

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 21, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, BESE [approved our latest step](#) to responsibly reduce the time students and teachers spend on state assessments.

Starting with students entering ninth grade in 2026–2027, high school testing in English language arts and math will move to a comprehensive exam model. This will reduce the number of high school assessments from six to four while maintaining rigor, reliability, and validity.

This change builds on Louisiana’s multi-year effort to streamline testing:

- In 2024, we [reduced grades 3–8 ELA and math testing time by 20 percent](#).
- In 2025, we [announced a 50 percent reduction in grades 3–8 social studies testing aligned to the Freedom Framework](#).
- We are now reviewing potential reductions in science for grades 3–8.

This surgical approach reflects what we’ve heard from the field: we can reduce testing and still uphold high expectations. I’m proud of the work happening across Louisiana to make assessments more meaningful, more efficient, and more supportive of student learning.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [October 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [October 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [October 28 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [October 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [November 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [November 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [November 7 at 9 a.m.](#)

- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [November 12 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [November 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [November 13 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [November 17 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [November 18 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [November 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [November 20 at 3 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- In-Person Super App Launch at LAFEPa: [October 30](#)
- 2025-2026 Health and PE in Schools Survey: [October 31](#)
- Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) Deadline: [October 31](#)
- Virtual Super App Launch: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- High Cost Services Round 1 Application Deadline: November 11
- Annual Dyslexia Reporting Deadline: December 15
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Applications Due: [November 18](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

2026-2027 Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant (CSTAG) Available

Please share with CTE supervisors, STEM supervisors, and system leaders.

School systems are encouraged to apply for the [2025-2026 Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant \(CSTAG\)](#) to support [computer science](#) teacher preparation and computer science instruction for students in grades K-12. Grants of up to \$40,000 per school system are available.

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year will be available through Super App.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Health and PE in Schools Survey

Please share with school leaders.

School leaders should complete the [2025-2026 Health and PE in Schools Survey](#) by October 31. State law requires the LDOE to monitor and evaluate health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools, and to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature. Participation is critical to ensure the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare receive accurate, high-quality data.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

VAM Results Release Date

Please share with system and school leaders.

VAM results will be released October 30 in the [Louisiana Educator Portal](#) and VAM reports will be available by November 13. The deadline to finalize educator evaluations in LES is December 31.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ACT - Accommodations Timeline and Reminders

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

September 8–January 28, 2026:

- Request ACT-Authorized Accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees for Test Window 1 (Initial and Reconsideration) through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations \(TAA\)](#).
 - Refer to the [TAA User Guide](#) for detailed information and guidance.
 - For additional guidance, see [Requesting Accommodations and English-Learner \(EL\) Supports](#).
- For students who were previously authorized for an accommodation, associate selected test date with their TAA request.
- Submit requests as early as possible to allow time for reconsideration, if needed.

Important: ACT cannot guarantee deadline extensions due to unforeseen events (e.g., acts of nature, power or internet outage, or staff changes).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

State Testing Accommodations Deadlines

Please share with testing coordinators, IEP teams, and school leaders.

Policy mandates that all accommodations for state testing be in place no later than 30 days prior to the opening of a state testing window. All accommodations that will be provided to students participating in the following assessments must be finalized on IEPs, IAPs, and EL checklists by November 1.

- LEAP Fall High School Test Administration
- K-3 MOY Literacy Screening
- K-3 MOY Numeracy Screening

All students must be identified as eligible for participation in LEAP Connect no later than January 23, 2026.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

State Testing Schedules

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

All sites that are used as testing sites, including schools, programs and pod sites, must have a testing schedule submitted to assessment@la.gov using the template provided to district test coordinators. Schedules for both K-3 literacy and numeracy screenings and the LEAP fall high school administration are due no later than October 31.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Louisiana Works IBC Application Process Update

Please share with system leaders and CTE supervisors.

Louisiana Works (formerly the Louisiana Workforce Commission) is introducing a new process for developing Industry-Based Credential Bundles. Under this process, Louisiana Works will draft initial bundle concepts and share them with regional economic development organizations, LCTCS, and LDOE to validate workforce demand and ensure alignment with postsecondary pathways.

After this review, bundle concepts will be confirmed with business, industry associations, and other partners. School systems will not create or submit bundles, but will continue to support this process by recommending employer partners for engagement.

This approach ensures bundles are responsive to employer needs, aligned with labor market demand, and designed to give students a clear path from high school to training, post-secondary, and career opportunities. Louisiana Works and the LDOE are committed to ensuring that Industry-Based Credential Bundles reflect the skills and credentials most valued by employers, while preparing students for success in high-demand, high-wage careers.

Please contact ibccouncil@lwc.la.gov with questions.

U.S. Presidential Scholar Nomination Form

Please share with system leaders, principals, and counselors.

The LDOE is pleased to announce the opening of the nomination process for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program to honor our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors between January and August 2026.

The nomination form will close on November 7 at 4 p.m. Nominations must be completed through the [2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars](#) form. Email applications will not be accepted. It is recommended that school systems review the LDOE evaluation rubric before nominating students.

To recommend students for nomination to the program, school systems must submit to the LDOE a signed parental release form for each nominated student.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Nonpublic Schools

2026-2027 Notice of Intent for School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities

Please share with school leaders and data managers.

The 2026-2027 Notice of Intent (NOI) for the school choice program for students with exceptionalities will be available soon. The link to the form will be sent via email and posted on the scholarship website on October 1. All participating schools must complete the form to request new scholarship seats for the upcoming year, if applicable. An NOI must be submitted for each school, even if no new seats are being requested.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Approval Listing

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The FY 2025-2026 [Approved General Fund Budget Listing](#), which has been compiled in accordance with L.R.S. 17:88, is available for reference via the Business Manager Support Library.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2024-2025 Fiscal Risk Assessment

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The FY 2024-2025 Fiscal Risk Assessment, which includes financial data reported and independent audit information for FY 2023-2024, is available for each school system in the EdFin FTP Portal. Please review the preliminary data and information in the assessment and submit any concerns or questions by the close of business on October 28.

The data in the EdFin FTP Portal will be considered final after this date. Systems identified as being in corrective action or in monitor will be notified by November 7. The Fiscal Risk Assessment results will be presented to BESE during the December meeting.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2025 Annual Financial Report Submissions

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

Louisiana Revised Statute 17:92 requires local school systems to provide annual financial data to the LDOE no later than September 30 of each year. School systems that have provided financial data in accordance with the requirements of the law are listed in the [AFR Approval Listing](#) included on the Business Manager Support Resources page.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.