

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: August 5, 2025

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Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Across Louisiana, schools are welcoming back educators and students for a new year of learning. I have enjoyed seeing how so many of you are rolling out the red carpet for teachers, students, and families.

As the new school year begins, I encourage you to be intentional in your leadership and planning. Here are a few key actions to keep top of mind for August:

- **Develop and refine long-range plans for instructional leadership.** Set a clear vision for your system-level instructional leadership team (ILT) and principal meetings this fall. Consider how your ILT can align the voices of its members and support the expectations communicated for this school year. Use principal meetings to establish an arc of learning that builds leadership in your schools' identified areas of need.
- **Prioritize school visits, classroom observations, and aligned support.** Now is the time to build purposeful calendars for walkthroughs, coaching, and feedback. System and school leaders should work together to ensure consistent support for every level of the instructional team, including school leaders, instructional coaches, and teachers. Consider how you will reinforce and support implementation of the expectations you have shared.
- **Continue to welcome new teachers through thoughtful onboarding.** Early support has a lasting impact. Be intentional in how you welcome new educators and work to avoid overwhelming them. Professional learning, mentorship, and clear guidance create a strong foundation. Our [New Teacher Experience](#) resources can support this work.
- **Support beginning-of-year student screening and data review.** Quality data at the start of the year empowers educators to make informed decisions. Ensure schools have the support they need to administer screeners effectively and use the results to inform instructional strategies and responsive leadership.

August sets the tone for the school year. The choices you make now, both in planning and in practice, can shape conditions for strong teaching and impactful learning. Thank you for leading with care, clarity, and purpose, and for keeping students and educators at the heart of your work.

With appreciation,

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [August 12 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Local-Authorizer Monthly Call: [August 13 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [August 14 at 9 a.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.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [August 21 at 10 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.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly call: [September 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [September 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [September 18 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Pupil Appraisal Summit: [August 13-14](#)
- Special Education Camera Amendment Deadline: August 22
- English Learner Institute-Session 1: [August 25](#)
- New AP Coordinator Kickoff Webinar: [August 27 at 3 p.m.](#)
- 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 7 (©2024)
- Carolina Biological Supply Co - OpenSciEd, Carolina Certified Version, Biology (©2024)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Mentor and Resident Funding Overview Call

Please share with data managers, finance managers, human resource managers, and system leaders.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, mentor compensation data will be collected using a similar process to 2024-2025. Join the Fall 2025 Mentor and Resident Funding call to review the funding eligibility and process.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 21 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97982936667>
- **Meeting ID:** 979 8293 6667
- **Passcode:** 839221
- **Phone:** 312 626 6799

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Teacher Exit Survey 2024-2025

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

The Teacher Exit Survey data collection period is now open. HR managers can access the survey and instructions on how to complete the process through [TeachLouisiana.net](https://teachlouisiana.net) for the 2024-2025 school year. This survey collects district-level data on reasons for teacher departure over the last school year and is open until September 12.

Please contact donna.baudoin@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Training for Teachers

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

Training materials to support the transition to LEADS evaluation are available in the [Professional Learning Platform: LEADS Public Collections](#). Systems may utilize the Teacher Training Materials, located under the [LEADS Training Materials](#) header. These materials include a full-day training with video clips, speaker notes, and a participant guide; the training has also been adapted to a 90-minute session. The asynchronous module, [Louisiana Educator Evaluation Training for Teachers](#), may also be shared with teachers.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Act 409 Hiring Practices

Please share with human resource directors and systems leaders.

[Act 409 \(Senate Bill 41\)](#) strengthens child welfare and safety standards in education. While much of the legislation applies to early learning centers, several key provisions affect all school systems, particularly through updates to [LA R.S. 17:15](#), which governs hiring and dismissal practices.

When considering an individual for employment, in addition to a criminal background check (CBC)*, the employer is directed to check the DCFS state central registry. Persons with prohibited convictions, those listed in R.S. 15:587.1(C), or whose name is recorded on the DCFS central registry as a person who has a substantiated complaint of child abuse or neglect on or after August 1, 2018, cannot be hired by a local public school board or a nonpublic school system. School systems may access the DCFS registry through the Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance System (CANS). To request access beginning August 1, refer to the [CANS K-12 Public School User Access Guide](#) or the [CANS K-12 Non-Public School User Access Guide](#).

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions.

NEW: Teaching & Learning Menu of Services

Please share with school system leaders, curriculum supervisors, academic coaches, and school administrators.

The Office of Teaching and Learning has officially launched its comprehensive [Menu of Services](#), offering tailored, one-on-one support to meet the specific needs of schools or systems across the state. From strengthening lesson prep to building collaborative teacher teams, these offerings are designed to improve instruction and student outcomes.

Please note: Only one designated point of contact (POC) per school system is authorized to submit support requests. Please check with your central office before placing an order.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies

LDOE and Reagan Institute Launch Statewide Oratory Competition for Students

Please share with gifted and talented program leads, K-12 social studies teachers, school leaders, and student activities coordinators.

The LDOE has partnered with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute to launch a new oratory competition in honor of America's 250th anniversary and Celebrate Freedom Week. The competition invites K-12 students to explore the meaning of freedom through public speaking and creative expression.

Students will engage with a selected radio address by President Ronald Reagan, with prompts and expectations tailored to each grade band. Finalists will compete in a statewide event, and the middle and high school winners will earn a trip to the national finals at the Reagan Presidential Library in California.

