LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Direct Student Services

Overview

Louisiana will administer Direct Student Services (DSS) as a competitive grant opportunity to support local innovation aligned with state priorities. DSS funds may be used to expand literacy tutoring through the Steve Carter Tutoring Program, implement AI-powered academic interventions that provide personalized instruction and real-time data, or support student success on national assessments through tutoring and exam cost coverage.

Allowable Uses of Funds

School systems awarded DSS funds may use allocations for:

1. **Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program Match**:
    a. DSS funds may be used to match or expand existing Steve Carter Tutoring services. While the program has traditionally been a partnership between families and tutoring providers, school systems may now choose to authorize the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to submit payments on their behalf. School systems must agree to:
        i. Conduct targeted outreach to eligible families of K–12 public school students who are below proficiency in reading and/or math; and
        ii. Inform families about the availability of tutoring support through the Steve Carter Tutoring Program
2. **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Academic Interventions**
    a. DSS funds, payable directly to applicable vendors for student licenses, may be used to implement or expand evidence-based, AI-driven tools or platforms that:
        i. Support personalized, adaptive instruction in various content areas;
        ii. Generate real-time data for educators and families.
3. **National Assessment Support**
    a. DSS funds may be used to support student success on National Assessments (ACT, SAT, CLT, ASVAB).
    b. **Tutoring Services**
        i. Provide **small-group or one-to-one tutoring** for students preparing for **ACT, SAT, CLT, or ASVAB**.
        ii. Partner with **approved tutoring providers** to deliver targeted instruction aligned with assessment content and college/career readiness standards.
        iii. Offer **before- or after-school, weekend, or summer tutoring** sessions focused on improving student proficiency and performance on national assessments.
    c. **Exam Cost Support**
        i. Cover **exam registration fees** for ACT, SAT, CLT, or ASVAB for eligible students at **Title I schools**.
        ii. Ensure students can take exams needed for **college admission, scholarships, military enlistment, or career pathway programs**.

Funding Details

- **Eligibility:** Louisiana public school systems
- **Type: Competitive grant** awarded annually based on application quality and alignment with state priorities
- **Funding Period:** One fiscal year

Application Questions

Steve Carter

1. Does your school system choose to opt into the Direct Student Services (DSS) Steve Carter Tutoring Program?
2. Does your school system permit the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to submit payment for the DSS Steve Carter Tutoring Program on your behalf? By selecting "Yes," you authorize the LDOE to submit payment for eligible students.
3. By checking the box below, the school system affirms that it will conduct targeted outreach to eligible families of K–12 public school students who are below proficiency in reading and/or math. This outreach will inform families about the availability of tutoring support through the DSS Steve Carter Tutoring Program and assist them in accessing services as needed.
4. Please provide a narrative describing how your school system will conduct targeted outreach to eligible families of K–12 public school students who are below proficiency in reading and/or math. Your response should explain how you will:
    a. Inform families about the availability of tutoring support through the Steve Carter Tutoring Program
    b. Assist families in accessing and navigating the program as needed

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Academic Interventions

1. Does your school system choose to opt into the Direct Student Services (DSS) Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Academic Intervention?
2. Does your school system permit the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to submit payment for the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Academic Interventions on your behalf? By selecting "Yes," you authorize the LDOE to submit payment for eligible students.
3. Which AI-enhanced tool(s) are you applying to expand access for?
4. Does your system currently utilize any of the listed AI tools?
5. How many student licenses are you requesting for each tool selected?
6. How many total students do you plan to serve through this AI-Powered Academic Interventions funding?
7. Will you prioritize licenses for CIR/UIR sites?
    a. If yes, please list the CIR/UIR sites.
    b. If no, please indicate that there are no CIR/UIR sites, and specify the sites that will be prioritized.
8. Why is your school system seeking access to these AI tools? Your response should address the following:
    a. What is the specific instructional challenge or opportunity this application aims to address?
    b. Why is your school system well-positioned to implement this tool effectively (e.g., existing infrastructure, staff readiness, prior success with pilot programs)?
    c. How will the tool support an innovative approach to learning or accelerate student outcomes?

National Assessment Support

1. Does your school system choose to opt into the Direct Student Services (DSS) National Assessments Interventions?
2. Will the LEA utilize allocations to provide tutoring to improve student success on National Assessments (ACT, SAT, CLT, ASVAB) at **Title I schools**?
    a. If yes, briefly describe how or who will provide the tutoring. Please note, LEAs must use an approved tutoring provider for all tutoring services.
3. Will the LEA utilize allocations to provide exam costs to improve student success on National Assessments (ACT, SAT, CLT, ASVAB) at **Title I schools**?
    a. If yes, how will you provide support for exam costs? Please note, funding can only be used to pay for the cost of the exam.

Resources

- Direct Student Services Rubric

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.