

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: February 20, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Outside of a parent or guardian, nothing impacts student learning more than an effective teacher. One of the best ways we can value teaching professionals is by simply protecting their time to do the important work entrusted to them. I'm launching a new workgroup focused on improving conditions for teachers.

The Let Teachers Teach Workgroup will identify and develop possible solutions to classroom disruptions such as excessive training and paperwork, scripted lessons, and student discipline. These are common concerns I've heard from educators through our formal engagement channels such as my Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council and informal channels such as our school visits and faculty meetings.

The workgroup will include PK-12 teachers from across the state. We're working with our various teacher committees and Louisiana education organizations to identify teachers for the workgroup. Recommendations from organizations should be emailed to ldoecommunications@la.gov. Current Louisiana Teacher of the Year and East Baton Rouge Parish Schools teacher Kylie Altier will chair the workgroup.

I look forward to working alongside Louisiana teachers to improve this valued profession.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [February 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [February 22 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Healthy Communities Monthly Call: [February 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [February 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Healthy Schools Community of Practice: [February 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 28 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [March 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinars – Math and Literacy: [March 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [March 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [March 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [March 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [March 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 21 at 3 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [Louisiana School Physical Activity Award](#): February 20
- School Support Institutes Session 4 (Virtual): February 20-23
- Jump Start Summers Application Webinar: [February 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Spring 2024 Counselor Institutes](#): February 27-29; statewide locations
- SFA Summer Feeding Plan Deadline: March 15
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: March 15
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Summer Feeding Reminders

Please share with child nutrition directors and system leaders.

Pre-applications from prospective eligible organizations to serve as sponsors and program sites for the 2024 Summer Food Service Program are now being accepted. The online CNP application will launch in March. Please pay special attention to the SFA Summer Feeding Plan for School Food Authorities due by March 15 on the [CNP website](#). All congregated and non-congregated feeding plans must be submitted via survey by that time.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

\$5 ACT Test Registration Voucher

Please share with counselors.

ACT is offering a [\\$5 test registration voucher](#), valid for an April, June, or July 2024 national ACT test. This special gift is designed to enhance the vital connections that counselors have with students. The voucher will be available until March 24, 2024.

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

Financial Aid Planning

Please share with high school counselors.

Most Louisiana high school graduates are eligible for some form of merit-or-need based financial aid. All 2024 graduating seniors must take one of the following steps:

- Submit the [2024-2025 FAFSA](#) application (if you want to apply for the federal Pell grant, federal student loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and TOPS); OR
- Apply for [TOPS](#) (if you only want to apply for TOPS); OR
- Submit opt out [non participation form](#) or [letter](#) (if you don't want to apply for TOPS or any other financial aid); OR
- Complete and have a [hardship waiver](#) on file.

Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov with any questions.

LELA Financial Aid

Please share with high school counselors.

The [Louisiana Education Loan Authority](#) (LELA) is Louisiana's nonprofit resource for free FAFSA completion assistance. The [FAFSA Completion Guide for the Class of 2024](#) is currently available for those requesting virtual assistance. The [\\$1000 CHOOSE Louisiana Scholarship](#) is available to students who are currently enrolled or who plan to enroll in a Louisiana college.

Please contact Ann Carmichael carmichael@lpfa.com or ldefinancialaid@la.gov with any questions.

Vape-Free School Toolkit

Please share with health teachers, physical education teachers and principals.

Well-Ahead Louisiana and the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (TFL) have recently launched a comprehensive online toolkit for schools titled the School Vape-Free Toolkit. The toolkit will also provide schools with the education and resources needed to comply with the Vaping Education in Schools policy and law. The toolkit can be accessed at [Vape-Free Schools Toolkit | Well-Ahead Louisiana](#).

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Save the Date: 2024 School Safety Summit

Please share with emergency preparedness partners, school principals, school safety/security personnel, school healthcare professionals, and school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with the Louisiana State Police, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Planning (GOHSEP), and the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools will host the Louisiana School Safety Summit virtually on July 10 and 11. Registration information will be available in the coming weeks.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Math Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - Open Now

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

The LDOE is excited to announce that applications for math [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) have reopened. TLAs are paid for the work they complete, and the experience allows educators to expand their positive impact beyond the classroom by influencing students and educators across the state. [Math Teacher Leader Advisor applications](#) will close on March 1.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes Session 4

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

[The School Support Institutes](#) build the instructional capacity of school-based instructional leadership teams. Registered participants will receive an email with the zoom links for their session. Attendees are reminded to have the information from their session #3 deliverables on hand for this session.

SSI Session #4 (Virtual) cohort dates:

- Monroe Cohort: February 20
- Shreveport Cohort: February 21
- Lafayette Cohort: February 22
- Baton Rouge Cohort: February 23

Virtual sessions are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm. Registered participants will receive an email with the zoom links for their session. Please see the [SSI logistics page](#) for zoom links and pre-work information.

Please contact doessisupportteam@tntp.org with questions.