

# DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (DARE) PROGRAM

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON LAW  
ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PERFORMANCE AUDIT SERVICES

**Informational Brief**  
**June 26, 2024**

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June 26, 2024

The Honorable J. Cameron Henry, Jr.,  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Phillip DeVillier,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Senator Henry and Representative DeVillier:

This informational brief provides the results of a review of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. This brief is intended to provide timely information related to an area of interest to the legislature or based on a legislative request. I hope this brief will benefit you in your legislative decision-making process.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice for their assistance during this audit.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA  
Legislative Auditor

MJW/aa

DARE







**Informational Brief**

**Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program**

*Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice*

MICHAEL J. "MIKE" WAGUESPACK, CPA

Audit Control# 40240008  
Performance Audit Services -June 2024

**Background**

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) is a substance abuse prevention program designed to equip school children with skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. The program uses uniformed law enforcement officers to teach a formal curriculum to students in a classroom setting. Law enforcement officers become certified DARE officers by completing the required training courses at the State DARE Training Center. Exhibit 1 shows information about participation in the Louisiana DARE program for fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

The DARE program was established in Louisiana by Executive Order in 1993, which created the Louisiana DARE Advisory Board (Board) within the Office of the Governor and tasked the Board to develop, promote, monitor, and evaluate the DARE program within the state. The Board serves as an advisory body to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE).

**Why We Compiled This Informational Brief**

Because of legislative interest in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in Louisiana, we gathered information and statistics relevant to this program.

Informational briefs are intended to provide more timely information than standards-based performance audits. While these informational briefs do not follow all *Governmental Auditing Standards*, we conduct quality assurance activities to ensure the information presented is accurate. We met with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) and incorporated its feedback throughout this informational brief.

<b>Exhibit 1 Participation in the Louisiana DARE Program Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023</b>						
<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Average 2019-23</b>
Number of Junior High schools receiving DARE presentations	178	82	108	119	399	177
Number of Core 5 <sup>th</sup> -/6 <sup>th</sup> -grade schools receiving DARE presentations	583	320	485	553	576	503
Number of K-4 schools receiving DARE presentations	481	318	272	381	346	360
Number of students receiving DARE presentations: Junior High students	14,006	274	8,075	7,804	10,100	8,052

<b>Exhibit 1 Participation in the Louisiana DARE Program Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023</b>						
<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Average 2019-23</b>
Number of students receiving DARE presentations: Core 5 <sup>th</sup> -/6 <sup>th</sup> -grade students	38,660	921	128,313	30,811	34,146	46,570
Number of students receiving DARE presentations: K-4 students	82,926	60,258	50,028	76,962	65,599	67,155
Number of DARE officers	240	240	257	163	175	215
Number of local law enforcement agencies participating	71	65	57	57	57	61
Number of parishes participating	57	57	57	57	57	57
Number of classes presented - Junior High	1,077	217	354	412	1,056	623
Number of classes presented - Core (5th/6th)	3,137	877	1,365	1,504	1,578	1,692
Percentage of school districts presenting DARE	91%	91%	91%	91%	92%	91%
<b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information reported by LCLE in the Louisiana Performance Accountability System (LaPas).						

## What We Found

### 1. How is the DARE program funded in Louisiana?

**The Louisiana DARE program is funded with a combination of state statutory dedications and local funding.** LCLE receives statutory dedications from two sources: a tax levied on cigarettes, which is deposited into the Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund, and special court fees levied on convicted drug offenders who are placed on supervised probation, which are deposited into the Drug Abuse Education and Treatment (DAET) Dedicated Fund Account. In fiscal year 2023, LCLE received approximately \$1.9 million from the Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund and \$0.4 million from the DAET Dedicated Fund Account, as shown in Exhibit 2.

<b>Exhibit 2</b>						
<b>LCLE State Funding for the DARE Program (in Thousands)</b>						
<b>Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023</b>						
<b>Statutory Dedication</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Total 2019-2023</b>
Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund	\$2,312.5	\$2,361.6	\$2,285.7	\$2,220.4	\$1,907.5	\$11,087.7
Drug Abuse Education and Treatment (DAET) Dedicated Fund Account	366.9	366.9	350.3	350.4	373.1	1,807.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,679.4</b>	<b>\$2,728.5</b>	<b>\$2,636.0</b>	<b>\$2,570.8</b>	<b>\$2,280.6</b>	<b>\$12,895.3</b>
<b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information from LaGov.						

Each year, the state's Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) estimates the amount of Tobacco Tax revenues the state will receive. Based on the REC estimate, LCLE staff estimate how much funding from the Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund will be available for DARE grants in that fiscal year. Unspent funding from the Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund reverts back from LCLE to the fund annually.

Per the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure (C.Cr.P.) Article 895.1(E), court fees assessed on any defendant convicted of a violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law are mandatory fees, which must be imposed by a judge and documented in court minutes. Collection of these fees by LCLE from the courts into the DAET Dedicated Fund Account is done on a monthly basis and varies by jurisdiction. Unlike Tobacco Tax funds, LCLE keeps unspent funding from the DAET Dedicated Fund Account. Exhibit 3 provides information on the sources and purposes of state funding for the DARE program.

