



LDOE Weekly Newsletter: August 12, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Your work was back in the national spotlight yesterday as U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon launched her [Returning Education to the States](#) tour here in Louisiana.

Secretary McMahon chose Louisiana as the first stop thanks to the unprecedented academic progress you've made — improving from 49th in 2019 to 32nd today. She plans to visit all 50 states, and her decision to begin in Louisiana speaks volumes about how we continue to write a new story for Louisiana education.

This visit not only highlighted how Louisiana's success can be a model for the nation, but it also amplified your impact in headlines across the country, including:

- [“A standout success story in American education”](#) - CBS Mornings
- [‘It's working.’ Trump education secretary Linda McMahon visits Louisiana, praises reading gains](#) - The Advocate
- [US Secretary of Education starts ‘Returning Education to the States Tour’ in Baton Rouge](#) - WAFB

As you begin a new school year and continue to push for even greater progress, please know that your work is being noticed and making a difference.

With appreciation,

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)

- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [August 19 at 3 p.m.](#)
- LEADS Webinar: [August 20 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [August 20 at 2 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.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [September 4 at 8 a.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](#)
- Ronald Reagan Oratory Competition Submission Deadline: [September 1](#)
- Principal Bootcamp Application Deadline: [September 8](#)
- Nominations Due for School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Programs: [September 12](#)
- Deadline to submit DSS application in eGMS: October 1

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Provide Feedback on the Upcoming Physical Education Standards Review

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

The LDOE will launch the review and revision process for the state's physical education standards in October. School system leaders are encouraged to support this initiative by sharing the [stakeholder feedback survey](#) with appropriate staff. Feedback will help ensure the revised standards reflect the needs of all students and educators across the state. Additional information, including the scope, responsibilities, and timeline of the Standards Review Committee, is available on the [Physical Education Standards Overview](#) page.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@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.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

LEADS Planning Resources

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

To support systems in implementing LEADS evaluations, planning, and training materials are available in the [LEADS Library](#). System and school leaders may utilize the following documents for planning and implementation:

- [Evaluation Implementation Guidance for System Leaders](#)
- [Evaluation Implementation Guidance for School Leaders](#)
- [LA Leader and Counselor Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#)
- [LA Educator Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#)
- [Sample Observation Schedule A](#)
- [Sample Observation Schedule B](#)

Training materials are also available in the [Professional Learning Platform: LEADS Public Collections](#) to support teachers. 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, participant guide, and a 90-minute adaptation. The asynchronous module, [Louisiana Educator Evaluation Training for Teachers](#), may also be shared with teachers.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

2025–26 Professional Learning Platform Learner Access Guidance

Please share with data managers, IT professionals, and system leaders.

Systems should be aware of updates regarding the LDOE Professional Learning Platform learner access for the 2025–26 school year. The [Professional Learning Platform Access Guidance](#) provides steps to allow users access to the LDOE Professional Learning Platform.

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with any questions.

New Aspiring Educators Curriculum

Please share with principals, teachers, and system leaders.

The new open-sourced Pre-Educator Pathway Curriculum, [Aspiring Educators: Shaping Louisiana's Future](#), is available on the Professional Learning Platform. The curriculum consists of two courses - Foundations of Education and Learning Communities.

Please contact MentorandContentLeader@la.gov with any questions.

Act 409 Hiring Practices

Please share with human resource directors and system leaders.

Signed into law as [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 practices.

When considering an individual for employment, in addition to a criminal background check (CBC), the employer is directed to check the Department of Children and Family Services (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 request a State Central Registry clearance through the Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance System (CANS). To request access, 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.

Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) Training

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

To support systems in preparing for the transition to LEC, training materials are available on www.teachlouisiana.net and within [TeachLALive!](#). These resources include user guides and video recordings designed to assist with

navigating the LEC platform. Materials are available for each user role, including: applicants, public and nonpublic schools, preparation providers, and early childhood centers.

Please contact the [Teacher Certification Help Portal](#) with any 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

2025-2026 Direct Student Services Application

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

In response to new federal guidance, the LDOE will begin implementing the Direct Student Services (DSS) provision under Title I, Part A starting in the 2025-2026 school year. This initiative will redirect a portion of federal funding to services that go directly to students, such as tutoring and academic enrichment. For the upcoming year, LDOE will reallocate 1.5% (about \$5.8 million) of Title I funds.

The application will launch in eGMS on September 1, with a deadline of October 1 to submit. For more information, please see the LDOE's [2025-2026 DSS one-pager](#).

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

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ACT, DCAI Data Certification

Please share with accountability coordinators and school leaders.

Student-level rosters for data that will be used to calculate ACT and DCAI indices for the 2025 school performance scores will be posted in La Data Review during the week of August 18. Access to the review site is limited to the accountability contact and backup accountability contact.

All accountability contacts will be notified prior to opening by email with user username and password information. The email will include attached resources for completing the review.

The LDOE should be notified as soon as possible of any changes to the accountability contacts using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update Form](#). This form must be completed and submitted by the superintendent to assessment@la.gov.

This will be the final opportunity to review data for the indices before the release of 2025 school performance scores in late fall.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT MOUs

Please share with district test coordinators and school leaders.

The ACT Memorandum of Understanding for 2025-2026 has been posted to [Assessment Resources](#). This document must be completed by all school systems that plan to test students in grades 11 or 12 who will not be paid for by the LDOE. Those who qualify for state payment include students who:

- Take the ACT in grade 11
- Take the ACT in grade 12
 - Do not have a prior year score on file with the LDOE
- Students who take WorkKeys in grade 11
 - Are on the Jump Start diploma pathway
 - Do not have a prior year score on file with the LDOE

The memorandum confirms that school systems will reimburse the LDOE for all other students. Students in grades other than 11 or 12 are not permitted to participate in the spring statewide administration. School systems should contact ACT for information regarding a district contract for grades 9 or 10.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

2025-2026 Jump Start Funding Guidance Now Available

Please share with CTE supervisors and system leaders.

The LDOE has released updated Jump Start funding guidance for the 2025–2026 school year. This guidance supports school systems in planning and leveraging funds to expand high-quality career and technical education pathways aligned to workforce needs.

School systems are encouraged to review the updated guidance early to support timely budget planning and program alignment.

The 2025–2026 Jump Start Funding Guidance is available on the [Jump Start Policy, Funding, & Program Implementation](#) page of the LDOE website.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2025-2026 Annual and Mid-Year RFA Charter Application Cycle

Please share with LEA Charter authorizers and school system leaders.

The 2025-2026 Common Charter Application and Timeline will be presented to BESE for approval on August 19 during the SIT Committee Meeting.

The Local-Authorizer Monthly Call scheduled for [August 13th](#) will provide district leaders with district reporting guidelines and authorizer requirements for accepting and reviewing submitted proposals. Districts are encouraged to have one representative attend.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Nominations Open

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

The LDOE is currently seeking nominations for the following awards initiatives:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [School Physical Activity Awards](#)

The [nomination portal](#) is now open and will close on September 12. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal closure, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration. For more information about awards initiatives, please see the [Awards page](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov or healthyschools@la.gov with questions.