

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: April 8, 2025

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Message from the Governor

Below is a special message to Louisiana teachers from Governor Jeff Landry. You can read Governor Landry's letter below or [download the PDF version](#).

Dear Teachers,

I write to you today, as your Governor, with the hopes of clearing the air. Two years ago, I made a promise to our citizens that I would work to improve the outcomes for Louisiana's students by prioritizing the two most important people in their education: the child's parent and you, the child's teacher. I know firsthand what you mean to our State. I was raised in a family of teachers who believed that the greatest gift they could give society was preparing their students for the challenges of tomorrow.

My appreciation of them and you were the basis for the "Let Teachers Teach" project. This initiative invited teachers to share their ideas for improving the classroom environment. Only by listening to them did we begin to implement a set of policies that reduce paperwork, eliminate excessive trainings, respect your autonomy, and allow you to teach without behavior distractions. We are also committed to reducing state testing, because I am not a big fan of teaching to a test. The goal is to get back to the basics of education, and it is not possible without you.

Our rankings are improving dramatically and that is a testament to our teachers. My belief in our teachers is why we worked to extend the \$2,000 stipend last year, despite a potential budget shortfall. Limited by constitutional constraints, we explored options to create a lasting solution and landed on a change – Amendment 2 – to our Constitution. It would have paid off retirement debt and increased your pay with those savings.

Your retirement is designed to provide for you beyond your time in the classroom. Presently, 10% of Louisiana's K-12 education budget is allocated to address retirement debt, which is paid by school districts. This financial obligation severely limits available funds for essential areas like salary increases. Amendment 2 was designed to reduce that debt and direct savings towards a permanent teacher pay raise.

Eliminating this high-interest retirement debt is akin to reducing personal debts, resulting in savings for our local schools. Just as one would eagerly accept a friend's offer to pay off their mortgage, Amendment 2 was designed to be that friend. It mandated a \$2,000 annual salary increase for every teacher and a \$1,000 increase for every support staff member. By eradicating nearly 25% of the total debt in the teacher retirement system, the Amendment not only bolstered the security of your retirement benefits but also saved taxpayers over \$1 billion in interest payments.

In times of fiscal instability, our current Constitution turns education and health care into political pawns. My goal was to end that political manipulation. Amendment 2 sought to shift the focus of sound fiscal practices towards benefitting teachers. Rather than sending these wasteful interest payments to Wall Street banks, we wanted to invest those dollars in you.

Regrettably – with the setback faced by Amendment 2 – we are back to the drawing board, as no existing alternative recurring resources exist to fund the permanent salary increase you deserve. It is imperative that we work together toward sound financial budgeting that protects the taxpayer and properly compensates you. As always, my door is open to finding a solution that does both.

For Louisiana,

Jeff Landry
Governor

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- High School Science Leaders Support 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.](#)
- 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.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [April 17 at 10 a.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.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [April 22 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

- CLSD Webinar: [April 10](#)
- Submit Alternate Assessment Participation Review Forms: April 11
- LA GATOR Student Application Deadline: [April 15](#)
- Carl Perkins Technical Assistance Webinar: [April 17 at 9 a.m.](#)
- DIF Grant Application Deadline: April 22
- Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application Deadline: [April 22](#)
- SPED Fellow Application Deadline: April 30
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 4: [April 30](#)
- Complete the International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Survey: [May 1](#)
- Complete Act 108 Reporting: [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

Freedom Framework Update

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

The LDOE has updated its [Freedom Framework Social Studies Standards](#) to reflect Executive Order 14172, which renames the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America. The [Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) (BESE) approved this change on March 12, following a recommendation from Dr. Cade Brumley, the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education.

For more information, please refer to the [press release](#) from March 12. In response to this update, the LDOE has provided specific guidance for [system leaders](#) and [teachers](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

2025 Local Special Education Advisory Council Report Collection

Please share with special education leaders.

Pursuant to R.S. 17:1944, the LDOE is collecting school systems' Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) report for school year 2024-2025. Legislation also requires that the report be posted annually on the local systems' website. Please [submit](#) one website link to the approved report per school system by May 31.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Significant Disproportionality Determinations

Please share with special education leaders and system leaders.

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 for identified school systems are now available in the Diverse Learners (purged after 30 days) folder 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.

SPED Fellow Academy Application

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

The 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 leadership skills, enhance expertise, and make a lasting impact in the field of 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, system leaders, and special education teachers.

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 increase access by providing a training and support series for Special Education Directors and a cohort of teachers from selected districts, aimed at promoting informed, effective transitions into high school. The [application](#) deadline is April 22.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Dyslexia Professional Certification Program

Please share with general educators, special educators, special education leaders, and speech-language pathologists.

