

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 5, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana's plan for the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#), or ESSA, establishes a long-term plan for elevating academic expectations and for addressing the needs of struggling students. Now that the [state's plan](#) has been posted, [reviewed](#), and [approved by the federal government](#), BESE and the Department will move to the next step in the process by posting changes related to the ESSA plan to bulletins that address accountability, assessment, and intervention. Bulletins that will be considered at BESE's October 17 and 18 meetings are now posted in the [ESSA library](#) for your review and consideration. The bulletins posted include the following:

- [Bulletin 111](#): Amendments include the addition of 2025 mastery goals, the creation of a progress index in school ratings, the inclusion of diplomas for students participating in the alternative assessment in the cohort graduation rate, and the identification of schools in need of comprehensive and urgent intervention.
- [Bulletin 118](#): Amendments include references to LEAP Connect, which will replace LAA 1 beginning in 2018-2019.
- [Bulletin 741](#): Amendments include updates to end-of-course assessment references, including new terminology and transition to a five-level grading scale consistent with LEAP 2025.

Posting these bulletins is the next step in a process that has spanned more than 18 months. Over the course of the next several weeks, I will meet with leadership of the superintendents' association and regional superintendent organizations to discuss the plan and the posted bulletins. I will also present the proposed amendments on the superintendent call September 13 and at the Superintendent Advisory Council September 22. I'm looking forward to your thoughts at each of those junctures.

Our students continue to excel as we raise our expectations. [Louisiana's plan for ESSA](#) establishes a long-term path to expectations as high as anywhere in the nation. An A-rated school in our state will be an A-rated school in any other state. But the plan is also intricate, and it contains details that should be reviewed carefully. I urge that you take the time to study the plan, and I look forward to your thoughts.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Webinar for New NCCER Craft Instructors](#): September 6 at 10:00 a.m.
- [School System Planning Call](#): September 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Shreveport Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka Math](#): September 7 at 9:00 a.m. (rescheduled)
- [NCCER Craft Instructor Updates](#): September 7 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Helping Families and Schools Recover in the Aftermath of Hurricane Harvey](#): September 7 at 1:00 p.m.
- [System Data Coordinator Webinar](#): September 7 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Special Education Policy Monthly Webinar](#): September 7 at 2:00 p.m.
- [AP Test Fee Funding Options Webinar](#): September 7 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Compass Training in Natchitoches](#): September 11
- [Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations in Ruston](#): September 12
- [Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): September 12 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Superintendents' Conference Call](#): September 13 at 9:00 a.m. (time change)
- [AP Test Fee Funding Options Webinar](#): September 14 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Compass Training in Baton Rouge and Crowley](#): September 15

Important Deadlines

- Register for [Supervisor](#) and [Teacher Leader Collaborations](#) by September 6.
- Submit completed resident and mentor [data collection template](#) by September 8.
- Complete [2017-2018 Course Choice registration](#) by September 11.
- Submit [School Redesign Planning Grant Application](#) by September 15.

School System Support

New: School Redesign Planning Grant Due

All school systems with a school identified on the [School Redesign List](#) must complete a full [School Redesign Grant application](#) in one of the two cycles during the 2017-2018 school year. Schools systems that would like more time to develop a strong plan for improvement should consider submitting a [planning grant application](#), which is due on **September 15, 2017**. School systems electing to apply for the planning grant should wait until Round 2 to submit a full School Redesign Grant application. To learn more about the grant application process, timeline and planning grant option, please review the [School Redesign LEA guidance](#), the [School Redesign Budget Form](#) and other materials on the LDOE [School Redesign webpage](#).

Please email questions to the contact for your [Network](#):

- Network A: [Shavonne Price](#)
- Network B: [Delaina LaRocque](#)
- Network C: [Kelly DiMarco](#)

New: Updated Information for the Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka

Due to the severe weather last week, the Department rescheduled the August 31 session of the Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka Math.

- [September 7 in Shreveport](#) (Rescheduled from earlier date; please [register or unregister here.](#))
- [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: Updated LDOE Planning Tools

The Department released updated versions on the 2017-2018 School System Planning Calendar and the 2017-2018 Educator Resource Guide. Updates include:

School System Planning Calendar: Updates highlighted in yellow

- Updates to WorkKeys, LEAP Connect and ELPT assessment windows

Educator Resource Guide: Updates marked in pink

- Addition of science scope and sequence documents
- Addition of Louisiana Connectors for Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Updated: September Superintendents' Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Wednesday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m. (Please note that this is a change to the original meeting time.)** You may begin dialing into the call fifteen minutes in advance by following the instructions below.

To join the Superintendents' September 13 call

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall>.
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109.
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #34167449.
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

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

Reminder: September School System Planning Call

The [September School System Planning Call](#) will take place tomorrow, September 6, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early Childhood Supervisors
- District Test Coordinators
- Accountability contacts
- Data Coordinators
- Curriculum Supervisors
- Teacher Leader and Mentor Teacher Supervisors

- Personnel Directors
- High School and Career and Technical Education Supervisors

Webinar login information:

- Webinar Name: September School System Planning Call
- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Phone number: 1-855-240-2575; PIN # 89147656

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Last Chance to 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, early childhood, and academics. 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.*

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

Reminder: Updated Information on Compass Training

Due to severe weather conditions, the Compass training events planned for August 30 and 31 were rescheduled. Please see the updated dates in the table below. **There is no need to register again if you were already registered for a training and wish to attend the rescheduled session.** However, if you would prefer to attend a different Compass training, please [modify your registration](#) while space is still available. We apologize for this inconvenience.

