

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: May 20, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, we named the 2025 Louisiana Students of the Year. It was a wonderful celebration of academic excellence, leadership, and service. It was also a reminder of the incredible young people from every corner of the state. Our three overall winners are remarkable representatives of Louisiana's future. You can [read](#) more about the event or [watch](#) the full video online.

As I shared during the awards ceremony, Louisiana is the national story for educational outcomes. We're the most rapidly improving state in the country thanks to the dedication of students, teachers, and families.

We still have work ahead, but we also have every reason to be proud. Take ownership of our progress. Every time a student succeeds, a perception shifts. Together, we're showing what's possible in Louisiana.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [May 27 at 3 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.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [June 26 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [July 17 at 3 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Pre-Educator Development and Expansion Funding Application Deadline: [May 30](#)
- 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](#)
- Novice Principal Academy Application Deadline: [July 7](#)
- 2025 Special Education Parent Summit, Baton Rouge: [July 21](#)
- Principal Boot Camp Application Deadline: [September 8](#)

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

Special Education Parent Summit

Please share with parents of students with disabilities.

Registration is now open for the inaugural [2025 Special Education Parent Summit](#) on July 21. The summit, a collaboration between The Arc of Louisiana and the LDOE, will offer support and foster collaboration across a range of important topics. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lod Cook Alumni Center on the LSU campus.

Please contact info@thearcla.org with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Alternative Pathway to Leadership: Principal Boot Camp Application 2025-2026

Please share with principals, system leaders, and teachers.

The EDL Alternative Pathway 4 offers a unique opportunity for current MPA, MBA, or JD holders and honorably discharged commissioned officers from the U.S. military to obtain an Educational Leadership Certificate. To be eligible, applicants must complete training provided by the LDOE and have passed either the School Leadership Licensure Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series. Interested applicants should [complete the application](#) for the Fall 2025 Boot Camp.

The program provides a mentor to support participants' induction and transition into the Educational Leadership role. The LDOE is currently seeking mentors to support these candidates. School and system leaders interested in mentoring novice principals are encouraged to complete the [mentor application](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Novice Principal Academy Registration

Please share with first-year principals and system leaders.

The LDOE has a foundational belief that student achievement is directly related to the quality of leadership provided by school principals. To support new principals in quickly impacting the quality of student achievement, the LDOE has created the [Novice Principal Academy](#) to support principals throughout their first year of school leadership.

The Novice Principal Academy is an intensive, year-long cohort focusing on leadership development through self-reflection, long-range planning, and analyzing school data. Ultimately, each component is studied, analyzed, and explicitly implemented to improve student achievement in Louisiana schools. Novice principals interested in participating or system leaders looking to support new leaders are encouraged to complete the application.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Pre-Educator Development and Expansion Funding Application

Please share with pre-educator system leads and teachers.

The [Pre-Educator Development and Expansion Funding Application](#) is now open. Systems may apply for either Development Funding or Expansion Funding, depending on whether they have previously received LDOE funding for Pre-Educator Pathway implementation. If funding requests exceed the amount of available funds, priority will be given to systems requesting Pathway Development Funding. To apply, systems should complete the [funding application](#) no later than May 30. A [guidance document](#) is available with additional details and instructions.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application Now Open

Please share with human resources directors.

The [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application](#) is now open. This year-long program is tailored for Human Resources leaders, offering support in attracting, developing, and retaining effective educators. Fellows will exchange innovative ideas, collaborate with peers, and establish a lasting network dedicated to building a highly skilled workforce. Additional information can be found in the [Recruitment and Retention Overview](#) document.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Evaluation Option Selection

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

For the 2024-2025 school year, systems were given the [option](#) to transition to LEADS or continue to use the Legacy system that was used in 2023-2024. Those evaluations that utilized the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER), Louisiana Leader Rubric (LLR), and/or Louisiana Counselor Rubric (LCR) transitioned to the LEADS five-point scale for all components, including observations, SLTs, and VAM. Those evaluations that followed COMPASS or an approved alternate rubric (i.e., NIET TLSR or local rubric) utilized during the 2023-2024 school year followed Legacy policy, which requires a four-point scale for all components, including observations, SLTs, and VAM. Systems selecting to use a combination of LEADS and Legacy evaluations will have final staff evaluations scored on both a five-point scale (LER, LLR, or LLCR evaluations) and a four-point scale (Legacy, including approved alternate rubrics).