The LDOE, in partnership with the Dyslexia Resource Center, is excited to offer the [Dyslexia Professional Certification Program](#), a unique opportunity for educators to expand expertise in supporting students with dyslexia. This sponsored program provides high-quality training and certification, equipping educators with evidence-based strategies to enhance literacy instruction and intervention. Participants will gain specialized knowledge and practical skills to effectively support students with dyslexia, improving educational outcomes across Louisiana. The [application](#) deadline is April 30.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

CLSD Webinar

Please share with executive teams, federal programs coordinators, and superintendents.

The CLSD Webinar will share information regarding timelines and closeout of the CLSD 2019 (CIR/UIR) grant, final steps for the CLSD 2020 (UIN) grant, as well as dates and next steps for the CLSD 2024 grant.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 10 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95372843283?pwd=o7xnu27TlulaCbaaMa8MQroj1sYaxG.1#success>

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Decoding Multisyllabic Words in Grades 3-12 Now Available on LPLP

Please share with principal supervisors, instructional and literacy coaches.

Decoding Multisyllabic Words in Grades 3-12 is now available on the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#) (Canopy). This is an introduction to the theory and methods for supporting students with reading multisyllabic words in grades 3-12. Participants will learn about word analysis through both syllabication and morphology to be applied to older readers. The course topics strengthen instruction for all readers in all content areas. It includes suggestions for instructional activities, anchor charts, and teaching best practices to support students reading increasingly complex words in Tier I Core Instruction and intervention settings. Course Code: 31BB24UN.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Catalog of Support for Literacy Teachers

Please share with instructional coaches, literacy coaches, and principal supervisors.

[The Catalog of Literacy Instructional Support for Teachers](#) is a comprehensive index of all professional development opportunities created by the LDOE specifically for teachers. It is designed to support effective structures and best practices for high-quality literacy instruction across all grade levels. The catalog provides descriptions of each PD,

course codes, and other relevant links. The catalog is categorized by grade bands and denotes recommended courses for new teachers with an asterisk. It can be found under the “Supporting Resources” tab on the [Louisiana Literacy Professional Growth Library](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Act 108 End of Year Collection

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

Act 108 requires that LEAs report the number of teachers and school administrators who have completed an LDOE-approved foundational literacy skills course. This reporting is required annually.

Steps for completing this year’s required reporting for your LEA:

- Specify the individual or group responsible for submitting the report. Superintendents/school system leaders, or appointed designees may complete the submission.
- Complete the [jotform](#) no later than May 1. The jotform will allow submission for up to ten schools.
- Reuse the jotform link to submit additional schools as needed.

Refer to the [Act 108 Reporting FAQ](#) document for further information about the law and its reporting requirements.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Louisiana Elementary and Secondary Education Act Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request

Please share with business managers, federal program directors, and superintendents.

Due to Louisiana’s LEAs adjusting to federal program implementation protocols without COVID relief funding, an additional year is needed to obligate their FY23 ESEA funding in sustaining the effective strategies that were once funded with ESSER funding. Therefore, the LDOE is requesting that the U.S. Department of Education approve its tidings waiver to receive the opportunity to access additional flexibilities for certain funds received under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).

The LDOE is requesting the waiver, pursuant to section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). View the [ESEA LA FY23 Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request](#).

Federal program directors, business managers, financial officials, and relevant personnel of public school systems should review the waiver request and submit all questions or comments by Tuesday, April 14.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

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*. Please refer to the [guidance document](#) for school and system leaders 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.

April System Leaders Monthly Call Presentation

Please share with system leaders.

The [April System Leaders Monthly Call slide deck](#) is available on the LDOE website. Please contact the office representative listed on each slide with any questions regarding the presentation content

The next System Leaders Monthly Call is May 2 at 9 a.m.

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

Career and College Readiness

Carl Perkins Grant Technical Assistance

Please share with CTE supervisors and federal grant specialists.

The LDOE will host a Carl Perkins technical assistance webinar to help support systems in completing their Carl Perkins application for the upcoming school year. Assistance on completing the narratives and budget for the Carl Perkins section of the Super App will be available.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 17 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92571457991>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 925 7145 7991

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

Online Training for CTE Issuing Officers Now Open

Please share with system leaders, principals, teachers, and counselors.

Teachers must be authorized as CTE Issuing Officers by the Louisiana Workforce Commission in order to issue CTE employment certificates to students. Successful completion of an online training course and receipt of a course completion certificate from LWC are required.

