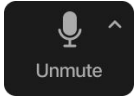


LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call

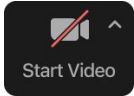


April 8, 2026

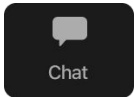
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”



- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov.



Contact Information

Please provide your **name** and **email address** in the chat box. A copy of the presentation will be sent to you after this meeting.

To access slide decks from previous calls, you may visit the [LDOE Monthly Call](#) webpage.



Agenda

- Monthly Call Goals
- Key Dates
- BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates
- Departmental Updates
 - Diverse Learner Updates
 - Educator Evaluation Updates
 - Safe and Healthy Schools
- CSP Updates



Monthly Call Goals



WELCOME

Goals for Local Authorizer Monthly Calls

To provide pertinent information and updates.

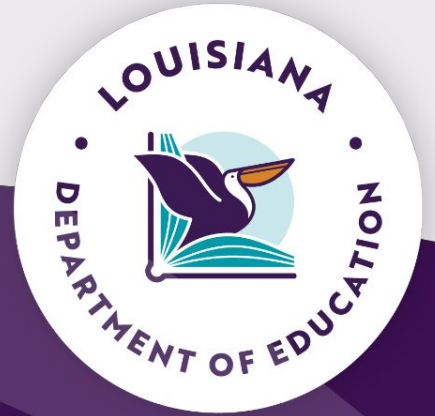
How will this be accomplished?

- Being **INTENTIONAL**
- Listening to your requests
- Each month provide reminders and upcoming key dates pertaining to the authorization process
- Each call will provide leaders with information tied to the Charter RFA process

REMINDER: Monthly calls are held every 2nd Wednesday @ 11:00 am



Key Dates



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
April 15, 2026	<p>Projected Local Revenue Data Survey Due: In order to complete the FY 2026-2027 MFP calculations for charter schools, projected FY 2025-2026 local revenue data and expenditures related to the collection of the revenue must be submitted to the LDOE by each school district. Please contact ldoemfhelpdesk@la.gov with questions.</p>
April 21, 2026	<p>Carl Perkins Grant Technical Assistance: The LDOE will host a webinar to support systems in completing their Carl Perkins application for the upcoming school year. Assistance in completing the narratives and budget for the Carl Perkins section of the Super App will be available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Webinar Date and Time: April 21 at 9 a.m.• Webinar Link https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94888006094• Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799• Meeting ID: 948 8800 6094 <p>Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions</p>
April 23, 2026	<p>Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Portfolio Assessment Vendor Application Due: LDOE is seeking applications from qualified vendors to score portfolio assessments for the Mentor Teacher and Content Leader programs. Selected vendors will evaluate the portfolios of educators who complete an approved course of study, using LDOE-approved rubrics. The application, which includes a list of required responsibilities, is due by April 23 and selected vendors will be notified by May 1. Please contact mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov with questions</p>



BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates



2025-2026 Annual Charter School Application Process Timeline

To begin operation in 2027-2028

Date	Annual RFA Process
March 30, 2026 (5 p.m. CST)	LDOE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2, 4, and 5 applicants
April 13, 2026	LDOE to notify local school system leaders of the submission of charter school applications within their districts
June 9, 2026	Type 2 and 4 Charter Proposal Presentations to BESE at SIT Committee Meeting
June 2026	Capacity Interviews conducted by the third-party evaluator
August 18, 2026	Types 2, 4, and 5 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools at SIT Committee Meeting



BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

The Office of School Choice has received two complete application submissions in accordance with eligibility and submission requirements listed in LA Bulletin 126, §503:

Name	Charter Type	Region
Great Hearts Lake Charles	Type 2	Calcasieu Parish
Slaughter Community Elementary School	Type 2	East Feliciana Parish



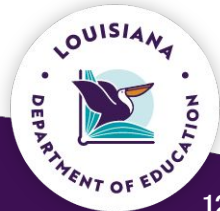
BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

Application Deadline

The application deadline for the **2025-2026 Annual RFA Application Cycle** was **March 30, 2026**. Applicants were required to submit the full application and completed overview template.

Note: Applications were reviewed only if a Letter of Intent and Eligibility Determination form were received by the due date and the applicant received confirmation from the department of meeting eligibility criteria. Any applications submitted without adherence to the Letter of Intent and Eligibility Determination due date requirements were not reviewed.

Once applications are received, state legislators and district superintendents were notified of any application submissions to BESE within their district.



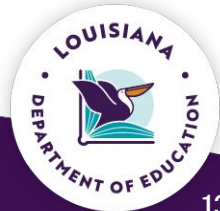
BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

All applications for the RFA will undergo two reviews. The first by an independent third-party review team and the second by the Internal Review Committee.

