

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: February 11, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Harvard and Stanford released their annual [Education Recovery Scorecard](#) today, which measures the pace of academic recovery since the pandemic. Just like on [The Nation's Report Card](#), Louisiana showed significant gains. The Education Recovery Scorecard ranks Louisiana first in the nation for reading and second for math. Louisiana is the only state where the average student has completed their recovery.

You can [read their full Louisiana release online](#), but here are some other items of note for our state.

- Louisiana ranked first among the states in terms of recovery in reading and 2nd in math between 2019 and 2024.
- Between 2019 and 2024, students in Louisiana earned gains in reading and math at a time when many states continued to fall further behind.
- Louisiana is the only state where the average student has completed their recovery.
- An analysis suggests Louisiana's investment of pandemic funding did contribute to the academic recovery, especially when targeted at academic efforts such as summer learning and tutoring.
- Growth in chronic absenteeism is slowing the recovery in many districts in Louisiana.

One of the most common questions I've received over the past two weeks has been how our state has made this academic progress — especially at a time when many others are struggling. While the reasons are many, first among them are Louisiana teachers.

There is a lot to be proud of in this latest report, and our work continues. There are still too many Louisiana students who can't read on grade level, can't do basic math, and who don't attend school on a regular basis.

Thank you for your part in our success. Let's continue to be brave and push forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- High School Science Leaders Support Monthly Call: [February 12 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [February 12 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [February 13 at 8 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [February 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [February 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 13 at 10 a.m.](#)
- LEADS Implementation Monthly Call: [February 13 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Ed Link Weekly Q&A Session: [February 18 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [February 18 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [February 19 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [February 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [February 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [February 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [February 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [February 24 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Ed Link Weekly Q&A Session: [February 25 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [February 26 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 26 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [February 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [February 27 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [March 5](#)
- Data Coordinator Webinar: [March 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [March 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- LEADS Implementation Monthly Call: [March 10 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Zearn Support for Leaders: [March 11 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [March 11 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Community Network Office Hours: [March 11 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [March 13 at 8 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Launching Louisiana Literacy MTSS for System Leaders: [February 13](#)
- Computer Science Standards Implementation Webinar: [February 18 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Standards Implementation Webinar: [February 19 at 3 p.m.](#)
- 2025 Fast Forward Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit: [February 25](#)
- 2025 BESE Charter Renewal Cohort Sessions: [February 25 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 2: [February 26](#)
- 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy Application Deadline: [February 28](#)
- Data Coordinator Webinar: [March 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Launching Louisiana Literacy MTSS for System Leaders: [March 12](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 3: [March 26](#)
- Launching Louisiana Literacy MTSS for School Leaders: [March 27](#)
- Title IV, Part A Program Evaluation Submission Deadline: April 4
- Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Application Deadline: [April 22](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

February System Leaders Monthly Call Presentation

Please share with system leaders.

The System Leaders Monthly Call scheduled for February 7 was canceled due to internet outages at state offices. The [presentation](#) was emailed to system leaders on Friday. If you have any questions about the presentation content, please contact the office representative listed on each slide.

Please contact sally.davis@la.gov with questions.

Title IV, Part A Program Evaluations

Please share with federal program directors.

The FY 25 eGMS Program Evaluation will be released early for the reporting year 2023–2024 on March 10. As LEAs prepare to complete the eGMS Program Evaluations, please ensure submissions are finalized by the April 4 deadline.

Please contact terri.byrd@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [annotated reviews](#) web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#).

- Gallopade International, Inc. - Gallopade Curriculum: Louisiana Social Studies, Grade 8 (©2023)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

April Dunn Act Implementation Monitoring

Please share with special education leaders.

To support the effective implementation of the April Dunn Act (ADA), school systems must complete an ADA self-assessment annually. School systems must complete all sections of the [ADA Self-Assessment Guide](#) by February 28. The assessment results should be kept on file. The LDOE will audit self-assessment results to ensure they accurately represent best practices in the implementation of the April Dunn Act. Resources to support effective implementation are available in the [Students with Disabilities Library](#).