[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.

Date	Location
September 11	Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts Main High School Building 715 University Parkway Natchitoches, LA 71457
September 15	EBR Instructional Resource Center 1022 South Foster Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806
September 15	Acadia Parish School Board

	Educational Center 2122 North Parkerson Avenue Crowley, LA 70526
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Registration is [now open](#) and space is limited. Please email compass@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Device Toolkit Dashboard

Please share this information with district technology coordinators and district testing coordinators.

On August 29 DRC completed an update to the Device Tool Kit. This update now allows you to use the **Device Toolkit Dashboard** to visually monitor and manage your configurations and their devices. Any ORG Units previously created will appear in the new Device Toolkit Dashboard as configurations. Each configuration contains the same testing devices and TSM as the ORG Units from which it was created.

For more information, please refer to the [Device Toolkit Update Guide](#).

New: Release of High School Growth to Mastery Student Rosters

Please share with accountability contacts.

In 2017-2018, the academic progress that students make each year will become a more substantial part of our SPS formula. In measuring progress, two questions are asked: are students on track to mastery, and how are students doing compared to peers?

To assist with answering whether or not students are on track to mastery, the new accountability formula uses simple growth targets for every child. On September 1, 2017, the *2017-2018 High School Growth to Mastery Student* rosters were posted to each school system's FTP. The department also released the *High School Progress Index FAQ* that explains the process for setting targets for high school students. The FAQ document will be posted in the resources section of the accountability library next week.

Please send any questions to assessment@la.gov.

New: Updated LEAP 2025 Assessment Guides

[LEAP 2025 Assessment Guides](#) for grades 3-8 math, ELA, social studies, Algebra I, Geometry, English I, and English II have been updated and reposted to the Assessment Guidance library.

Summary of primary updates

- ELA: minor test design changes for all grades/courses
- ELA and math: session times updated for all grades/courses
- Social studies: achievement level descriptors for all grades

Future Updates

- The LEAP 2025 U.S. History session times are still being determined and guides will be updated with this information in September 2017.
- Specific calculator information about the online platform will be included in a Fall 2017 update of the LEAP 2025 Algebra I and Geometry Assessment Guides.
- Science grades 3-8 and Biology Field Test Guides will be available Fall 2017.

Please email assessment@la.gov for more information.

Reminders for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

A new file layout will be posted to [eDIRECT](#) on September 13, 2017. This layout will now include online accommodations for Interim, Diagnostic, EAGLE 2.0, and Practice Test assessments. **This new layout must be used to upload students for these assessment administrations. Students will not load unless school systems add the appropriate headers or move the students to the new layout.**

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

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

KEA and K–3 Literacy Assessment Reporting

Please share with district test coordinators, security coordinators, and K–3 ELA/reading supervisors.

All school systems are required to report beginning of the year Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) and K–3 screening assessment results by Sept. 29, 2017. LEAs should place completed KEA and K–3 literacy assessment reporting forms in the LEA Data Management folder on the [FTP Server](#). Contact your district data or security coordinator for access to the folder, if necessary. Please use the assessment reporting forms:

- [DRDP Reporting Form](#): KEA Desired Results Developmental Profile® (DRDP-K) data;
- [DSC Assessment Results Form](#): KEA Developing Skills Checklist® (DSC) data;
- TS GOLD® database: TS GOLD® reporting;
- [K-3 Literacy Assessment Reporting Form](#): K–3 literacy reporting.

Resources

The following updated resources have been posted in the Assessment Library:

- [Office Hours Questions and Answers 2017-2018](#);
- [2017-2018 Assessment Calendar](#); and
- [2017-2018 Individual Accommodation Plan \(IAP\)](#).

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

New: 2017 Louisiana Counseling Association Annual Conference

The Louisiana Counseling Association will hold its annual conference October 1–3, 2017, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge. This year's theme is Mentoring: Enriching and Empowering Relationships. Participants may register for the preconference learning seminars independently of the conference or as part of the conference registration. Counselors are encouraged to attend to get the latest information in the field and earn CEUs. Please visit the [LCA Conference](#) web page to register.

For more information, please email stephanie.marcum@la.gov.

New: Additional 2017–2018 NCCER Craft Instructor Webinars

Due to the weather emergency last week and the closure of school systems, the Office of Student Opportunities is hosting two additional days of webinars to support National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) craft instructors:

- Wednesday, September 6: **New NCCER Craft Instructors** at 10:00 a.m.

- Thursday, September 7: **NCCER Craft Instructor Updates** at 10:00 a.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.

