

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



August 22, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday the Department [announced the start of a first round of applications](#) for 2018-2019 Title I school improvement grants for schools in need of comprehensive support. These schools, of which there are slightly more than 200 statewide, have been rated 'D' or 'F' for the most recent three consecutive years. And while seeking funding in the first round is completely optional – a second round will be conducted this winter – all LEAs will be required to submit plans to the state to improve these schools over the course of the next year.

Ultimately the state will review each plan, using a rubric to evaluate quality. High-quality plans will include essential and often discussed steps, including adopting high-quality curricula, professional development aligned with those curricula, and developing aspiring teachers under mentor educators.

At the same time, high-quality plans will also include two elements newer to the approach to struggling schools in Louisiana. First, LEAs statewide have been working with proven support organizations from across the state and around the country. These organizations can provide struggling schools not only additional capacity to address key challenges, but also a steady hand to guide school improvement as schools and their staffs inevitably change over the years. Next, [ESSA](#) requires that LEA plans for school improvement be [researched-based](#); the law is remarkably specific when it comes to this requirement and what constitutes evidence of effectiveness according to scholarly research. While NCLB saw its share of struggles, a decade and a half of intensive work to improve struggling schools under that law produced a robust [base of evidence](#) that radical improvement is possible given fidelity to principles that have worked repeatedly, in varied environments.

The challenge in front us, therefore, is our willingness to partner with organizations that have track records of success and to apply strategies proven to work for children. Both are achievable, in all districts.

Our opportunity is to improve the education we provide for tens of thousands of students in struggling schools. Let's make the most of it.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [High Cost Services Grant Webinar](#): August 23 at 10:00 a.m.
- [NCCER Webinar for CTE Supervisors and School Administrators](#): August 23 at 10:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.
- [Education Technology Webinar](#): August 24 at 11:00 a.m.
- [Compass Training in Monroe](#): August 25 at 8:00 a.m. ([new evaluators](#)) and 12:00 p.m. ([implementation support](#))
- [LEAP 2025 US History Webinar](#): August 29 at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): August 29 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Compass Training in Baton Rouge](#): August 30 at 8:00 a.m. ([new evaluators](#)) and 12:00 p.m. ([implementation support](#))
- [LEAP 2025 Algebra I and Geometry Webinar](#): August 30 at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- [Compass Training in Natchitoches](#): August 31 at 8:00 a.m. ([new evaluators](#)) and 12:00 p.m. ([implementation support](#))
- [Shreveport Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka Math](#): August 31 at 9:00 a.m.
- [LEAP 2025 English I and English II Webinar](#): August 31 at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [Submit plans for the test security audit](#) by August 31
- [Select computer-based or paper-based assessments for grades 3-4](#) by August 31

School System Support

New: Register for the Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka

Due to high demand, the Department is hosting additional Principal Institutes for Implementing Eureka Math.

- [August 31 in Shreveport](#)
- [October 11 in Baton Rouge](#)

The institutes will allow principals and other instructional leaders to dive deeply into the things that matter most in today's math classroom. Learning will spotlight shifts in the mathematics standards, strategic lesson planning, yearlong planning, and key "look-fors" in a Eureka math classroom. The Curriculum Implementation Scale will be used throughout the day to discuss concrete ways principals can improve Eureka implementation in their schools.

Please email classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: Register for the September Supervisor Collaborations

Sessions at the September Supervisor Collaborations will focus on topics relevant to school system supervisors including but not limited to accountability, instruction, early childhood, assessment, teacher professional development, and data systems. Please refer to the [Supervisor Collaboration Overview](#) for more information.

The September Supervisor Collaborations will take place in the following locations from **8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.***

Tuesday, September 12	Trinity Methodist Church, Ruston
Thursday, September 14	Bayou Church, Lafayette
Tuesday, September 19	Jefferson Parish School Board Office, Harvey
Wednesday, September 20	Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge

**[Teacher Leader Collaborations](#) will take place from 12:00 until 4:00 p.m. in the same locations.*

Registration will remain open until Wednesday, September 6. Note: registration for supervisors requires a code that will be provided by your network team. Please contact districtsupport@la.gov if you need your network team's contact information.

Please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions related to this event.

Reminder: Register for Compass Training

The Department is hosting a series of Compass trainings throughout the state to support new evaluators and school and school system leaders in the implementation of Compass. [The morning sessions](#), from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., will be training for new evaluators, and the [afternoon sessions](#), from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., are designed to support 2017-2018 Compass implementation.

