

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 14, 2025

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

The results of the K-3 beginning-of-year literacy screener demonstrate impressive year-over-year growth. Student cohort performance improved by over nine percentage points, with a notable 20.4-point gain by the 2023 kindergarten class as they advanced to first grade in 2024. This progress reflects the dedication of our educators and the success of our phonics-based literacy instruction approach.

Now in its second year, Louisiana's K-3 universal literacy screener provides a critical, standardized measure of reading proficiency during these formative years. Administered three times annually — at the beginning, middle, and end of the year — the screener helps identify students at risk for reading challenges through a variety of assessments.

While state-level data from the middle-of-year screener is not yet available, schools have completed these assessments. It's vital for school leaders and teachers to use the results to deliver targeted interventions, particularly for third-grade students who may be at risk of retention.

Below are resources to support schools and systems in utilizing the K-3 literacy screener and addressing the new third-grade promotion law. These tools also help keep parents informed of their child's progress:

- [K-3 Literacy Screener Library](#)
- [Third Grade Promotion Guidance](#)
- [Sample Third Grade Promotion Family Information Letter](#)
- [Third Grade Promotion Flyer](#)

Students are benefitting from quality instruction, sound policy, and a return to basic fundamentals like phonics. Thank you for your continued commitment to Louisiana's reading revival.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [January 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- LEADS Monthly Call: [January 16 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [January 16 at 3:30 p.m.](#)

- System Leaders Monthly Call: [January 17 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Assessments and Accountability Monthly Call: [January 21 at 3 p.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.](#)
- Practicing Principal Monthly Call: [January 27 at 1 p.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

- 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](#)
- SSI/System Leader Regional Collaborations Session 3: January 29-February 5
- English Learner Institute Session 3, Baton Rouge: [February 4](#)
- 2025 PAEMST Nomination Deadline: [February 6](#)
- Diploma and Seal Order Deadline: [February 7](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 2: [February 26](#)
- 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy Application Deadline: [February 28](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Bayou Bridges Student Workbooks

Please share with administrators and school system leaders.

LDOE, in partnership with Core Knowledge, has created student workbooks for use alongside [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#). Students can utilize their individual, convenient copy of the curricula's essential activities. Included in each workbook are:

- student reading notes pages,
- primary sources,
- checks for understanding,
- activity pages,
- performance tasks, and
- additional map or source activities, as needed.

Workbooks are priced at \$2 each, per unit. CAOs and system leaders making school system planning decisions for 2025-2026 may pre-order the workbooks now by emailing The Core Knowledge Foundation's Louisiana customer service team at labayoubridges@coreknowledge.org.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Aspiring Educators Attending 2025 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with teachers, principals, and Pre-Educator Pathway sponsors/leads.

The LDOE has limited funding to help offset the costs for 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

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

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any 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=GiP82Q4HKmZrFEXxYRy2XexgeRdaou.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 920 8564 7820
- **Passcode:** 121463
- **Phone:** 346 248 7799

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

Comprehensive Criminal Background Check (CBC) Requirement for Certification

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

In accordance with 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, certification applicants will utilize the [updated Professional Conduct form](#), included with all certification applications, to authorize the LDOE to receive a CBC on the educator if one is not already on file and less than five years old. At the time of applying for certification, if no valid CBC is found, applicants will be instructed to [schedule fingerprinting at an IdentoGO location](#). If the applicant already knows that the LDOE does not have a CBC on file, the applicant may schedule fingerprinting with IdentoGO using the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#).

Once the applicant's CBC is received, reviewed, and is clear of disqualifying convictions, [a "Clear Credential" will be added to their certification record](#), allowing all certification requests to be processed.

The LDOE previously communicated there would be a \$25 processing and handling fee for the Credential Clearance (CC) application, applicable to certification applicants without a CBC on file and run in the past five years. This fee has been removed during the implementation of 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 fingerprinting for the CBC paid directly to IdentoGO stay the same.

Please contact educatorclearance@la.gov with questions.

2023-2024 Evaluation Close-Out in CIS

Please share with data managers, human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

All 2023-2024 evaluation data for teachers, counselors, and other instructional staff should be [finalized](#) in [CIS](#) at this time. The deadline to [enter](#) or edit leader evaluations is **January 31**. Data cannot be entered or edited in CIS following this date.