<b>Exhibit 3</b>			
<b>Sources and Purpose of the State Funding for the DARE Program</b>			
<b>Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023</b>			
<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<b>Statutory Purpose</b>	<b>LCLE Use</b>
Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund	R.S. 47:841.1(C)(5)	Subject to an annual appropriation by the legislature, 20% of the monies collected under the authority of R.S. 47:841(B)(5) in the fund shall be used solely to provide funding for the administration and operation of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programs.	To provide DARE grants to law enforcement agencies to teach DARE curricula. In addition, LCLE uses its statutory dedication from the Tobacco Tax Fund for its own administrative costs.
Drug Abuse Education and Treatment	C.Cr.P. Art. 895.1(E)	When a court places any defendant convicted of a violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous	To provide DAET grants to fund operations of the

<b>Exhibit 3 Sources and Purpose of the State Funding for the DARE Program Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023</b>			
Fund Name	Statutory Authority	Statutory Purpose	LCLE Use
(DAET) Dedicated Fund Account		Substances Law (R.S. 40:966 through 1034) on any type of probation, it shall order as a condition of probation a fee of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100, payable to the LCLE to be credited to the Drug Abuse Education and Treatment Dedicated Fund Account and used for the purposes provided in R.S. 15:1224. R.S. 15:1224(C) mandates that monies in the account must be exclusively used by LCLE to administer a grant program to assist local public and private nonprofit agencies involved in drug abuse prevention and treatment in developing drug abuse and treatment programs.	State DARE Training Center, in addition to its own administrative costs. Prior to 2019, DAET grants were also used to provide funding to local public and private nonprofit agencies in developing drug abuse prevention and treatment programs, such as Residential Substance Abuse Treatment programs.
<b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor’s staff using information from state law and LCLE.			

**Law enforcement agencies may also use funds received from special court costs, their own general funds, or donations for funding their DARE program.** According to LCLE staff, none of the agencies’ DARE programs are fully funded with DARE grants from LCLE. Furthermore, LCLE DARE grants were not sufficient to cover the total amount requested by all DARE grant applications during the scope of this report (i.e., fiscal years 2019 through 2023). As a result, agencies may use local sources to cover gaps in funding.

For example, agencies may receive additional funding from special court costs assessed, per C.Cr.P. Art. 887(G). These court costs are optional and can be assessed on a person convicted of a violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law in the amount of \$100. Because C.Cr.P. 887(G) special court costs are optional, and their collection varies by jurisdiction, it is difficult to determine the amount assessed, collected, and distributed to law enforcement agencies administering DARE programs at the local level.

Since special court costs assessed for the violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law per C.Cr.P. Art. 887(G) are optional, and their collection varies by jurisdiction, it is difficult to determine the amount assessed, collected, and distributed to law enforcement agencies administering DARE programs at the local level.

While Justice Funding Reporting requires that local and state agencies report any revenue that is assessed, collected, or received from pre- and post-adjudication costs, fines, and fees [including the C.Cr.P. 887(G) special court costs], these amounts are typically reported in the aggregate. Not all law enforcement agencies choose to



report their DARE program separately from other programs they administer in their financial statements, which can make it difficult to determine precisely where the funding for their DARE program is coming from and what expenditures these funds cover.

**Some local governing authorities may also levy a tax on the sale of cigarette papers to fund the program. State law<sup>1</sup> authorizes parish or city governing authorities to levy their own tax on the sale of cigarette papers<sup>2</sup> at retail establishments in the parish.** This tax must be in addition to any other sales tax levied by the state or any other taxing authority, and all proceeds from the tax must be dedicated and paid to the sheriff and used solely for the purpose of developing or continuing DARE programs within the public and private educational systems of the parish. Exhibit 4 provides examples of parish governing authorities that chose to levy additional tax on cigarette papers.

<b>Exhibit 4</b>	
<b>Examples of Parish Governing Authorities that Chose to Levy Additional Tax on Cigarette Papers</b>	
<b>Parish/ City</b>	<b>Funding Purpose</b>
Washington Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$0.50 of the tax collected on the sale of each pack of cigarette papers shall be dedicated to the sheriff of the parish to be used solely for the purpose of developing or continuing DARE programs.</li> <li>• The remaining \$0.75 collected on the sale of each pack of cigarette papers shall be dedicated to the general fund of the parish governing authority.</li> </ul>
St. Tammany Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$0.50 of the tax on the sale of each pack of cigarette papers shall be dedicated to the DARE Program.</li> <li>• The remainder of monies collected (i.e., up to \$0.75) shall be dedicated to recreational purposes in the parish.</li> </ul>
City of Alexandria and the City of Pineville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$0.50 of the tax collected on the sale of each pack of cigarette papers shall be dedicated to the sheriff of the parish to be used solely for the purpose of developing or continuing the DARE programs.</li> <li>• The remaining \$1.00 collected on the sale of each pack of cigarette papers shall be used by the governing authority of the local governmental subdivision levying the tax for cooperative endeavors to benefit the youth of the respective local governmental subdivision.</li> </ul>
<b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's office using information from state law.	

<sup>1</sup> R.S. 47:338.261

<sup>2</sup> This tax must not be levied on cigarette papers packaged with tobacco per R.S. 47:338.261.

