

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: March 18, 2025

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### Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Count me in the number who believe Louisiana students and teachers spend too much time testing. While assessments are essential for measuring progress and guiding instruction and policy decisions, we must find a more balanced approach. That's why this year's [LEAP tests for reading and math are 20% shorter](#).

Last week, I shared with BESE another significant reduction in state testing. Louisiana is one of only 13 states that require social studies assessments and the only state that mandates annual social studies testing for grades 3-8. Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, we will align social studies testing with the state's new [Freedom Framework standards](#). Instead of testing every year in grades 3-8, students will take social studies assessments in grades 3, 5, and 8 at the conclusion of their multiyear units of study. This change will cut total testing time in half — from 1,100 minutes to 550 minutes for students in grades 3-8 social studies.

We remain committed to a responsible approach to testing — reducing unnecessary burdens while maintaining high-quality assessments that inform instruction and policy. I hope you find these to be welcome changes as we continue to methodically reduce testing time in Louisiana.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [March 19 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Standards Implementation Webinar: [March 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [March 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [March 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [March 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- FSGR Monthly Call: [March 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [March 25 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [March 26 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 26 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learner Office Hours: [March 26 at 2 p.m.](#)

- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [March 27 at 2 p.m.](#)
- LEADS Implementation Monthly Call: [April 2 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [April 2 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- High School Science Leaders Support Monthly Call: [April 9 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [April 10 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar: [April 10 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [April 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [April 16 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [April 28 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

## **Upcoming Events and Deadlines**

- Last day to administer LEAP Connect, ELPT, and ELPT Connect: March 19
- Computer Science Standards Implementation Webinar: [March 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- March Staffing Webinar: [March 24 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 3: [March 26](#)
- Launching Louisiana Tiered Pathways for Literacy Support Framework for School Leaders: [March 27](#)
- SFA Sponsor and Congregate Site Applications for Summer Feeding: March 31
- Nutrition Support Quarterly State Update: [April 2 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Title IV, Part A Program Evaluation Submission Deadline: April 4
- SFA Non-Congregate Site Requests: April 7
- LA GATOR Student Applications Close: [April 15](#)
- Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application Deadline: [April 22](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 4: [April 30](#)
- Complete the International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Survey: [May 1](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)
- FFY 2025 Grant Application Public Comment Deadline: [May 18](#)

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Academic Content**

#### **Accessible Education Materials**

**Please share with supervisors and system leaders.**

School systems that need to purchase Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) for the 2025-2026 school year should begin making those orders now. Order fulfillment for braille materials can take up to six months. Please visit the [Special School District's](#) website for more information about ordering materials.

Please contact [louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov](mailto:louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov) with questions.

#### **ELA Guidebooks Materials Ordering Portal Update**

**Please share with content supervisors and system leaders.**

American Reading Company (ARC) has updated its [text ordering portal](#) to ensure accuracy when ordering texts for the ELA Guidebooks curriculum. The top of the portal includes texts for the most current versions of [ELA Guidebooks](#) for grades 3-12 and the texts for the previous version of the curriculum are below.

Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov) with questions.

#### **2025-2026 Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant (CSTAG) Available**

**Please share with CTE supervisors, STEM supervisors, and system leaders.**

School systems are encouraged to apply for the [2025-2026 Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant \(CSTAG\)](#) to support [computer science](#) teacher preparation and computer science instruction for students in grades K-12. Grants of up to \$40,000 per school system are available.

Applications will be accepted via eGMS within the competitive funding tab for 2025-2026 until March 24.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **Educator Talent and Workforce Development**

### **LEADS Implementation Planning Resources**

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

The 2025-2026 school year begins the full implementation of the Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS). The Educator Talent and Workforce Development Team has created guidance to support systems planning for LEADS evaluation implementation.

The [Evaluation Implementation Guidance for System Leaders](#) provides system leaders with a sequenced list of suggested activities to support smooth implementation. The [LA Educator Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#) and the [LA Leader and Counselor Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#) provide an overview and timeline of all evaluation processes. The [Evaluation FAQ](#), located in the [LEADS Library](#), provides additional information.

Please contact [leads@la.gov](mailto:leads@la.gov) with questions.

### **Aspiring Principal Fellowship 2025-2026 Application Available**

**Please share with principals and principal supervisors.**

The [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) is now open for the 2025-2026 school year. This fellowship will provide up to 50 individuals with the essential knowledge and skills to serve in the principal role. Fellowship participants will collaborate throughout the year, exploring best practices with state and national experts, LDOE leaders, and exemplary practicing principals while participating in professional learning aligned with current state initiatives.

Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems must cover the \$1,000 tuition for presenters and materials and travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application no later than April 7. Additional information about the Aspiring Principal Fellowship can be found in the [APF overview document](#).

Please contact [louisianaleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianaleaders@la.gov) with questions.

### **End-of-Year Mentor and Resident Funding: Overview Call**

**Please share with data managers, finance managers, human resource managers, and system leaders.**

Data collection for mentor compensation will take place during the 2024-2025 academic year using a process similar to that used in 2023-2024. Join the Spring 2025 Mentor and Resident Funding call to review the funding eligibility and process.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 15 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96453555167?pwd=pBbLjkzVa8s2fX0hjy1ajDsYvUrGAZ.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 964 5355 5167
- **Passcode:** 109017
- **Phone:** 312 626 6799

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

### **Boosting Your School System's Workforce: March 2025 Staffing Webinar**

**Please share with school board members, superintendents, and system leaders.**

School systems seeking teachers or school leaders are encouraged to use the [updated Zoom link](#) to join the Educator Talent and Workforce Development March Staffing Webinar on [March 24 at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.](#)

This session will cover staffing pathways and support resources to help strengthen educator workforce.