As a reminder, all 2024-2025 evaluation data should be entered directly into LES for all schools, regardless of the chosen evaluation type; there will be no transfer of scores or spreadsheet uploads in the new system.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Implementation: On-Site Support Sessions

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

The January and February [LEADS Implementation On-Site Support Sessions](#) focus on the observation and post-conference process. Participants will engage in the observation process in real-time, in Louisiana classrooms. Following the observation, participants will plan a post-observation conference. Registration is now open in [Eventbrite](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Implementation: Monthly Calls

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

These new and improved [LEADS Implementation Monthly Webinars](#) will provide an additional opportunity to deepen understanding of the evaluation components and processes. Calls will provide collaborative opportunities for participants to learn from each other.

The Post-Conference and Feedback for Educators

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 16 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98949166886?pwd=IQ05iEOa7GpkNO68I4qcu4YVRRE9NH.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 989 4916 6886

The MOY Conference for Counselors/Leaders

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 13 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96044571238?pwd=4tGXwUoGz36D3Uh0ySZvSmDAOq0gnO.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 960 4457 1238

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Resources

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, systems leaders, and teachers.

Resources continue to be added to the [LEADS Public Collections](#) section of the Professional Learning Platform. The Video Clip Collection is now available under the [LEADS Training Materials](#) section. These video clips highlight classroom instructional best practices aligned to the Instructional Domain indicators of the [Louisiana Educator Rubric \(LER\)](#). The video clips offer access to professional learning for system leaders, school leaders, teacher

leaders, and teachers to support the advancement of classroom instruction and student learning. Louisiana educators can use these examples of effective instructional practices in various professional learning settings to deepen the knowledge of the LER, build a common language for the LER, and gain LER observation skills.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ACT Match/No Match File

Please share with data managers, school leaders, and testing coordinators.

The ACT Match/No Match file is now available on the data manager ftp with file name (TBA). These lists should be used to determine the grade 12 students who will need to participate in the spring state administration of ACT. As a reminder, all students in grade 12, regardless of diploma pathway, must take the ACT in 2024-2025 as required by the current accountability policy. The only exception is for students who participated in high school level LEAP Connect in 2024-2025 or a prior year. Please do not submit requests to update the lists at this time. The lists will be updated again in March prior to ACT spring administration.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Spring 2025 Federal Grants Management Training

Please share with CTE supervisors and fiscal personnel.

Registration is open for the virtual [Federal Grants Management Training](#) by the BruMan Group on behalf of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). The Federal Grant Management exam will be administered after the training. The training will take place on March 19-20. The deadline to register is February 28.

Please contact careerandtech@lctcs.edu with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Local Authorizer Reporting Deadline

Please share with school and system leaders.

Local school boards who have received an application for a locally authorized charter during the 2024-2025 Annual RFA Cycle are required to consider all applicants by **January 17**.

Prior to approving a charter for a Type 1 or Type 3 school, school systems are required to hold a public meeting for the purpose of considering the proposal and receiving public input.

The deadline to notify the LDOE of decisions regarding the approval or denial of received applications is **January 31** through the [Jotform](#) process.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Informational Session

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

The Office of School Choice will conduct a [CSP informational session](#) on January 21 at 10 a.m. Anyone interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity for charter schools in Louisiana is invited to attend.

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

School System Financial Services

Single Audit Report Submission Portal

Please share with business managers, external auditors, and financial officials.

The Single Audit Report Submission Portal allows school systems to upload their single audit reports. A quick link to access the portal is available on the website under Data and Reports. The deadline for submission is March 1, 2025.

Please contact dudley.garidel@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Teacher Stipend Payments

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Per the FY 2024-2025 Minimum Foundation Program formula, a stipend of \$2,000 will be provided for teacher mentors serving as assigned mentors of record, responsible for supporting undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents. Apart from the regular MFP monthly payment, a separate payment is being processed and should be released by February 16. FAQs and payment information are posted in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact LDOEmphelpdesk@la.gov with payment-related questions or believeandprepare@la.gov with participation and qualification questions.

School System Relations

State-Level Award Applications Due in January

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

Teacher/Principal of the Year applications and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications are due by **January 15**. Applications for New Teacher of the Year are due by **January 24**. All application materials and resources are available in the [resources](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

For Teacher and Principal of the Year candidates/coordinators only, please complete the [Online Portal Help Desk Form](#) if any issues are anticipated or encountered when submitting information into the online portals.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about the Teacher/Principal of the Year program. Please contact shallan.jones@la.gov with Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year questions, and laurie.carlton@la.gov with New Teacher of the Year questions.