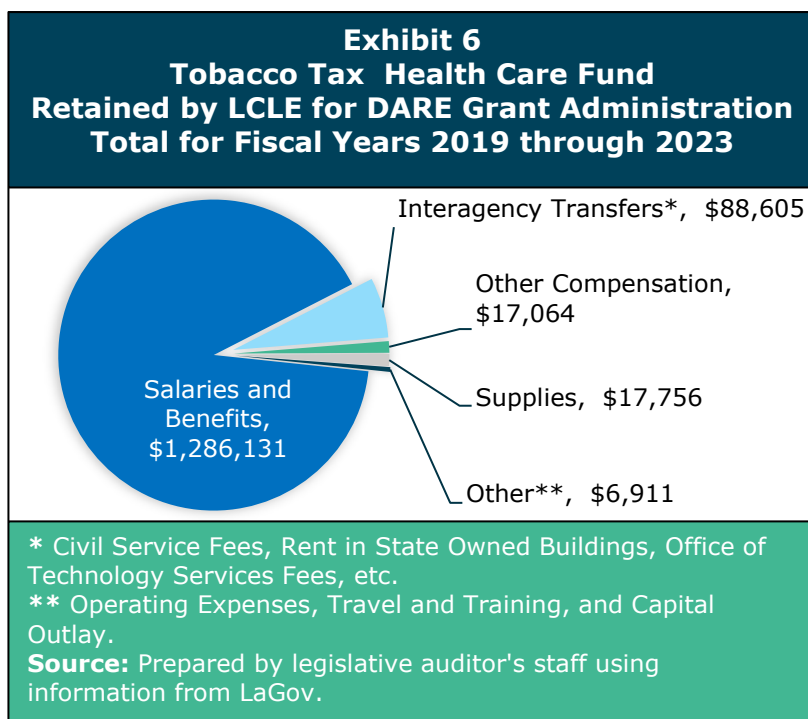
## 2. What is DARE funding used for?

**LCLE uses the funding it receives from the Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund for awarding DARE grants to law enforcement agencies for operating their DARE program and retains some funding for its administrative costs.**

Exhibit 5 shows how much funding has been awarded in DARE grants to law enforcement agencies and retained by LCLE for its administrative purposes, and Appendix A provides a copy of the procedure LCLE follows in awarding DARE grants.

Exhibit 5 LCLE DARE Expenditures (in Thousands) Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023							
Expenditures	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total 2019-2023 (\$)	Average 2019-2023 (%)
DARE grants awarded to law enforcement agencies	\$2,094.7	\$1,683.0	\$1,440.9	\$1,591.3	\$1,628.8	\$8,438.7	85.4%
Funds retained by LCLE for DARE grant administration	214.8	219.8	398.2	390.8	192.9	1,416.5	14.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,309.5</b>	<b>\$1,902.8</b>	<b>\$1,839.1</b>	<b>\$1,982.1</b>	<b>\$1,821.7</b>	<b>\$9,855.2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information from LaGov.							

Law enforcement agencies may apply to LCLE for DARE grants through the *Egrants*<sup>3</sup> online system. DARE grants can be used to cover payroll and related benefits of DARE-certified officers, travel (including required training to maintain DARE certification), and supplies expenditures (such as DARE t-shirts, DARE pens, DARE stickers, etc.) associated with administering the DARE program. According to information submitted by LCLE into LaPas,<sup>4</sup> on average, during fiscal years 2019 through 2023, 61 law enforcement agencies applied to LCLE for DARE grants. On average, LCLE retained 14.6% in Tobacco Tax Health Care Funding for grant administration, which was used to cover LCLE staff payroll and related benefits, supplies, interagency transfers, and other expenditures related to the DARE program. Exhibit 6 shows how LCLE spent funds from the Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund that it retained for DARE grant administration for fiscal years 2019 through 2023. Appendix B provides information on DARE grants awarded to law enforcement agencies for fiscal years 2019 through 2023.



**LCLE uses funding it receives from special court costs per C.Cr.P. Article 895.1(E) for awarding DAET grants for the day-to-day operations of the State DARE Training Center, and also retains some of this funding for its administrative costs.** During fiscal years 2019 through 2023, LCLE used funds from the DAET Dedicated Fund Account for operating the State DARE Training Center, which has been operated by the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office (EBRSO) since 2020,<sup>5</sup> and also retained some funding for grant administration, as shown in Exhibit 7.

<sup>3</sup> Electronic Grants Management System

<sup>4</sup> The Louisiana Performance Accountability System (LaPas) tracks the agency's actual progress toward achievement of annual performance standards.

<sup>5</sup> The State DARE Officer oversees the State DARE Training center. The current State DARE Officer is employed by the EBRSO. The Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office (CPSO) operated the State DARE Training Center in 2019 as the then-State DARE Officer was employed by the CPSO.