- Both review panels will utilize the application review rubrics for determining standards being met or unmet.

Rubrics:

- [New Operator Rubric](#)
- [Experienced Operator Rubric](#)



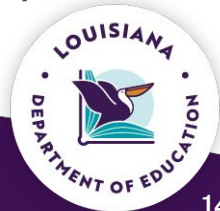
BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

Initial Memo

The third-party reviewer will review the application and provide the applicant with an initial memo regarding the evaluator rubric. Evaluators are looking for:

- A clear, cohesive, aligned plan for all aspects of the school operation;
- Team capacity to execute the plan and deliver results and potential to produce high-quality outcomes for all students; and
- Responsiveness to the evaluation criteria.

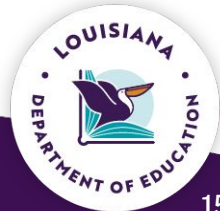
Upon receipt of the initial memo findings by the third-party, the applicant is afforded the opportunity to respond to any unmet standards in a 7-page response.



BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

7 Page Response Memo

Upon receipt of the 7-page response by the applicant, the third-party will review response against rubric standards and provide a response memo of findings. The response by the third-party provides the applicant with an opportunity to review remaining unmet standards in preparation for the capacity interview.

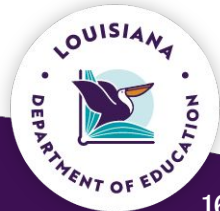


BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

Capacity Interview

The capacity interview is structured by the third-party reviewer and provides for an opportunity for applicants to:

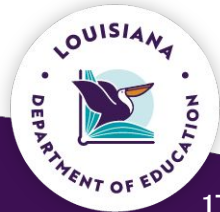
- Clarify plan;
- Address proposal gaps;
- Address evaluator questions and concerns; and
- Demonstrate competency through performance tasks.
- LDOE Offers a Technical Assistance Session to prepare applicants for the Capacity Interview



BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

Third-Party Final Recommendation

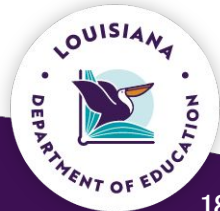
Post-Capacity Interview, the third-party application reviewer will issue a Final Recommendation to the LDOE. This recommendation is shared with the applicant. Upon receipt of the final recommendation by the third-party, the applicant is afforded the opportunity to respond to correct any factual errors in the recommendation report. The applicants may not present new information or attachments for consideration at this stage of the process.



BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

Internal Review Committee

- The Internal Review Committee will review each application, provide feedback to each section, and determine if the applicant response overall meets or does not meet the standards for each section. The application standards will serve as the basis for their determinations.



BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

BESE Meeting Requirements

SIT Committee- Public Presentation

- A public presentation is made at the BESE SIT Committee Meeting prior to the meeting on which the application will be voted on by BESE.
- During the public presentation, each applicant will be offered up to 5 minutes to present their school proposal. There will be an opportunity for public comment regarding the application presentation.
- BESE Public Presentation for Annual RFA Applicants: **June 9, 2026**

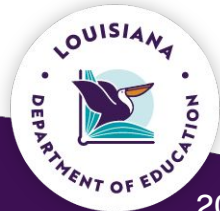


BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

BESE Meeting Requirements

SIT Committee Recommendation- Final Recommendation Presented to BESE

- The Department recommends to BESE whether to approve or deny each charter application.
- BESE has final authority.
- BESE Final Recommendation for Annual RFA Applicants: **August 18, 2026**



Diverse Learner Updates



MOY and EOY Literacy Screening Gifted Referral Data Collection

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 Kindergarten through Grade 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

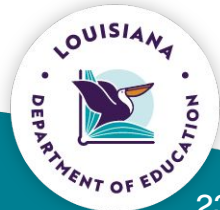
Collection will open April 13, and will be due the end of the business day May 11.



