

# ED CONNECT

A Publication for Louisiana  
TEACHERS + PRINCIPALS

DEPARTMENT of  
**EDUCATION**  
Louisiana Believes



April 2017

## In This Issue:

[Educator Highlights](#)

[Teacher Appreciation Week 2017](#)

[Instructional Support](#)

[Professional Development Opportunities](#)

[Finalizing Teacher Evaluations for 2016-2017](#)

[Principal Support](#)

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## EDUCATOR HIGHLIGHTS

- **G.W. Carver Primary in Ascension Parish Wins Prestigious 2017 TAP Founder's Award:** The TAP Founder's Award is the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching's (NIET) highest honor and is presented annually to one school for exceptional efforts to implement and represent the principles of the TAP System for Teacher and Student Advancement, resulting in improvements in student achievement. To read more about this school's accomplishments, view their [profile video](#).
- **Teacher-Made Lessons Make Inroads:** Read this Education Week article to hear how Meredith Starks, 3rd grade teacher at Bellaire Elementary in Bossier, is implementing the new ELA Guidebooks 2.0 in her classroom after helping write the curriculum last year.
- **Education Week Career Corner:** Features two blog posts from Louisiana educators on our state's early childhood programs.
  - **Learning Lessons for the Classroom: Attending an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program:** Hillary Watson's post about how attending the Children's Coalition Institute teacher preparation program has improved the quality of her teaching
  - **Rethinking Child Care Teacher Preparation in Louisiana:** Kendra Barnes' blog post about the success of Louisiana's early child care programs



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## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK 2017

During Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1-5, make sure to follow the Department on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for a

tribute to Louisiana's educators. Want to get in on the celebration? During the week, share with us why you believe in teaching with pictures of you and your students and the hashtag #Ibelieveinteaching.

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## INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

### **Science Standards Support**

The Department is working with professional development partners to align training to the new [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#). Upcoming training opportunities will include virtual and in-person options for science educators.

- The Department will release a series of live and recorded webinars May-July 2017;
- The Department and university partners will hold one- and two-day institutes at the 2017 [Teacher Leader Summit](#) June 6-9 in New Orleans;
- Louisiana Tech will provide intensive four-day summer training institutes in both [north](#) and [south](#) Louisiana;
- LSU Cain Center will provide summer training in an intensive two-day workshop to be held in [Baton Rouge](#).

Please see the attached flyers for dates, costs, and registration information, or email [louisianastandards@la.gov](mailto:louisianastandards@la.gov) with questions.

### **Instructional Support for the New Louisiana Connectors**

In order for the [Louisiana Connectors](#) to be used successfully during the 2017-2018 school year, the Department will offer sessions for teachers and administrators at the [2017 Teacher Leader Summit](#). Sessions will include new standards training, curricular and instructional resources, and parent communication tools. There will be a full-day cohort gathering for teachers who work directly with students who have significant disabilities and additional sessions for all to better understand the Louisiana Connectors and resources to help diverse learners.

Please email [louisianastandards@la.gov](mailto:louisianastandards@la.gov) with questions.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **NCCER Instructor Webinar**

The Department will host a webinar to support The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) craft Instructors with implementing [NCCER guidelines](#) at their accredited sites. The webinar will also review the following: NCCER Instructor trainings, certifications and processes, facility visits, registration of training modules, and accessing the [Registry](#). There will also be time for questions and answers.

The webinar will be offered at the following times:

- April 12: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- April 12: 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- April 19: 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- April 19: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**To join the Spring 2017 NCCER Instructor Update webinar (no preregistration required):**

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/instructor2017>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the 'listen only mode' if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

For further assistance, please contact [bryan.bertucci@la.gov](mailto:bryan.bertucci@la.gov) or [martha.moore@la.gov](mailto:martha.moore@la.gov).

### **Become an Advanced Placement Reader**

College Board is currently seeking AP readers from Louisiana for this year's AP tests. Every June, over 15,000 AP teachers and college faculty members from around the world gather to score the free-response sections of the AP Exams. AP Readers often describe the AP Reading as one of the best professional development experiences available. Please visit the College Board AP Reader [web page](#) for more information.

