



LDOE Weekly Newsletter: August 19, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

I'm excited to announce a new partnership with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute that will give two Louisiana students an unforgettable experience as part of [Celebrate Freedom Week](#) and America's 250th anniversary. We've launched a special Louisiana division of the Reagan Oratory Competition, open to students in grades K-12. One middle school and one high school student will win a trip to the national finals at the Reagan Presidential Library in California.

Please share this opportunity with students, teachers, and families in your system. More details are [available on our website](#), and entries are due by September 1. We're partnering with the City of Covington (home of the world's largest Ronald Reagan statue) to host Louisiana's state finalists for a special event during Celebrate Freedom Week, which is September 15-19 this year.

This initiative is another way we can invest in the civic development of our young people, giving them the chance to think deeply, speak confidently, and honor the freedoms that make our nation exceptional.

Thank you for ensuring your students know about this unique opportunity and for continuing to reinforce the importance of civics in your schools.

With appreciation,

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [August 26 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.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly call: [September 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [September 18 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Special Education Camera Amendment Deadline: August 22
- English Learner Institute-Session 1: [August 25](#)
- Ronald Reagan Oratory Competition Submission Deadline: [September 1](#)
- Fall 2025 Homeless Liaison Conference: [September 2](#)
- 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
- Elementary School Counselor Survey Submission Deadline: [October 1](#)

Teaching and Learning

System Leader Regional Collaboration Session 1

Please share with system leaders.

[Registration](#) remains open for Session 1 of [System Leader Regional Collaboration](#).

Session 1 Dates and Venues:

- September 23 - Monroe Cohort - University of Louisiana Monroe, Bayou Pointe
- September 24 - Shreveport Cohort - Hilton Garden Inn, Bossier City
- October 1 - Baton Rouge Cohort - Cook Hotel and Conference Center
- October 2 - Lafayette Cohort - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

School Support Institutes Session 1

Please share with school and system leaders.

Session 1 of [School Support Institutes](#) is approaching. System leaders should ensure that a 3-member ILT from each CIR school in their system is [registered](#). The School Support Institutes will focus on strengthening literacy and math instruction.

Session 1 Dates and Venues:

- September 23 - Monroe Cohort - University of Louisiana Monroe
- September 24 - Shreveport Cohort - Hilton Garden Inn, Bossier City
- September 30 - New Orleans Cohort - Pontchartrain Convention Center, Kenner
- October 1 - Baton Rouge Cohort - Cook Hotel and Conference Center
- October 2 - Lafayette Cohort - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Academic Content

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.

New K-5 Computer Science and STEM Micro-Credential Program

Please share with K-5 teachers and school leaders.

The LDOE is partnering with Louisiana Tech University to offer a new pathway for K-5 teachers to obtain the Computer Science and STEM K-5 certification add-on. The program cost is \$450. Vouchers are available for the first 25 teachers to enroll. Interested teachers should [register online](#) for the fall semester.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Mentor and Content Leader Provider Data Needed

Please share with data managers, human resources leaders, and system leaders.

The LDOE is requesting that all Mentor and Content Leader Providers submit their [Data Enrollment Reporting Templates](#) from August 2022-July 2023 and August 2023-July 2024 to MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov as soon as possible. Even if this data has been previously submitted, please resend the templates. This data must be included in the BESE Mentor and Content Leader Training Provider Effectiveness Report.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Credential Waiver Portal is OPEN

Please share with school and system leaders.

Beginning September 2020, every teacher who serves as the mentor of an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate candidate must hold the Mentor Certificate or the Provisional Mentor Ancillary Certificate. Prompted by a shortage of credentialed Mentor Teachers willing to host residents specifically in certain content areas, BESE has allowed a waiver of the Mentor Credential. In order to qualify for the \$2,000 stipend, mentors must either have the Mentor Credential or have an approved Mentor Credential Waiver.

This application process will be completed by system leads, mentors, principals, and in the case of the Alternate Mentor Waiver, education preparation providers.

The portals for [Traditional Mentor Waivers](#) and [Alternate Mentor Waivers](#) opened on August 7.

For additional support and general questions about the new portal, a Mentor Portal Waiver Office Hour call will be held.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 26 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95836301945>
- **Meeting ID:** 958 3630 1945
- **Passcode:** 598076
- **Phone:** 312 626 6799

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Mentor and Resident Funding Overview Call

Please share with data managers, human resources leaders, and system leaders.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the data collection for mentor compensation will take place using a similar process to what was used in 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 MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with questions.

Act 409: DCFS State Central Registry Checks through the Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance System (CANS)

Please share with human resource directors and system leaders.

