

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: July 29, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana honored its most exceptional educators at the 19th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala in New Orleans this past weekend. Held in partnership with Dream Teachers, the event recognized leaders who are driving results for students and shaping the future of our state.

It was my privilege to celebrate educators from every corner of Louisiana. These professionals are not only achieving remarkable academic outcomes but also modeling innovation, leadership, and service.

I am proud to congratulate this year's state-level honorees:

- Teacher of the Year: Regena Hartley Beard (Zachary Community School District)
- Principal of the Year: Justin Wax (Livingston Parish)
- Early Childhood Teacher of the Year: Brooklynn Johnson-Botley (Allen Parish)
- Early Childhood Leader of the Year: Devonda Whittington-Warren (Tangipahoa Parish)
- New Teacher of the Year: Olivia Francois (Ascension Parish)

Each of these educators exemplifies what it means to rise to the challenge on behalf of students. Louisiana has made historic gains in student achievement. Progress like this is made possible by committed educators who show up, lead boldly, and put students first.

As we continue our work to improve outcomes, I encourage you to celebrate and learn from these honorees. They are writing the next chapter of Louisiana's educational story.

Thank you and congratulations to all of the remarkable educators honored this year.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [July 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [August 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [August 5 at 1 p.m.](#)

- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [August 5 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [August 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- FY25 Federal Funding Office Hours: [August 7 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [August 12 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [August 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [August 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [August 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- LEADS Webinar: [August 20 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [August 21 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [August 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [August 21 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [August 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [August 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [August 27 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [August 28 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Seclusion and Restraint Verification Report Due: July 29
- BESE Authorized Charter Board Training [August 5 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Pupil Appraisal Summit: [August 13-14](#)
- Special Education Camera Amendment Deadline: August 22
- English Learner Institute-Session 1: [August 25](#)
- 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 5 (©2024)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks Unit Updates

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

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the LDOE will implement revisions in select units of the ELA Guidebooks curriculum. The updates will reassign certain units to a different grade level, revise some unit texts, and make other unit modifications. The LDOE will provide additional details for these updates in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Science Leader Community of Practice

Please share with school leaders, science content leaders, and science content supervisors.

The LDOE will host a series of targeted [professional learning opportunities](#) geared towards school and system science leaders. Through a combination of virtual and in-person support, leaders will:

- Analyze science HQIM through the lens of the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER)
- Increase capacity for facilitating effective teacher collaboration

- Examine strategies for providing meaningful feedback on instructional practices and annotated lesson plans

Individuals interested in attending are encouraged to [register](#) promptly to reserve a seat.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Special Education Camera Data Collection

Please share with federal program supervisors, finance supervisors, and special education leaders.

The LDOE is collecting special education camera data for the 2024-2025 school year. School systems should submit an amendment in eGMS to report the following:

- Number of parent requests for cameras
- Number of parent requests approved
- Amount of the original allocation spent
- Amount of maintenance funds spent

The deadline to submit 2024-2025 special education camera data and any relevant receipts is August 22.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Fast Track ESL Add-On Credential

Please share with EL departments, instructional coaches, principals, and teachers.

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an ESL add-on credential. Please complete the 2024-2026 [Early Interest Survey](#) to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

Pupil Appraisal Summit

Please share with special education leaders and pupil appraisal staff.

The Louisiana Association of Special Education Administrators (LASEA) is hosting a [Pupil Appraisal Summit](#) on August 13-14 at the East Baton Rouge Parish Professional Development Center. This two-day summit is tailored for pupil appraisal staff and will feature sessions on legislative updates and best practices in pupil appraisal. The Diverse Learners team will also present sessions at the summit. The deadline to [register](#) is August 1.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

The New Teacher Experience Professional Learning Modules: Registration is now OPEN

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

The LDOE, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed monthly [professional learning modules](#) on topics that are critical for new teacher success. These modules include online asynchronous content followed by an in-person learning lab where participants practice and apply these concepts.

This year, complimentary seating will be offered for the first 200 registrants. Half of the seats for the northern location (Monroe) and half for the southern location (Baton Rouge) will be reserved as complimentary seating. Once those seats are exhausted, teachers may still attend, but the cost to complete the series of modules will be \$1,272 per teacher.

Teachers must receive approval to attend from their school leader. [Registration](#) is now open. Once teachers complete the registration, participants will receive details on selected training locations and an invitation to access the online asynchronous modules.

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

LES for 2025-2026

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

LES is a data-driven system that requires staff data to identify evaluation requirements for each staff member and ensure accurate role assignments. Staff extract uploads can begin on August 11. This includes updated position codes, locations, and assignments. Staff extract data must be uploaded to Edlink 360 before 2025-2026 evaluations can begin.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

LES Evaluation Closeout

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

Systems should continue to finalize 2024-2025 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 a 2024-2025 evaluation. Refer to [Bulletin 130](#) for the conditions that allow an evaluation to be marked incomplete.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Webinar for New Systems

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

A LEADS webinar will be held to assist systems in transitioning to LEADS evaluations for 2025-2026. The webinar will provide an overview and feature key resources to support implementation.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 20 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97885565506?pwd=HnBrivMCtbHT9LaCMylFaP2wAlrj8B.1#success>
- **Meeting ID:** 978 8556 5506
- **Passcode:** 109471
- **Phone:** 312 626 6799

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

Louisiana Achievement in Numeracy Act (LANE)

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

[Act 260](#) of 2023 requires all mathematics teachers in grades 4–8 to complete an LDOE-approved professional learning course focused on numeracy instruction by August 1.. System and school leaders must request a completed certificate from any employee being hired to teach mathematics in grades 4–8, following the completion date specified in the legislation.

[Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#) requires all K–3 mathematics teachers to complete an approved foundational numeracy course by August 2027. Together, these laws ensure that all K–8 mathematics teachers participate in high-quality, LDOE-identified professional learning aligned with effective numeracy practices. While a course for high school mathematics teachers is available, it is currently optional. System contacts for K-8 mathematics have been identified and provided with the system-specific course codes. All courses will remain open through the 2025-2026 academic year to ensure consistency. The [Guidance and Framing](#) document is available on the [Louisiana Math webpage](#).

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2025 Legislative Session Update

Please share with school and system leaders.

A curated list of [acts of interest for school and system leaders](#), as well as a [legislative highlights recording](#), is now available to support awareness of several pieces of legislation enacted during the 2025 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session. Please note this is not a comprehensive list of acts, nor does this list constitute legal advice in any way.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

FY24 Title IV Flexibility Waiver Request

Please share with business managers, federal program directors, and superintendents.

The LDOE is requesting a waiver on behalf of the State educational agency (SEA) and its subgrantees (i.e., local educational agencies (LEAs), pursuant to section 8401(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), of one or more of the requirements of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA. This waiver, in alignment with the vision of the current administration, provides states more flexibility regarding supporting school systems in implementing effective and efficient federal programs.

Federal program directors, business managers, financial officials, and relevant personnel of public school systems should review this [waiver request](#) and submit questions or comments by July 31.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions and comment submissions.

FY25 Federal Funding Office Hours

Share with business managers, federal program directors, and superintendents.

The Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) team will host FY25 Federal Funding Office Hours on August 7. This session will allow FSGR staff to share FY25 federal funding updates and provide information regarding 2025-2026 allocations for entitlement funding. LEAs will also have an opportunity during the call to have their questions answered regarding next steps in planning for federal funding and federal program implementation for 2025-2026.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 7 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93657555692>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 936 5755 5692

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

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Screening

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

Test coordinator manuals (TCM) and test administrator manuals (TAM) for K-3 literacy screening are now posted to the Louisiana mCLASS page.

- All test administrators (TAs) must have been trained before administration in both administration and test security. While TAs do not have to repeat the Amplify training each year, all TAs must be trained in test security annually.
- Although the beginning-of-year screening instrument is not secure, the screening must be provided in a secure environment, and teachers may not provide cues, clues, or hints at any time.

- The actual screening instrument may not be used to drill students before, during, or after administration.

Testing coordinators will be notified when the TCM and TAM for the numeracy screening are posted.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Science Released Item Guides

Please share with principals, science instructional leaders, school system science leaders, and teachers.

The LDOE Office of Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics has released LEAP Science Released Item Guides containing released items, as well as alignment information, achievement level descriptors, rationale for answers, and the rubrics for constructed and extended-response items. These guides are for teachers and leaders to use to better understand how the achievement level descriptors are used in creating science assessment items. These guides can be found on the [Assessment Guidance](#) webpage under the section Science Assessment Resources.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar

Please share with administrators, school resource officers, school system leaders, and teachers.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas), invites you to join a two-hour security webinar to enhance your organization's resilience in case of an active shooter incident.

Preparing employees for a potential active shooter event is an integral component of an organization's incident response planning. Because these incidents are frequently unpredictable and can escalate rapidly, preparing for and knowing what to do in an active shooter situation can be lifesaving. Every second counts.

Registration is free. Visit the [CISA Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar](#) site to register.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Return to School 2025 Virtual Event

Please share with administrators, BTAM team members, counselors, and school resource officers.

In preparation for the fall 2025 return to school, the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) will host a virtual event on [August 13 at 11 a.m.](#) to highlight its latest release: *Aligning Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management with a Multi-Tiered System of Support: Building a Continuum of Prevention and Intervention*.

Developed in partnership with the Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), this new publication offers guidance on aligning Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) programs with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in K-12 schools. The event will also explore key findings from NTAC's research on preventing school violence.

Registration is free. For more information and to register, visit [Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment](#).

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Elementary School Counselor Report Survey

Please share with K-6 administrators and school counselors.

Elementary school counselors or administrators serving grades K-6 are asked to complete the [Elementary School Counselor Report Survey](#). This survey provides feedback on your school counseling programs and should be submitted by October 1.

Per [R.S. 17:3005](#), “School counselors shall provide preventive and developmental counseling services to all public elementary school students in kindergarten through grade six to prepare them for middle, junior, and senior high school responsibilities and their social and physical development”.

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

State-Level Honorees for Award Programs Named

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

On July 26, the LDOE, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), hosted the *19th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala* at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. The evening honored outstanding educators from across the state and celebrated their dedication to students, schools, and communities.

During the event, the overall and division-level honorees for [2026 Teacher and Principal of the Year](#) were announced, along with the [New Teacher of the Year](#) and the [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year](#) honorees.

Also recognized were the [New Teacher of the Year finalists](#), [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader finalists](#), [Milken Educator Award](#) recipients, [Louisiana's Public Interest Fellow](#), and the [Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists and finalists](#).

Congratulations to all educators honored for their exemplary dedication and service.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.