

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: April 15, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

It's fitting that as the Louisiana Legislature begins its 2025 Regular Session, our state also took another step towards elevating civics education.

Last week, BESE approved a new diploma endorsement designed to recognize students who demonstrate excellence in civics. Starting with the 2025–2026 school year, high schoolers who score Mastery or above on the LEAP civics assessment will earn the Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement — complete with a red, white, and blue honor cord and a diploma seal.

This new policy was adopted following testimony from four Louisiana high school students, who spoke powerfully about the importance of civics education and the impact it has had on their lives.

This endorsement aligns with our Freedom Framework social studies standards and reinforces our belief that civics education is foundational. I've said before that if a country doesn't understand its own history or the civics that govern it, that's a national security risk. Today, less than a quarter of students graduate proficient in civics. In Louisiana, we are committed to changing that by setting higher expectations and celebrating students who rise to meet them.

Thank you for the work you do every day to support Louisiana's students and strengthen our state.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- 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.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [May 6 at 2 p.m.](#)
- LEADS Implementation Monthly Call: [May 7 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [May 7 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [May 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [May 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [May 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- 2025-2026 Super App Office Hours: [May 21 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- LA GATOR Student Application Deadline: [April 15 at 11:59 p.m.](#)
- Carl Perkins Technical Assistance Webinar: [April 17 at 9 a.m.](#)
- DIF Grant Application Deadline: [April 22](#)
- Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Application Deadline: [April 22](#)
- Middle to High School (M2HS) Initiative Application Deadline: [April 22](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [April 28 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [April 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- SPED Fellow Application Deadline: [April 30](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 4: [April 30](#)
- Dyslexia Professional Certification Program Application Deadline: [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

Foundations of Freedom Summer Civics Institute

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

To support the initial implementation of [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), the LDOE is hosting in-person, regional professional learning opportunities this summer at no cost to systems.

This half-day workshop will provide curriculum-based opportunities to:

- identify and utilize the design principles and key components of Foundations of Freedom;
- annotate and adapt lessons making use of the features of Foundations of Freedom;
- build capacity to plan and utilize the performance tasks; and
- create pacing guides to ensure lesson structures are coherent, aligned to standards, and organized to meet students' needs.

This opportunity is open to system and school leaders and any formal, community-based, or pre-service K-12 social studies educator who will utilize [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#) in the upcoming school year.

See the [Foundations of Freedom Summer Civics Institute flyer](#) for dates and locations. Complete the [registration](#) form by July 1 to reserve a seat in one of the half-day sessions.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

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 similar process to what was used in 2023-2024. The Spring 2025 Mentor and Resident Funding call will 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=pBbLikzVa8s2fXOhjv1ajDsYvUrGAZ.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 964 5355 5167
- **Meeting Passcode:** 109017

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application 2025-2026 Application Available

Please share with human resource professionals and system leaders.

In an effort to support school systems, the LDOE will offer the sixth cohort of the Recruitment and Retention Fellowship during the 2025-2026 school year. The LDOE believes that investing in the development of human resources system leaders is essential for driving improvements in schools and districts to ensure high-quality educators in every classroom.

This year-long fellowship provides human resources system leaders with best practices for attracting, supporting, and retaining effective educators. Participants will share innovative solutions, collaborate with fellow HR leaders across the state, and build a long-term network focused on securing a highly effective workforce. Additional information can be found in the [Recruitment and Retention Overview](#).

The [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship application](#) is open until June 27.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy

Please share with pre-educator system leads and teachers.

[Student](#) and [Academy Staff](#) applications are now open for a one-of-a-kind, five-day hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience at Louisiana State University at Alexandria. The Academy will be held July 14-18 and is open to high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators.

Please contact mwillis@lsua.edu with questions.

Fingerprint Scheduling with IdentoGO for Credentialing

Please share with educators, human resources (HR) directors, teacher candidates, teacher preparation providers, school leaders, and system leaders.

As part of the certification process for obtaining a “[Clear Credential](#)”, all [applicants must complete a criminal background check \(CBC\)](#) through IdentoGO, following the instructions provided in the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#).

Tips for successful and efficient fingerprinting:

- Schedule fingerprinting using the correct service code; if being fingerprinted for employment, the applicant should use the employer’s service code, but if being fingerprinted for certification, the applicant should use service code 27N5HQ.

- Applicants are encouraged to schedule fingerprinting in Louisiana to reduce their fingerprinting fees. If applicants are not able to schedule fingerprinting with an IdentoGO location, there is a mail-in option. Please email EducatorClearance@la.gov for details if that is needed.
- Applicants are encouraged to provide their Social Security Number at the time of scheduling and fingerprinting so that the CBC may be associated with any existing certification records quickly.
- Applicants should avoid entering a mailing address that exceeds 30 characters; abbreviate as needed to keep the address below 30 characters.
- Applicants should avoid using apostrophes or special characters in their addresses.
- Typically, CBCs are securely, electronically transmitted to LDOE within just a few hours following fingerprinting, but if an applicant does not see the "Clear Credential" notation on their certification record in three weeks, the applicant should email EducatorClearance@la.gov.