Please contact ashley.augustine@la.gov with questions.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Funding Priority Survey

Please share with administrators, community members, educators, and parents.

The LDOE submits a grant application annually on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the LDOE is seeking feedback on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete the [SY25-26 Stakeholder Input on IDEA Funding Priorities](#) survey by March 14.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

2025 LEADS Louisiana Evaluator Training

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

The Division of Educator Talent and Workforce Development will begin offering evaluator training to support LEADS implementation for the 2025-2026 Full Implementation Year. All evaluators and designated observers must attend face-to-face training and take a certification assessment prior to evaluating. Evaluators must attend all full, consecutive days in order to qualify for the assessment. Evaluators are encouraged to register for earlier dates to allow time to reschedule if conflicts arise. Registration is now available on [Eventbrite](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Fingerprint Scheduling with IdentoGO for Credentialing

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

As part of the certification process for obtaining a “[Clear Credential](#),” all applicants must complete a criminal background check (CBC) through IdentoGO, following the instructions provided in the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#).

When scheduling a fingerprinting appointment, applicants must use the correct service code for our office to receive the CBC. The service code to be used when scheduling on the [IdentoGO website](#) for credentialing purposes is **27N5HQ**. This ensures the CBC is processed specifically for LDOE’s Certification & Background Credentialing office. It is encouraged to disclose the applicant’s social security number when scheduling and fingerprinting so that the CBC can quickly be associated with any existing certification records.

A CBC is required only once for certification. The LDOE continuously receives state "rap backs" (updated criminal history notifications), eliminating the need for repeated fingerprinting in most cases when maintaining certification.

Please ensure all applicants and relevant personnel know these requirements to prevent delays in the CBC and certification process. For guidance, refer to the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#).

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

Level Up: School Support Institutes at Teacher Leader Summit 2025

Please share with school and school leaders.

The final session of School Support Institutes, Level Up SSI: “Preparing for Continuous School Improvement”, required for CIR schools, will be delivered at Teacher Leader Summit 2025. One half-day session of Level Up SSI is required for three ILT members from each CIR school (principal and two others). Funds are provided through SuperApp to reimburse costs, including registration, associated with attendance for three ILT members per CIR school.

A designated Level Up registration link will tentatively be provided by February 14. Registration will be \$249. Systems may elect to register their CIR leadership teams as a group using this same link. This registration allows for payment by check.

When completing a group registration using the forthcoming link, the following information will be needed for each person being registered:

- Name
- Email Address
- Job Title
- Mobile Phone #
- Content Taught/Supported (if applicable)
- School Label
- School Name

- Position/Role
- Grades Taught (if applicable)
- System Type (Traditional)
- System Name
- Grades Supported
- ASL Support Needed
- T-Shirt Size (SM to 5XL)
- Any Dietary Restrictions

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Early Bird Registration Open

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

[Teacher Leader Summit 2025](#) will be held June 10-12 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Early bird registration for the three-day professional learning conference is now open at a discounted rate of \$249. The regular registration fee of \$299 will begin March 15. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact ldoevents@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

New: Jump Start Construction Scholarship Available

Please share with CTE supervisors and high school counselors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF) Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program is accepting applications for up to 40 one-time \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships are geared toward students who have:

- Earned a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma
- Earned a National Center Construction Education and Research Credential
- Plan to enroll at an LCTCS campus
 - On a construction pathway
 - In an Associated Builders and Contractors Training Program

This is the state's first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates. This effort is a collaboration of the Louisiana Construction Education Foundation, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the LDOE. Completed [applications](#) are due April 22.

Please contact suzette.rabalais@la.gov with questions.

2025 Fast Forward Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit

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

[Registration](#) for the 2025 Fast Forward Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit remains open. This one-day event (formerly the Jump Start Convention) will be held on February 25 at the Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette. This year's convention will provide 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, and improving child welfare and attendance support systems.

