

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: September 30, 2025

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### Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

The most impactful work in education is what's taking place inside schools and classrooms every day. That's why we prioritize spending as much time as possible working alongside system leaders, school leaders, and educators. Whether it's this week's [School Support Institutes](#) and [System Leader Collaborations](#), our annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#), or a routine visit, these opportunities allow us to support the daily, intentional work of delivering high-quality student instruction.

As we move into October, I encourage you keep the following areas in mind as you support your schools:

- **Strengthen core instruction:** Strong core instruction is foundational to sustained student success. Interventions and high-dosage tutoring are important, but they will only be band-aids without a healthy core.
- **Ensure the daily lesson cycle is present in classrooms:** Teachers and students should be comfortable and adept at flowing through all parts of the daily lesson cycle.
- **Protect daily time for strong instruction:** Every day should include dedicated time for explicit teacher-led instruction, meaningful student practice, and academic feedback.
- **Prioritize collaborative planning:** When teachers plan together using HQIM and student data, they can design instruction that truly meets the needs of all learners. Leaders play a key role in ensuring this time is focused, consistent, and protected.

If your team is working to strengthen lesson planning, teacher collaboration, or instructional leadership, our [Menu of Services](#) is designed to meet you where you are. As always, our goal is to partner with you in the work that matters most — improving student outcomes.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson  
Deputy Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning

# Important Dates for School Systems

## Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Social Studies Office Hours: [October 1 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [October 2 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [October 3 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [October 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [October 7 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [October 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [October 9 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Numeracy Training Office Hours: [October 15 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [October 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [October 16 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [October 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [October 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [October 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [October 20 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [October 23 at 2 p.m.](#)

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Teacher/Principal of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Nominations Due: [September 30](#)
- Students of the Year School System Information and Participation Level Survey: [September 30](#)
- Deadline to submit Annual Financial Report (AFR): September 30
- Deadline to submit General Fund Budget: September 30
- Deadline to submit DSS application in eGMS: October 1
- Elementary School Counselor Survey Submission Deadline: [October 1](#)
- High Cost Services Overview Webinar: [October 2](#)
- High-Dosage Tutoring Outcome-Based Contracts Webinar: [October 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- BOY K-3 Literacy Gifted Referral Data Collection Deadline: October 13
- In-Person Super App Launch at LAFEPa: [October 30](#)
- Virtual Super App Launch: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Annual Dyslexia Reporting Deadline: [December 15](#)

## Executive

### Priority Updates

**Please share with superintendents and school leaders.**

Following each Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) emails local school board members and system leaders a summary of key updates. These updates highlight state priorities, key performance indicators (KPIs), and school system-specific data connected to these priorities.

To ensure you continue receiving these updates, please make sure all the email addresses for both system leaders and local school board members are submitted and kept current. Email addresses can be shared with Sabre Masters at [sabre.masters@la.gov](mailto:sabre.masters@la.gov).

Please contact [sabre.masters@la.gov](mailto:sabre.masters@la.gov) with questions.

# Teaching and Learning

## Diverse Learners

### **2025-2026 High Cost Services**

**Please share with special education leaders.**

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund provides additional funding to school systems that serve students with disabilities who have the most significant needs. The LDOE will host an overview webinar on the HCS Fund for the 2025-2026 school year on October 2. Special education leaders are encouraged to invite personnel in their LEA responsible for the HCS application to attend this webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 2 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94236931773>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 942 3693 1773

Please contact [ashley.augustine@la.gov](mailto:ashley.augustine@la.gov) with questions.

### **Annual Dyslexia Reporting**

**Please share with special education leaders.**

School systems are required to annually report the number of students with dyslexia currently enrolled and the number of students newly identified with dyslexia in the prior school year. The [dyslexia reporting form](#) will open on October 1. All school systems must submit the dyslexia reporting form by December 15.

[Dyslexia reporting guidance](#) is available in the [Students with Disabilities library](#).

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

### **BOY K-3 Literacy Gifted Referral Data Collection**

**Please share with gifted coordinators and special education leaders.**

Louisiana Statute 17:24.9 mandates school systems to report the number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation for every literacy screening administration for grades K-3. The following data sets will be collected for each grade level:

- The number of gifted students scoring in the above-average range on the literacy screener.
- The number of non-gifted students referred for additional screening.
- The number of non-gifted students referred for gifted evaluation.

[BOY reporting](#) is due October 13.