As part of the updates to [LA R.S. 17:15](#) under [Act 409](#), employing school systems are required to check the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) State Central Registry for substantiated findings of child abuse or neglect when considering new applicants for employment.

Key Clarifications:

- No retroactive checks are required. School systems do not have to go back and check the registry for existing employees.
- The registry check applies only to applicants being considered for employment on or after August 1, 2025.
- When reviewing the registry through CANS, findings considered for employment purposes are only those that occurred on or after August 1, 2018.
- Applicants with a substantiated finding on or after August 1, 2018, are not eligible for hire.

School systems may request a State Central Registry clearance through CANS.

- Public school systems: Refer to the [CANS K-12 Public School User Access Guide](#).
- Nonpublic school systems: Refer to 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, superintendents, and system 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 visit the [Teacher Certification Help Portal](#) for more information.

LEADS Webinar for New Systems

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

All systems, including those with approved alternate rubrics, will transition to LEADS beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. A LEADS webinar will be held to assist systems that will be implementing LEADS evaluations for the first time. The webinar will provide an overview of LEADS 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=HnBrivMCtbHT9LaCMylFaP2wAlri8B.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 978 8556 5506
- **Passcode:** 109471
- **Phone:** 312 626 6799

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 finalizing 2024–2025 educator evaluations in LES by selecting 2024 in LES to complete any remaining data. Evaluations may be finalized, including VAM teachers, if all components are complete and SLT data is available. VAM scores will be added later, and the final evaluations will be calculated at that time.

The data entry deadline will be announced after VAM results are released this fall. Mark evaluations as incomplete for any employee who should have been evaluated in LEADS (or the Legacy system) but did not receive a 2024–2025 evaluation. Refer to [Bulletin 130](#) for the criteria for marking an evaluation incomplete.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

LES for 2025-2026

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

LES uses staff data to determine evaluation requirements for each staff member and ensure accurate role assignments. Systems can now begin uploading staff extracts with updated position codes, locations, and assignments to Edlink 360. These uploads must be completed before 2025–2026 evaluations can begin.

After completing uploads, district staff should verify rosters and assign evaluators.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

2025–2026 Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring FAQ Now Available

Please share with system leaders.

As school systems begin planning for the 2025–2026 school year, the LDOE encourages leaders to utilize the [Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring FAQ](#) to inform planning and decision-making related to Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring. This updated document provides answers to common questions about implementation, eligibility, funding, and instructional requirements. It supports school systems in aligning with [Act 771](#) and effectively planning tutoring for the 2025–2026 school year.

Please contact tutoring@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

Register for the Fall 2025 Homeless Liaison Conference

Please share with homeless liaisons.

The LDOE will be hosting the Annual Fall 2025 [Homeless Liaison Conference](#) on September 2. All new homeless liaisons should plan to attend the McKinney-Vento 101 session at 10 a.m. All other liaisons should plan to attend the general session at 1 p.m. Both trainings will be held at the Main Library at Goodwood, located at 7711 Goodwood Blvd. in Baton Rouge. [Advanced registration](#) is required.

Please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions and to request special accommodations that may be required for full participation.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Numeracy Screening

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

The K-3 Numeracy Screener opened on August 13 in the KITE platform and will remain open through October 3.

- All schools that serve students in grades K-3 are required to participate.
- All students, including students with disabilities and English learners are required to participate. The Numeracy Alternate Assessment Rubric (NAAR) is available by grade level for students with significant cognitive disabilities on the [Numeracy Screener](#) page of the LDOE website.
- All school test coordinators and test administrators must complete the K-3 Numeracy Test Administrator Training (Course F81C9F1F) posted to the LDOE Professional Learning Platform. The training includes a quiz and a certificate that must be presented to the school test coordinator to confirm a score of 80% or higher.
- The Test Irregularities Report has been updated to include the numeracy screener.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

The 2025-2026 ACT MOUs and Information Sheet has been posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Districts must have [Data Sharing Agreements](#) for ACT and ACT (other realms) signed and submitted to LDEData@la.gov.

PANext opens for DTCs to manage contacts on August 12. School Systems must:

- Add workkeys@operations.act.org to their list of trusted contacts.
- Assure that the email system allows for @operations.act.org and @act.org domain.
- Review the ACT email sent to DTCs regarding 2025 WorkKeys Fall Testing on August 4.
- Register for WorkKeys State Administration Training for Fall State Testing on August 12.
- Register for WorkKeys Test Administration Training on Batch Loading on September 8.

August 22 is the deadline to select test dates for WorkKeys. Districts and schools testing should:

- Complete test date and materials receipt selection in PearsonAccessnext.
 - Select the same date for all test date fields when completing this step to ensure receipt of correct materials at the correct time.
- Select a material receipt week when staff are available to receive the shipment.

