	Elliot Sanchez elliott@mschools.org
Address	643 Magazine St. #206 New Orleans, LA 70130
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	Core mathematics courses for K – 12 students offered by a Louisiana educational entrepreneur.
Rationale for Approval	Focus on building critical math skills among all Louisiana students.

PEC Safety Management

Contact Name	Chris England chris@pecsafety.com
Address	233 General patton Avenue Mandeville, LA 70471
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Unique Oil Patch Preparation System (OPPS) course offering that provides extensive skills directly applicable to future employment in any refinery setting.
Rationale for Approval	Unique course offering that will provide enrolled students with high demand job skills.

Pelican Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

Contact Name	Robert Clouatre rclouatre@abcpelican.com
Address	19251 Highland Road Baton Rouge, LA
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Hands-on CTE training in critical construction trades where Louisiana faces a "skill gap" (i.e. too few trained construction workers versus the plans for facility construction / expansion throughout Louisiana)
Rationale for Approval	Highest quality CTE training available, long supported and trusted by industry and academia.

Prepworks

Contact Name	Tracy LaFlamme Ortega tortega@prepworks2400.com
Address	604 Crandon Blvd. Ste. 201 Key Biscayne, FL 33149
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Focused set of course offerings on high school academic courses and their high stakes end-of-course exams.
Rationale for Approval	Proven ability to deliver enhanced student outcomes, including improved high stakes test scores. As a pilot program, this provider is willing to make its second tuition payment contingent on the achievement of specified student outcomes, including “stretch” outcomes on key high stakes tests.

Princeton Review

Contact Name	Jennifer Blevins jblevins@review.com
Address	111 Speen Street, Suite 500 Framingham, MA 1701
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	ACT test preparation courses.
Rationale for Approval	Long track record of successfully helping students learn key subject areas and perform well on critical high stakes tests.

Reaching Every Teacher

Contact Name	Patricia Carley sales@reachingeveryteacher.com
Address	P.O.Box 78181 Baton Rouge, LA 70739
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Focused set of online core academic course offerings for high school students delivered by proven-effective Louisiana educators / entrepreneurs.
Rationale for Approval	Effective, responsive instruction provided by a dedicated educators / entrepreneurs.

Rocket Learning Partners, LLC.

Contact Name	Jason T. Green jasongreen@rocketlearning.net
Address	20295 NE 29th Place #201 Aventura, FL 33180
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	Focused set of online STEM courses, including K – 12 mathematics, AP courses, computer science and science courses.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

S.M.A.R.T. Start

Contact Name	Latroya Handy smartstartministries@gmail.com
Address	24400 Eleanor Dr. Plaquemine, LA 70764
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	A focused curriculum – Nursing courses, sociology and psychology – taught to Iberville Parish students by experienced educators / entrepreneurs.
Rationale for Approval	Effective, responsive instruction provided by a dedicated educators / entrepreneurs.

SmartStart Education, LLC.

Contact Name	Isaak Aronson iaronson@smartstarteducation.com
Address	59 Elm St., Suite 330A New Haven, CT 6510
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Focused set of core academic course offerings for middle and high school students.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

South Central Laborers' Training & Apprenticeship Fund

Contact Name	James R. Gueho randy@scltf.org
Address	P. O. Box 376 Livonia, LA 70755
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Hands-on CTE training for construction trades in the Baton Rouge / Jefferson county region, including safety, emergency response and basic math / reasoning skills.
Rationale for Approval	Proven-effective training capabilities and facilities for construction trades.

St. James Parish Schools

Contact Name	Becky Louque belouque@stjames.k12.la.us
Address	1876 West Main Street/Post Office Box 338 Lutcher, LA 70071
Course Type	Hybrid
Description of Course Offerings	Comprehensive K – 12 academic, CTE and AP course offerings, offered online statewide and face-to-face locally.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

The American Academy

Contact Name	Allison Sorensen Allison.Sorensen@taaschools.net
Address	175 South Main St., Ste. 1130 Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Extensive online middle and high school academic and arts course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

University of New Orleans

Contact Name	Kenneth R. Zangla kzangla@uno.edu
Address	2000 Lakeshore Drive New Orleans, LA 70148
Course Type	Face-to-Face
Description of Course Offerings	Computer Applications course offering for hearing-impaired students within commuting distance of UNO.
Rationale for Approval	Proven ability to deliver superior student outcomes.

VSCHOOLZ

Contact Name	Rick Angelone Rick.Angelone@vschoolz.com
Address	1999 N. University Dr. #204 Coral Springs, FL 33071
Course Type	Virtual
Description of Course Offerings	Core K – 10 ELA and math course offerings.
Rationale for Approval	Comprehensive course offerings, long track record of success, proven-effective technology platform, responsive instruction.

Course Choice Quality Control

Quality Control – there are six layers of quality control built into the Course Choice program:

Quality Level 1: Application Process – the Course Choice team reviewed applications to make sure potential course providers have: a) a legacy of effective instruction; b) effective content; c) sound quality control and accountability programs; and d) sound enterprise models.

Quality Level 2: Interview Process – the Course Choice team implemented a multi-phased interview process that required each course provider to describe the content of each course offering and their proposed quality control / accountability measures ("what the students will learn and how we will document that level of learning").

Almost every course providers applied to provide multiple course offerings. It is certain that there will be course providers who are approved to participate in the Course Choice program, *but after final contract negotiations will only receive approval to teach those selected course offerings that we believe will deliver a quality result.*

Quality Level 3: Formal and Informal Interim Course Evaluations - the Course Choice Registration System will be the conduit for a series of reports and communications between the LDE and course providers. We will require semi-monthly reports on student progress (similar to the reporting requirements that are customary within the Louisiana K – 12 educational system). We will assess the interim grades students receive. We will monitor how many students drop the course during the year. On a regular basis we will maintain contact with course providers to discuss the progress they are making with their Louisiana students.

The LDE will respond promptly and appropriately to any formal or informal indications that there might be a problem with any Course Choice course offering.

Quality Level 4: Post-Course Quality Evaluations - through the Course Choice Registration System the Course Choice team will review the grades received by students to see if they conform to a normal pattern of grades (and to make sure course providers have utilized the appropriate methodologies for determining grades). We will implement student and parent surveys about course / instructor quality.

Most importantly, the Course Choice team will track what students have achieved versus each course provider's accountability standards, both in terms of the final exams / projects / industry-based certifications required at the end of every course as well as any high stakes exams (e.g., EOC, ACT, AP). We will develop a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of each course provider for each course offering, including a customized accountability score (where possible) based on the high stakes testing results achieved by each course provider.

Quality Level 5: Annual Reviews - Act 2 mandates a review of each course provider at the end of Year 2 in a three year approval term. Our intent is to conduct annual reviews, with especially detailed evaluations where trouble flags have emerged.

Quality Level 6: Third Party Evaluation of LDE / Course Choice - we're working with a Columbia University team to provide an external evaluation of the processes the LDE used to implement Course Choice. We intend to work with the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville's Department of Education Reform to conduct a multi-year, multivariate evaluation of the Course Choice program. Just as we're going to enforce quality standards on course providers, we're going to hold ourselves accountable for implementing a cost-effective, user-friendly Course Choice program that provides innovative, high-quality course offerings to Louisiana students.