Please contact [carolyn.wilkinson@la.gov](mailto:carolyn.wilkinson@la.gov) or [yolanda.oates3@la.gov](mailto:yolanda.oates3@la.gov) with questions.

## EdTech

### **Presidential AI Challenge**

**Please share with educators and school leaders.**

The [Presidential AI Challenge](#) seeks to inspire students and educators to create AI-based innovative solutions to community challenges while fostering AI interest and competency. Student participants will complete a project that involves the study, development, or use of an AI method or tool to address community challenges, while educators will focus on creative approaches to teaching or using AI technologies in K-12 learning.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

## Literacy

### **High-Dosage Tutoring Outcome-Based Contracts**

**Please share with system leaders.**

School systems may soon apply for additional Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring funds to extend high-dosage tutoring through outcome-based contracts (OBCs). OBCs must be with existing external partners and will support an additional 10-week tutoring cycle.

Please join our **HDT Outcome-Based Contracts Webinar** to learn more:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 6 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93869126044>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 938 6912 6044

Please contact [tutoring@la.gov](mailto:tutoring@la.gov) with questions.

## Numeracy

### **LANE Numeracy Professional Learning Office Hours**

**Please share with school leaders and school system leaders.**

The LDOE has developed a full suite of Numeracy Professional Learning courses for K-12 math teachers. This includes the training required by [Act 260 \(2023\)](#) and [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#). Each month, the LDOE holds office hours to review important components of the Numeracy Professional Learning, including progress completion, monitoring reports, and responses/submissions. This month's office hours will be held October 15 at 9 a.m. All school and system leaders who support math instruction are encouraged to attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 15 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/6158352036?pwd=nzF8kkDrt5JYpBoQEpAYVbX8RENPyD.1>
- **Meeting ID#:** 615 835 2036
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799

Please contact [math@la.gov](mailto:math@la.gov) with questions.

## Teacher Leader Summit

### **Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Call for Presentations**

**Please share with educators, school leaders, system administration, and system leaders.**

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 will be held May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The call for presentations opens October 15 and closes December 5. Educators interested in presenting should attend the [webinar](#) on October 15 at 1 p.m. or 4 p.m. Submission guidelines will be available on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#) soon.

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

## Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

### **2026-2027 School System Planning Launch**

**Please share with business managers, federal program directors, and system leaders.**

The LDOE is committed to providing educators at each level of the education system with the support and resources needed to continue raising the bar for students in Louisiana. The LDOE will launch the 2026-2027 Next Level Vision for Success School System Planning & Budgeting Workbook and accompanying resources through in-person and virtual sessions this fall.

## 2026-2027 Super App Launch and Office Hours:

- 2026-2027 Super App Launch Session at LAFEP Fall Conference (In-Person): October 30
- 2026-2027 Super App Virtual Launch Session: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2026-2027 Super App Planning Office Hours: [December 4 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2026-2027 Super App Planning Office Hours: [January 8 at 10 a.m.](#)

Please contact [LDOOperations@la.gov](mailto:LDOOperations@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **2025 Cohort Graduation Data Certification**

**Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.**

Data certification opened on September 24 in La Data Review and will close at the end of day on October 10. This is the final opportunity to request eligible documented changes to data that will be used in the calculation of the fall 2025 School Performance Score. Accountability contacts were notified by email from Jennifer Baird on September 23 with important reminders. The only persons in a school system who have an account in La Data Review are the accountability and backup accountability contacts. If changes have been made to either of these roles, please notify [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) as soon as possible.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **K-3 Numeracy Screening**

**Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.**

All students in grades K-3 must participate in the statewide K-3 numeracy screening, administered through KITE. The system will close at the end of day October 3. Please make sure that all students have been screened by the deadline.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **LEAP Enrollment Verification**

**Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.**

Enrollment verification will open on October 1 in DRC INSIGHT. This is the only opportunity that school systems have to select paper testing for students in grade 3 for LEAP spring 2026 testing. Requests for paper will not be accepted when the enrollment period closes on October 22. District test coordinators will also need to identify shipping dates for materials distribution.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## Career and College Readiness

### **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety Training**

**Please share with administrators, counselors, teachers, and parents.**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety will host a [virtual training](#) on enhancing behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM) practices in K-12 schools. The training will take place on October 16 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This session will explore how K-12 leaders can build and strengthen BTAM processes that promote early intervention and prevent school violence, especially when embedded within a comprehensive multi-tiered system of support. A panel of experts will share strategies for forming an effective BTAM team, defining roles, and fostering collaboration among school staff, mental health professionals, and law enforcement partners.