Please note: the Shreveport training has been canceled.

DATE	LOCATION
August 25	Monroe City School Board Room 2006 Tower Drive Monroe, LA 71201
August 30	EBR Instructional Resource Center 1022 South Foster Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806
August 31	Main High School Building LSMSA 715 University Parkway Natchitoches, LA 71457
September 15	Acadia Parish School Board Educational Center 2122 North Parkerson Avenue Crowley, LA 70526

Registration is [now open](#) and space is limited. Please email compass@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Eureka Math Tools

The Department released two new tools that align with the Eureka curriculum.

Eureka Remediation Tools

The [Eureka Remediation Tools](#) were designed to help teachers who use the Eureka curriculum to target remediation for students needing extra support with on-time remediation directly connected to new learning before, during, and approaching on-grade-level work.

There will be three opportunities for training on the Eureka Remediation Tools:

- A full-day training held in Baton Rouge on Monday, September 11 ([register on Wisdomwhere](#));
- Sessions held at the September Teacher Leader Collaborations;
- A two-part series of webinars:
 - Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/academiccontent/>;
 - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name;
 - Select the "listen only mode."

Grades 4–6 Part One: September 27 at 3:30 p.m.
 Part Two: September 28 at 3:30 p.m.

Grades 6–Algebra I Part One: September 18 at 3:30 p.m.
 Part Two: September 21 at 3:30 p.m.

Updated Louisiana Guide to Implementing Eureka

The [Louisiana Guides to Implementing Eureka](#) have been updated to include sample implementation calendars. These calendars include "flex days" for remediation, assessments, and enrichment and are designed to:

1. help teachers appropriately pace instruction so that all modules and lessons are addressed during the school years and
2. show where the LEAP 360 Interim Assessments align to instruction.

Please email louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Please complete the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form and the [Security and Confidentiality Agreement](#) located in the Assessment Library under Resources + Forms and submit them to assessment@la.gov. Changes to the following personnel must be reported to the Department:

- District Test Coordinator (DTC)
- Backup DTC
- Accountability Contact
- Backup Accountability Contact

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: Tuesday, August 29, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380
- Participant PIN code: 89147656

K-3 Assessments

- **Kindergarten readiness:** Within 30 days of the first day of school, school systems must administer a kindergarten readiness screener to every child entering kindergarten for the first time. School systems have the option to administer Teaching Strategies Gold, The Desired Results Developmental Profile® (DRDP-K), or the Developmental Skills Checklist (DSC). 2017–2018 is the last year school systems may submit DSC scores.

- **K–3 Literacy Assessment:** School systems are required to administer a Department-approved literacy screening assessment in K–3. The administration window for the literacy assessment begins one week after the first day of school and continues for 15 school days.
- **Reporting: School systems must report KEA and K–3 literacy assessment data by September 29.** School systems administering the Teaching Strategies GOLD Survey® enter Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) results using the Teaching Strategies GOLD® database. School systems administering the DRDP-K will enter results in the [DRDP-K Reporting Form](#); those administering the DSC will enter results in the [DSC Reporting Form](#). For K–3 literacy assessment reporting, school systems will use the [K-3 Literacy Assessment Reporting Form](#), located in the [Assessment Library](#).

LEAP 2025

August 31 is the deadline to select computer-based or paper-based assessments for grades 3-4 in [eDIRECT](#). DTCs must make these selections for each school in their system.

ACT

The 2017-2018 [ACT MOU](#) and supporting documents are now posted in the Assessment Library under the ACT and WorkKeys section. The **ACT MOU** with original signatures and the Estimated Number of Expected Testers Worksheet **must be received by Department no later than September 29**.

Test Security

August 31 is the deadline for school systems selected for the test security audit to submit plans.

Resources

The following updated resources have been posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

- Accommodations forms
 - [IEP](#)
 - [Personal Needs Profile](#)
 - [English Language Learner plan](#)
 - [Unique Accommodation Request](#)
- [2017-2018 Assessment and Accountability Month-by-Month Checklist](#)
- [The Assessment and Accountability Office Hours Question and Answer document](#)

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: LEAP 2025 High School Assessments Webinars

The LEAP 2025 High School Assessments Webinars will cover information about the new five-level assessments for US History, Algebra I, Geometry, English I, and English II. Each webinar will be offered at two times: 9:30–10:30 a.m. and 3:30–4:30 p.m.

