

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: June 24, 2025

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Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

It was a pleasure to connect with so many of you during Teacher Leader Summit. In my opening session remarks, I spoke about the power of being intentional and shared examples of how educators choosing the most impactful work at the most impactful time is writing a new story for Louisiana education.

Intentionality shows up in many ways, including in how we communicate. One way we want to support you is by sharing timely resources and reminders to keep top of mind each month.

While school may be out for the summer, we know you are in full planning mode for the new school year. Here are some things to prioritize in July:

- **Set clear priorities** that are specific to this next school year and align, don't repeat, your overall system priorities: Where will the focus be to make maximum impact on student learning?
- **Communicate expectations** around these priorities with school leaders during your summer leader professional learning. Clear is kind!
- **Stay laser-focused on filling every vacancy.** Utilize innovative staffing and new policies and practices to ensure as many vacancies as possible are filled. Our [Pathways to Teaching](#) resource outlines Louisiana certification requirements.
- **Welcome new teachers through thoughtful onboarding.** New teachers need professional learning and guidance in an intentional sequence in order to not be overwhelmed or frustrated. You can utilize some of our [New Teacher Experience](#) resources or encourage new teachers to attend our [summer kick-off](#) on July 24 in Baton Rouge.

Please note that the LDOE Weekly Newsletter will not be published next week due to the July 4th holiday. I hope you find time to rest and enjoy time with family and friends.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Principal's Monthly Webinar: [June 30 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [July 1 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [July 1 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [July 3 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [July 8 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [July 9 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [July 10 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Education Technology Monthly Call: [July 10 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [July 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [July 17 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [July 17 at 3 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [July 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [August 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [August 7 at 8 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application Deadline: [June 27](#)
- 2025-2026 Super App Amendment 1 Submission Deadline in eGMS: June 30
- Foundations of Freedom: Summer Civics Institute Registration Deadline: [July 1](#)
- Novice Principal Academy Application Deadline: [July 7](#)
- Special Education Parent Summit, Baton Rouge: [July 21](#)
- New Teacher Experience Summer Kick-Off, Baton Rouge: [July 24](#)
- School Food Service Manager Training: [July 28-30](#)
- Connecting the Dots: Counselors, Internships, and Student Readiness Webinar: [July 29 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Conference Baton Rouge Registration Deadline: [August 6](#)
- Principal Bootcamp Application Deadline: [September 8](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [annotated reviews](#) web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#).

- Kiddom - Core Knowledge Bayou Bridges: Powered by Kiddom, Grade 6 (©2024)
- Carolina Biological Supply Company - Smithsonian Science for the Classroom, Grade K (©2021)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

2024-2025 Seclusion and Restraint Verification Report

Please share with special education leaders.

The LDOE is required to collect and annually report data on the use of seclusion and restraint for students with disabilities. The draft data for the 2024-2025 school year annual report is available in the data management FTP. Please verify that the data is accurate, as these are the counts that will be used to run the analysis and data disaggregation for the public report. If the data does not accurately reflect seclusions and restraints in your school system for the 2024-2025 school year, update the information in SER.

Please submit a new seclusion and restraint handbook if your LEA/charter revised a previously submitted handbook to specialeducation@la.gov. All updates in SER need to be completed, and any new or revised policy submitted by July 1 to be reflected in the final report.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application

Please share with human resources professionals and system leads.

The [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application](#) is open until June 27. This year-long fellowship is specifically designed for Human Resources leaders and aims to support the recruitment and retention of effective educators within their systems.

Participants will learn innovative strategies from national consultants at the Urban Schools Human Capital Academy, collaborate with fellow HR leaders, and build a long-term network focused on securing a highly effective workforce. Additional information can be found in the [Recruitment and Retention Overview](#) document.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher Experience: Mentor Expansion Pilot Application

Please share with principals and system leads.

The [NTE: Mentor Expansion Pilot](#) will provide school systems with strategies to increase their mentor pool and enhance the work of the mentor through guidance of best practices in supporting new teachers.

School systems in need of additional credentialed mentors may be interested in participating in this pilot. The pilot will aid in fostering a community of best practices and create conditions for effective mentoring to enhance teaching and learning with new teachers.

Funding will be provided to cover the costs associated with adding mentor credentials to educators meeting the criteria outlined in the updated policy.

Applications are now being accepted. Systems selected to participate will be contacted in late July with an invitation to an introductory webinar.

Please contact mentorandcontentleader@la.gov with questions.

The New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off Registration is OPEN

Please share with new teachers.

The LDOE will host a [Summer Kick-Off for the New Teacher Experience](#) on July 24 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Baton Rouge for 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 July 16 or once capacity is reached, whichever comes first. School systems should share details about the event with their new teachers and ensure that they are able to attend prior to registering. 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 with lots of start-of-the-year goodies.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2025-2026 Super App Reminder

Share with federal program directors and business managers.

The submission deadline for LEAs to submit the 2025-2026 Super App Amendment 1 is on or before June 30. This deadline assures LEAs meet the requirements for substantial approval.

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

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ACT

Please share with school leaders and test coordinators.

