

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



February 4, 2015

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Guest Message: Nonpublic School Choice Team

Nonpublic School Choice programs - including the Louisiana Scholarship Program, Tuition Donation Rebate Program, and the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities - play a critical role in the Department's strategy to ensure that all Louisiana students have access to the educational opportunity that will best prepare them for college and career success. Almost half of all Louisiana nonpublic schools participate in one or more of these school choice programs. While students can ultimately only participate in one school choice program (but may apply to all three) - nothing prevents a nonpublic school from participating in all three programs. In fact, 73% of all choice program participating schools participate in at least 2 out of the 3 programs.

Previously, the Department has used multiple, different communication structures for each separate program. However, as multiple schools participate in multiple school choice programs, the Department recognizes the increased burden of tracking communication and action items across different programs.

In order to streamline communication so all schools clearly and concisely receive holistic, centralized information about nonpublic school choice programs, **the Department is replacing the Scholarship newsletter with a weekly Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter**. This updated "one stop shop" newsletter will efficiently provide

Weekly Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter. This updated one-stop shop newsletter will efficiently provide nonpublic schools with important information for all choice programs and continue to deliver helpful school resources and supports from the Department.

In addition, the Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter will seek to include content personalized specifically for nonpublic schools. As part of this strategy, the Department wants to include a special "Shout Out" section to recognize the important work of nonpublic schools and individuals serving Louisiana's children. If you have someone or something you would like us to recognize in an upcoming Nonpublic Choice Newsletter, the Nonpublic School team encourages you to please send your submissions to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

As always, thank you for all that you do for our children,

The Nonpublic School Choice Team

Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

Date	NPS School Choice Program	Action, Event, or Deadline
Ongoing	LSP / TDR	Assessment Office Hours (Every Thursday at 11:00 a.m.)
Feb. 3-5	LSP / SCP	Quarter 3 Enrollment Count
Feb. 16	LSP / TDR	Nonpublic School Test Coordinator Training
Feb. 19	LSP	Scholarship Budget forms due
Feb. 26	LSP	16-17 Scholarship program application deadline
Mar. 11	SCP	16-17 School Choice Program application deadline

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

Action Items

Quarter 3 (Q3) Enrollment Count

The Q3 enrollment count began Wednesday, February 3 and will end **Friday, February 5**. Please note that the count must be completed prior to the deadline. Due to the Mardi Gras holiday, schools will be unable to complete the count the following week.

Schools are required to confirm Scholarship student enrollment for the Q3 payment in SEE. Each participating school must review their Scholarship roster and report which students were enrolled and have demonstrated a pattern of attendance as of the count date. All schools must complete the enrollment report by midnight, **February 5** in order to receive their Q3 payment for those enrolled students.

Please review your roster and contact us immediately at studentscholarships@la.gov if you identify any incorrect grade levels, incorrect name spellings, or students missing from the roster.

If you do not currently have access to the SEE system, please let us know immediately. The link to the LEADS portal and SEE can be found [here](#) to change your password. Please don't forget to turn off your pop-up blocker.

Schools can access the Q3 webinar materials by clicking [here](#). In addition, please click [here](#) for instructions on completing the

Schools can access the Q3 Webinar materials by clicking [here](#). In addition, please click [here](#) for instructions on completing the Q3 enrollment count.

Quick tips for LEADS:

- a) Be sure to use Internet-Explorer.
- b) Make sure your pop-up blocker is turned off.

We are happy to answer questions about the Q3 enrollment count at studentscholarships@la.gov.

Budget to Actual - Scholarships Expenditures

In December 2015, participating Scholarship schools sent in a proposed budget show how their school anticipated using Scholarship funds. The [completed budget form](#) showing actual Scholarship expenditures through **January 31, 2016** along with the [allocation spreadsheet](#) are due by **February 19, 2016**.

Submit your budget form and allocation spreadsheet (if applicable) via e-mail to staudit@la.gov

Should you have any questions, you may contact Jameka Henderson, State Audit Supervisor at Jameka.Henderson@la.gov or (225) 342-4989.

2016-17 Scholarship Program Application Timeline

Action	Orleans Date	Statewide Date
Main Round Application Window	November 2 - February 26	January 19 - February 26
Main Round Roster Available	Early April 2016	
Student Registration Deadline	May 20, 2016	
Round 2 Application Window	April 18 - May 27, 2016	
Round 2 Roster Available	Early July 2016	
Round 2 Registration Deadline	July 15, 2016	

Scholarship Program Main Round Application Process

The Main Round student application period for Scholarship schools is now open and will remain open until **February 26, 2016**.