2023-2024 Final LEA Determinations

- Released in the FTP the week of April 20th. The packet includes:
 - LEA's Final Determination status:
 - Meets Requirements
 - Needs Assistance
 - Needs Intervention
 - Needs Substantial Intervention
 - 2023-2024 Unsupressed Performance Profiles
 - 2023-2024 Parental Involvement Survey Results for participating LEAs

Please contact yolanda.oates3@la.gov



2024-2025 Draft LEA Determinations

- Released in the FTP the week of May 4th.
- LEAs provided a review window for comments.
 - During this period LEAs may comment of their data.
 - A review may result in and update to or no changes to the data and/or determination
 - All comments must be made by May 29th

Please contact yolanda.oates3@la.gov



SPP/APR Parent Involvement Survey

Traditional School Districts

- Bienville Parish
- Bossier Parish
- Claiborne Parish
- Jackson Parish
- Jefferson Davis Parish
- Madison Parish
- Morehouse Parish
- St. Tammany Parish
- Terrebonne Parish
- Vermillion Parish
- West Baton Rouge Parish
- Special School District

Charter Schools

- Lake Charles Charter
- Crescent City Schools
- LA Key Academy
- KIPP New Orleans
- Willow Charter Academy
- MLK for Sci Tech
- Lake Forest Elementary
- Lake Charles College Prep
- Wilson Charter School
- Einstein Charter Middle
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Benjamin Franklin Charter

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



SPP/APR Parent Involvement Survey Timeline

Timeline	Milestone
April 30, 2026	LEAs match respondent ID to existing ID and follow up with non-respondents
May 29, 2026	LEAs match respondent ID to existing ID and follow up with non-respondents
June 22, 2026	LEAs match respondent ID to existing ID and follow up with non-respondents (final)
July 1, 2026	Survey closes

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



Seclusion and Restraint Reminder

All incidents of seclusion and restraint must be [reported](#) in SER.

- Key Considerations:
 - Are teachers and school staff using consistent protocols/tools/timelines for collecting and maintaining data?
 - What are the follow-up and intervention procedures when seclusion and restraint procedures repeatedly occur with the same student and/or adult?
 - In what manner and under what timelines are incidents of seclusion and restraint communicated to principals, local special education directors, and parents?
 - Who is responsible for submitting incidents of seclusion and restraint in SER?
- [Developing Local Guidance](#), [Reporting Guidance](#)

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



High Cost Services

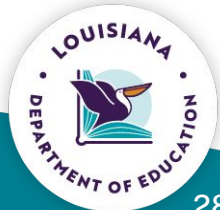
Round 1:

- School systems should submit amendments prior to **June 30**.
- The LDOE will monitor and conduct outreach to ensure amendments are submitted by the June 30 deadline.

Round 2:

- Currently in the allocation development process.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

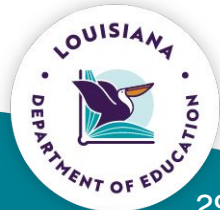


April Dunn Act Resources

Resources to support effective implementation are available in the [Students with Disabilities library](#).

- [Developing Procedures for Effective Implementation](#)
- [Checklist for Creating April Dunn Act Procedures](#)
- [Self-Assessment Guide](#)
- Understanding the Self-Assessment Guide, Sections [One](#), [Two](#), and [Three](#)

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



Annual SEAC Report Reminder

- Per legislation, the Division of Diverse Learners will collect links to school system's annual Special Education Advisory Counsel (SEAC) reports.
 - The collection is due **May 2026** and a collection link will be provided in future newsletters and April Office Hours.
- Those links are provided to Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) in an annual report.
 - Be sure the link is **live** on the school system's website.
- Reports from last year are publicly [linked](#) on the LDOE's website.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



Policy, Data, and Reporting EOY Collection Timelines

- Verify the Reevaluation Management Roster for Developmental Delay, Turning 9 deadline: **April 17.**
- 2023-2024 Final LEA Determinations posted in the Data Managers FTP the week of **April 20.**
- 2024-2025 Final LEA Determinations posted in the Data Managers FTP the week of **May 4.**
- MOE/EOY K-3 Literacy for Gifted and Talented Jotform opens the week of **April 20.**
- Begin verification of End of Year (EOY) data for Disciplinary Removals, Part C Transition, SER/SIS and SIS/SER Crosschecks: **April 24.**
- Verification letters for Seclusion and Restraint posted to FTP the week of **April 27.**



Policy, Data, and Reporting Deadlines

- MOE/EOY K-3 Literacy for Gifted and Talented collection deadline: **May 11.**
- Updates to Seclusion and Restraint Data deadline: **May 26.**
- Comments on the 2024-2025 Draft LEA Determinations deadline: **May 29.**
- Updated Seclusion and Restraint Policy deadline: **May 31.**
- 2025-2026 Local SEAC Report Deadline: **May 31**
- Parent Involvement Survey Deadline: **July 1**



Educator Evaluation Updates

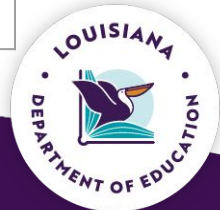


Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) Reminders

Systems are encouraged to begin finalizing 2026-2026 observation and Student Learning Target data. It is recommended that educators complete the following tasks in [LES](#).

