

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 26, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Next month nearly 500 educators across our state will begin training to serve as Louisiana mentor educators. Their responsibilities will include guiding the development of hundreds of aspiring resident teachers, next year and in the future. Louisiana is creating a truly professional pathway for this most noble of professions.

Analysis and studies indicate, however, that not every region of our state is able to participate fully in this important work. A [new report](#) published today by the Department indicates that only 9 percent of the state's entirely rural parishes have been able to recruit and develop teacher residents, while nearly half of other parishes have been able to. Teachers in the most remote communities, according to the report, are also more likely to teach out of their license areas and report needing further preparation in order to be fully prepared for the classroom.

I hope you will read the [report](#), especially those of you who live and work in rural communities. It illustrates a challenge well known in many rural communities today: too often we have not provided teachers the full preparation they need prior to becoming full-time teachers.

There are many reasons for this, of course. Rural districts are, by definition, further from population centers. They are often located more than an hour away from the universities whose students serve as residents. These are not new issues.

But we cannot exacerbate these issues by leaving rural communities behind as the state moves ahead. If teachers in cities and suburbs deserve to be prepared as residents, under the tutelage of veteran educators, so too do teachers in rural communities. We must figure out how to achieve this, without creating financial hardships for college seniors, college graduates seeking to become teachers, or schools themselves.

I know we can figure it out. Today's report will serve as a starting point, I hope, for facing a difficult fact and for solving a challenge that must be solved. Aspiring teachers in rural communities deserve to be prepared as professionals.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Special Education Advisory Council](#): September 27 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Charter School Authorizers Workshop](#): September 27 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Eureka Remediation Tools for Grades 4 through 6, Part One](#): September 27 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Eureka Remediation Tools for Grades 4 through 6, Part Two](#): September 28 at 3:30 p.m.
- [CLEP® in Louisiana Webinar](#): September 28 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Network A Fall Counselor Collaboration-Bossier](#): October 3 at 8:00 a.m.
- [Network A Fall Counselor Collaboration-Many](#): October 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- [October School System Planning Call](#): October 4 at 1:00 p.m.
- [LEAP 2025 High School Practice Test Webinar for Supervisors](#): October 5 at 9:00 a.m.
- [LEAP 2025 High School Practice Test Webinar for Teachers](#): October 5 at 3:30 p.m.
- [LEAP 2025 High School Practice Test Webinar for Teachers](#): October 6 at 9:00 a.m.
- [LEAP 2025 High School Practice Test Webinar for Supervisors](#): October 6 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Eureka Principal Institute in Baton Rouge](#): October 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Important Deadlines

- Submit [Round 1 School Redesign Grant application](#) by September 29.
- Submit [ACT Memorandum of Understanding](#) by September 29.
- Report [KEA and K–3 screening assessment results](#) by September 29.
- Return [Estimated Number of Testers Worksheet](#) by September 29.
- Submit [Teacher and Principal of the Year nominations](#) by September 29.
- Submit [TS GOLD® data](#) by October 6 (extended).
- Complete [Louisiana Assessment Commission Survey for School Systems, School Leaders, and Teachers](#) by October 10.
- Submit [2017-2018 High Cost Services Grant Round 1](#) applications by October 13 (extended).

School System Support

New: Register for the National Science Teachers Association Conference

This year the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) is pleased to partner with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to hold their [science conference](#), “Celebrate Science: Inspire, Integrate, Innovate,” in New Orleans, November 30–December 2, 2017.

With the approval and implementation of the new [Louisiana Student Standards for Science \(LSSS\)](#), the fall conference is well timed to provide Louisiana teachers of science with sessions to improve their understanding of the content of the revised science standards and support instructional strategies that make connections between literacy and science concepts.

Please visit the [NSTA conference site](#) to [register](#).

Reminder: Register for Upcoming Eureka Institutes

At the Eureka Principal Institute, principals explore strategic lesson planning that leverages a Tier 1 curriculum to change the way teachers plan. Principals understand the key look-fors in a math classroom, plan pre- and post-observation conversations, and explore ongoing professional development strategies. The day is grounded in the Department’s [Curriculum Implementation Scale](#).

