



Office of School System Relations

Award Initiatives Overview

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that educators are valued professionals and that students, educators, schools, school systems, and staff are invaluable to our communities and state. With that, the Department is committed to acknowledging, honoring, and spotlighting these education stakeholders for exemplifying Louisiana's education profession and for their commitment to success. Below is information regarding the various award initiatives at the Louisiana Department of Education.

Award Types

- Application-Based Recognition of Achievement
 - Application is required for award consideration.
- Advisory Capacity/Professional Learning
 - The selection process results in opportunities to serve on advisory committees and/or further professional development activities.
- Certification/Endorsement Recognition
 - This recognition results in a certification or endorsement for the honoree.
- Metric-Based Recognition of Achievement
 - There is a predetermined metric such as LEAP scores to identify honorees. No application is needed.
- Recognition of Achievement from an Outside Entity
 - This recognition is led by an outside organization and supported by the Department.

Award Categories

- [Students](#)
- [Staff/Educators](#)
- [Schools and/or School System](#)

Students

Award Program	Award Type	Description	Process Opens	Contact
Community Service	Certification/Endorsement Recognition	School systems may award a Community Service Endorsement to students completing a minimum of 80 hours of service anytime between ninth and twelfth grade.	Rolling	suzette.rabalais@la.gov
Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program offers up to 40 \$1000 scholarships to Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma students possessing and NCCER IBC who enroll in an LCTCS or ABC postsecondary construction program.	February	jumpstart@la.gov
Louisiana Seal of Biliteracy	Certification/Endorsement Recognition	The Louisiana State Seal of Biliteracy is a diploma endorsement that aims to encourage students to study languages, certify attainment of biliteracy, provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills, provide universities with a method to recognize and give academic credit to applicants seeking admission, prepare students with twenty-first century skills, recognize, promote world language instruction in public schools, strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community and continue and renew Louisiana's historical tradition of bilingualism.	January	language.acquisition@la.gov
STEM Diploma Seal	Certification/Endorsement Recognition	The gold and silver STEM Diploma Endorsements recognize students who have completed one of Louisiana's eight STEM Pathways.	February	STEM@la.gov

Award Program	Award Type	Description	Process Opens	Contact
Students of the Year	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The Students of the Year Awards program recognizes outstanding students who have demonstrated excellence in all of the following areas: leadership, service, citizenship, academic, and/or career and technical achievement in grades 5, 8, and 12.	September	exemplaryeducator@la.gov
United States Presidential Scholar	Recognition of Achievement from an Outside Entity	The U.S. Presidential Scholars program was established to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school students selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship.	October	highschoolacademics@la.gov
U. S. Senate Youth Scholarship	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	Through this program, two delegates and two alternates are annually selected to represent Louisiana at the U.S. Senate Youth Washington Week in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of March. After full attendance by the delegates, each is awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.	August	suzette.rabalais@la.gov

Staff/Educators

Award Program	Award Type	Description	Process Opens	Contact
Aspiring Principal Fellowship	Advisory Capacity/ Professional Learning	The Aspiring Principal Fellowship prepares future principals for success in their first year as a principal by providing opportunities for the fellows to explore best practices with regional experts, participate in school visits, and provide opportunities for reflection.	February	louisianaleaders@la.gov

Award Program	Award Type	Description	Process Opens	Contact
Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year award provides an opportunity to acknowledge those educators and leaders who are achieving excellence in their profession by fostering a nurturing environment in their classroom and program, where children are learning and developing in a way that prepares them for kindergarten and beyond, and where staff are supported and provided with growth opportunities.	October	shallan.jones@la.gov
Homeless Liaison of the Year	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The goal of the Homeless Liaison of the Year program is to identify and recognize individuals who exemplify leadership and innovation in regards to the implementation and compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.	June	antiqua.hunter@la.gov
Louisiana Exemplary Educator Recognition Program	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The Exemplary Educator Recognition Program was created to acknowledge, honor, and spotlight exceptional teachers, teacher specialists, assistant principals and principals who exemplify Louisiana's education profession.	January	exemplaryeducator@la.gov
Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The Louisiana Public Interest Fellowship provides educators the opportunity to spend a school year advocating for a key education initiative of their choosing. Teacher of the Year state-level honorees from the prior school year are eligible to apply for the fellowship.	August	exemplaryeducator@la.gov
New Teacher of the Year	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The New Teacher of the Year program provides an opportunity to acknowledge those new teachers who are already demonstrating excellence in the classroom and their commitment to student success.	October	laurie.carlton@la.gov