Principals may request authorization for their CTE teachers by sending a letter on school letterhead to laborprograms@lwc.la.gov. The letter should include the names, titles, and email addresses of the CTE teachers.

Please contact rduhon@lwc.la.gov with questions.

Internship Funding

Please share with CTE supervisors.

HB 1 provides funding in the amount of \$1,000 for student-centric expenses associated with internships. It can be used to pay student salaries and to buy equipment, uniforms, and/or supplies associated with internships based on policy definition.

To request this funding, all items below must be complete by April 30:

- Students must be loaded in the [Course Choice Portal](#) in the LDOE Internship course.
- Contact tiffany.thomas@la.gov to get the required spreadsheet to upload into the Course Choice portal, indicating it is a spring enrollment.
- The [Funding for Internships](#) required documentation must be uploaded onto the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) by your data manager.
- Once you have uploaded your information, please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov so the data can be accessed and verified.

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

National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) Webinar

Please share with DE coordinators, school counselors, and school system leadership.

The Louisiana Board of Regents will feature speakers from the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) to discuss partnerships between secondary and postsecondary institutions. The [Louisiana Dual Enrollment Webinar](#) will take place on April 10 at 1 p.m.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 10 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7LQj415gRciXhrJ751L-O#/registration

Please contact mellynn.baker@laregents.edu with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Excellence in Authorizing Consortium

Please share with school system leaders and LEA charter authorizers.

The [Excellence in Authorizing Consortium](#) was developed to build the individual and collective capacities of school systems in Louisiana to authorize charters using best practices. In conjunction with the LDOE, the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) will provide participants with resources, professional development, and collaboration opportunities targeting charter school authorizing.

From May 28 through September 24, participants will engage in up to four virtual and two in-person sessions to enhance local authorizers' expertise and offer ongoing development in the best practices of charter school authorization. [Registration](#) is required to participate in this community of practice.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

LA GATOR Scholarship Program

CLOSING SOON: LA GATOR Student Applications

Please share with charter, nonpublic, and public schools.

LA GATOR student applications will close on **Tuesday, April 15**. No applications will be accepted after this date. Visit lagator.la.gov for the application and full program details.

The program administrator, Odyssey, is available to support families during the application process, offering three customer service options:

- Help Desk Ticket: [Submit a Request](#)
- Help Desk Email: help.la@withodyssey.com
- Call Center: 225-422-1538

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

School System Financial Services

FY 2024-2025 Agriculture Science Allocation

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The FY 2024-2025 Agriculture Science allocation payments have been processed according to HB 1 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature. Please refer to the [guidance document](#) for information regarding the allocation that was recently released to school systems.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Proposed FY 2025-2026 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Formula

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The FY 2025-2026 proposed BESE adopted MFP resolution and formula was submitted to the Legislature on March 15. The proposed formula documents are available in the [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Final FY 2024-2025 Charter Per-Pupil Amounts

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The FY 2024-2025 Charter Per-Pupil amounts are available via the [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#). The local revenue representation per-pupil amount for charter schools is required to be updated from the initial amount to the final amount and utilized in the MFP formula allocation according to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:3995.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2024-2025 MFP Mid-Year Adjustments

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The MFP Mid-Year Adjustment calculations for FY 2024-2025 are posted in the [Minimum Foundation Program Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Camera Maintenance Allocation

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The allocation for SpEd Camera Maintenance provides for payments to assist school systems with maintenance costs associated with the purchase of cameras for special education classrooms. Allocations for SpEd Camera Maintenance were recently released, and funding should be coded to a restricted fund and utilized for the intended purposes of maintaining special education cameras only. Unspent funds should remain in the restricted fund and be labeled as fund balance.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Interests and Opportunities Data Certification - Nonpublic

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

Interests and Opportunities data certification in Louisiana Data Review is opening for final review.

The 2024-2025 Interests & Opportunities survey for calculating the 2024-2025 Scholarship Cohort Index will be open from April 14 through May 21. In addition, the survey must be validated by your superintendent or their designee by May 23. Survey information will be sent to principals and Scholarship Program contacts.

Please contact accountability@la.gov and studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

Interests and Opportunities Data Certification - Public

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

Interests and Opportunities data certification in Louisiana Data Review is opening for final review.

For 2024-2025 Interests and Opportunities, the Louisiana Data Review (LDR) online system opens to school system accountability contacts on April 14 and closes on June 6 for submitting data for the selected Interest and Opportunities documentation-based indicators for the 2025 school performance scores. LDR user guides and directions will be sent to Accountability contacts.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.