

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: April 1, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

April is the Month of the Military Child. This is a time to recognize the strength, resilience, and sacrifices of military-connected students. In Louisiana, over 12,000 children in our schools are part of military families. Like their parents, they serve in their own way — often moving every two to three years, adjusting to new schools, and rebuilding support systems along the way.

Louisiana proudly upholds the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which helps reduce the challenges that come with frequent school transitions. We also recognize Purple Star Schools across our state, schools that have taken intentional steps to support military-connected students through nationally recognized strategies. These efforts reflect our shared belief that all students deserve the opportunity to graduate high school ready for a career, college, or service.

Thank you for helping Louisiana stand with military families. It's our honor to serve those who serve.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Early Childhood Community Network Office Hours: [April 8 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [April 8 at 3 p.m.](#)
- High School Science Leaders Support Month Call: [April 9 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [April 9 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [April 10 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [April 10 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [April 10 at 10 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [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.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [April 23 at 1 p.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [April 24 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [April 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [April 28 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [April 29 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [April 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [May 1 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [May 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- LEADS Implementation Monthly Call: [May 7 at 12 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Nutrition Support Quarterly State Update at Pennington Biomedical Research Center: [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

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](#).

- Kiddom - Core Knowledge Bayou Bridges: Powered by Kiddom, Grade 3 (©2024)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Office Hours

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and teachers.

The LDOE social studies team will hold their fourth office hours session to provide additional support for [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#), and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). In this session, we will discuss using the Bayou Bridges resource one-pagers and the launch of Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program.

- **Date and Time:** April 2 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92800306323?pwd=eObx7y79EwbnVD7OGfK2nHap7GN7qV.1#success>

See the 2025 [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#) for future dates, topics, and access to past office hours slides.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks Materials Reminder

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

[American Reading Company](#) has provided a timeline for school systems that utilize their text purchasing site for ELA Guidebooks text purchases. Quotes can be generated before the new fiscal year funding is available. Please see the timeline below to plan for your order before the start of the 2025-2026 school year:

- To receive texts by May 30, orders must be placed by April 21
- To receive texts by June 30, orders must be placed by May 23
- To receive texts by July 31, orders must be placed by June 13

If an expedited timeframe is required for an order, please contact micah.nicholson@americanreading.com.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

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% 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. Corresponding documents are located in the 2023-2024 Alternate Assessment Audit folder. School systems should review their data and take any required actions by April 11.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

SPED Fellow Academy Application

Please share with special education leaders, system leaders, and special education teachers.

The [LDOE SPED Fellow Academy](#) application for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. This opportunity is designed for novice special education leaders eager to grow their leadership skills, enhance their expertise, and make a lasting impact in special education. The application deadline is April 30.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

DIF Grant: Middle to High School (M2HS) Pilot Initiative

Please share with special education leaders, special education teachers, and system leaders.

The Division of Diverse Learners, in partnership with the Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET), is excited to announce an opportunity to participate in a cohort aimed at increasing the efficiency and efficacy of the transition between middle and high school, more effectively preparing students with disabilities to be successful.

We are seeking districts to participate in the [Middle to High School \(M2HS\) initiative](#). This initiative will expand access by offering a training and support series for the Special Education Director and a cohort of teachers from selected districts that foster informed, effective transitions into high school. The application deadline is April 22.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Significant Disproportionality

Please share with special education leaders and system leaders.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires states to examine the likelihood that students with disabilities from one race/ethnicity will be subject to over-identification, restrictive placement, or exclusionary discipline actions relative to students with disabilities from all other races/ethnicities in each school system. Significant Disproportionality Notification Letters will be provided to **identified** school systems the week of March

31. Notification letters will be placed in the Diverse Learner folder (purged after 30 days) on the data management FTP. Any school system identified as having significant disproportionality is required to set aside 15% of its IDEA budget to address comprehensive coordinated early intervening services (CCEIS) in Super App for the 2025-2026 school year.

Additional details for this process, including timelines, will be provided in the notification letter.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

Please share with special education leaders and system leaders.