Award Program	Award Type	Description	Process Opens	Contact
Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year Award	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year Awards program provides the opportunity to honor outstanding support employees, including clerical or custodial personnel, food service workers, maintenance staff, paraprofessionals, school bus drivers, teacher aides, or any other employee who is not required to hold a teacher's certificate as a condition of employment.	September	excellenteducators@la.gov
Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	This Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching award program honors teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This is the Nation's highest honor for these teachers.	October	info@paemst.org ; STEM@la.gov
Recruitment and Retention Fellows	Advisory Capacity/ Professional Learning	The Recruitment and Retention Fellowship gives Louisiana human resources directors the opportunity to collaborate with human capital professionals from across Louisiana and the country to learn best practices for attracting and retaining effective educators.	February	louisianaleaders@la.gov
School Health Service Provider of the Year	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	This program provides the opportunity to honor some of the state's most exceptional school health service providers, such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses, and licensed behavioral health providers.	September	healthyschools@la.gov

Award Program	Award Type	Description	Process Opens	Contact
SPED Fellow Academy	Advisory Capacity/ Professional Learning	The SPED Fellow Academy is a year-long, comprehensive development program that provides in-person training, coaching, and a community of practice. Fellows complete the learning cycle and complete an executive learning cycle.	March/ April	meredith.jordan@la.gov ; lauren.wells@la.gov
Teacher and Principal of the Year	Application Based Recognition of Achievement	Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most exceptional teachers and leaders through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. These programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge educators who are achieving excellence and exemplify the education profession.	October	excellenteducators@la.gov
Teacher Leader Advisor	Advisory Capacity/ Professional Learning	Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs) are a group of exceptional educators from across Louisiana who play an influential role in raising expectations for students and supporting the success of teachers. TLAs use their robust knowledge of teaching and learning to review and create the next wave of high-quality instructional materials and training tools that will be used by thousands of teachers across the state.	January/ February	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov

Schools and/or School Systems

Award Program	Award Type	Description	Process Opens	Contact
Blue Ribbon Schools Award	Metric-Based Recognition of Achievement	Annually, the U.S. Department of Education recognizes schools across the nation in one of two categories. Schools can be nominated by having high academic performance or by reducing the achievement gaps of subgroups. Louisiana is allowed to nominate six public schools.	December	jennifer.baird@la.gov
Distinguished Schools	Metric-Based Recognition of Achievement	Distinguished schools are selected by the State Education Agency and are recognized under the following categories of excellence. Category 1: Exceptional student performance and academic growth, as determined by each state Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups, as determined by each state Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students	October	edeltress.brown@la.gov
Louisiana School, District and State Accountability Top Gains Award	Metric-Based Recognition of Achievement	The Top Gains Award recognizes schools and systems that earn an equivalent of an A (a progress index of 90 or greater) in the progress index that is a component of the school performance score.	N/A	accountability@la.gov
Louisiana State Certified World Language Immersion Site	Certification/Endorsement Recognition	In accordance with RS 17:273.2, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) developed and implemented a process to evaluate program effectiveness. The purpose of this program is to recognize exemplary World Languages Immersion programs across Louisiana.	September	language.acquisition@la.gov

Award Program	Award Type	Description	Process Opens	Contact
Models of Excellence	Application Based Recognition of Achievement	The Louisiana Models of Excellence initiative was created in an effort to acknowledge, honor, and spotlight schools serving as exemplary models for implementing the Department’s educational priorities that lead to the advancement of student success.	August	modelsofexcellence@la.gov
Opportunity Honorees	Metric Based Recognition of Achievement	This award is issued at the same time that annual school performance scores are released. The award is bestowed to schools that are in the 90th or greater percentile for subgroups special education, English learners and economically disadvantaged, AND are not in any form of Urgent Intervention Required.	N/A	accountability@la.gov
Purple Star School Award Program	Certification/ Endorsement Recognition	This award recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to the United States Armed Forces.	Rolling	highschoolacademics@la.gov
School Physical Activity Award	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	This award provides the opportunity to honor elementary and secondary schools implementing an exemplary physical activity program; allowing students the opportunity for regular physical activity before, during, and after school.	September	healthyschools@la.gov
U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools	Application-Based Recognition of Achievement	The Green Ribbon School program recognizes and honors select schools' innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.	September	Environmentaleducation@la.gov