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## FINALIZING TEACHER EVALUATIONS FOR 2016-2017

### **End-of-Year Conversations: Principals and Teachers**

End-of-year conversations between principals and teachers should center on these questions:

- What is the attainment level for your student learning targets?
- What changes in practice took place this year based on feedback from observations?
- What opportunities and resources are available as we prepare for next year?

Principals should also ensure that teachers know which curricula and assessments will be used next school year. Please see [Louisiana Principals' Teaching and Learning Guidebook](#) for more information about end-of-year conversations or email [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov).

### **CIS and CVR End-of-Year Timeline: 2016-2017**

Compass end-of-year evaluations communicate educator effectiveness as measured by student outcomes and professional practice. The Curriculum Verification and Results (CVR) Reporting Portal provides a method for teachers of certain grades and subjects to verify their rosters to ensure the accurate reporting of transitional student growth data. The following are important activities and dates in regard to the Compass Information System (CIS) and the CVR portal:

- January-May: Teachers, counselors and librarians review observation data and feedback provided in CIS;
- January-August 15: Teachers, counselors and librarians report SLT results, principals rate SLTs;
- April 17-28: CVR roster verification period (view only);
- May 8-19: CVR roster verification period (open correction);
- August 15: Deadline for final evaluation ratings to be entered in CIS.

Please see the [CIS & CVR User Guide](#) for more information about CIS and CVR end-of-year processes.

Contact [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with questions about CIS processes or [ldoecvr@la.gov](mailto:ldoecvr@la.gov) with questions about CVR processes.

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## PRINCIPAL SUPPORT

### **LEAP 360 Interim Preview Webinar**

The Department is hosting two webinars for school system leaders and principals on the LEAP 360 interim assessment system for ELA and math grades 3 through 8. Topics include accessing the preview, scoring, and reporting.

Webinar dates and times (webinars are one hour long):

- Interim Preview Webinar: Tuesday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m.
- Interim Preview Webinar: Thursday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m.
- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/leap/>
- Phone: 1-855-240-2575; participant PIN code: 89147656

A recording of the webinar will be posted to the library. For more information, please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

### **CLEP Professional Development Opportunity**

The Department is partnering with the College Board to provide a free pre-conference session at the [2017 ACCUPLACER and CLEP National Conference](#), June 20-22, 2017 in New Orleans. The dedicated pre-conference session highlighting CLEP and Louisiana High Schools will be held on Tuesday, June 20 from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

- Pre-conference registration link: <https://clepandlouisianahighschools.eventbrite.com>
- Full conference registration link: <https://acculep-conference.collegeboard.org/>

Please email [collegereadiness@la.gov](mailto:collegereadiness@la.gov) with questions.

## **#45minutes FAFSA Social Media Campaign Launched**

Last week the Department launched a new social media campaign to promote FAFSA completions. The campaign, *45 Minutes = Infinite Possibilities*, will run through May 12 to provide parents and students with helpful tools and resources to guide them through the completion of the FAFSA.

Campaign resources will be promoted through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and will include the Department's new FAFSA [brochure](#), which walks parents and students through the steps for completing the FAFSA and the corresponding videos listed below to support the process.

- [How to Create a FASFA ID](#)
- [FASFA Walkthrough](#)
- [Common FASFA Mistakes](#)
- [After the FASFA](#)
- [Types of Federal Student Aid](#)
- [Responsible Borrowing](#)

Principals are encouraged to:

- Promote the FAFSA resources with counselors, students and parents;
- Identify student ambassadors who can help promote the FAFSA campaign on social media;
- Establish a FAFSA room or area in their school where students and parents can complete the FAFSA and have their questions answered.

Please email [ldfinancialaid@la.gov](mailto:ldfinancialaid@la.gov) or visit the Department's [financial aid homepage](#) for more information.

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