



LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 7, 2025

In This Issue

[Message from the Superintendent](#)
[Important Dates for School Systems](#)
[Teaching and Learning](#)
[Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations](#)
[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)
[Career and College Readiness](#)
[School Choice](#)
[School System Financial Services](#)
[School System Relations](#)

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to schools and systems across the state for observing a moment of silence yesterday in honor of the lives lost in the senseless act of terrorism in New Orleans. Our prayers remain with those lost, their families, and their friends. Louisianans are resilient, and I know we will stand strong together in the wake of this tragedy.

As a reminder, [Governor Landry has signed an executive order](#) declaring a period of mourning. The order calls for all flags to be flown at half-staff until January 17 to honor and remember each innocent life lost. In Louisiana, we are no stranger to adversity and will honor the memory of the victims while moving forward with resolve.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [January 8 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [January 8 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [January 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [January 14 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [January 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [January 17 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [January 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [January 27 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 4 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Social Studies Office Hours: [January 8](#)
- ELA Professional Learning Series Leader Session: [January 13](#)
- ELA Professional Learning Series Teacher Session: [January 15](#)
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)

- IAT Recruitment Needs Due: [January 15](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 1: [January 22](#)
- 2025-2026 Super App (competitive portion) Deadline: January 23
- New Teacher of the Year Application Deadline: [January 24](#)
- Standards for ELA and Math Review Committee Applications Deadline: [January 27](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 3, Baton Rouge: [February 4](#)
- 2025 PAEMST Nomination Deadline: [February 6](#)
- Louisiana ACT Summit: [February 6](#)
- Diploma and Seal Order Deadline: [February 7](#)
- 2025 Fast Forward Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit: [February 25](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 2: [February 26](#)
- 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy Application Deadline: [February 28](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 3: [March 26](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 4: [April 30](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

LSS Review in ELA and Math: Committee Applications Close January 27

Please share with curriculum leaders and school system leaders.

The 2025 review of the Louisiana Student Standards in English language arts (ELA) and math will occur this spring. The LDOE is recruiting steering committee and content workgroup participants to engage in this work. Participation requires attendance at regular in-person meetings scheduled from April through July. Funding is available for participants traveling long distances.

All interested educators and community members should [apply](#). Applications close on January 27 at 8 a.m. Please share the [application](#) with potential participants.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

International Associate Teacher (IAT) Recruitment

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The 2025-2026 International Associate Teacher (IAT) Program recruitment cycle is coming to a close. Schools or school systems interested in recruiting an IAT should complete and submit the [2025-2026 Requested Needs Form](#) by January 15 to be considered for potential teacher placements.

Please consult the [Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Guide](#) for more information on recruitment guidelines and timelines.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Seals of Biliteracy

Please share with school and school system leaders.

Since the approval of [RS 17:273.4](#) in 2024, Louisiana students may earn the State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating literacy in English and another language. In addition to the Diploma and Seal order form, school systems should submit the [Seals of Biliteracy Request Document](#).

High schools with at least 5% of their graduating class earning the State Seal of Biliteracy will be celebrated at the June BESE meeting.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

ELA Professional Learning Series for Teachers and Leaders

Please share with ELA instructional leaders, school leaders, and school system leaders.

The LDOE is hosting a professional learning series for ELA teachers and a learning series for ELA instructional leaders.

The first session for ELA teachers will focus on effectively internalizing and preparing for teaching a new unit from their high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). [Registration](#) is now open for the first session of this learning series, which will take place on January 15 at 3:30 p.m.

The first session for ELA instructional leaders will focus on supporting teachers in effectively internalizing and preparing to teach a new unit from their HQIM. [Registration](#) is now open for the first session of this learning series, which will take place on January 13 at 3:30 p.m.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Comprehensive Criminal Background Check (CBC) Requirement for Certification

Please share with educators, human resources directors, school leaders, system leaders, teacher candidates, and teacher preparation providers.

Under Louisiana law (R.S. 17:8.9), a comprehensive criminal background check (CBC) is required for teacher certification. This requirement goes beyond the CBC conducted for employment purposes. A fingerprint-based CBC, processed through the Louisiana State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, is mandatory for issuing, renewing, advancing, or modifying a certificate.

Effective January 1, the LDOE will utilize the updated [Professional Conduct Form](#), included with all certification applications, to determine if a cleared CBC dated within the past five years is on file. If no valid CBC is found, applicants will be instructed to schedule fingerprinting at an [IdentoGO](#) location.

Once the applicant's CBC is cleared, a "[Clear Credential](#)" will be added to their certification record, allowing all certification requests to be processed.

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Removes \$25 Credential Clearance Processing Fee for Certification

Please share with educators, HR directors, system leaders, teacher preparation providers, and teacher candidates.

The LDOE previously communicated that there would be a \$25 processing and handling fee for the Credential Clearance (CC) application, applicable to certification applicants without a criminal background check (CBC) on file and run in the past five years.