The Eureka Teacher Institute allows teachers to dive deeply into the things that matter most in today’s math classroom. Learning spotlights the shifts in the mathematics standards, strategic lesson planning, yearlong planning, and leveraging the Eureka curriculum for remediation.

	Date	City	Registration Link
Eureka Principal Institute	October 11	Baton Rouge	FULL
Eureka Teacher Institute	October 25	Bossier	Register in Wisdomwhere .
	October 27	Ruston	
	November 1	Baton Rouge	
Eureka Principal Institute	November 3	Baton Rouge	Register in Wisdomwhere .

Please email louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: October School System Planning Call

The October School System Planning Call will take place October 4, 2017, 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: October 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.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Distribute and Complete Louisiana Assessment Commission Survey

The legislature, through [HR 166](#) of the 2017 Regular Session, has requested the Commission on Assessment Review and Use in Public Schools to study the current use and administration of assessments and make recommendations relative to student assessments.

HR 166 requires the Commission to collect data on assessments via an online survey. The survey timeline is dictated by the resolution. School systems, school leaders, and teachers will provide crucial data in assisting the Commission to best understand the current state of assessments, and inform their recommendations to the legislature.

School System Survey: Please assign one lead to complete the survey on behalf of the school system. School system superintendents and district test coordinators will receive a survey link directly from the Commission Chair, Superintendent Kevin George. The assigned lead should complete the survey in partnership with the chief academic officer, district test coordinator, and school system leader.

School Leader/Educator Survey: Please distribute the [Louisiana Assessment Commission Survey for School Leaders and Educators](#) to all school leaders and teachers. **All surveys must be completed by October 10, 2017.** The results will be posted on the [Louisiana Department of Education](#) website by October 15, 2017.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

KEA and K–3 Literacy Assessment Reporting

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

The following KEA and K–3 literacy assessment reporting forms must be uploaded to the LEA Data Management folder on the [FTP Server](#) by **September 29, 2017**:

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

The deadline for TS GOLD® reporting has been extended to October 6, 2017.

Please see the [Kindergarten Entry Assessment and K–3 Literacy Assessment Guidance](#) in the [Assessment Library](#) for more information; contact the district data or security coordinator for access to the FTP folder.

ACT

- September 29 is the deadline to submit the [2017-2018 ACT Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) and [Estimated Number of Testers Worksheet](#). Originals should be mailed to the following address:

Office of Academic Policy and Analytics
Louisiana Department of Education
1201 North Third St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Attn: Trish Gilbert

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Join the LEAP 2025 High School Practice Test Webinars

Please share this information with high school teachers.

The Department is hosting webinars this week to discuss the LEAP 2025 high school practice tests. Webinars will be recorded and posted to the [practice test page](#) later in October.

- **October 5, 2017**
 - Supervisors: 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - Teachers: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

- **October 6, 2017**
 - Teachers: 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - Supervisors: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

To join the LEAP 2025 High School Practice Test Webinar

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>.
- Dial access number 1-855-240-2575.
- Provide meeting room number 89147656.

Please email assessment@la.gov for more information.

Student Opportunities

New: Save the Date for the 2018 Jump Start Convention

The 2018 Jump Start Convention will be held on January 23, 2018, at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. Attendees will include district administrators, high school principals, Jump Start regional team members, and regional economic development and workforce development organizations. Registration and session information will be released later this year.

Please email jumpstart@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: CTE Leadership Academy for Current and Aspiring CTE Leaders

Please share this information with current, new, and aspiring career and technical education (CTE) leaders.

On November 6, 7, and 8, CTE Supervisors and Jump Start Leadership Team members will hold nine regional meetings to describe the different features of the new [Louisiana CTE Leadership Academy](#). Topics include

- CTE Leadership Training: elite nine-day program for current and aspiring CTE leaders to earn full leadership certification
- CTE Leadership Academy Badges: CTE leaders earn mastery badges on critical Jump Start implementation topics

Please visit the [Louisiana CTE Leadership Academy](#) website to learn more and to [register](#) for the November regional leadership meeting nearest you.