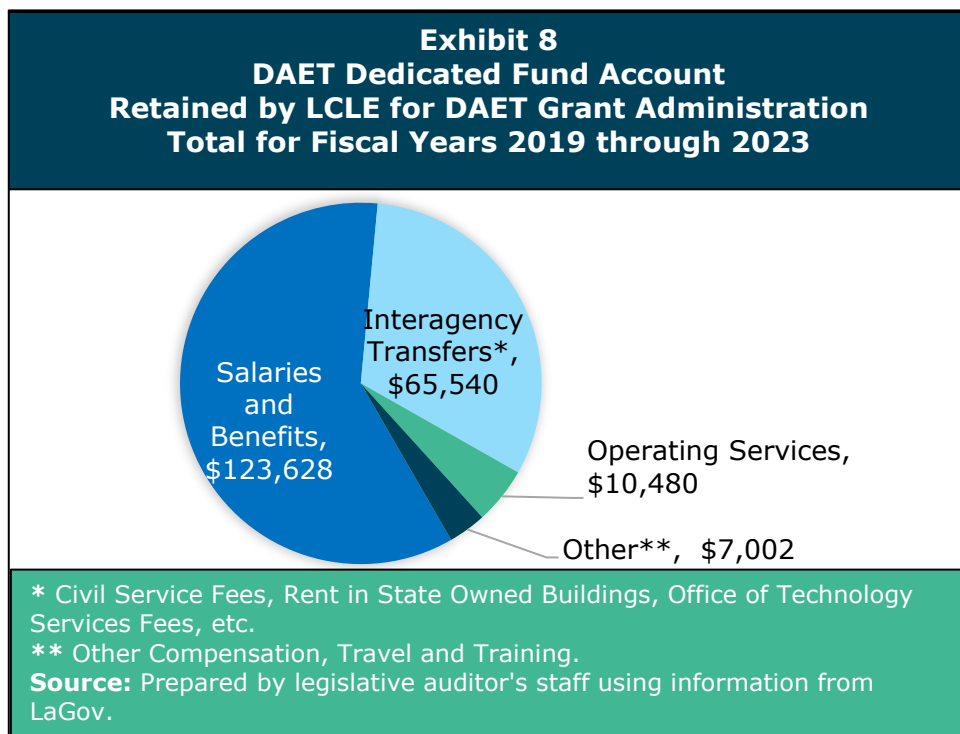
Exhibit 7 LCLE DAET Expenditures Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023							
Expenditures	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total 2019-2023 (\$)	Average 2019-2023 (%)
Awarded in DAET grant for the State DARE Training Center	\$190,093	\$185,493	\$158,196	\$163,940	\$252,425	\$950,147	82.2%
Retained by LCLE for DAET grant administration	79,184	35,990	40,029*	28,968	22,479	206,650	17.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$269,277</b>	<b>\$221,483</b>	<b>\$198,225</b>	<b>\$192,908</b>	<b>\$274,904</b>	<b>\$1,156,797</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
*LCLE also used the Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund to cover \$47,845 in additional administrative expenditures associated with the DAET grant in fiscal year 2021. <b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information from LaGov.							

The State DARE Training Center uses DAET grant funding along with EBRSO general funds for its operations, which include organizing DARE training, observing DARE-certified law enforcement officers, and evaluating the effectiveness of the DARE program. In addition, the State DARE Training Center purchases DARE curriculum workbooks and scantrons necessary for all DARE-certified law enforcement officers teaching statewide. To perform these functions, the center employs a State DARE officer and an administrative assistant, and contracts out for the following professional services:

- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) for compilation and analysis of DARE program pre- and post-tests,
- A DARE-certified educator (approved by *DARE America*<sup>6</sup> and the State DARE Training Center) for services and assistance prior to and during a DARE Officer Training session as well as any additionally planned in-service sessions, and
- DARE mentors for providing mentoring and evaluations during DARE Officer Training sessions and assisting in verifying the replication of the DARE curriculum in classrooms across the state.

<sup>6</sup> The nonprofit organization that administers the DARE program at the national level and holds copyrights to all DARE materials, including DARE curriculum materials.

On average, LCLE retained 17.8% of the DAET funding for grant administration during fiscal years 2019 through 2023. Exhibit 8 shows how LCLE spent funds from the DAET Dedicated Fund Account that it retained for DAET grant administration for fiscal years 2019 through 2023.



### 3. Who oversees the DARE program?

**Although local law enforcement agencies administer the DARE curriculum, the program is also governed at the national and state levels.**

At the national level, *DARE America* cooperates with experts from the fields of science, research, prevention, education, medicine, and curriculum development to ensure that DARE curricula are science- and research-based. In addition, it enacts policies and procedures to copyright DARE curricula and to ensure the consistency of officer training across the nation via DARE-accredited training centers.

At the state level, the DARE Advisory Board within LCLE is responsible for developing, promoting, monitoring, and evaluating the DARE program throughout Louisiana. Louisiana has one DARE-accredited training center that is administered by the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. Appendix C lists entities responsible for the oversight of the DARE program at the state level.

At the local level, law enforcement agencies that choose to administer the DARE program in their jurisdiction authorize select law enforcement officers to become DARE-certified and to teach DARE curricula in schools. In addition, school systems in the law enforcement agency's jurisdiction approve the law enforcement candidates before they undergo DARE Officer Certification Training.

#### 4. What is included in the DARE curriculum?

*DARE America* holds the copyrights to all DARE materials, including DARE curriculum materials. The original curriculum was designed for use with elementary-aged students only, but middle school and high school components were added in 1986 and 1988, respectively, to broaden the program's reach. Although implementation time and lesson objectives vary by grade level, all DARE curricula share certain elements in common. For example, all curricula are led by police officers who are DARE certified,<sup>7</sup> and all students participating in DARE must complete a student workbook.

