

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 28, 2025

In This Issue

[Message from the Deputy Superintendent](#)

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Policy and Governmental Affairs](#)

[Career and College Readiness](#)

[School Choice](#)

Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

There is a quote that's resonated with me since my time in the classroom.

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." — Benjamin Franklin

This simple truth speaks to the intentionality every professional must bring to their work. It's especially relevant to us as educators. As we near the halfway point of the school year, the goals you set this summer are still within reach. Achieving them requires deliberate and focused preparation.

As you plan for November, keep the following in mind:

- **Lesson preparation is essential.** It remains one of the most effective ways to strengthen curriculum implementation and deliver effective instruction.
- **New tools are available.** We recently released [updated resources](#) during our fall School Support Institutes to support unit study and lesson preparation in literacy and math. These tools are also well-suited for teacher collaboration.
- **Leverage teacher collaboration.** There is real power in examining student work and planning upcoming instruction together, especially when using HQIM to meet the needs of all learners.
- **Stay aligned with the [Louisiana Educator Rubric](#).** Lesson preparation connects directly to the Planning Domain, which emphasizes high-quality curriculum, standards alignment, and purposeful instruction.

These practices help set the foundation for effective teaching and learning. Your intentional planning makes a difference for every student.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Social Studies Office Hours: [November 5 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [November 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [November 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [November 13 at 9 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.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [November 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [November 20 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [November 20 at 3 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Virtual Super App Launch: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- High Cost Services Round 1 Application Deadline: November 11
- Physical Education Standards Review and Revision Feedback Survey Due: [November 15 by 5 p.m.](#)
- Annual Dyslexia Reporting Deadline: [December 15](#)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Applications Due: [November 18](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Office Hours

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and teachers.

Teachers, school leaders, and content supervisors are invited to join the LDOE for the third social studies office hours of the 2025–2026 school year. Scheduled for November 5 at 3:15 p.m., the office hours will focus on using the [Unit Study Tool](#) and the What Teachers Need to Know Document. It will also offer an opportunity to address any questions related to [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Join the session using the link provided below, or by accessing the [Social Studies Office Hours Flyer](#) located on the K–12 Social Studies Planning webpage.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 5 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 3607 5546

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Draft LEA Determinations

Please share with special education leaders.

The LDOE is required to issue a determination to each school system on the provision of special education and related services under IDEA. These are called LEA Determinations. The draft FFY 2023 LEA Determinations will be available in the data management FTP on November 3. School systems should review and request clarification by November 21.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Strategic Scheduling Series

Please share with system leaders, school leaders, and school counselors.

The LDOE announced the SY25–26 Strategic Scheduling Series, a set of professional learning opportunities designed to help school and system leaders strengthen one of the most powerful levers for student success: the school schedule. Sessions are offered throughout the year and tailored for various audiences, including school administrators, school system leaders, and those in different grade bands. Participants will gain practical tools, strategies, and support to design schedules that maximize instructional time and better support teachers. Use the [registration](#) link for additional information.

Please contact LousianaLeaders@la.gov with any questions.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Applications Now Open for Spring 2026

Please share with teachers.

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the spring 2026 semester/quarter are open through November 6. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#). More information is also available in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Call for Presentations Office Hours

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

[Teacher Leader Summit 2026](#) is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Educators interested in presenting should view the [webinar](#) and [submission guidelines](#). The official session board application link should be available starting October 30. The call for presentations closes December 5. If there are questions or more guidance needed, please join us for [office hours](#) on October 29 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Policy and Governmental Affairs

HR 346 (2025) Reporting

Please share with system and charter leaders.

[HR 346](#) (2025) requires LEAs to report their plans for current and anticipated vacant school properties for the 2025-2026 school year. It also requires the development of strategic implementation plans for the disposition and security of school buildings and property in the event of school closures.

Please submit the following information to LDOE through the [JotForm Link](#):

- School district name
- District POC name and contact information
- Current vacant school properties
- School properties anticipated to become vacant during the 2025-2026 school year
- Strategic plans for the disposition and security of school buildings and property, including specific timelines for securing campuses and disposing of property

The deadline for this information to be submitted to the LDOE is December 31.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

ACTE Work-Based Learning Professional of the Year

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

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is now accepting [nominations](#) for the 2026 Work-Based Learning Professional of the Year Award. This national award recognizes outstanding WBL educators who design high-quality, real-world experiences that prepare students for success.

Nominees must be current work-based learning professionals and members of the ACTE WBL Division. Areas of recognition include student success, innovation, advocacy, leadership, and student organization involvement. The

winner will be honored at the National Work-Based Learning Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, in April 2026. The deadline to [apply](#) is December 19.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

ACTE Work-Based Learning Division Launches 2025–2026 Webinar Series

Please share with CTE supervisors, principals, counselors, and WBL teachers.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Work-Based Learning Division has released its [2025–2026 Professional Development Webinar Calendar](#). The series offers virtual learning opportunities focused on best practices, resources, and innovations that strengthen WBL implementation nationwide.

Sessions are open to all ACTE WBL Division members and cover topics such as program design, student assessment, business engagement, and federal policy updates.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 High School Coaches CPR, First Aid, and AED Certification Survey

Please share with high school principals.

[Act 95](#) of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session states that beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, any high school employee serving as a coach for the school shall obtain and maintain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, and the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). The certification shall be consistent with the guidelines of the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or other nationally recognized, evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care organizations.

Funding is available to assist school systems and schools in complying with the statute. Please have the principal or athletic director complete the [survey](#) by or before November 21.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Fall 2025 Counselor Institute Webinars

Please share with school counselors, administrators, and CTE supervisors.

The final two Fall 2025 Counselor Institute Webinar Series will take place on October 29 and October 30.

These sessions are designed to share key updates, resources, and foundational information to prepare you for the in-person working sessions in November. Links for the in-person sessions are located on Eventbrite.

- Option 1 November 7: [St. Bernard Parish](#)
- Option 2 November 14: [Caddo Parish](#)
- Option 3 November 20: [East Baton Rouge Parish](#) (waitlist)

Each webinar will provide valuable insights to support your work in helping students connect academic learning with career opportunities.

Webinar Information:

Webinar 2: Building a Continuum of Learning: Aligning Career Demands to School Offerings- Understanding the importance of K-12 vertical alignment and the connection to postsecondary career goals.

Webinar Date and Time: October 29 at 9 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97098474663?pwd=swMskf3HzWT25yfeq9OLYGUJpVGImp.1>

Meeting I.D.: 970 9847 4663

Webinar 3: Bridging the Gap: Strengthening Continuing Education Partnerships for Student Success - Identifying ways to strengthen the secondary and postsecondary connection.

Webinar Date and Time: October 30 at 9 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93954912338>
Meeting I.D.: 939 5491 2338

Please contact candace.joseph@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 November: Enrollment Lottery Process; Technology Readiness Tool; Student of the Year Applications Due; Course Choice Spring Reporting; Significant Disproportionality Data & CCEIS Determinations; PERs.

Please contact 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:

- 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 with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

2026-27 Q2 Enrollment Choice Program Certain Students with Exceptionalities

Please share with school leaders and data managers.

Q2 Enrollment for the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (SCP) will be open November 3 - 7. All participating schools must report their Q2 enrollment for all SCP students during this window in order to receive payment.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.