

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: May 6, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Teacher Appreciation Week is a special opportunity to recognize the remarkable dedication, resilience, and impact of Louisiana educators. This year, our gratitude carries even more weight. Following our state's historic academic gains on The Nation's Report Card, many have asked how Louisiana achieved such significant progress. The answer is clear: it starts with our teachers.

Teachers lead this progress every day — showing up, innovating, and raising expectations for students. Their focus on academics and belief in the potential of every child is reshaping the future of Louisiana education.

As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, I encourage every school system, school, and family to reflect on the pivotal role our educators play. Let's ensure they know how valued they are — not just this week, but every week. To every teacher in Louisiana: thank you for your service, your passion, and your leadership. You are writing a new story for Louisiana education.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- LEADS Implementation Monthly Call: [May 7 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [May 7 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [May 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [May 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [May 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [May 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Office Hours: [May 13 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [May 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [May 14 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [May 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- World Languages BESE Mandate Informational Webinar: [May 15 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [May 15 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [May 19 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [May 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Super App Office Hours: [May 21 at 10 a.m.](#)

- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [May 21 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [May 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Community of Practice: [May 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Principal's Monthly Call: [May 26 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [May 28 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [June 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [June 5 at 8 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Special Education Advisory Panel Application Deadline: [May 9](#)
- 2025 New Homeless Liaison and Parent and Family Engagement Federal Compliance Conference: [May 12](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)
- Middle of Year (MOY) and End of Year (EOY) Gifted Referral Data Submission Deadline: [May 16](#)
- FFY 2025 Grant Application Public Comment Deadline: [May 18](#)
- LEADS Principal's Survey Submission Deadline: May 30
- Counselor Survey Submission Deadline: [June 1](#)
- 2025 Teacher Leader Summit, New Orleans: [June 10-12](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Office Hours

Please share with administrators, content specialists, and school system leaders.

The LDOE social studies team will hold office hours on May 7 to preview sessions available at Teacher Leader Summit. Access to past office hours topics and slides can be found in the [2025 Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 7 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92800306323?pwd=eObx7y79EwbnVD7OGfK2nHap7GN7qV.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 928 0030 6323
- **Passcode:** 644638

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Foundations of Freedom: Now Available

Please share with administrators, content specialists, and school system leaders.

[Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#) is now available for download. System leaders, content specialists, and teachers are encouraged to visit the Foundations of Freedom webpage to access materials, such as:

- Student Volumes
- Teacher's Guide
- Curriculum Guide
- Standards Tracker
- Unit Study Tool

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Foundations of Freedom: Summer Civics Institute

Please share with administrators, content specialists, and school system leaders.

To support the initial implementation of [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), the LDOE is hosting in-person professional learning opportunities this summer. 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.

The [Foundations of Freedom: Summer Civics Institute](#) overview document provides dates, locations, and registration details. To reserve a seat in one of the half-day sessions, complete the [registration form](#) by July 1.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Student Workbooks

Please share with administrators, content specialists, and school system leaders.

Student workbooks for [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#), are now available for the 2025-2026 school year. These workbooks are designed to support student learning by including:

- Student Reading Notes Pages
- Primary Sources
- Checks for Understanding
- Activity Pages
- Performance Tasks
- Additional Map or Source Activities

Workbooks are available in two formats: as a download from the Bayou Bridges webpage or for purchase from Core Knowledge. The cost is \$2 per unit. Please contact labayoubridges@coreknowledge.org for purchasing information.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Coming Soon: Social Studies Resources

Please share with administrators, content specialists, and school system leaders.

The LDOE will be releasing several new [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) and high school resources this summer, including:

- Bayou Bridges Standards Trackers to ensure comprehensive coverage of each content standard
- Bayou Bridges Resource Hub consolidating all internal and external links on one Google Sheet
- Bayou Bridges Alternate Pacing Guides for grades 3-8, providing additional pacing options for teachers
- K-2 Instructional Slide Decks, developed in collaboration with the LDOE literacy team, to enhance student engagement, support lesson pacing, and facilitate formative assessment
- World Geography and World History High School Frameworks, serving as valuable resources to support instruction and ensure consistent curricular alignment across all grades K-12

System leaders and teachers are encouraged to visit the [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 social Studies Curriculum](#) and [K-12 Social Studies Planning](#) pages this summer to access these valuable new resources.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

inquiryHub (iHub) Biology Transition From High-Quality Pilot

Please share with administrators, content specialists, and school system leaders.

In the 2025-2026 school year, inquiryHub Biology will no longer be designated as a high-quality pilot. This change follows the second phase of materials developed by the iHub team with the completion of the OpenSciEd Biology, Chemistry, and Physics materials.

While the foundational inquiryHub materials will remain on the iHub website until 2027, the iHub team will only offer professional learning for the OpenSciEd high school materials.

Systems and schools planning to adopt a new high-quality option for high school Biology may consider [OpenSciEd High School Biology](#) or BSCS Biology. Both of these curricula are supported by professional learning. More information on these materials can be found on the [K-12 Science Planning web page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Special Education Advisory Panel Application Open

Please share with special education stakeholders.

The LDOE is seeking applications for membership on the [Special Education Advisory Panel \(SEAP\)](#). SEAP members represent public and private sectors that, by virtue of their position, interest, or training, can contribute information regarding the education of students with disabilities.

The panel currently has vacancies for a parent of a student with a disability, an individual with a disability, and a teacher. Interested stakeholders can apply for one of the positions by submitting an [application](#) by May 9.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

LEADS Principal Survey

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

The Principal Survey is now open in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES). Each educator will be allowed to submit one survey that provides feedback on the principal of their school. Please note that once submitted, surveys cannot be edited or resubmitted. LES system contacts have received an email with information, including the [Principal Survey Guide for Educators](#).

