

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: May 13, 2025

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### In This Issue

[Message from the State Superintendent](#)

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations](#)

[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)

[School Choice](#)

### Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Another prominent national ranking was released last week, and for the third time this year Louisiana education received good news. I'm proud to share that [our state has reached its highest-ever ranking in U.S. News & World Report](#).

Following three consecutive years of growth, we are now 37th for PreK-12 education in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* Best States rankings.

These gains are not accidental. They stem from an intentional strategy, higher expectations, and your hard work. From early literacy and foundational math to high-dosage tutoring and expanded options for families, your work is showing results.

Thank you for your leadership, focus, and commitment to excellence. These national recognitions help affirm that we are on the right path – and remind us that the work we do every day matters.

The momentum is real. Let's keep going.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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 Mandated BESE 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**

- 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](#)
- Aspiring Educators Summer Academy Student Application Deadline: [May 20](#)
- SFA Summer Feeding Site Application Deadline: May 31
- Local Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Submission Deadline: May 31
- Counselor Survey Submission Deadline: [June 1](#)
- 2025 Teacher Leader Summit, New Orleans: [June 10-12](#)

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Educator Talent and Workforce Development**

#### **Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy Student Application Deadline Extended**

**Please share with pre-educator system leads and teachers.**

The student application deadline for the [Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy](#) has been extended to May 20. This five-day, hybrid summer camp is open to high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway, students enrolled in coursework to attract and develop future Louisiana educators, and members of Aspiring Educator clubs. The Academy will be held July 14-18 at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Please contact [mwillis@lsua.edu](mailto:mwillis@lsua.edu) with any questions.

#### **The New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off**

**Please share with human resource directors, new teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.**

The LDOE will host a [Summer Kick-Off for the New Teacher Experience](#) on July 24 in Baton Rouge for up to 400 new teachers. The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome new teachers to the profession.
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience.
- Engage in professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers.
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers.

The Summer Kick-Off will take place at the Lod Cook Alumni Center in Baton Rouge, located at 3838 W. Lakeshore Drive. [Registration](#) is now open and will close on July 16. This event is provided at no cost to systems; however, any travel costs may be covered by the school system. Registration includes lunch and a tote bag.

Please contact [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) with questions.

#### **Mentor Teacher, Content Leader, Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series Updates**

**Please share with principals and teacher leaders.**

The LDOE has been notified that Bloomboard will no longer offer the Louisiana Content Leader Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series (LLAS), effective June 19. All active assessments must be completed on or before June 19. Portfolios and assessment materials will no longer be accessible after the June 19 discontinuation date. Bloomboard has also stated that the Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series will be paused effective June 19 for updates. The revised model will launch on June 24 and include a price increase to \$500 for the assessment series.

Please contact [mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov](mailto:mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov) with questions.

## **2025-2026 LEADS Evaluator Recertification**

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

Per [Bulletin 130](#), evaluators and designated observers must certify annually before evaluating educators. All evaluators and designated observers who attended LEADS training during the 2024-2025 school year have now been assigned the 2025-2026 annual recertification assessment. Individuals may now log in to [EdLink Security](#) to access Canopy and begin taking the assessment.

For the 2024-2025 school year only, those who took the assessment from January through April were automatically marked as complete. Certificates can be accessed in Canopy.

Please contact [leads@la.gov](mailto:leads@la.gov) with questions.

## **LES Evaluation Closeout**

**Please share with data managers, human resource directors, school leaders, and system leaders.**

Systems may begin finalizing educator evaluations in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) portal. As part of this process, educators should complete the following tasks based on their role:

- Teachers should enter their Student Learning Targets (SLTs), input self-assessment scores, assess students, report SLT results, and submit the Principal Survey.
- Counselors and school leaders are responsible for entering self-assessment scores. If data is available, they should also enter their SLTs and report the results.
- Evaluators are encouraged to check rosters, enter and complete observations, accept and rate SLTs, and enter End-of-Year (EOY) conference scores.

Please contact [leads@la.gov](mailto:leads@la.gov) with questions.