A CBC is required only once for certification. The LDOE continuously receives state "rap backs" (updated criminal history notifications), eliminating the need for repeated fingerprinting in most cases when maintaining certification.

Please ensure that all applicants and relevant personnel are aware of these requirements to prevent delays in the CBC and certification process. For additional guidance, refer to the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#)

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Resources

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

Resources continue to be added to the [LEADS Public Collections](#) section of the Professional Learning Platform. Two new modules to deepen understanding of the interconnectedness of the indicators of the Louisiana Educator Rubric are now available:

- [The Rubric is Holistic: Promoting Strong Academic Conversations](#)
- [The LER is Holistic: Impact of Thinking and Problem Solving on Student Engagement](#)

In addition, two [full-length lesson sets](#) are also now available. These sets include pre-conference, observation, post-conference, and PGP/coaching plan materials. The [Video Clip Collection](#), which highlights classroom instructional best practices aligned to the Instructional Domain indicators of the [Louisiana Educator Rubric \(LER\)](#), is also available.

These resources offer access to professional learning for system leaders, school leaders, teacher leaders, and teachers to support the advancement of classroom instruction and student learning. Louisiana educators can use these materials in various professional learning settings to deepen the knowledge of the LER, build rater reliability and a common language for the LER, and hone LER observation skills.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

2025 LEADS Louisiana Evaluator Training

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

Additional dates have been added to the [2025 LEADS Evaluator Training](#) schedule, and registration is open. All evaluators and designated observers must attend face-to-face training and take a certification assessment before evaluating. To qualify for the assessment, evaluators must attend all full, consecutive days. Evaluators are encouraged to register for earlier dates to allow time to reschedule if conflicts arise. Registrants should cancel registration if they cannot attend to allow those on the waitlist to participate. Evaluators/observers who have attended LER or LLCR Training previously do not need to attend the training again; an email with instructions on recertifying in the Professional Learning Platform/Canopy will be sent to these individuals soon.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Principal Survey

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

The Principal Survey will open in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) on April 28 for all systems participating in the Louisiana Leader Rubric (LLR) Learning Year. This anonymous survey is a key component of the Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS) and provides a valuable opportunity for educators to share feedback on their school principal. It is designed to gather anonymous, confidential input regarding a principal's leadership and overall effectiveness.

Each teacher will be allowed to submit one survey. Please note that once submitted, surveys cannot be edited or resubmitted. LES system contacts will receive an email with additional information. Survey submissions will be accepted through May 30.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Program Approval Fall Cycle

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

The [new program application](#) window will open on May 1 for the fall cycle for [teacher preparation programs](#), [mentor teacher](#), [content leader](#), and [ECAC](#). All Notice of Intent (NOIs) are due by May 1. Full applications are due by July 10.

A [guide](#) for teacher preparation providers applying for initial program approval is available in the [Preparation Library](#) on the [LDOE website](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Registration Closes April 18

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

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

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 is June 10-12 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2025-2026 Super App Office Hours

Please share with business managers and federal program directors.

The 2025-2026 Super App Approval, Funding, and Implementation (AFI) Summary was emailed to federal program directors, business managers, and superintendents of labeled sites on April 11. Approved allocations will be uploaded to eGMS by May 1. The LDOE will review the steps that school systems should take following approval for the 2025-2026 Super App.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 21 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94011194331?pwd=GF5VOl1365EtEabNp6fb9MKHfwUDbl.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 940 1119 4331

Please contact ldoeoperations@la.gov with questions.

School System Board Member BESE Updates

Please share with system leaders.

In October, BESE approved an LDOE revision to bulletins concerning communication pathways. As part of this update, summaries of updates following each BESE meeting are emailed to local school board members and system leaders. In addition to state KPIs and initiatives, system-specific data related to these priorities is also provided to each board member.

To maintain accurate and consistent communication, please ensure that the email addresses of both system leaders and local school board members are submitted and kept current. As stipulated in the [policy](#), "Each board member shall ensure that an accurate email address is on file with the LDOE for this purpose." Email addresses may be submitted to Sabre Masters at sabremasters@la.gov.

Please contact sabre.masters@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship

Please share with administrators, school counselors, and CTE Supervisors.

The [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship](#) awards \$1,000 scholarships to train the next generation of skilled workers. Up to 40 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors from across the state.

Students are eligible to apply if they have a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential, will earn a Jump Start Career Diploma, and will enroll full-time in an LCTCS Construction Pathway Program or an ABC training program in the summer or fall immediately following graduation. The application deadline is April 22.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.