- LEAP 2025 US History Assessment: Tuesday, August 29
- LEAP 2025 Algebra I and Geometry Assessments: Wednesday, August 30
- LEAP 2025 English I and English II Assessments: Thursday, August 31

To join the LEAP 2025 High School Assessments Webinar

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>.
- Dial into the phone bridge: 1-855-240-2575.
- Enter meeting room number 89147656.

Please email assessment@la.gov for more information.

High School Opportunities

New: 2017–2018 NCCER Craft Instructor Webinars

The Office of Student Opportunities is hosting two webinars to support National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) craft instructors:

- Wednesday, August 30: New NCCER Craft Instructors at 10:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 31: NCCER Craft Instructor Updates at 10:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.

These webinars provide support for implementing [NCCER guidelines](#) at accredited sites. They will also review the following:

- instructor training;
- certifications and processes;
- facility visits;
- training module registration; and
- [registry](#) access.

There will also be time for questions and answers. No preregistration is required.

To join the **August 30 webinar for recently certified craft instructors** 10:00–11:00 a.m. or 3:00–4:00 p.m.

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccerinjector2018/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

To join the **August 31 craft instructor update webinar** 10:00–11:00 a.m. or 3:00–4:00 p.m.

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/newtonccer2018/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

For further assistance, please contact bryan.bertucci@la.gov.

Reminder: Join the NCCER Webinar for CTE Supervisors and School Administrators

The Office of Student Opportunities will host a webinar for Career and Technical Education (CTE) supervisors and school administrators to review the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) [guidelines](#) for the 2017-2018 school year. The webinar will also review the assurance letter, instructor requirements, Department processes, “Helper” pathways, facility visits, and the [registry](#). There will also be time for questions and answers.

To join the **2017–2018 NCCER Webinar for CTE Supervisors and School Administrators tomorrow, August 23 from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m. or from 3:00 until 4:00 p.m.**

- Go to https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccer_cte_2018/
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the “listen only mode.”

For further assistance, please contact bryan.bertucci@la.gov.

Talent

New: Letters of Eligibility for Out-of-State Teaching Certificates

The Department will now issue a letter of eligibility for teachers who are not yet employed with a Louisiana public school and who are [requesting an Out-of-State certificate \(OS\)](#). The OS will be issued at the request of the

Louisiana employing authority once employment is confirmed, to ensure the validity period begins when the teaching service begins. The application for the OS certificate is posted on the [Teach Louisiana webpage](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov for more information.

New: Sign Up for Personnel Director Office Hours

The Talent Office will hold dedicated office hours each week for personnel directors. During office hours, certification specialists will be available to answer questions about individual certification applications as well as certification policies and procedures.

Office hours will begin on Tuesday, September 5 and will be held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 until 10:00 a.m. and from 3:00 until 4:00 p.m. Please use this [link](#) to schedule time with a certification specialist.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov for more information.

Special Education

New: IEP Changes in SER

For the 2017–18 school year, the Department is updating the Special Education Reporting (SER) system for Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). These changes will affect the Accommodations and Act 833 portions of the IEP form. Details are located in the [2017 SER IEP Changes](#) document.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions regarding the IEP accommodation changes or email systemsupport@la.gov with questions regarding SER.

New: Graduation Waiver Changes

Last week, BESE approved changes to Bulletin 741 to remove the graduation waiver previously used to waive certain graduation components associated with state testing and end-of-course assessments for students with disabilities that met specific criteria.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, school systems should apply for [Act 833](#) for students previously eligible for the waiver. Act 833 provides a more comprehensive program to address the needs of students with disabilities who need an alternative pathway to graduation. For more information related to the approval of this change, please see the [August BESE update in this newsletter](#).

For more information contact rebecca.hanberry@la.gov.

Reminder: Join the High Cost Services Grant Webinar

The Department has established a high cost services grant to support Louisiana school systems and schools in providing high cost special education services for students with disabilities. **The Department will host a webinar to preview the 2017-2018 application at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.** No preregistration is required.

To join the High Cost Services Grant Webinar on August 23 at 10:00 a.m.

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/hcs082317/>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Dial phone number 1-855-240-2575 and enter meeting room number 30160130.
- Select the 'listen only mode' if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

Please email lindsey.mingo@la.gov with questions or for more information.

Data

New: Compass Information System (CIS) Updates

Please share this information with personnel directors.