## **2025-2026 Program Approval Fall Cycle**

**Please share with human resource directors and systems leaders.**

The new [Educator Preparation Program](#) application window is now open for the fall cycle for [Teacher Preparation Programs](#), [Mentor Teacher](#), [Content Leader](#), and [ECAC](#). All Notice of Intent (NOIs) are due by June 1. Full applications are due by July 10.

Teacher preparation providers seeking initial program approval can find guidance in the [Preparation Library](#).

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

## **School Improvement**

### **2025-2026 School Support Institutes Registration**

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

Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 School Support Institutes. Principals of CIR schools should register themselves and two additional ILT members. System leaders who support CIR schools and/or supervise principals of attending schools are encouraged to attend SSI with their school teams. The [registration](#) deadline is June 1.

The [2025-2026 School Support Institutes](#) cohort locations and dates are as follows:

- Monroe Cohort: September 23, 2025 and January 27, 2026
- Shreveport Cohort: September 24, 2025 and January 28, 2026
- Lafayette Cohort: October 2, 2025 and January 23, 2026
- Baton Rouge Cohort: October 1, 2025 and January 22, 2026
- New Orleans Cohort: September 30, 2025 and January 21, 2026

Please contact [SSIsupport@la.gov](mailto:SSIsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## Teacher Leader Summit

### **Teacher Leader Summit Session Registration, Hotel Blocks, Payment**

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

Session registration will open on May 20 via the Cvent app. On that date, Cvent will send an email explaining how to download the app and access the event. If payment is not remitted by 5/16, registration will be automatically canceled. To submit payment, log in to the email confirmation and select "Submit Payment."

Hotel block information can be found in the [overview document](#).

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with any questions.

## Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

### **Louisiana SUN Bucks: Summer Nutrition Support for Kids**

**Please share with data managers, nutrition managers, and school leaders.**

SUN Bucks provides a one-time \$120 benefit to help families buy groceries for each eligible school-aged child during summer break. Most children will be automatically enrolled if they received SNAP, FITAP, KCSP, or income-based Medicaid between July 2024 and August 2025, or if they attend a school offering free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch or Breakfast Program.

Children who attend Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools will need to apply once the application becomes available this spring. Benefits will be distributed in mid-May, loaded onto existing EBT cards, or mailed on new cards in plain envelopes. Families should ensure their mailing address is current and keep their child's EBT card for future use.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/sunbucks>.

### **Public School Transfers**

**Please share with data managers and system leaders.**

Louisiana Revised Statute 17:4035.1 and BESE policy in *Bulletin 741 - Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, Chapter 35, provide for parents to request a child's enrollment in a public school other than that for which the student is zoned to attend. [Additional guidance](#) is available on the [BESE website](#), along with the form required for appeals of denied intra-district transfer requests. Please plan to submit the data for the annual report by September 30, 2025, via Jotform and an updated version of the district transfer policy by January 30, 2026 to [educationpolicy@la.gov](mailto:educationpolicy@la.gov).

Please contact [educationpolicy@la.gov](mailto:educationpolicy@la.gov) with questions.

## School Choice

### **BESE Authorized Charter School Submissions**

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

For comprehensive information regarding key accountability, financial, and data deadlines scheduled, please refer to the [2024-2025 Charter School Reporting Calendar](#).

Please contact [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **2024-2025 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM**

**Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and teachers.**

The [Louisiana Educator Portal](#) (LEP) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analysis. The data in LEP will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, Math, Science (grades 4-8), and Algebra I, Geometry, English I, and English II LEAP High School assessment-eligible courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores. Social Studies rosters will not be available in LEP because a new Social Studies test was piloted in the 2024-2025 school year. Teachers do not need to verify any Social Studies class roster this year.

LEP will be open May 5- May 30 for roster verification. This mandatory process allows teachers and principals to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school system and school level in the system.

The updated [Roster Verification User Guide](#) is now available. Please contact [SystemSupport@la.gov](mailto:SystemSupport@la.gov) with questions regarding roster verification.

Please contact [LEADS@la.gov](mailto:LEADS@la.gov) with questions.

### **2025 LEAP Connect Score Reports**

**Please share with school leaders and test coordinators.**

LEAP Connect score reports from the February-March 2025 administration are now available in DRC INSIGHT for district and school test coordinators.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.