Please email jumpstart@la.gov with any questions.

Special Education

New: ESSA and Alternate Assessment Participation Rates Webinar

Per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any LEA with more than 1 percent of students participating in the alternate assessment must take certain actions. In early October, the Department will release data on the participation rate of students who take the alternate assessment to school systems.

Information on these changes will be provided in a webinar on October 10, at 2:00 p.m., including information on the ESSA requirements for school systems when the 1 percent participation threshold is exceeded.

To join the ESSA and the Alternate Assessment Participation Rates Webinar (no preregistration required):

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

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

New: 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, October 5, 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/specialedoct/>
- Dial into the phone bridge: 1-855-240-2575.
- When prompted, enter the participant code: 30160130.

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

New: High Cost Services Grant Round 1 Deadline Extended

The deadline for Round 1 applications for the 2017-2018 [High Cost Services](#) grant has been **extended to Friday, October 13, 2017**.

For more information, please refer to the [slide deck](#) from the August Webinar, or email lindsey.mingo@la.gov with questions.

Finance

New: Federal Award Procurement Grace Period Extended

Please forward to business managers and financial officials.

On May 17, 2017, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued an [amendment](#) to the Uniform Grants Guidance (UGG) that further extends the procurement grace period for recipients of federal awards. This will allow a grace period of one additional fiscal year for non-federal entities to implement changes to their procurement policies and procedures. Therefore, the implementation date for the procurement standards will start for fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2017, for those entities choosing to take advantage of the

extension. Information on the new procurement standards contained in the Uniform Grants Guidance can be found in the [Quick Reference Guide](#).

Please email nakia.jason@la.gov with questions regarding these updates.

Federal Programs

New: USDA 2017 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant

Please share this information with child nutrition supervisors.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, has awarded Louisiana \$465,536 to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns. Priority will be given to schools in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals and have not received equipment grant funding in 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, or 2016.

Grant-related information is located in the [Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities](#) memo. Online applications will be available on the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) website on October 2, and must be submitted by October 31.

Please email helen.folks@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Protocol for Budgeting Program Balances in eGMS

In order to access funds, all schools systems, including charters, with unbudgeted federal fund balances must submit revised program budgets for any unbudgeted fund balances within 14 days of their being available in eGMS and ensure that their application is in Submitted or Approved status. Please see the [E-Grants Management System](#) for more information.

Please email ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions regarding these protocols.

Reminder: Equitable Services to Private Schools

Per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), each state is required to designate an ombudsman to help ensure equity for private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel. The Department recently named Daphne Flentroy as the new LDOE Ombudsman. Responsibilities include monitoring and enforcing equitable services provisions involving private school services as well as assisting school systems with private school consultation meetings and providing support for any unresolved issues.

Please see the announcement section of the [LDOE E-Grants Management System](#) for more information, or email daphne.flentroy@la.gov for assistance with implementing equitable services to private schools.

Statewide Monitoring

Reminder: 2017-2018 First Quarter Coordinated Monitoring Schedule for School Systems

Beginning October 15, targeted monitoring of prior year activities will occur for the following federal and/or state programs:

- Education Excellence Funds,

- School Improvement Grant (Cohorts 5 and 6),
- Migrant Education Program,
- English Language Acquisition and Immigrant Set-Aside Programs,
- Rural Education Achievement Program,
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program, and
- Carl Perkins, Career and Technical Education Program.

A statewide monitoring team leader has been assigned to each school system, charter school, and nonpublic entity and will serve as the facilitator of all processes relative to the monitoring event. Any necessary planning documents, monitoring protocols, and instructions for submitting information to the LDOE will be sent directly to the district superintendent, charter school CMO, and/or other authorized individual.

Please refer to the [tentative monitoring schedule](#) for more information; email linda.tindall@la.gov with questions.