

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: March 25, 2025

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [April 3 at 8 a.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.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [April 10 at 10 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.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [April 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [April 17 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [April 17 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [April 28 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [May 6 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 3: [March 26](#)
- Launching Louisiana Literacy TPLS for School Leaders: [March 27](#)
- Spring 2025 TOPS Processing Webinar: [March 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Spring 2025 TOPS Processing Webinar: [March 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Spring 2025 TOPS Processing Webinar: [March 28 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant Deadline: [March 28](#)
- SFA Sponsor and Congregate Site Applications for Summer Feeding: March 31
- Nutrition Support Quarterly State Update: [April 2 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- K-12 Science Summer Professional Learning for Educators Registration Deadline: [April 3](#)
- 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](#)
- International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Survey Due: [May 1](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- K-12 Science Summer Professional Learning for Leaders Registration Deadline: [May 9](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)
- FFY 2025 Grant Application Public Comment Deadline: [May 18](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

2025-2026 Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant (CSTAG) Deadline Extension

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

The deadline for CSTAG applications has been extended to March 28. 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.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

K-12 Science Summer Professional Learning

Please share with school leaders, science supervisors, and system leaders.

The LDOE science team will offer in-person professional learning sessions designed specifically to support K-12 school and system science leaders. These sessions will focus on effective science teaching and learning strategies, tools to facilitate teacher collaboration and planning, and the connection between high-quality science instructional materials and the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER). Interested participants can learn more about the one-day workshops and register for one of the two available sessions by reviewing the [K-12 Science Professional Learning for Leaders](#) flyer. There is no registration fee, but seating is limited. To request a seat, please complete the [leader registration form](#) by May 9.

[Teacher professional learning workshops](#) are also available.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Upcoming Launch of Kindergarten Dyslexia Screening Platform

Please share with district test coordinators, general education teachers, special education leaders, and special education teachers.

The LDOE is excited to announce that the dyslexia screening platform for Act 266 Kindergarten Dyslexia Screening will open soon. This year, district test coordinators will play a key role in assisting with the testing process, utilizing the Review 360 platform to administer the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen.

The screening process will occur around the same time as the end-of-year DIBELS screener. Stay tuned for additional training opportunities and guidance from LDOE to ensure a smooth and effective implementation.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Administering the End-of-Year DIBELS Screener for Students with Limited Verbal Skills

Please share with assistive technology coordinators, general education teachers, special education leaders, special education teachers, and speech-language pathologists.

The LDOE recognizes the importance of accessible assessment opportunities for all students, including diverse learners with limited verbal skills. As part of the End-of-Year DIBELS screening process, these students should

complete the assessment using their appropriate mode of communication, including Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) when necessary.

Students with limited verbal skills, as documented in their Individualized Education Program (IEP), will complete the screener using the paper version of DIBELS 8. They should also be provided with extended time to complete the DIBELS® 8 probe, as appropriate.

AAC Options for DIBELS Administration: Students may respond using a variety of unaided or aided communication methods, including:

- Unaided AAC: Gestures, facial expressions, American Sign Language (ASL), finger spelling, or Visual Phonics hand cues
- Aided AAC: Communication boards with symbols or text, picture-based systems, printed words, or electronic devices that generate speech

For students completing the Letter Naming Fluency subtest, the test administrator may point to each letter while the student responds using assistive technology, ASL, finger spelling, and/or a speech-generating device.

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.

Alternate Assessment Participation Review

Please share with special education leaders.

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any school system with more than 1.0 percent of students participating in the ELA, math, or science alternate assessment must take certain actions.

The 2023-2024 LEAP Connect data and corresponding documents are available in the Data Management FTP. School systems should review their data and take any required actions by April 11.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

2025-2026 School Support Institutes & System Leader Regional Collaborations

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

Please mark your calendars for 2025-2026 School Support Institutes and System Leader Regional Collaborations. SSI will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and the System Leader Collaborations will be held from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the same dates and at the same locations. Registration will open on [May 1](#).

The 2025-2026 School Support Institutes & System Leader Regional Collaboration dates are:

- Monroe Cohort: September 23 and January 27
- Shreveport Cohort: September 24 and January 28
- Lafayette Cohort: October 2 and January 23
- Baton Rouge Cohort: October 1 and January 22
- New Orleans Cohort (SSI only): September 30 and January 21

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Super App Approval, Funding, and Implementation (AFI) Summary

Please share with federal program staff and system leaders.