This fee has been removed to implement this new process. Applicants will not be required to pay a fee to the LDOE, and the applicant will not be required to complete an application separate from the certification application requesting issuance, renewal, advancement, or modification. All other certification fees remain the same as outlined on the [Certification Fee chart](#). The previously communicated fees associated with the criminal background check for the vendor, state police, etc. also remain the same.

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher of the Year: Informational Overview for Candidates

Please share with coordinators and new TOY system-level winners.

School systems may select up to three new teachers (one for elementary, middle, and high school each) to move to the state competition. State candidates must submit their applications in the New Teacher of the Year online [application portal](#) by January 24.

The LDOE will host one more optional call to support teachers as they prepare their state-level applications and navigate the online application portal.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 15 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92085647820?pwd=GjP82O4HKmZrFEXxYRv2XexgeRdaou.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 920 8564 7820
- **Passcode:** 121463
- **Phone:** 346 248 7799

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Aspiring Educators Attending 2025 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with educators, principals, and pre-education pathway sponsors.

The LDOE has limited funding to help offset the costs of sending high school aspiring educators to Teacher Leader Summit. Allowable expenses for this funding include:

- Student registration fees
- Student lodging and transportation fees
- Sponsor lodging and transportation fees

Funding allocations will be based on system need and considered on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply for funding, complete the [application](#) by January 17 at 5 p.m.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Maximize Efficiency: Unlocking Effective School Schedules Through Smart Staffing

Please share with counselors, principals, and principal supervisors.

The LDOE has partnered with New Solutions K-12 to offer a half-day workshop on effective staffing and scheduling. Registration is now open for in-person staffing and scheduling support in developing dynamic and effective schedules aligned to best practices.

- [Elementary Schools - Unlocking Effective Schedules Through Smart Staffing](#)
January 14 at 9 a.m. | Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge
- [Secondary Schools - Unlocking Effective Schedules Through Smart Staffing](#)
January 14 at 1 p.m. | Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge
- [Elementary Schools - Unlocking Effective Schedules Through Smart Staffing](#)
January 15 at 9 a.m. | Northwestern State University, Natchitoches
- [Secondary Schools - Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing](#)
January 15 at 1 p.m. | Northwestern State University, Natchitoches

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Series

Please share with school and system instructional leaders.

The Louisiana Literacy team is hosting a four-part reading intervention series designed to help instructional leaders develop a plan to implement reading interventions in grades 6-12. Topics will include:

- Starting interventions through appropriate assessments
- Utilizing a multi-tiered system of support for intervention
- Progress monitoring and intervention best practices

The sessions will be delivered through the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform. Attendees must be logged in to participate and receive new learning. A course code will be provided during each session.

Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Series Schedule:

- Session 1: [January 22 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Session 2: [February 26 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Session 3: [March 26 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Session 4: [April 30 at 10 a.m.](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes/System Leader Regional Collaboration

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

School Support Institutes (SSI) 2024–2025 learning will cultivate coherence and support Louisiana leaders to establish and maintain well-organized instructional programs that meet the diverse needs of all students. Session 3 of [School Support Institutes](#) (SSI) and [System Leader Regional Collaborations](#) will be held in January and February.

- **Jan 28: Monroe** - ULM Bayou Pointe, 1 Warhawk Way
- **Jan 29: Shreveport** - Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo Street
- **Jan 30: Lafayette** - ULL Student Union, 620 McKinley Street
- **Feb 4: New Orleans (Kenner)** - Pontchartrain Convention Center, 4545 Williams Boulevard
- **Feb 5: Baton Rouge** - Crowne Plaza, 4728 Constitution Avenue

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions or changes in registration.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

January System Leaders Call

Please share with school and system leaders.

- **Date and Time:** January 17 at 9 a.m.
- **Zoom Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92911036388?pwd=PMsYm5zvVfzfivPazlZGR0UibyYb9SL1>
- **Meeting ID:** 929 1103 6388
- **Passcode:** 783795
- **Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 783795

Please contact sabre.masters@la.gov with questions.

New LDOE Website Now Live

Please share with school and system leaders.

The LDOE's new website is now live. Please note that the new website address is doe.louisiana.gov and is no longer louisianabelieves.com. During this transition phase, old website pages will redirect to the new website. [Visitors can also find a quick preview post about the new website with links to the most popular pages from the previous site.](#)

Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

CSI/TSI Plan Submission

Please share with business managers and federal program directors.

LEAs must develop a comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) plan or targeted support and improvement (TSI) plan based on labeled status under 1111(d)(1). LEAs will be required to submit a [CSI/TSI plan](#) in eGMS. The application is now open and the submission deadline is May 2.

A [CSI/TSI application rubric](#) is now available.

Please contact schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ACT Spring Statewide Administration

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

District test coordinators must have all accommodations for ACT spring statewide administration submitted to ACT for approval no later than January 24. ACT will send a final reminder email on January 17.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect and ELPT Connect Eligibility

Please share with special education leaders and testing coordinators.

In accordance with BESE policy, final determinations for student eligibility to participate in an alternate assessment must be on IEPs in eSER no later than January 10.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for alternate assessment eligibility guidance questions or assessments@la.gov with questions regarding testing.

Career and College Readiness

Spring 2025 Counselor Institute

Please share with assistant principals, CTE supervisors, high school principals, and counselors.