Superintendents, system-level leaders, and school board members are encouraged to attend this important discussion.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 24 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93886494074?pwd=FJR9Dvz57ID2D41JfcpCKotoMjbWbY.1>

Please contact [arthur.joffrion@la.gov](mailto:arthur.joffrion@la.gov) with questions.

## Diverse Learners

### **Diverse Learners Office Hours**

**Please share with school leaders, special education directors, and special education teachers.**

The Diverse Learners team will hold virtual office hours on April 15 at 2 p.m. Content supervisors, school leaders, special education leaders, and special education teachers are encouraged to attend the [Diverse Learners Office Hours](#) to receive important updates.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 15 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96736907043>

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

### **FFY25 IDEA Draft Application Posted for Public Comment**

**Please share with special education leaders and stakeholders.**

Each year, the LDOE submits an [IDEA Special Education Funding](#) application. In February, 677 responses were received to the stakeholder input survey. The LDOE is currently accepting public comment for the draft of the IDEA application for FFY25. The grant application requires states to outline how state-level set-aside funds will be spent in 15 different categories. The final allocations each state will receive have not yet been released.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has advised states to prepare the application using allocations from the FFY24 application and, upon receipt of the allocation tables, to insert the most updated information with the application. The dollar amounts shown may change based on the total allocation received from the federal government. The LDOE will update this document and other application documents when allocations are received.

Please complete the Louisiana IDEA Federal Fiscal Year 2025 [Grant Application Public Comment Form](#) by May 18.

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

## Teacher Leader Summit

### **Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Regular Registration Now Open**

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

The regular [Teacher Leader Summit 2025](#) registration period is open through April 18 or at sell-out. The regular registration cost is \$299. The registration link is now live on the Teacher Leader Summit webpage. Registration will be on a first-come,first-served basis.

Teacher Leader Summit will be held June 10-12 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **LEAP 2025 Practice Tests**

**Please share with school leaders and test coordinators.**

LEAP 2025 practice tests are available online and can be accessed using the login information provided in the [LEAP Practice Test Quick Start Guide](#). There are no practice tests for grades 3-8 social studies or Civics, but links to social studies items are also included in the guide.

Schools can create paper versions of practice tests from copies available in DRC INSIGHT in the Documents app.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## Career and College Readiness

### **Harbor Freight Tools For Schools**

**Please share with CTE supervisors, system leaders, principals, and teachers.**

[Harbor Freight Tools for Schools](#) is a program established to advance excellent skilled trades education in public high schools across America. In 2025, Harbor Freight will award over \$1.5 million in prizes for tools and equipment. Five grand prize winners will receive \$100,000, and twenty prize winners will each be awarded \$50,000, which will go to the public high school program or teacher.

Harbor Freight [Tools for Schools Applications](#) are due by May 2. Eligible applicants are those who teach:

- Agriculture Mechanics
- Carpentry
- Construction
- Electrical
- HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning)
- Manufacturing
- Plumbing
- Transportation Mechanics
- Welding

Please contact [troy.borne@la.gov](mailto:troy.borne@la.gov) with questions.

### **Work-Based Learning Vendor Application**

**Please share with counselors, CTE supervisors, school system administrators, and vendors.**

BESE adopted new policy in April of 2024 concerning work-based learning instructor requirements for teacher certification. The policy requires that a work-based learning teacher shall hold one of the following:

- Valid CTTIE Certification or Agriculture Certification
- Valid Level 2 Louisiana Teaching Certificate with
  - at least three years of work experience other than classroom instruction
- Valid Level 2 Louisiana Teaching Certificate with
  - completion of a work-based learning workshop by an approved provider

The [WBL Vendor Application](#) opened on February 21 and will close on March 21.

Please contact [troy.borne@la.gov](mailto:troy.borne@la.gov) with questions.

### **Work-Based Learning and Carl Perkins Funds**

**Please share with CTE supervisors.**

Carl Perkins Funds have been approved to supplement funding to provide Work-Based Learning to school systems. The LDOE has created guidance explaining how to use [Carl Perkins funds for Work-Based Learning](#). The guidance covers fiscal requirements, the Carl Perkins application, and student eligibility.

Please contact [fastforward@la.gov](mailto:fastforward@la.gov) with questions.

## School System Financial Services

### **Update: 2025 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Required Submission Timelines**

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) documents are required submissions that are due in a few weeks. Availability in eGMS and submission timelines may be accessed in the [Federal Maintenance of Effort \(MOE\) Required Submission Timeline](#) document.

Failure to complete the MOE applications by the required submission dates may jeopardize the availability of federal funds to School Systems.

Please contact [office@la.gov](mailto:office@la.gov) with questions.

## School System Relations

### **Excellent Educator State-Level Honorees Announced**

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

The LDOE is excited to announce the [2026 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#), the [2026 New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#), and the [2026 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All state-level honorees will be honored at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, which will be held at the World War II Museum on the evening of July 26. This event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Please contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov) with questions.