According to *DARE America*, the curriculum materials have undergone multiple revisions since the establishment of the DARE program in 1983. The most recent version of the DARE curriculum is called ***keepin' it REAL***;<sup>8</sup> "REAL" stands for *Refuse-Explain-Avoid-Leave*. According to *DARE America*, these strategies help youth stay away from drugs by preparing them to act decisively and responsibly in difficult situations. Exhibit 9 provides a summary of the DARE curricula for elementary-, middle-, and high school-aged students.

Exhibit 9 Summary of the Current DARE Curricula		
Curricula	Developed by	Description
<b>Core Curricula</b>		
<b><i>keepin' it REAL</i> elementary curriculum</b>	Pennsylvania State and Arizona State Universities	Consists of 10 45-minute lessons that also include take-home family talk activities. The curriculum uses the Socio-Emotional Learning Theory to teach youth to control their impulses and think about risks and consequences, resulting in more responsible choices. The 10 lessons are arranged in a scaffolding process, starting with the basics about responsibility and decision-making, then build on each other allowing students to develop their own responses to real-life situations. The 10 lessons are aligned with National Common Core 5 <sup>th</sup> -grade standards in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

<sup>7</sup> A law enforcement officer has to be a POST-certified and DARE-certified (i.e., complete DARE training and meet all qualifications) officer who has completed the equivalent of two years as a peace officer with full police powers. The basic 80-hour DARE Officer Training (DOT) allows a law enforcement officer to teach the elementary, middle, and high school curricula.

<sup>8</sup> According to *DARE America*, the *keepin' it REAL* middle-school curriculum was first delivered in 2008 while the *keepin' it REAL* elementary curriculum was first delivered in 2013.

<b>Exhibit 9 Summary of the Current DARE Curricula</b>		
<b>Curricula</b>	<b>Developed by</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b><i>keepin' it REAL</i> middle school curriculum</b>	Pennsylvania State and Arizona State Universities	Consists of 10 45-minute lessons aimed at teaching middle school students resistance skills, risk assessment, decision making, social support, and conflict resolution while targeting drug norms and attitudes. A series of five videos form the core of the curriculum, telling the "story" of <i>keepin' it REAL</i> , first in an introductory video, and then modeling resistance and other skills in the remaining four videos.
<b><i>keepin' it REAL</i> high school curriculum</b>	Rutgers University and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro	Consists of four 45-minute lessons and is aligned with DARE elementary and middle school program concepts, continuing the focus on understanding risk behavior and making decisions that support safety and health. Concepts covered include norms, consequences, resisting pressure, and intervening in dangerous or risky situations.
<b>Enhancement Add-On lessons</b>		
<b>K-12 Opioid &amp; OTC/Rx Drug Abuse Prevention</b>	A package of opioid and over-the-counter/prescription (OTC/Rx) drug prevention education lessons for K-12 students that meet National Health Standards.	
<b>Fentanyl</b>	Teaches the basics about fentanyl, its growing presence in all other drugs everywhere in the United States, and its extreme lethality; discusses and clarifies misperceptions about Narcan effectiveness and synthetics; reviews accurate information that will actually keep students safe.	
<b>Online and Social Media Safety for Middle and High School</b>	Provides information on social media and its harmful uses to sell drugs, bully, exploit, and inflict interpersonal violence. The lessons also provide tools to help guard children's mental health, protect their identity, and avoid fraud and manipulation.	
<b>Vaping Enhancement</b>	Teaches about the risks associated with vaping and compares them to prior knowledge about cigarette smoking to understand how knowledge of risk factors increases over the lifespan of a product. In addition, teaches that it is difficult for early users of a product to accurately understand what consequences they may experience in the future, but that more risks are becoming apparent as vaping is studied.	
<b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information from the Louisiana State DARE Training Center.		

## 5. How effective is the DARE program?

The effectiveness of the DARE program at the national level has been questioned since the early 1990s, prompting *DARE America* to revise its curriculum on multiple occasions. Recent studies offer mixed evidence regarding the effectiveness of the revised DARE curriculum, pointing out that specific versions of the *keepin' it REAL* curriculum (curriculum) used by DARE haven't been tested for efficacy. The *Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health* (2016)<sup>9</sup> identified the curriculum as one of several having significant prevention effects in white and Hispanic or Latino adolescents. Also, the *keepin' it REAL elementary curriculum: Substance use outcomes study* (2023),<sup>10</sup> which was funded by *DARE America* and tested the effectiveness of *keepin' it REAL* when delivered to fifth graders, concluded that the new curriculum is having a positive effect in terms of deterring the onset of alcohol use and vaping. However, the 2017 research study *Truth and D.A.R.E.: Is D.A.R.E.'s new Keepin' it REAL curriculum suitable for American nationwide implementation?*<sup>11</sup> reported mixed results on the effectiveness of the *keepin' it REAL* program and cited the following concerns:

- *keepin' it REAL* has only been tested on a narrow audience and may not be appropriate for DARE's larger audience,
- *keepin' it REAL* may not be effective in reducing substance use among elementary school students, and
- specific versions of *keepin' it REAL* have yet to be tested for efficacy.