- Complete the “Not Testing” section on the “Test Date” selection screen of PearsonAccessnext if the school or system is not testing.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Interests and Opportunities (I & O)

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

2024-2025 Preliminary I&O scoring files are in FTP. Please review and email accountability@la.gov with any questions by August 27.

Starting in 2025-2026, only approved alternative schools will use the I & O Index as part of school performance score calculation. All other schools will follow the revised accountability system, *Grow. Achieve. Thrive.*, which does not include the I&O Index.

For alternative schools only, the 2025-2026 I&O survey opens August 26.

- Surveys are due by October 10
- Superintendent validations are due by October 17
- The Menu and Guidance are available in the [Accountability Library](#)

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Elementary School Counselor Report Survey

Please share with administrators and K-6 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 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 grades K-6 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.

Back-to-School Safety Preparedness: Training, Activities, and Drills for K-12 Schools

Please share with administrators, principals, school threat assessment teams, and system leaders.

CISA School Safety will host a [virtual training](#) on August 28 at 2 p.m. on back-to-school safety and emergency preparedness actions for K-12 schools.

The start of the school year provides a critical window for school and district leaders to reinforce a culture of safety and preparedness among students and staff. This interactive panel discussion will equip K-12 administrators with practical strategies to integrate emergency response drills, training, and exercises as core components of a safe and secure learning environment.

Attendees will gain insight into updating and sustaining crisis response and reunification plans, with an emphasis on ensuring that these plans are well understood and practiced by staff and students. The session will also provide actionable tools and guidance to support the implementation of developmentally-appropriate preparedness efforts throughout the school year. [Registration](#) is required to attend.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

2025 ACT College & Career Readiness Workshops

Please share with counselors, principals, teachers, and testing coordinators.

Registration is now open for [ACT College and Career Readiness Workshops](#). These in-person workshops offer participants an opportunity to connect and network with peers, as well as collaborate with an ACT expert. Workshops will be tailored to the Louisiana landscape and include discussions and strategies systems can implement to improve outcomes.

In-person workshops begin at 9 a.m. at the following locations:

- September 16 (Baton Rouge)
- September 18 (New Orleans)
- September 23 (Alexandria)
- September 24 (Ruston)
- September 25 (Lafayette)

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

Fall Counselor Workshop (In-Person)

Please share with counselors.

Registration is open for the new [Fall Counselor Workshop](#) hosted by College Board. This event will be held at 12 p.m. on September 23 in Lafayette. Participants will receive information on College Board programs and services, AP, SAT, PSAT, and BigFuture college and career planning.

The [registration](#) deadline is September 21.

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

U.S. Department of Education: CTE Momentum Challenge

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

The U.S. Department of Education is inviting high school CTE students to explore how artificial intelligence can enhance careers across all industries with their "[Your AI Horizons](#)" challenge. The challenge will begin on August 5. The goal of the [CTE Momentum Series](#) is to prepare high school students for rewarding careers and increase access to career and technical education. The submission deadline is November 19.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

Federal Grants Management Training - LCTCS Conference

Please share with CTE supervisors, programmatic personnel, and fiscal personnel.

Registration is open for the [Fall Federal Grants Management Training](#), hosted by LCTCS. This training is for programmatic and fiscal personnel. Testing will be available after the training. The training will take place on September 23 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans Hotel. Register with the discount code **CTE2nd25** by August 29.

Please contact careerandtech@lctcs.edu with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

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

Please share with LEA charter authorizers and school system leaders.

The 2025-2026 Common Charter application, timeline, and supporting documentation will be published on the LDOE website on August 25. Form updates will include:

- Eligibility Determination
- Common Charter Applications (New/Experienced Operator)
- Evaluation Rubric Standards (New/Experienced Operator)
- District Website Template
- NEW - Applicant Self-Assessment Completeness Checks (New/Experienced Operator)

Local-Authorizers are required to utilize the Common Charter Applications for the application cycle.

The Eligibility Determination, Evaluation Rubric Standards, District Website template, and Applicant Self-Assessment Completeness Checks may be utilized by local authorizers to guide the local evaluation process in accordance with R.S. 17:3982; however, each district may elect to create district forms in accordance with [Bulletin 126](#).

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.

All nonpublic schools that have BESE approval are required to submit the school's 2025-2026 Annual Enrollment Data on August 1 through October 15. School administrators completing the NPS Annual Enrollment Report must create an [EdLink Account](#) and request the "NPS School Manager Role". Please refer to the [NPS User Guide](#) for guidance.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.