Submissions are due by September 1. Competition materials and submission links are available by grade band on the [Celebrate Freedom Week](#) webpage.

Please contact sabre.masters@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Act 402 (2025) Implementation

Please share with school and system leaders.

[Act 402](#) of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session requires the LDOE to provide [information regarding Type 1 diabetes](#) prepared by the Louisiana Department of Health to each city, parish, and other local public school board. This information is to be distributed to parents or guardians upon enrollment and annually thereafter, and may be distributed electronically or via website posting.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

FY25 Federal Funding Office Hours

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

The U.S. Department of Education began issuing the remaining FY25 ESEA formula Grant Award Notifications (GAN) this week.

Additional details regarding GAN award amounts for each funding source will be shared during the Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Office Hours on August 7 at 10:30 a.m.

- **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

Acceptance of grant funds constitutes acceptance of all GAN conditions, including the above provision. Additionally, ED will conduct reviews of grantees' use of funds to ensure ongoing compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

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

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Interests and Opportunities

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

The 2024-2025 Preliminary I&O scoring files will be dropped in FTP the week of August 4. The file name will be 2024-2025 I&O Preliminary Score File_LEA CODE – LEA NAME_08.05.2025. Please review files and submit any questions to the accountability team by August 27.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

2025-2026 U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

Please share with administrators, counselors, charter, nonpublic, and student council advisors.

The LDOE, in partnership with the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#), will select two juniors or seniors to serve as delegates for the 64th Annual Washington Week Program, March 7-14. These two students will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship after attending all sessions scheduled for that week. All information is currently available on our [website](#).

High school juniors and seniors currently serving in an elected or appointed leadership position at the school, community, state, or national level may be eligible to [apply](#).

Upon submission, the state coordinator will provide the school sponsor with secure essay topics and instructions for the proctored writing session, as required by the Hearst Foundation.

Key dates to remember:

- **Portfolio Submission Deadline:** October 3 at 11:59 p.m. ([Applications](#) will not be returned.)
- **Finalist Notification:** By October 20
- **National Exam and Interviews:** November 6 in Baton Rouge
- **Delegate/Alternate Notification:** December

Selected delegates must attend all scheduled events in Washington, D.C., during the week of March 7–14, to receive the program's college scholarship.

Please contact tireka.cobb2@la.gov with questions.

New AP Coordinator Kickoff: Manage Your Program with Confidence

Please share with administrators, AP teachers, counselors, principals, and test coordinators.

This regional webinar offers a quick start guide to managing school AP programs. Participants will review key responsibilities, learn what to prioritize at the beginning of the school year, and explore helpful resources, including those for AP Registration and Ordering. The webinar will be held on August 27 at 3 p.m.

Please [register](#) using College Board account information by August 25.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov or candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Reminder: BESE Authorized Charter Board Training

Please share with all BESE authorized charter board members.

The next [BESE Authorized Charter Board Training](#) will be August 5 at 4 p.m. The training will satisfy the required training as outlined in §2103 of [Bulletin 126](#). If training has already been completed through another venue, send the documentation of completion to charters@la.gov.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

2026-2027 BESE and Brumfield v Dodd Approval Application

Please share with nonpublic school leaders.

Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval must apply annually for approval by BESE. Refer to the [BESE and BVD Approval Checklist](#) for additional information. The [BESE Approval and Brumfield v Dodd Application](#) is now available and will close on October 15.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Nonpublic Annual Enrollment Reporting

Please share with data managers and nonpublic school leaders.

The Annual Enrollment Report for all nonpublic schools that have BESE approval are required to submit the school's 2025-2026 Annual Enrollment Data between August 1 and October 15.

Before completing the NPS Annual Enrollment Report, the school administrator who will be entering the accurate data is required to set up an [EdLink Account](#) and request the "NPS School Manager Role". Refer to the [NPS User Guide](#) for guidance.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2025-2026 Adopted General Fund Budget Submission

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:88 requires that city/parish school boards submit an adopted balanced budget to the LDOE by September 30 of each year. The FY 2025-26 Budget Form A, General Fund Budget Requirements and Guidance Document, and other resources are available in the [Business Manager Support Library](#) under the City/Parish School System General Fund Budget section.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Business Managers Regional Collaboration

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The LDOE will host in-person regional collaboration meetings to discuss relevant financial-related topics regarding school business operations according to the following schedule:

- September 24: Shreveport, Hilton Garden Inn (Bossier)
- September 30: New Orleans, Pontchartrain Convention & Civic Center

- October 1: Baton Rouge, Cook Hotel & Conference Center
- October 2: Lafayette, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Space is limited. Please register to attend by accessing the [registration form](#) before August 15.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Annual Financial Report Submission via EdLinks Portal

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Starting with the FY 2024-2025 reporting year, school systems are required to submit the Annual Financial Report (AFR) via the new EdLink AFR portal. The LEADs portal is being decommissioned and will not be available for school systems to utilize for the FY 2024-2025 reporting period.

Each school system will be responsible for attending the training to learn the new EdLink AFR portal. The Office of School System Financial Services, in collaboration with the Office of Technology Services (OTS), will host training demo webinars on the following dates and times:

- August 14 at 10 a.m.
- August 19 at 10 a.m.
- August 28 at 10 a.m.

It is required that each school system designate at least one representative to attend one of the training sessions. Business Managers will receive instructions on how to register for the webinars. Once registered, participants will receive information on how to log in to the training webinar. All school systems must have an attendee registered for a session by August 12.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.