While LCLE has not conducted a longitudinal study of the effectiveness of the DARE program in Louisiana, the State DARE Training Center contracted with researchers to assess the performance of the DARE curriculum by analyzing the pre- and post-tests taken by students receiving this curriculum in public and private schools. Exhibit 10 summarizes the conclusions of these assessments for academic years 2020 through 2023.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/facing-addiction-in-america-surgeon-generals-report.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/uncg/f/D\\_Wyrick\\_DARE\\_2023.pdf](https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/uncg/f/D_Wyrick_DARE_2023.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2016.1208731>



<b>Exhibit 10</b>	
<b>Performance of the DARE Curriculum in Louisiana</b>	
<b>Academic Years 2020 through 2023</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
2019-2020	Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, complete data were not gathered for this academic year and therefore no analysis or report was done.
2020-2021	Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple hurricanes, it was not possible to conduct a valid, statistical analysis of the data. The researcher strongly suggested that a complete review of the testing instrument be undertaken prior to next year's administration.
2021-2022	<p>The report found that 5th and 6th grade students are making statistically significant improvements in their knowledge of the material found in the DARE curriculum. Statistically significant improvements were identified in overall knowledge gained as well as knowledge gained in three subdomains: drug facts, decision-making skills, and peer relationships. Of these three domains, students seemed to have the most difficulty learning decision-making skills. A review of the pre- and post-test instrument revealed several problematic questions that need review before next academic year – if this instrument would be used again:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Recommendation 1:</u></b> Modernize assessment technology and processes. The current assessment strategy uses a legacy scantron, which almost guarantees significant data loss and limits the ability for a robust review of student performance. In addition, the assessment strategy should be closely paired with the short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals of the Louisiana State DARE Training Center.</li> <li>• <b><u>Recommendation 2:</u></b> Develop high quality goals and measurable objectives, and align the assessment strategy to short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals. It is clear that students are gaining net knowledge in three subdomains; however, it is unclear where, exactly, performance problems lie. Is it that some students are having difficulty with the reading level of assessment? Are some instructors less proficient than others? The current assessment strategy is unable to penetrate deeply into the data to help the Louisiana State DARE Training Center make informed decisions to incrementally improve their end product.</li> <li>• <b><u>Recommendation 3:</u></b> Evaluate the testing instruments utilized to evaluate programming. Specifically, work collaboratively with stakeholders to try to determine potential barriers to learning and align data elements to help validate these concerns.</li> <li>• <b><u>Recommendation 4:</u></b> Determine whether adopting and customizing Real Prevention's* vetted pre- and post-tests as well as fidelity checks are in the best interest of the Louisiana State DARE Training Center's mission.</li> </ul>

<b>Exhibit 10</b> <b>Performance of the DARE Curriculum in Louisiana</b> <b>Academic Years 2020 through 2023</b>	
Academic Year	Conclusion
2022-2023	The report for the 2021-2022 academic year cited outdated technology and processes used by the Louisiana State DARE Training Center. The researcher asked the Louisiana State DARE Training Center to switch to more modern assessment technology and processes. However, the center was not able to switch to new scantrons and processes for the 2022-2023 academic year, so no analysis and report was issued for this year.
* Real Prevention is the company that developed <i>DARE keepin' it REAL</i> curriculum. <b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information provided by the State DARE Training Center.	

As shown in Exhibit 10, the State DARE Training Center was advised to revise its testing instrument used to assess the effectiveness of the DARE program in Louisiana. The State DARE Training Center staff provided copies of these reports to the DARE Advisory Board, but the Board has not recommended any revisions to the assessments of the DARE program.

# APPENDIX A: LCLE DARE FISCAL/GRANTS PROCEDURES

R.S. 15:1224 directs LCLE to promulgate such rules, regulations, and procedures as are necessary in administering the Drug Abuse Education and Treatment Dedicated (DAET) grant program, including procedures for application, audit and monitoring requirements, and annual report requirements. However, according to LCLE administrative staff, the commission has not established policies or procedures for the DAET grant program. Instead, LCLE staff use internally created DARE fiscal/grants procedures for awarding both DARE and DAET grants, as shown below.

## LCLE DARE Procedures Fiscal/Grants

- After the funding announcement opens, agencies begin to submit applications in *Egrants*.\*
- After the funding announcement closes, the Grants Manager runs a report in *Egrants* that will show the total funds that have been requested. If this total exceeds the total appropriation, the Grants Manager will notify the DARE program manager.
- The DARE program manager and Grants staff will work closely in reviewing the applications for accuracy. This process can take quite a long time, depending on many different situations. During this review period, the Commission Meeting may have already occurred and the applications already approved.\*\*
- Once all corrections have been addressed, returned for corrections, budgets adjusted, special conditions added, etc., the applications are ready to be awarded.
  - The DARE program manager adds the standard special conditions as well as any additional conditions specific to the project.
  - The DARE program manager makes the application "Ready for Commission" and the Grants reviewer prints the award letter for the Executive Director's signature and mailout.
- The respective DARE agency is required to submit quarterly fiscal and program reports.
  - The DARE program manager must review and approve the program reports before Grants staff can process the fiscal report for processing reimbursement.
    - The DARE program manager will also do a quick review of the fiscal report to look for glaring errors. The DARE program manager will compare the amount requested in personnel/benefits to the approved school schedule to ensure the correct amount was requested. If the amount requested is

### LCLE DARE Procedures Fiscal/Grants

incorrect, the DARE program manager notifies Grants and the fiscal report is returned for corrections. Grants will specify the correct amount that should be requested according to the schedule.