- **When:** October 16 at 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Microsoft Teams Live (*access link to be provided to registrants one day in advance of the event*)
- [Registration Link](#)

Training will be relevant to school and district administrators, K-12 school security staff, emergency management professionals, school resource officers, and school-based law enforcement personnel, state and local law enforcement, parents and guardians, and other members of the school safety community.

Please contact [healthyschools@la.gov](mailto:healthyschools@la.gov) with questions.

### **Jump Start 2.0 Enhancements**

**Please share with system leaders and CTE supervisors.**

The window to request enhancements for Jump Start 2.0 is open and will close on October 31 at 11:59 p.m.

Jump Start enhancements are based on recommendations made by CTE supervisors and approved by the Jump Start 2.0 Review Committee and BESE.

Requests can be submitted through the [Jump Start 2.0 Enhancement Request Form](#).

Please contact [fastforward@la.gov](mailto:fastforward@la.gov) with questions.

### **SCA Reporting**

**Please share with system leaders, CTE supervisors, principals, and counselors.**

The [Course Choice Portal](#) is open for reporting enrollments. The deadline for reporting Private Provider enrollments has been extended to October 3. The deadline for public higher education is October 24.

Please be aware that a new enrollment upload template is now available for use in the portal for reporting purposes. This updated template requires that each course is identified as requested by a parent. You can find this template under the “documents” tab in the [Course Choice Portal](#).

Please contact [coursechoice@la.gov](mailto:coursechoice@la.gov) with questions.

## **School Choice**

### **Charter Schools**

#### **BESE-Authorized Charter School Submissions**

**Please share with BESE-authorized charter schools and system leaders.**

As outlined in the [Charter School Reporting Calendar](#), the following items are to be submitted in October: Pupil Progression Plan; 2nd Quarterly Waitlist Report; Outstanding School Support Employee Applications Open; Alternate Assessment Participation Review; APR Indicator Identification for Monitoring; Quarter 1 Financial Report; High Cost Services Grant Round 1; Bylaws.

Please contact [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov) with questions.

#### **Charter School October Refresher**

**Please share with all board members and department heads.**

[Registration](#) is open for the upcoming Charter School Refresher on October 7. The Refresher will be held at the EBR Professional Development Center (3000 N Sherwood Forest Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70814). Topics at the event will include key updates from LDOE, guidance on upcoming requirements and deadlines, opportunities to share best practices with fellow leaders and more.

Please contact [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov) with questions.

## **2025-2026 Annual RFA Informational Sessions**

**Please share with school system leaders and LEA charter authorizers.**

The Office of School Choice will host informational sessions for applicants interested in the Charter Request for Application process this fall. Informational sessions will be offered twice monthly and are designed for applicants interested in applying as a Type 2 or 4 charter.

Refer to the available dates below and utilize [Jotform](#) for registration:

- October 6 or 20 at 10 a.m.
- November 3 or 17 at 10 a.m.
- December 8 or 15 at 10 a.m.
- January 5 or 12 at 10 a.m.

Please contact [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov) with questions.

## **School System Relations**

### **Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Application Process Open**

**Please share with educators, school and school system leaders.**

The Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and the Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year application process will open on **October 1**. The application materials and timelines will be posted in the resource section for each program on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page.

#### **Local-Level Selection**

All school systems are encouraged to:

- Select one honoree per elementary, middle, and high school division level as their local level honorees for the following:
  - Teacher of the Year
  - Principal of the Year
  - New Teacher of the Year (with less than one year of teaching experience.)
- Submit these selections to the state-level process.

Please contact [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov) regarding the submission process for Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year.

#### **Application Deadlines**

- **January 14:** Teacher/Principal of the Year and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year
- **January 21:** New Teacher of the Year

State-level applications are to be submitted via an online application portal, which will open later this fall.

#### **Informational Webinars**

The LDOE will host informational Zoom sessions to share details regarding the application process for these award programs. Please join the session that best fits your schedule:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 1 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98912609967>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 989 1260 9967
- **Passcode:** 628442

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 6 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98077978852>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 980 7797 8852
- **Passcode:** 966801

Please contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov) with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year, [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) with questions about New Teacher of the Year, or [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov) with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.