Spring 2025 Counselor Institute is scheduled for early February. Please share this information with counseling and CTE colleagues and encourage attendance. The Counselor Institute sessions will provide policy updates, resources, and communications useful for the work of school counselors and CTE teachers/supervisors.

Session locations and times are listed below:

- **February 4**
 - 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. [Bossier City](#)
 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. [Ruston](#)
- **February 5**
 - 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. [Alexandria](#)
 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. [Lafayette](#)
- **February 6**
 - 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. [Luling](#)
 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. [Walker](#)

Please contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

2025 Louisiana ACT Summit

Please share with administrators, counselors, and testing coordinators.

Registration is currently open for the [2025 Louisiana ACT Summit](#), which will take place on February 6 at the Pennington Biomedical Research Facility in Baton Rouge. The registration fee is \$130–\$150, depending upon membership type. This event will provide attendees with opportunities to gain new perspectives, expand their knowledge, and find solutions to problems facing the education and workforce landscape.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

2025 Fast Forward Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit

Please share with child welfare and attendance stakeholders, counselors, high school administrators, and system leaders.

Registration is now open for the [2025 Jump Start Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit](#). The one-day event will be held on February 25 at the Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette. This year's convention will focus on:

- Providing professional development opportunities focused on the creation and expansion of high-quality work-based learning programs
- Fostering industry partnerships to strengthen Career and Technical Education initiatives
- Enhancing alignment with workforce demands
- Improving child welfare and attendance support systems

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

LA GATOR Scholarship Program: Applications Open March 1

Please share with charter, nonpublic, and public school leaders.

The Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program will begin accepting online student applications no later than March 1 for the 2025-2026 school year. The LDOE has partnered with Odyssey, an experienced technology provider, to launch and manage the program. Odyssey will assist in the onboarding process, application verification, and host the online marketplace where families will manage their scholarship accounts. Additional program information is available at the [LA GATOR landing page](#). [Sign-up](#) for the LA GATOR Newsletter to receive program updates as they become available.

Nonpublic schools and those seeking to participate as a service provider can direct questions and/or inquiries to help.la@withodyssey.com for support.

Charter Schools

Charter School Program Grant Application Cycle

Please share with charter school leaders, system leaders, and new charter applicants.

The Office of School Choice is pleased to announce a winter/spring CSP grant application cycle with the following timeline. This application cycle is open to those charter groups that have already been authorized either by BESE or their local district and those seeking local authorization with anticipated approval in January.

- January 14 - Letter of Intent due
- February 3 - Eligibility Determination Form due
- March 12 - CSP Subgrant Application due

Organizations submitting a Letter of Intent will be invited to Technical Assistance Webinars before the Eligibility Determination Form due date.

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov or tammy.morgan3@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2024-2025 Second Quarter Financial Report

Please share with charter business managers and financial officials.

The Second Quarter Financial Report for FY 2024-2025 is due January 31. The quarterly report template is included in the work required to submit the annual operating budget. The entire workbook is required to be submitted with updates to the Quarter 2 Budget tab. If your organization operates more than one charter school, a quarterly budget file must be submitted for each charter school.

Please contact charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Louisiana's Teacher/Principal of the Year Applications Due January 15

Please share with educators, school leaders, and school system leaders.

Teacher/Principal of the Year applications are due by midnight on January 15. All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high), as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process.

State-level applications must be submitted via an online application portal, which is now open. Please see below for information regarding the online portals.

- **Coordinators** are to submit the names/information of their school system-level honorees (one for elementary, middle, and high) in the [Coordinator's Online Portal](#). For more information, coordinators may refer to the [Coordinator's Online Portal guide](#).
- **State-level candidates** are to submit their applications in the [Candidate's Online Portal](#). Candidates may refer to the [Candidate's Online Portal guide](#) for more information.

The LDOE will host an informational meeting for candidates and coordinators regarding the online portals and the application process. Please see the details listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 8 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97138324791?pwd=9HZhmYalpyWS4kRX4bSEzUab4hn48N.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 971 3832 4791
- **Passcode:** 506603

The dates and times of future webinars are listed in the [Informational Webinars for Candidates and Stakeholders document](#).

All application materials and timelines are available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page. If any issues are anticipated or encountered when submitting applications, candidates should complete the [Online Portal Help Desk Form](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

2025 Students of the Year Regional Honorees

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The LDOE recognizes that many outstanding students are enrolled in public, nonpublic, or charter schools throughout the state. To acknowledge these accomplishments, the LDOE, in conjunction with BESE, annually honors one exceptional fifth, eighth, and twelfth-grade student based on their leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to the school and community.

This year, school systems across the state submitted Students of the Year candidates for the zone-level process. Regional honorees were selected through public, charter, and nonpublic zone reviews per each BESE region. The LDOE is proud to announce the [2025 Students of the Year Regional Honorees](#) from this impressive group.

One honoree per BESE region will be named a finalist. Finalists will be announced later in the school year and celebrated at an awards ceremony where the overall honorees, one per grade level, will be named.

Please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov with questions.