- ACT state testing reports are now available in the ACT online reporting portal: success.act.org.
- Invoices for ACT and WorkKeys State testing costs that must be reimbursed to the department will be emailed to superintendents, district test coordinators, and finance staff by June 30, based on signatures applied to the 2024-2025 ACT MOU.
- Payments are due by July 15. Any refund owed will be paid by July 30.
- ACT and WorkKeys student level rosters are now posted to the district ftp to confirm invoice amounts.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Summer Testing

Please share with school leaders and test coordinators.

Please review the important dates listed below in regards to LEAP summer testing:

- June 23-27: LEAP high school summer test administration
- July 2: All testing voids for LEAP high school summer testing must be applied in DRC INSIGHT with documentation to assessment@la.gov
- July 2: District test coordinators schedule pickups for secure accommodated materials with UPS for return to DRC
- July 8: All secure materials are returned to DRC, including braille instructions

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Accountability

Please share with accountability coordinators, data managers, and school leaders.

To reduce the amount of time needed for data certification in summer 2025:

- All credentials for graduates must be posted to the transcript in STS by June 30. This includes credentials, dual enrollment courses, associate degrees, AP, and work-based learning coursework.
- All dropout corrections for high school students, for which there is documentation, must be completed in EdLink 360 by July 11.
- Summer graduates should have certified transcripts, with graduation dates no later than August 31, as soon as all diploma requirements are met.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

2025 College Board Counselor Summer Institute (Virtual)

Please share with counselors.

Registration is open for the [2025 Counselor Summer Institute](#) hosted by the College Board. This free, comprehensive online professional development event will offer chances to connect with fellow counselors and learn from top leaders in higher education and counseling. Participants will engage in meaningful conversations, the latest updates, and innovative advising strategies tailored to the ever-changing landscape of college admissions, student preparation, and college success. The virtual event will take place July 29-31.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Aligning Excellence: ACT College & Career Standards Workshop

Please share with counselors, curriculum specialists, principals, and teachers.

[Registration](#) is currently open for in-person workshops on [ACT College & Career Standards](#) and the Louisiana Student Standards. This hands-on session will guide participants through the format of the Louisiana Alignment Guide and its crosswalk to the Louisiana Student Standards. The guide aims to enhance assessment literacy by providing information about the ACT assessments and their alignment with Louisiana academic standards. Please bring a laptop and have access to your school or district curriculum for the hands-on activities. The next workshop will be in New Orleans on July 10.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

BESE Authorized Charter School Submissions

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

Please review the July submissions listed below:

- Charter School Assurances
- Transportation Plan
- Student Handbook
- Crisis Plan
- Board Meeting Calendar
- First Quarterly Waitlist Report
- Virtual Attendance Policy
- Course Choice Fall/Full Year Reporting
- FY 2024-2025 Annual Operating Budget

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Charter School Program Grant Application (Year 3 Cycle)

Please share with charter developers, charter management organizations, and school leaders.

The next CSP Application cycle is active, and information is available on the [CSP Grant](#) page. Charter schools that have already been authorized to open, expand, or replicate, or will be, by August 22, are eligible to apply during this cycle. Please note the important deadlines below.

Year 3 - CSP Subgrant Application Cycle - 2025-2026 Timeline:

- CSP Letter of Intent Due: July 31
- CSP Eligibility Determination Form Due: August 22

- CSP Subgrant Application Due: September 9

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov or tammy.morgan3@la.gov with questions.

Mid-Year 2025-2026 RFA Application Cycle Letters of Intent

Please share with school and system leaders.

The Letters of Intent for the Mid-Year 2025-2026 RFA Application Cycle are due June 30. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements listed in [LA Bulletin 126. §503](#), and submit an eligibility determination form by July 7.

Note: Eligibility determination forms will only be reviewed if a Letter of Intent was received by the due date. Any eligibility form submitted without adherence to the Letter of Intent due date requirement will not be reviewed.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 BESE and Brumfield v Dodd Approval Application Opens

Please share with all nonpublic school leaders.

Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval must apply annually for approval by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The BESE and Brumfield v Dodd application will open in August. The 2026-2027 school year application window is August 1 through October 15. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

June 2025 MFP Budget Letter

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The final MFP Budget Letter for June 2025 will be posted in the [MFP Library](#) under the 2024-2025 MFP Budget Letter Section by June 30.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

AFR Reporting in EdLink Training Webinars

Please share with business managers and finance officers.

School systems are required to utilize the EdLink AFR portal to submit all FY 2024-2025 Annual Financial Reports. The LEADs portal will not be available for FY 2024-2025 AFR submissions. The Office of School System Financial Services will be conducting training webinars on the EdLink AFR portal on the following dates and times:

- August 7 at 10 a.m.
- August 14 at 10 a.m.
- August 28 at 10 a.m.

The Zoom links required to access the training webinars will be included in the weekly newsletters in July.

Please contact staudit@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 MFP Formula Allocation

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The MFP Formula Allocation for FY 2025-2026 will be posted in the [MFP Library](#) under the 2025-2026 MFP Budget Letter Section by June 30.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.