Resources for Statewide Schools outside of Orleans Parish:

- [Scholarship Program 2016-2017 Application Guide](#)
- [Scholarship Program 2016-2017 Printable Application](#)
- [Scholarship Program 2016-2017 Online Application](#)
- [Application Training](#)

Resources for Scholarship schools in Orleans Parish:

- [Online application: EnrollNOLA](#)
- [16-17 OneApp School Training](#)
- [Best Practices for Applicants](#)

NEW! Resources for Non-English Speaking Families:

- [Scholarship Program 2016-2017 Application Guide - Spanish Edition](#)
- [Scholarship Program 2016-2017 Printable Application - Spanish Edition](#)
- [Scholarship Program 2016-2017 Application Guide - Vietnamese Edition](#)
- [Scholarship Program 2016-2017 Printable Application - Vietnamese Edition](#)

As always, please reach out to studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

Scholarship Family Support

The Scholarship Team has developed two resources to help families navigate the Scholarship Program and the application process.

[Family FAQ](#): A comprehensive guide to the program that includes information on eligibility, application, transfers, and more.
Scholarship Program Posters ([large](#) and [small](#)): helpful information for families that includes school application intake hours.

Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News Action Items

Information about the Tuition Donation Rebate Program can be found in the [FAQ](#) and [Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart](#). Currently, Louisiana has three School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Rebate Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, and New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund. Schools interested in participating in the TDR program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

	ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Arete Scholars Louisiana	New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund
Regional Focus	Statewide	Statewide	Baton Rouge
STO Website	www.acescholarships.org	http://www.aretescholars.org/	http://newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund/
Email	TDR@acescholarships.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	esf@newschoolsbr.org
Phone	504.491.1813	877.246.4095	225.395.1686

Assessments News (LSP & TDR)

Unless otherwise noted, the following information applies to schools that participate in both the Louisiana Scholarship Program and Tuition Donation Rebate Program

Nonpublic School Test Coordinator Training

The Department will hold a training session for Nonpublic school test coordinators in Baton Rouge on **Tuesday, February 16** from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The training will be an opportunity for both new and experienced test coordinators to review testing responsibilities and resources prior to spring assessments.

Who	Nonpublic school test coordinators, diocese test coordinators, and staff responsible for test security
When	Tuesday, February 16, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Where	Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Why	To prepare for spring state assessments (LEAP, EOC, EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT, WorkKeys)
Please RSVP to confirm your attendance at studentscholarships@la.gov by Friday, February 5 .	

Accessing Assessment History

In prior years, schools had the ability to download and search student test history via LEAPWeb. Beginning in early February, this functionality will shift to LEADS and schools will have the ability to download and search assessment history through the portal. Both extracts and reports will be available for LEAP, iLEAP, EOC*, PARCC, LAA1, LAA2, and ELDA assessments. Full details were provided in the February DTC Webinar.

* EOC will also be available via the EOC reporting system through July 2016.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

End-of-Course (EOC) December Post-Window Reports Available

EOC reports for the December administration have been released in the post-window testing environment at <https://www.louisianaec.org>. These reports include the Student Report, Student Item Analysis Report, Class Report, School Report, and School/District CSV files.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Assessment Administration Update

Across the state, educators are preparing for the administration of the Spring 2016 assessments. This section will provide LEAs with a weekly update on all information related to assessment preparation.

Tools & Resources:

- **New Practice Tests:** Paper-based practice tests for grades 3-8 math and grades 3-8 ELA are now available on the [Practice Tests](#) page. Online practice tests will be released by the second week of February in the INSIGHT testing platform.
- **NewGuide to Administering and Scoring the Online Practice Tests and Webinars:** A Guide to Administering and Scoring the Online Practice Tests will be available by the end of this week [here](#) and will outline practice test procedures for districts so that test coordinators, administrators, and students are provided an authentic practice in preparation for the operational test this spring.

Webinars will also be provided for district and school test coordinators, school leaders and teachers to further support LEAs and schools in preparing for online test administration on the following dates and times:

- **Tuesday, February 16 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information (*no pre-registration required)

- Click here to join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Audio access via phone bridge: (800) 832-0736 / room number: 3423602
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.
- **New Accessibility and Accommodation Manual:** The Grades 3-8 Accessibility and Accommodation Manual will be available by the end of the week within eDIRECT. The Accessibility and Accommodation Manual provides guidance to districts and decision-making teams to ensure that assessments provide valid results for all participating students. It also offers test administration guidance for before, during, and after testing.
- **Office Hours:** The Louisiana Department of Education hosts **weekly office hours every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.** to answer any questions that teachers, supervisors, test coordinators, and test administrators may have regarding statewide assessments.
 - Click here to join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
 - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone, or access audio via phone bridge: (800) 832-0736 / room number: 3423602

Test Administration:

- **LAA1/ELDA Assessments:** LAA1 and ELDA assessment administration began yesterday, February 1, and continues through March 11.
- **ACT Assessment:** Starting yesterday, February 1, 2016, district or school test coordinators should submit online orders for non-college reportable accommodation materials for the ACT. The deadline to submit these orders is February 11, 2016. ACT non-secure materials will be delivered to LEAs or districts by February 4 for distribution to schools.
- **LEAP Assessments:** School test coordinators should begin delivering [test security and administration training](#) to test administrators or school personnel for applicable assessments.

