



February 2017

Dear Educators,

Monday, the Science Standards Review Committee, led by Lincoln Parish educator Cathi Cox-Boniol, completed its six-month process of reviewing the state's science standards, [approving](#) new [Louisiana Student Standards for science](#) for the first time in a decade and a half. A [recording](#) of this meeting is available on the Department's YouTube channel. As with the committees that preceded this one for ELA and math, the efforts of the educators and scientists involved in this effort went above and beyond the call of duty. The process entailed four public committee meetings and six workgroup meetings for a total of 17 meeting days, generating 10,272 comments on the standards from members of the public. The product of that labor is an enduring standard for learning that will touch the lives of children for a generation, in an unquestionably critical field of study for the modern world.

BESE will consider the standards at its March 7 and 8 meetings. If BESE approves the standards, educators across the state will then begin a multi-year process of training and support to ensure that you are fully equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to achieve these ambitious expectations.

This process would start in March, at statewide collaborations, in which your school system leaders will be provided with training on the new standards. Training will begin for teachers and principals at the June Teacher Leader Summit, led by Louisiana-based science experts at Louisiana Tech, LSU, and the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA), and will continue throughout the summer and fall to provide ongoing and continued support.

At the same time, the state will request proposals from publishers, universities, and educators for high-quality, standards-aligned curricula, providing our students with challenging learning experiences relevant to today's world of scientific knowledge and inquiry. It is essential that we let quality curriculum lead the way in the classroom and that we get good curriculum in your hands as soon as possible.

In the spring of 2018, the state will field test science questions aligned to the new standards, with fully operational tests to follow in years hence.

Training on the new standards can start immediately. Quality curriculum will follow. And measurement will come last. This process will work for students if all of us, at every level and in every sector, pull our weight. The benefit will be students engaged in a cutting-edge world of study, at every grade level, each and every day.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John White
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UPDATED ESSA FRAMEWORK RELEASED

The Department released an updated [ESSA framework](#) for public comment on February 6, 2017. Please see the Department's [ESSA web page](#) for more information about Louisiana's ESSA plan and a [presentation](#) on how the framework has evolved since it was first released last September. Please email essalouisiana@la.gov with questions or to submit your feedback.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION IN BRAILLE

Louisiana Tech University is hosting a webinar to prepare individuals to take the National Certification in Unified English Braille exam. They have also arranged for discount testing fees to take the NCUEB exam in March. Further information is available [here](#).

NEW EDUCATOR PREPARATION BLOG

[Tomorrow's Teacher: A Believe and Prepare Blog](#) was created to share how residencies are honoring and professionalizing teaching and educator leadership. Please visit the blog to hear from and collaborate with educators across the state. New blog posts will be made on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov for more information.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL MATH PILOT COURSES

The Department will pilot two high school math courses during the 2017-2018 school year. **School system applications to pilot the courses are due by February 24, 2017.**

- **Intensive Algebra I:** This course will provide support for students who enter high school behind in mathematics. The course will prepare students for Algebra I and help them master the content by the end of the course.
- **Statistical Reasoning:** This course is designed for eleventh or twelfth grade students either on the Jump Start diploma pathway or on the University diploma pathway. Students will learn content that prepares them for the ACT, college coursework, and real-world statistical applications.

For more information, see the [Supervisor Collaboration Deck](#) and the [Math Course Pilot Application](#). Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

ATTEND A PRACTICE TEST WEBINAR

The Department is hosting two webinars to share information about the 2016-2017 LEAP 2025 Practice Tests for ELA, math, and social studies. Facilitators will share information about the scoring process as well as information about accessing the tests and developing best practices for using them.

- **Webinar Dates and Times (all webinars are one hour long):**
 - Practice Test Webinar for Teachers: Monday, February 27 at 12:00 p.m.
 - Practice Test Webinar for Teachers: Wednesday, March 1 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ac/>
- **Phone:** 1-855-240-2575

For more information, please email assessment@la.gov.

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