Interested attendees can check the [Jump Start Meeting and Training Opportunities](#) page for the [session titles and descriptions](#). In the coming days, registrants will be able to sign up for individual sessions on the WHOVA app.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

LA GATOR Scholarship Program: Parent and School Resources

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

LA GATOR student applications will be available on the [LA GATOR Scholarship Program webpage](#) starting March 1 and will close on April 15 for the 2025-2026 school year.

To prepare for the application process, interested families and participating schools are encouraged to explore the webpage, which offers resources tailored for different audiences including [families](#), [schools](#), [service providers](#) and [LSP families and schools](#) transitioning to the LA GATOR program. The site also features a [School Communications Toolkit](#), including social media posts, captions, and parent flyers to help schools engage and inform families about the program.

Customer support services are also in place through the program administrator, [Odyssey](#).

- Call Center: 225-422-1538
- Email Help Desk: help.la@withodyssey.com

Please contact help.la@withodyssey.com with any questions.

LA GATOR Scholarship Program: Service Provider Application Now Open

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

The [LA GATOR service provider application](#) is now open. Additional information for service providers can be found on the [LA GATOR webpage](#). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Public school services, including educational classes, are an allowable expense for families participating in the LA GATOR Scholarship Program. Public School Governing Authorities that would like to have one or more of their schools provide offerings for LA GATOR must submit an application that includes a letter from their Superintendent confirming the school's ability to participate as a service provider, a copy of each school's disciplinary policies, a description of your educational qualifications, and attestations that are required by program policy.

Public School Governing Authorities will need to have a Stripe account to accept payments from families through the Odyssey platform.

For assistance, contact Odyssey Customer Relations:

- Call Center: 225-422-1538
- Email Help Desk: help.la@withodyssey.com

Please contact help.la@withodyssey.com with any questions.

Charter Schools

2024-2025 Annual RFA Application Cycle Letters of Intent

Please share with school and system leaders.

The Letters of Intent for the 2024-2025 Annual RFA Application Cycle were due February 10. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements listed in [LA Bulletin 126, §503](#), and submit an eligibility determination form by March 10. Eligibility determination forms will only be reviewed if a Letter of Intent was received by the due date. Any eligibility form submitted without adherence to the Letter of Intent due date requirement will not be reviewed.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Literacy

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

Two summer screenings for grade 3 students who score below benchmark will be available in mCLASS in May. District test coordinators will receive detailed communication for creating screening sessions for applicable students. The LDOE requires a minimum of one week between the two summer administrations to allow time for additional interventions and supports needed by students. No other grades will be permitted to screen during this summer administration.

Please contact assessments@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect/ELPT/ELPT Connect

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

The administration window for LEAP Connect and ELPT/ELPT Connect opened on February 10. District test coordinators should submit all [Testing Irregularity Reports](#) to assessment@la.gov before March 21. The report includes irregularities that must be reported per BESE policy.

Please contact assessments@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

Starting January 27, testing coordinators must submit all requests for qualified exceptions to the ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports deadline for eligible examinees through the [Qualified Exceptions to the Deadline](#) form. The final day to submit requests is March 7. Students must qualify and have documentation for one of the specific exceptions listed on the form.

Please contact assessments@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 25 Year-End Deadlines

Please share with business managers and finance officials.

The deadlines noted below have been established to ensure funding for FY 25 is utilized completely. The LDOE cannot guarantee the payment of late claims, invoices, or travel reimbursements. Failure to meet deadlines risks funding availability. Responsible stewardship of funds dedicated to improving education within our state is appreciated.

- **June 19:** All 8g claims are due in eGMS
- **July 7:** All Carl Perkins claims are due in eGMS
- **July 15:** All other state and federal awards claims ending June 30 are due in eGMS

Please contact LDOE.federalclaims@la.gov with questions.