Evaluators	Teachers	Counselors and School Leaders
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enter and complete observations● Accept and rate SLTs● Enter EOY conference scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enter SLTs● Enter self-assessment scores● Assess students and report SLT results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enter self-assessment scores● Enter SLTs and report results

Please email leads@la.gov with questions.



Roster Verification

The Louisiana Educator Portal (LEP) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purpose of value-added (VAM) analysis. The current [LEP User Guide](#) is now available.

- **February 2-April 15**

LEP is open for a view-only period. During this time, users can view and check roster data for accuracy, and make any corrections in Edlink 360.

- **April 16-May 28**

LEP will be open for roster verification. This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions



Safe and Healthy Schools



Save the Date: Louisiana School Safety Summit

- Louisiana School Safety Summit
- **Date:** July 7–8, 2026
- **Location:** Lake Charles Event Center 900 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA
- The Safety Summit is designed for school professionals and stakeholders involved in emergency response, including Emergency Response Coordinators, Administrators, Mental Health Professionals, and School Resource Officers.

Please email healthyschools@la.gov with questions



Charter School Program Grant Updates



CSP Supplemental Funding Awards

Our office brought CSP Supplemental Funding award recommendations to BESE on March 10.

Our recommendations requested over \$12.7 million to be awarded to 119 charters schools across the state.

Districts paid a critical role in the CSP Supplemental Funding application!

- Caddo
- City of Baker
- East Baton Rouge
- Jefferson
- Morehouse
- Orleans
- St. Landry
- Union

Funding summaries to come.

CSP Supplemental Funding

Please email cspgrant@la.gov with any questions.



CSP Microgrant Awards

We will bring CSP Microgrant Award recommendations to BESE in April.

These reimbursements are for districts that participated in the 2025 Excellence in Authorizing Cohort and either traveled to NACSA, funded third-party reviews of their charter applications in the 2025-2026 cycle, or both.

- East Baton Rouge
- East Feliciana
- Jefferson
- Orleans

CSP Supplemental Funding

Please email cspgrant@la.gov with any questions.



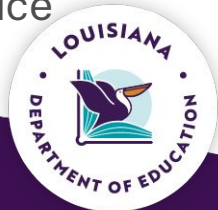
Excellence in Authorizing



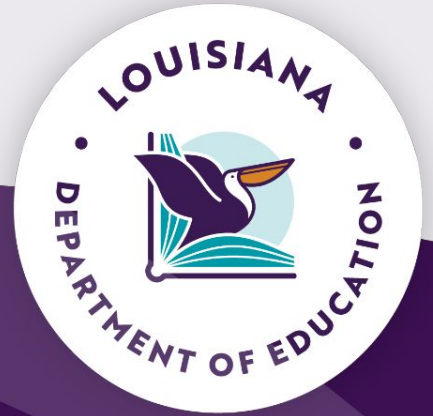
Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice

- The Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice was developed to build the individual and collective capacities of school systems in Louisiana to authorize charters using best practices.
- In conjunction with the LDOE, The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) will provide participants with resources, professional development, and collaboration opportunities targeting charter school authorizing.
- LEA charter authorizers will attend two full-day, in-person trainings and three virtual courses aimed to enhance the expertise of local authorizers and offer ongoing development in the best practices of charter school authorization.
- [Register](#) to participate in the Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice beginning in March.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.



Teacher Leader Summit 2026



Teacher Leader Summit

- **Hold the Date:** Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.
- [Registration](#) for Teacher Leader Summit 2026 opened February 16th.
 - General Pricing \$299
- The [Teacher Leader Summit event page](#) is now live. This will serve as the information hub for all things Summit, including registration, hotels, session details, speaker information, and much more.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.



Helpful Links

Resource	Description
Charter School Library	This webpage includes links to charter school finance, guidance, reviews, and pre-opening information.
Newsletter	This webpage offers a links to all newsletters offered by the LDOE.
Charter Inbox	Please reach out to us through the Charter Inbox with your questions.
Monthly Calls	Local Authorizer Monthly Call -held second Wednesday of the month BESE Authorized Monthly Call -held second Thursday of the month Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar - August 14th Edlink Weekly Q & A Sessions - Tuesdays at 11 a.m. eScholar Office Hours - August 21st



Questions

For further inquiries, please reach out to:

Charter Authorization

charters@la.gov

Ex. Director of Charter Authorization

Jade.Gambino@la.gov



Upcoming LEA-Authorized Charter Monthly Call



May 13, 2026 at 11:00 am

Topics: Board Governance