The 2024-2025 special education parent involvement survey packet for LEAs selected to participate is available in the Diverse Learner folder in the data management FTP. Special education leaders received a notification email outlining the process. The survey is open through June 30.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Spring 2025 New Homeless Liaison and Parent and Family Engagement Federal Compliance Conference

Please share with school counselors, school administrators, and school system-level administrators.

The LDOE will host the Annual [Spring 2025 Conference for New Homeless Liaisons and all Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators](#) on April 11 at the Claiborne Building at 1201 North Third Street in Baton Rouge.

The conference will include two sessions:

- PAFE Coordinators will attend a half-day session from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The session will review the new non-regulatory guidance and federal mandates to align daily practices with national standards and compliance requirements.
- New Homeless Liaisons will attend the McKinney Vento 101 session from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. The session will provide an in-depth look into the McKinney Vento Law and the roles and responsibilities in serving individuals experiencing homelessness.

All PAFE Coordinators and New Homeless Liaisons are encouraged to attend. Attendees must [register in advance](#).

Please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions and any special accommodations that may be required for full participation.

New Guidance Available Regarding Applied Behavior Analysis Services in Schools

Please share with school counselors, school administrators, and school system-level administrators.

Act 745 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session amended Louisiana Revised Statute 17:173 regarding applied behavior analysis (ABA) services in schools. The policy approved by BESE in August 2024 is now final in [Bulletin 135 - Health and Safety](#). Additional guidance for school and system leaders has been prepared to assist in effective implementation of the statutory and policy provisions.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov for more information about ABA policy for students with disabilities. For information regarding ABA policy for students without disabilities, please contact healthyschools@la.gov. For additional information regarding ABA complaint procedures, please contact DOEDisputeResolution@la.gov.

Career and College Readiness

High School Summer Internships

Please share with school counselors, school administrators, and school system-level administrators.

The LDOE will hire up to 5 high school students for internships in various offices within the agency. Applications will be accepted from April 1 to April 25. These summer internships will be employed for 160 hours from June 16 to July 14 with a pay rate of \$10 per hour. Interns will be assigned tasks specific to the office in which they are employed. Interviews of qualified applicants will be held in the afternoons of May 5-16.

Once students have been selected, on May 27, school systems will be contacted to determine if the school system can offer the classroom experience to transcribe the experience.

To apply, students must be enrolled in a state-approved high school and complete the following application documents. These documents are also available [online](#). The completed documents should be e-mailed to stephanie.marcum@la.gov.

- [LDOE Summer Internships Release](#) (if the student is under 18)
- [LDOE Student Application](#)
- [LDOE Summer Internship Supplemental Application](#)

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

BESE Authorized Charter School Submissions

Please share with BESE-authorized charter schools and system leaders.

Refer to the [2024-2025 Charter School Reporting Calendar](#) for important accountability, financial, and data items due in April.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Local-Authorizer Monthly Call

Please share with school and system leaders.

The April topic will be BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 9 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92929487417?pwd=ZUIRTVc2Q1MyNGp2a2pabTdaSk9vQT09#success>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 470 250 9358
- **Meeting ID:** 929 2948 7417

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2025-2026 Projected Local Revenue Data

Please share with business managers and school business officials.

In order to complete the FY 2025-2026 MFP calculations for charter schools, the projected FY 2024-2025 local revenue data and expenditures related to the collection of the revenue must be submitted to the LDOE by each school district. The projected local revenue data is being collected through the LEADS portal. The LEADS data collection portal is now available. The deadline to submit this data is April 11.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Dates and Deadlines for State Administrations

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

Please refer to the [Spring Schedule of Events for ACT State Testing in Louisiana](#) to verify all critical ACT dates.

The following are Important Dates for State Administrations:

- **April 4:** ACT online testing window closes for accommodated and standard-time testing
- **April 7:** WorkKeys online testing window closes for all testing options
- **April 8:** Prescheduled FedEx pickup for all ACT materials has been set for systems. The receipt deadline at ACT is April 11; late-arriving answer documents will not be scored
- **April 9:** A prescheduled Fed Ex pickup for all WorkKeys materials has been set for systems. The receipt deadline at ACT is April 18; late-arriving answer documents will not be scored

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.