The 2025-2026 Super App Approval, Funding, and Implementation (AFI) Summary will be emailed to federal program directors, business managers, and superintendents of CIR/UIR-A sites on March 28. This document will include:

- Outcomes of the LDOE review of the proposed CIR/UIR strategy and requests for competitive funds
- Eligible expenditures for any awarded funds
- Recommended steps for the implementation of the approved CIR/UIR strategy

Please review the AFI Summary carefully upon receipt, as it contains vital information for your LEAs planning and budget allocation.

Please contact ldoeoperations@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Spring 2025 TOPS Processing Webinars

Please share with high school administrators, school counselors, and STS coordinators.

LOSFA has shared the dates, times, and registration links for the Spring 2025 TOPS Processing Webinars. The interactive virtual event is designed to help schools minimize TOPS processing errors for seniors. The same content will be covered during each session, which is listed below. Registration is required. Registered participants will receive email confirmations with Zoom login information. If no confirmation email is received, please check your spam folder.

- [March 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- [March 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [March 28 at 1 p.m.](#)

Please contact hailey.pellegrin@la.gov or rhonda.bridevaux@la.gov with questions.

Update to CDF Allocation Guidance

Please share with CTE supervisors and system leaders.

The [CDF Allocation Guidance](#) has been updated to include travel expenses and registration costs for educators and CTE staff attending the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit. Documentation demonstrating attendance at sessions directly related to CTE, work-based learning, and accountability must be provided in the CDF end-of-year report.

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2024-2025 Annual RFA Application Deadline

Please share with school and system leaders.

The application deadline for the 2024-2025 Annual RFA Application Cycle is March 31. Applicants must submit the full application and completed overview template by email to charters@la.gov by 5 p.m. The application will only be reviewed if a Letter of Intent and Eligibility Determination form are received by the due date and the applicant received confirmation from the LDOE of meeting eligibility criteria. Any applications submitted without adherence to the Letter of Intent and Eligibility Determination due date requirements will not be reviewed.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

LSP Schools Virtual Meetings for LA GATOR Scholarship Program

Please share with nonpublic Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) participants and school leaders.

LA GATOR Scholarship student applications are now available at lagator.la.gov and will close on April 15 for the 2025-2026 school year. All current LSP students must apply in order to participate in the LA GATOR Program.

The Office of School Choice and Odyssey will hold a series of virtual meetings to support LSP Schools in this effort. An email with the meeting link has been shared with all school leaders.

Odyssey is operating the program help desk and call center. Resources, information, and frequently asked questions are available at lagator.la.gov, on [Odyssey's website](#), and through the call center at 225-422-1538.

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

School System Financial Services

MFP - Career Development Fund (CDF) Final Allocation and Payments

Please share with business managers.

The final MFP payments for FY 2024-2025 CDF allocations will be released by the LDOE by March 31. For more details, please refer to the CDF Guidance and Allocation document available in the MFP Library.

Please contact LDOEmfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) March 2025 Budget Letter Update

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Required annual adjustments to the FY2024-2025 MFP Budget Letter allocation have been completed, including the Mid-Year Student Count Adjustments for October 2024 and February 2025; the calculation of the final Charter Per-Pupil amounts, and the funding adjustments as a result of the most recent MFP audits. These adjustments are reflected in the March Budget Letter supporting documentation that will be provided in the LDOE's [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Projected Local Revenue Data

Please share with business managers.

In order to complete the FY 2025-2026 MFP allocations for charter schools, projected FY 2024-2025 local revenue data must be submitted to the LDOE by each city and parish school district. The projected FY 2024-2025 local revenue data is being collected through the LEADS portal, which will be available beginning March 25. A list of the [Required Key Punch Codes](#) and step-by-step [Projected Annual Survey Instructions](#) for submitting data through LEADS are provided. The deadline to submit this data is April 11.

Please contact LDOEmfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

Please share with school leaders, teachers, and testing coordinators.

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP assessment in July and September to:

- Review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and appropriateness for all Louisiana students (Math and ELA)
- Provide recommendations on achievement level expectations (Social Studies)

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links and deadlines to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete the applications is April 18.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025 Grade 12 Spring Retesting

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

This year, dedicated senior forms should be assigned to grade 12 students for Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology. Assigning the senior form, which can only be assigned to students identified as grade 12 in DRC INSIGHT, assures a quicker return of the high school results. Students assigned the senior form must all be placed in a special test session to select the form. Please do not identify any students as grade 12 unless it can be confirmed in the official enrollment record in EdLink 360.

- The forms for English I, English II, U.S. History, and Civics are the same for grade 12 students as for students in other grades
- Students identified as grade 12 in DRC INSIGHT will continue to receive an automatic rescore regardless of the form that they take

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.