All systems will transition to a five-point scale for all components during the 2025-2026 school year.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Evaluator Training

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

Registration is open, and additional dates have been added to the [2025 LEADS Evaluator Training](#). All evaluators and designated observers must attend face-to-face training and take a certification assessment prior to evaluating. To qualify for the assessment, evaluators must attend all full, consecutive days of training.

Evaluators are encouraged to register for earlier dates to allow time to reschedule if conflicts arise. Registrants should cancel registration if they are unable to attend to allow waitlisted applicants to participate. Evaluators/observers who have attended LER or LLCR Training previously do not need to attend training again; an email with instructions on recertifying in the Professional Learning Platform/Canopy has been sent to these individuals.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Principal Survey

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

The Principal Survey is open and can be found 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. The [Principal Survey Guide for Educators](#) can be used as a resource for completing the survey.

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

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LES Evaluation Closeout

Please share with data managers, human resources directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

Systems should be finalizing educator evaluations in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) portal. Evaluations can be finalized (including VAM teachers) if all components of the evaluation are complete and data is available to report for SLTs. VAM scores will be added on the backend when available.

Evaluations should be marked incomplete for any employee who should have been evaluated by LEADS (or Legacy system) but did not receive an evaluation. Refer to [Bulletin 130](#) for the conditions that allow an evaluation to be marked incomplete.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit Session Registration Open

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

Session registration for Teacher Leader Summit 2025 is open. To register, download the Cvent app and use event code: ECvFbTLS2025.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Planning with Purpose: Setting the Stage for a Strong CTE Year

Please share with CTE supervisors and system leaders.

A live panel with three experienced CTE supervisors will share how to make the most of the summer months to build a strong foundation for the school year ahead. From aligning pathways and planning work-based learning experiences to planning for teacher and student supports, this conversation will provide actionable insights for CTE leaders at all levels who want to maximize the summer months and start the new school year with clarity, alignment, and impact.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 29 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93853086178?pwd=jgofi2JrljykADDWc93c6hk9q7anvg.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID:** 938 5308 6178

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

Fast Forward Training Catalog

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

The [Fast Forward Training Catalog](#) provides a list of professional development and training opportunities available. The catalog includes virtual, in-person, and hybrid training options for many Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) on the State Focus list. It has been recently updated to include:

- New Work-Based Learning Internship Teacher-Coordinator Training Vendors
- STEM Training

Please be sure to check out the professional development offerings, which are updated regularly.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

Behavioral Health in Schools Survey

Please share with the school system leaders.

[Act 324](#) requires school systems to report the number of students having behavioral or emotional challenges, the number of students for whom a conference was scheduled, and the number of students referred for supportive services.

The deadline to submit the [Behavioral Health in Schools Survey](#) is June 12.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Intuit Food Truck Program for Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Please share with CTE supervisors, ProStart teachers, and system leaders.

The [Intuit Food Truck Program](#) is a free work-based program for CTE high school students that provides hands-on training in running a business. Selected districts will receive a state-of-the-art food truck, supporting grants, curriculum, and free access to Intuit products to prepare students for the real world with vital financial, technical, and entrepreneurial skills. [Applications](#) are accepted year-round and should be completed by the CTE director or a district leader.

Please contact fastforward@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 open for the [Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice](#). LEA charter authorizers will attend two full-day, in-person trainings and three virtual courses aimed at enhancing the expertise of local authorizers and offering ongoing development in the best practices of charter school authorization. Excellence in Authorizing will begin May 28 and end September 24.

Districts that participate in the Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice are eligible for [CSP Microgrants](#), intended to support the local authorizer's pursuit of quality authorizing.

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

BESE Authorized Charter School Submissions

Please share with BESE school leaders.

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

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Mid-Year RFA Informational Session

Please share with LEA charter authorizers and school system leaders.

The Office of School Choice will host informational sessions for those interested in applying during the mid-year cycle. These sessions will be offered twice monthly and are designed for applicants interested in applying as a Type 2 or Type 4 charter.

Refer to the available dates below and use [Jotform](#) for registration:

- May 12 or 19 at 10 a.m.
- June 9 or 16 at 10 a.m.