Technology Readiness:

- **Preparation for Online Practice Tests:** The online practice tests will be available in the INSIGHT assessment platform by the second week of February. In order for students to access these tests, LEAs will need to upload student rosters into the [Practice eDIRECT](#) prior to the assessment. Directions for upload can be found within the user guide within the documents section of the Practice eDirect site.
- **Technology Readiness Tool (TRT):** Districts should access their [Technology Readiness Tool](#) reports within the TRT online survey system to support them in making informed decisions regarding online testing. A guide highlighting the key reports is posted on the TRT homepage. Once district technology staff have reviewed these reports, they should begin installing their Testing Site Manager (TSM) servers and performing an initial test of their devices and networks with the tools provided in the online [Practice eDirect](#) site.
- **Online vs. Paper Assessment Survey:** This spring, students in grades 3 through 8 may test online. The [survey](#) allows districts to indicate whether they will administer tests to grades 3 through 8 online or on paper. It will also allow districts to sign up to participate in the social studies field test. District responses are due by late February.*

*Note: LEAs will determine testing formats and may choose options by entire LEA, schools, or grade levels.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

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Please review your roster and contact us immediately at nonpublicschools@la.gov if you identify any incorrect grade levels, incorrect name spellings, or students missing from the roster. If you do not currently have access to the SCS system, please let us know immediately. Instructions and reminders were sent out to all participating schools on February 3.

Quick tips for LEADS:

- a) [LEADS Portal link](#)
- b) Be sure to use Internet-Explorer.
- c) Make sure your pop-up blocker is turned off.
- d) Use the [Password Reset System](#) to update an expired or forgotten password

2016-17 School Choice Program Application Timeline

Action	Date
Student Applications due to the LDE	March 11
LDE notifies families and schools of students' application status	Week of April 4
Student Registration deadline	April 29
Student enrollment verification due to the LDE	June 1

Resources and Support for Nonpublic Choice Schools

January Collaboration Follow-Up

Thank you for attending the January Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaboration events. Please take a moment to review the following:

- Please complete this [survey](#) so we can continue to improve these events. The Department values your feedback.
- Download the [Supervisor sign-in sheets](#) and [Teacher Leader sign-in sheets](#).
- Save the date for the [March Supervisor Collaborations](#).
 - March 10: Baton Rouge
 - March 11: Bossier
 - March 14: Jefferson *NEW*

Please reach out to louisianateacherleaders@la.gov or districtsupport@la.gov with questions related to the collaboration events.

Math Design Collaborative Training

Two one-day MDC sessions will be offered this spring. These trainings are free and open to ALL grade 6-12 mathematics teachers.

- February 24th in Bossier (This is a change from the date announced during the November session in Bossier.)
- March 2nd in Lafayette.

The registration link is: www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?4328solutionwhere.com

Nonpublic Choice Schools Shout Outs

The Good Shepard Nativity Mission:

Mrs. Ariane Phillips, our Middle School ELA teacher, has played a major role in successful writing at Good Shepherd. Her students have participated in writing contests sponsored by the **Library of Poetry**, **Amazing Kids**, and **Student Ideas for a Better America**. Several of them have been selected to have their work published in the following:

- Eloquence Student Anthology (**Library of Poetry**)
- Amazing Kids Online Magazine (**Amazing Kids**)
- Student Ideas for a Better America (students are given **real world problems**, which requires research skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving)

If you have someone or something you would like us to recognize in an upcoming Nonpublic Choice Newsletter, please send your submissions to nonpublicschools@la.gov!

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **February 2 District newsletter**, please click [here](#).

- New assessment tools and resources
- LOSFA College Goal Sunday
- Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) Conference

To view the **December 17 Teacher Leader newsletter**, please click [here](#).

- January Collaboration Events
- 2015-16 Assessment Resources

To view the **December 18 Early Childhood newsletter**, please click [here](#).

- Review of Birth to 5 Curriculum Resources
- Child care resources

To view the **January 28 Scholarship newsletter**, please click [here](#).

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

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Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

LDOE Links

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