Currently, Compass is open for the 2016-17 school year only. It will close at **5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 25, 2017**. School systems can continue to enter data online as usual until the deadline. Systems that choose to upload data rather than complete an online entry should place their completed files on the data management FTP site and email compass@la.gov to provide the name of the file.

The 2017-18 school year will open for roster updates on Monday, September 4, 2017.

Please email compass@la.gov for assistance.

Finance

Reminder: MFP Payment Schedule Released

The Department of Education has released the Minimum Foundation Program [payment schedule](#) for FY 2017-2018.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email andrea.kirumba@la.gov.

Reminder: Accountability for Weighted Student Funds in the MFP

Please forward to business managers.

Louisiana Revised Statute 17:7(2)(f)(i) provides for the accountability of weighted student funds included in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP). Per this statute, public school systems, LSU and Southern Lab schools, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, and Type 5, Type 2 and Type 3B charter schools are required to expend funds generated by applying the weighted factors contained in the formula for low income students, career and technical education course units, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students on items that serve the unique needs of students who generate such funds.

Funds must be expended on the following items:

- Personnel
- Professional Services
- Instructional Materials
- Equipment
- Supplies

The following items are attached for your reference:

- [FY2017-2018 Weighted Calculations - City-Parish School Systems](#)
- [FY2017-2018 Weighted Calculations - Charters and Other Public Schools](#)
- [AFR Reporting Details](#) (clarification on reporting specifics for each weight as it pertains to the AFR)

If you have any questions or need further information, please email kristen.smith2@la.gov.

Reminder: USDA Required School Lunch Match

Please forward to business managers.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that school systems and schools participating in the School Lunch Program contribute a portion of their state funds to the operation of this program. This [memo](#) and [spreadsheet](#) provide details regarding each school system's and school's required school lunch amount for FY2017-2018.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email at kristen.smith2@la.gov.

Educational Technology

Reminder: Education Technology Monthly Webinar

The August Education Technology Webinar will provide school system technology staff with updates for the 2017-2018 school year related to the Technology Readiness Tool, short-term and long-term device specifications, E-Rate, Education Superhighway Support, the Governor's Connect and Learn Initiative, and training opportunities.

To join the Monthly Education Technology Webinar on August 24 at 11:00 a.m.

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/edconnect/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Dial phone number: 646-307-1380 and enter meeting room number 89147656.
- Select the 'listen only mode' if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

Please email edtech@la.gov for more information.

Policy

New: August 2017 BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on August 16 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. The [2017 BESE Summary](#) details the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies.

Please email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov for more information.

New: Guidance on Student Fees

As first communicated in the June 20, 2017 weekly newsletter, [House Resolution 183](#) of 2017 urges and requests all public school governing authorities, including local school boards and charter school governing boards, to enact and publish policies relative to student fees. Please refer to the Department [guidance document](#) if your governing board has not yet enacted and published these policies. The Department will submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2018, identifying the policies that have been adopted, pursuant to the Legislature's request.

Contact erin.bendily@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Proposed Regulations to Implement Louisiana's ESSA State Plan

Last week the U.S. Department approved Louisiana's [ESSA state plan](#), meeting the state's longtime objective of a plan approved at the beginning of the school year rather than the end of the year. Proposed changes to align BESE bulletins [118](#) and [111](#) to the approved plan are posted on BESE's website for review and comment.

Please email jessica.baghian@la.gov with any questions or feedback.

Other

New: 2018 U.S. Senate Youth Application Released

Please share with principals and school counselors.

The Department and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation are pleased to announce the launch of the 2018 United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to spend a week in Washington, D.C. in March of 2018, and will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. The Department requests your assistance selecting these students.

Please distribute the [national program brochure](#) and [logistics memo](#) to high school juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups and stress the rules and regulations governing this competition.

For test security reasons, the essay topics will only be released to school systems and will not be available on our website. High school personnel should contact marian.johnson@la.gov for that information.

The names of the selected students and their application portfolios must be received no later October 4, 2017. Finalists will be notified by October 23, 2017.

Please email marian.johnson@la.gov for assistance.

Reminder: Submit Nominations for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The LDOE invites local superintendents and charter schools to submit nominations for up to three outstanding students for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The nominations must include a male and female student, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in career and technical education. Students should be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January and June 2018. Please see additional program requirements on the [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program page](#).

Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total) signed by the local superintendent or charter school leader and emailed to leslie.hill@la.gov no later than **Friday, October 27 at 4:30 p.m.** Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

Please email leslie.hill@la.gov with questions.