Please contact jade.gambino@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2025 Year-End Deadlines

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The deadlines noted below have been established to ensure that funding for FY 25 is utilized completely. The LDOE cannot guarantee the payment of late claims, invoices, or travel reimbursements. Failure to meet deadlines risks funding availability. Responsible stewardship of funds dedicated to improving education within our state is appreciated.

- June 19: All 8g claims are due in eGMS
- July 7: All Carl Perkins claims are due in eGMS
- July 15: All other state and federal awards claims ending June 30 are due in eGMS

Please contact LDOE.federalclaims@la.gov with questions.

USDA Required School Lunch Match

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The USDA requires an annual match of state funds for the school lunch program. The LDOE is provided a total state match amount by the USDA each year that must be divided into individual school system match amounts. A memorandum explaining the requirements and the schedule for FY 2025-2026, which contains the required match for each school system, is available in the MFP Library under the USDA Required School Lunch Match Section.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

International Associate Teachers' Stipends

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The allocations for the 2nd and 3rd year International Association Teachers' Stipends will be issued to systems by May 31. The allocation amounts by systems will be included in the May 2025 Budget Letter, which will be available in the MFP Library.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

2026 Teacher and Principal of the Year Finalists Named

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

The LDOE is proud to announce the [2026 Teacher and Principal of the Year Finalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

Along with the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#), [New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#), [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader Finalists](#), and [Milken Educator Award recipients](#), the finalists will be honored at the *19th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala* that will be held at the World War II Museum on the evening of July 26. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#). Information about these award programs can be found on the [LDOE's Awards](#) page.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

2025 Students of the Year Announced

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The LDOE recognizes that many outstanding students are enrolled in public, nonpublic, or charter schools throughout the state of Louisiana. To acknowledge these accomplishments, the LDOE, in conjunction with BESE, annually honors one 5th, 8th, and 12th-grade student based on their leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to the school and community.

On May 16, the LDOE hosted the 2025 Students of the Year Award Ceremony at the Lod Cook Alumni Center on the LSU campus. The outstanding achievements of the [Students of the Year Finalists](#) were celebrated, and the overall [5th, 8th, and 12th-grade Students of the Year](#) were announced.

Please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov with questions about the Student of the Year program.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Release of Spring 2025 ELPT/ELPT Connect Student Results

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

The ELPT/ELPT Connect score reports are now available in the TIDE reporting system for testing coordinators. Parent guides that can be used to accompany score results are available in multiple languages at [Assessment Resources](#) under the heading of Parent Guides.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share with district accountability contacts and school leaders.

Cohort graduation data certification for the 2023-2024 graduation cohort is now open in La Data Review. Accounts have been created for official district accountability contacts to provide access to student rosters and to request changes to some of the data that may be considered for change. The rosters were created using data pulled from EdLink360 and the Student Transcript System, as reported to the LDOE by each school district. The system will close on June 6, after which time new requests will not be accepted. All accountability contacts are in receipt of the cohort graduation webinar that was used for professional development this spring, a supplemental guide that reviews cohort policy and provides descriptions of the values in the rosters, and a guide that supports navigation of the La Data Review system.

As the LDOE transitions away from a “lag year” model for inclusion of cohort data in accountability, a new set of students will be added to this roster. A subset of the 2025 graduation cohort will be added to the rosters with review only for auditing of exit codes. This summer, school systems will have the opportunity to review all other cohort data used to calculate the graduation rate and the strength of diploma for the 2025 graduation cohort.

Requests to change accountability contacts must be made through the submission of the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update Form](#).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Interests and Opportunities Data Certification-Nonpublic Schools

Please share with district accountability contacts and school leaders.

Nonpublic schools should note that the 2024-2025 Interests & Opportunities survey for calculating the 2024-2025 Scholarship Cohort Index closes May 21. Superintendents or their designees must validate the survey by May 23. Failure to meet the deadline or return the survey will result in 0 points assigned to the Interests and Opportunities Index for the 2024-2025 Scholarship Cohort Index.

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

Interests and Opportunities Data Certification-Public Schools

Please share with district accountability contacts and school leaders.

Public schools should note that the Louisiana Data Review (LDR) is open to accountability contacts for submitting data for the selected Interests and Opportunities documentation-based indicators for the 2025 school performance scores. LDR closes on June 6.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.