- Once the DARE program manager notifies the Grants staff that everything is good on his/her end via email, the Grants staff will complete an additional review of the fiscal report. If errors are noted, the fiscal report is returned for corrections. The agency will make the corrections and re-submit in *Egrants*.
- Once everything has been satisfied, the Grants staff will approve the fiscal report in *Egrants* and create an invoice for the amount requested for reimbursement.
- The invoice is then given to the LCLE Fiscal department for processing.

\*Electronic Grants Management System

\*\*LCLE Commission and the DARE Advisory Board approve DARE grant applications, but not the amounts since LCLE staff typically are not done reviewing applications by the time the Commission and the Board meet.

**Source:** Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information provided by LCLE staff.

## APPENDIX B: DARE GRANTS AWARDED TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (ACTUALS) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2023

Law Enforcement Agency	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total 2019-2023
40th Judicial District Attorney's Office	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$14,945	\$14,945
Abbeville, City of	6,443	5,109	-	-	-	11,552
Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office	22,626	14,267	-	-	-	36,893
Alexandria, City of	19,662	13,662	-	-	-	33,324
Allen Parish Sheriff's Office	35,353	29,015	26,261	31,420	32,263	154,312
Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office	20,001	18,302	10,730	18,594	23,112	90,739
Avoyelles Parish Sheriff's Office	23,314	-	-	21,030	22,693	67,037
Baker, City of	-	3,414	9,874	11,536	10,898	35,722
Baton Rouge, City of	67,027	52,450	74,452	68,998	67,453	330,380
Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office	22,893	19,272	14,646	16,152	25,255	98,218
Bienville Parish Sheriff's Office	14,261	11,661	17,921	21,043	20,181	85,067
Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office	32,274	35,327	9,828	21,319	20,419	119,167
Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office	40,341	37,601	38,813	45,707	42,817	205,279
Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office	144,959	119,562	49,573	127,523	141,506	583,123
Caldwell Parish Sheriff's Office	20,969	15,111	21,248	21,457	20,715	99,500
Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office	17,488	18,225	-	21,553	17,414	74,680
Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office	18,601	12,772	16,477	16,643	15,729	80,222
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana	3,063	2,511	2,552	3,642	-	11,768
Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office	8,997	7,962	5,423	-	-	22,382
Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office	17,641	28,589	16,147	15,482	-	77,859
Covington, City of	11,978	-	-	-	14,037	26,015
Crowley, City of	14,483	9,453	-	-	-	23,936
DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office	17,919	16,657	16,791	25,557	23,431	100,355

Law Enforcement Agency	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total 2019-2023
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office	102,696	82,587	89,359	83,288	98,670	456,600
East Carroll Parish Sheriff's Office	12,880	10,335	5,482	7,398	5,896	41,991
East Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office	15,190	14,583	8,529	17,174	9,459	64,935
Ferriday, Town of	-	-	-	-	2,333	2,333
Franklin Parish Sheriff's Office	21,336	13,747	11,605	8,901	21,151	76,740
Franklin, City of	6,172	8,989	6,566	6,501	564	28,792
Grant Parish Sheriff's Office	16,169	13,312	10,679	12,566	12,169	64,895
Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office	43,825	39,063	25,753	45,759	24,364	178,764
Kenner, City of	37,149	24,359	30,975	25,879	27,637	145,999
Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office	75,431	66,406	47,275	41,359	45,249	275,720
LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office	20,089	19,109	18,688	21,242	19,526	98,654
Leesville, City of	13,533	17,270	10,905	11,529	14,878	68,115
Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office	55,086	32,744	5,266	-	-	93,096
Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office	72,819	61,398	74,517	72,508	71,172	352,414
Minden, City of	22,490	-	-	-	-	22,490
Monroe, City of	22,905	34,312	43,810	44,717	35,939	181,683
Morehouse Parish Sheriff's Office	22,644	19,695	23,823	21,927	22,625	110,714
Morgan City, City of	8,814	7,052	1,743	10,836	14,455	42,900
Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office	100,064	82,049	91,217	98,973	92,179	464,482
Opelousas, City of	32,523	29,121	5,266	22,794	7,712	97,416
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office	51,768	20,160				71,928
Pineville, City of	23,445	18,972	22,315	20,118	15,715	100,565
Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office	27,635	21,908	-	17,196	19,399	86,138
Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office	21,306	-	-	6,735	3,000	31,041
Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office	92,512	81,814	91,606	91,584	95,945	453,461
Rayne, City of	8,769	4,971	3,738	6,620	4,459	28,557
Red River Parish Sheriff's Office	15,833	10,250	9,524	13,673	12,623	61,903
Richland Parish Sheriff's Office	23,047	20,636	-	18,940	17,531	80,154