Although the survey will remain open through May 30, systems should set an internal deadline before this date to ensure participation from educators.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Fingerprint Scheduling with IdentoGO for Credentialing

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

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:

- Use 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.
- Schedule fingerprinting in Louisiana to reduce fingerprinting fees. If applicants cannot schedule fingerprinting with an IdentoGO location, use the mail-in option.
- Provide Social Security Number at the time of scheduling and fingerprinting so that the CBC may be associated with any existing certification records quickly.
- Abbreviate the mailing address as needed to keep below 30 characters.
- Avoid using apostrophes or special characters in 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.

Fall 2025 BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Applications Open

Please share with teachers.

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the fall 2025 semester/quarter are open now through May 30. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators](#) page.

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit Session List

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

Teacher Leader Summit event registration is now closed. In preparation for Summit, attendees are encouraged to [preview sessions](#) in advance. Session registration in the Cvent app is tentatively scheduled to open on May 20. An email from Cvent will be sent with instructions for downloading the app and entering the Teacher Leader Summit event code.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Updated Attendance Strategy Transition

Please share with attendance coordinators and supervisors.

As part of the ongoing effort to support improved attendance outcomes, the LDOE has transitioned attendance initiatives to the Office of Operations. With this move, the monthly attendance call Zoom link has been updated.

The LDOE remains committed to reducing chronic absenteeism and strengthening attendance through a strategic, tiered system of support for LEAs.

Please use the following information to join the June monthly attendance call and all future calls:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 5 at 8 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91765033816?pwd=i6mVOztBA6bNhblKlBbWH1SUS44vZ.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 917 6503 3816
- **Passcode:** 893527

Please contact attendance@la.gov with questions.

Education Excellence Fund (EEF) 6/30 Periodic Expense Report (PER) Submissions

Please share with business managers, EEF coordinators, school leaders, and superintendents.

The eGMS system is open to begin submitting EEF 6/30 PERs. Schools and agencies that received a payment from the 2024-2025 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) this year are advised of the following important dates:

- May 30: Final date for EEF Amendments
- June 30: Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds
- July 15: Deadline for EEF recipients to submit Final 6/30 PERs

The Final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the following year. If the Final PER is not submitted by July 15, EEF recipients may experience delays accessing their EEF funds for 2025-2026.

When finalizing the PER, navigate to the first tab, "Expenditure Obligation Summary," and locate the "Final Expenditure" checkbox at the bottom. Ensure this box is checked. Failing to do so will prevent the PER from being reported as final, necessitating corrections and resubmission.

For assistance in preparing Final 6/30 PERs for EEF, see the Training section on the [eGMS Logon page](#). Tips & Reminders: Preparing the Periodic Expense Report (PER).

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

Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2024-2025 SY (Third Quarter Only)

Please share with charter school directors, federal program directors, special education supervisors, and superintendents.

The LDOE monitors school systems annually to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the LDOE is releasing the [third quarter monitoring schedule](#). This schedule is tentative, and the LDOE reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

Superintendents, federal program, and special education supervisors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule will receive a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, via email.

School systems severely impacted by a disaster and currently listed on the schedule are asked to contact LDOE-program.monitoring@la.gov.

Please contact LDOE-program.monitoring@la.gov with questions.

Policy Waiver Requests

Please share with system leaders.

The [BESE Policy Waiver Request Form](#) is now located on the [School Policies](#) page of the LDOE website. As a reminder, BESE policy waivers, including foreign language waivers, are valid for one school year. A completed form for each policy waiver request and a signed letter from the system superintendent justifying the request must be submitted to the policy office for processing.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice

Please share with LEA charter authorizers and school system leaders.

Registration is now open for the [2025-2026 Community of Practice for 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. LEA Charter Authorizers will attend two full-day, in-person trainings and three virtual courses designed to strengthen the expertise of local authorizers and provide ongoing development in the best practices of charter school authorization. The Excellence in Authorizing Consortium will begin May 28 and end September 24.

Districts that participate in the Excellence in Authorizing Consortium and contribute to the Community of Practice are eligible for a [CSP Microgrant](#), intended to support the pursuit of quality authorizing.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov for more information.

BESE-Authorized Charter School Submissions

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

Important deadlines for accountability, financial, and data reporting items due in May are outlined in the [2024-2025 Charter School Reporting Calendar](#). Please consult this calendar for specific due dates.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Local-Authorizer Monthly Call

Please share with school and system leaders.

The Local-Authorizer Monthly Call is held on the second Wednesday of each month. The topic of the May call is Board Governance.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 14 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92929487417?pwd=ZUIRTVc2Q1MyNGp2a2pabTdaSk9vQT09#success>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470 250 9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 929 2948 7417

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Funding Allocation Review Audit

Please share with business managers and finance officials.

A review/audit of the usage of both the Differentiated Compensation Allocation and Certificated and Support Stipend Allocation funding is being initiated. As an initial step, two distinct questionnaires, one for each funding allocation, are being distributed. Please use the links provided below to access the respective questionnaires. Each document contains instructions for completion.

All systems that received funding for either the Differentiated Compensation Allocation or the Certificated and Support Stipend Allocation must complete and submit the applicable questionnaire.

The [Differentiated Compensation Allocation Questionnaire](#) and the [Certificated and Support Stipend Allocation Questionnaire](#) must be submitted by May 16.

Please contact staudit@la.gov for questions.