To join the NCCER Webinar from 10:00–11:00 a.m. on September 6 or 7:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccerinstructor2018/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

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

New: Course Choice Funded through Supplemental Course Allocation

With an increase of \$10 million dollars to the Course Choice program funded through the Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA), students and schools will now have greater access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers. Each school district and independent public school has been provided with an allocation in the MFP to fund these course offerings.

Please refer to [Table 4 of the MFP Budget letter](#) to determine your allocation amount. These course offerings will enable schools to provide courses not currently available to their students, including:

- Career and technical preparation, supporting the Jump Start program
- Academic work required to achieve TOPS
- Advanced coursework not available at the school due to limited resources
- Dual Enrollment
- STEM course offerings
- Intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation

[Registration for 2017-2018 is now open and will close on Monday, September 11 at 5:00 p.m.](#) Please refer to the Course Choice Registration instructions for details on the registration process. The [2017-2018 Course Provider Directory](#), which includes individual catalogs, is also available on the Department's website. The [Course Choice Scheduling Tool](#) is a resource to help you determine which provider is offering course titles you are seeking for your students.

Please e-mail sca@la.gov with any questions.

Talent

New: Nominate Louisiana's 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year

Please forward to principals and teachers.

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department, along with [Dream Teachers](#) and the [Louisiana Association of Principals](#), honors the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. Part of the selection process for naming the district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members.

If you or someone you know meets the criteria below, please submit a [nomination](#).

- Demonstrates excellence in teaching or school leadership, guiding students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls.
- Embodies lifelong learning.
- Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a culture of respect and success.

Nominations must be submitted by September 29, 2017, and may be made via the [nominations portal](#) or by visiting the by visiting the [Department's website](#). Nominations will be sent to the local school system for consideration as they select their top candidates for the full application process. For more information, please review the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Nomination Overview](#).

Contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Submit Mentor and Resident Data Collection Template

As a reminder, school systems should submit their completed resident and mentor [data collection template](#) by September 8, 2017. For questions related to the data collection template, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov for more information.

Special Education

New: High Cost Services Grant Round 1 Now Open

The 2017-2018 High Cost Services Grant is now open for Round 1 applications. The application will close on Thursday, September 28. For more information about the 2017-2018 application, please refer to the [state plan](#) as well as the [slide deck](#) from August High Cost Services Webinar.

If you have questions about the application, please email doe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Reminder: Join the Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

To join the Special Education Policy Monthly Webinar (no preregistration required):

- Go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/spedsept/>.
- Dial into the phone bridge: 1-855-240-2575.
- When prompted, enter the participant code: 30160130.

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

Data

New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

Please forward to data coordinators.

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices.

To join the September 7 System Data Coordinator Webinar at 1:00 p.m.

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only mode."

The presentation will be posted on the [INSIGHT](#) Coordinator's Portal under Monthly DC Webinars by Wednesday, September 6.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Audit Assurances FY 2016-2017

Please forward to FTP coordinators and audit staff.

The Audit Assurances packet is available on the [INSIGHT](#) portal under Announcements. This packet contains information used to facilitate improvement in the data collection and reporting procedures during school system's annual financial audit. School systems should download the packet and provide it to the appropriate audit staff. In order to better assist school systems in this process, the Department has added documentation/reports for various audit assurance schedules which will be available on the data management FTP site August 31 through December 31. The filename is "LEACode_LEAName_2016_Assurance Schedules.zip." Contact information for each schedule is included in the packet.

Please direct questions to systemsupport@la.gov.

Federal Programs

New: Helping Families and Schools Recover in the Aftermath of Hurricane Harvey

Please share this information with homeless education contacts.

The U.S. Department of Education will host a webinar specifically for Louisiana and Texas to provide guidance on the appropriate steps to take in the aftermath of a natural disaster such as Hurricane Harvey on **Thursday, September 7 at 1:00 p.m.** Topics to be covered include:

- Context: What should I expect now that the storm has passed?
- Support: What educational rights and supports are available for students made homeless as a result of Hurricane Harvey?
- Strategies: What next steps can I take to help families and schools recover?
- Federal resources: Where can I go for more information?
- Questions and Answers

This webinar is recommended for all local homeless education liaisons. To register, please go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7509000697785127682>.

For further information, please email tasha.anthony@la.gov.

Finance

Reminder: 2017-2018 Advanced Placement Test Fee Funding Options Webinar

Please share with high school academic supervisors, school counselors, school business officials, district test coordinators, and federal program directors.

Since 1998, the federal government has provided states with dedicated funding to offset the cost of AP exam fees for low-income students under a Title I program called the Advanced Placement® Test Fee Program. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) eliminated this program starting with the 2017-2018 school year choosing instead to consolidate the AP grant funding with 40 other educational programs to provide an increase in less-restrictive Title I funding to local school systems.

For more information on Advanced Placement test fee funding options available for the 2017-2018 and beyond, **please participate in one of the webinars scheduled for Thursday, September 7 and Thursday, September 14 from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m.**

To join the 2017-2018 Advanced Placement Test Fee Funding Options Webinar:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/aptestfeeoptions1718/>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Audio access: 855-240-2575; participant code: 38582295

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

Policy

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.

Please email erin.bendily@la.gov for more information.