Law Enforcement Agency	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total 2019-2023
Sabine Parish Sheriff's Office	35,859	31,969	32,981	23,045	22,180	146,034
Shreveport, City of	104,135	80,474	86,288	88,839	92,602	452,338
Shreveport, City of (Marshal's Office)	5,854	6,174	4,537	7,708	7,370	31,643
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office	37,417	37,301	36,810	42,535	37,514	191,577
St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office	46,380	39,973	39,715	34,566	42,609	203,243
St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office	6,269	3,652	-	-	-	9,921
St. James Parish Sheriff's Office	22,227	25,126	-	18,441	15,435	81,229
St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office	32,368	25,935	23,538	-	-	81,841
St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office	39,657	36,754	24,268	37,238	27,567	165,484
St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office	22,942	20,669	23,920	21,795	-	89,326
St. Martinville, City of	4,960	-	-	-	-	4,960
St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office	17,113	15,125	20,488	18,005	21,845	92,576
Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office	40,970	32,688	-	-	-	73,658
Tensas Parish Sheriff's Office	7,572	4,816	4,100	4,897	4,646	26,031
Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office	-	-	46,072	47,462	63,271	156,805
Union Parish Sheriff's Office	8,720	8,120	-	-	-	16,840
Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office	23,438	18,850	22,750	25,307	23,522	113,867
Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office	27,061	23,926	13,650	27,613	28,664	120,914
Vidalia, City of	-	-	-	-	4,073	4,073
Ville Platte, City of	2,946	-	-	-	20,813	23,759
Webster Parish Sheriff's Office	11,355	10,187	-	-	17,003	38,545
West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office	3,187	-	14,652	22,971	23,024	63,834
West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office	26,044	18,861	12,734	11,882	19,950	89,471
Winn Parish Sheriff's Office	21,850	16,595	17,225	15,945	19,034	90,649
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,094,747</b>	<b>\$1,682,959</b>	<b>\$1,393,105</b>	<b>\$1,664,122</b>	<b>\$1,698,640</b>	<b>\$8,533,573</b>
<b>Note:</b> Total amounts for fiscal years 2021 through 2023 do not match total amounts reported in LaGov because LCLE paid out of this fund certain DAET expenditures in fiscal year 2021, and certain amounts of DARE grants for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 were paid out in the following fiscal years.						
<b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information provided by LCLE.						





## APPENDIX C: DARE PROGRAM OVERSIGHT AT STATE LEVEL

Entity	Oversight Activities
LCLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepts the DARE Advisory Board report, and, by accepting the report, approves DARE applications according to LCLE staff.</li> <li>• Appoints five commissioners to the Priorities Committee, which approves DARE and DAET applications from law enforcement agencies prior to the meeting of the DARE Advisory Board with the understanding that the necessary corrections will be made to these applications.</li> </ul>
DARE Advisory Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes policy requirements for the DARE program relative to the State DARE Training Center, the DARE curriculum, and the certification and training of DARE certified officers that are aligned with policies established by <i>DARE America</i>.*</li> <li>• Meets once a year to approve DARE grant applications, receive an annual report from the State DARE Officer, and discuss other relevant matters.</li> <li>• Approves DARE grant applications, but not the amounts since LCLE staff typically are not done reviewing applications by the time the Board meets.</li> <li>• Approves law enforcement officers nominated for the DARE Officer Training program.</li> <li>• Provides an annual report to LCLE about the DARE program.</li> </ul>
LCLE staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announces DARE and DAET grants application periods.</li> <li>• Accepts DARE and DAET grants applications.</li> <li>• Processes applicants' withdrawals from the DARE and DAET grants application process.</li> <li>• Reviews applications for inconsistencies, unallowable expenditures, and mistakes.</li> <li>• Sends DARE and DAET grant award letters, which serve as a grant contract between LCLE and the relevant law enforcement agency.</li> <li>• Receives quarterly fiscal reports (i.e., reimbursement requests) and program reports from law enforcement agencies.</li> <li>• Creates invoices based on the amounts requested by law enforcement agencies in their quarterly fiscal reports.</li> <li>• Pays law enforcement agencies based on self-generated invoices.</li> </ul>
State DARE Training Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizes and funds 80 hours of DARE Officer Certification Training for law enforcement officers nominated by their superiors.</li> <li>• Organizes 12 hours of DARE in-service training annually for DARE-certified officers to maintain their DARE certification.</li> <li>• Evaluates law enforcement officers undergoing DARE Officer Certification Training for acceptance/rejection as DARE-certified officers.</li> </ul>

Entity	Oversight Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentors DARE-certified officers statewide.</li> <li>• Contracts for professional services with a DARE-certified educator, who is approved by <i>DARE America</i>, to provide services and assistance prior to and during DARE Officer Certification Training as well as any planned in-service training.</li> <li>• Conducts routine DARE classroom observations to verify the replication of the DARE program in classrooms across the state.</li> <li>• Contracts for professional services for compilation and evaluation of the DARE program pre- and post- tests taken by elementary students participating in the DARE program.</li> <li>• Purchases and provides DARE workbooks and scantrons free of charge to all law enforcement agencies administering the DARE program in Louisiana.</li> <li>• Reports annually to the DARE Advisory Board on its activities.</li> <li>• Submits quarterly fiscal reports (i.e., reimbursement requests) and program reports.</li> <li>• Submits Annual DARE Statistical Reports to <i>DARE America</i>.</li> </ul>
<p>*<i>DARE America</i> is a nonprofit organization that administers the DARE program at the national level.  <b>Source:</b> Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using information from LCLE and State DARE Training Center.</p>	