

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: August 26, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Louisiana Teachers,

Louisiana's academic progress is being noticed across the nation, and it's because of your dedication to students.

Over the next few weeks, I will share some of the steps being taken to support you as you continue driving student outcomes. Today, I want to start with an issue that matters to every teacher: pay.

- **One-Time Stipend:** The Louisiana legislature approved stipends of \$2,000 for certificated staff and \$1,000 for support staff again for this school year. The state will provide these funds to school systems in the fall, and each system will determine their local distribution schedule.
- **Permanent Pay Raise:** While stipends are one-time funds, the legislature also placed a proposal for a permanent raise on the statewide ballot — likely in April 2026. If approved by voters, this would mean a raise of about \$2,250 for certificated staff.

We will remain focused on supporting teachers so they can continue helping Louisiana students thrive.

Dr. Cade Brumley

Louisiana State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [September 2 at 3 p.m.](#)
- New Program Approval Application Portal Webinar: [September 3 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [September 4 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [September 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [September 9 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [September 11 at 10 a.m.](#)

- Certification Monthly Call: [September 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [September 18 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [September 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- LES Refresher Webinar: [September 18 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [September 18 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Pre-Educator Pathway Quarterly Support Call: [September 25 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Fall 2025 Homeless Liaison Conference: [September 2](#)
- Nominations Due for School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Programs: [September 12](#)
- Deadline to Submit Teacher Exit Survey: September 12
- Students of the Year School System Information and Participation Level Survey: [September 30](#)
- Deadline to Submit DSS Application in eGMS: October 1
- Elementary School Counselor Survey Submission Deadline: [October 1](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 Resources

Please share with literacy coaches and grade 6-8 teachers.

The LDOE has updated the [ELA Guidebooks](#) webpage to include the [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\) Standards Overview Document](#). This document provides information on the student standards addressed in each grade-level unit to ensure alignment, as well as students' opportunities to meet the requirements of the grade-level standards.

Please contact elaguidebooks@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

Mentor Credential Waiver Portal is OPEN

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

All teachers who serve 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 since the 2020-2021 school year.

The portals for [Traditional Mentor Waivers](#) and [Alternate Mentor Waivers](#) opened on August 7. The application process will be completed by system leads, mentors, principals, and, in the case of the Alternate Mentor Waiver, education preparation providers.

For additional support and general Q&A 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.

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

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

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.

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.

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 [TeachLA Live!](#). 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 non-public schools, preparation providers, and early childhood centers.

Please visit the [Teacher Certification Help Portal](#) for additional information.

LEADS Annual Evaluator Certification Assessment

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

All LEADS evaluators and designated observers must pass an annual assessment in the LDOE Professional Learning Platform before evaluating. Evaluators and observers of teachers are required to take the Louisiana Educator Evaluation Assessment, and evaluators of leaders and counselors are required to take the Louisiana Leader/Counselor Evaluation Assessment. The assessment must be passed annually to remain in “good standing.” Those who do not pass the annual assessment will be required to attend training again before evaluating or observing.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Program Approval Fall Cycle

Please share with human resource directors, superintendents, and system leaders.

The [new program application](#) window opens **September 1** for the spring cycle for teacher preparation programs, mentor teacher, content leader, and Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC). All Notices of Intent (NOIs) are due by **October 1**. NOIs will be reviewed to ensure applicants meet all policy requirements to obtain approval before being moved to the application phase. The application phase will open on October 2, with full applications due December 10.

A webinar will be held to support those interested in applying for the fall cycle.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 3 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91276721846?pwd=3YTXtBjYyYUR5SjAEPoljCYFBXX6QD.1#success>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 912 7672 1846
- **Passcode:** 950323

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

K-3 Numeracy Screener

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

In accordance with [Act 650 \(2024\)](#) and [Bulletin 118](#), the LDOE is implementing the K-3 Numeracy Screener. The 2025-2026 school year will serve as a learning year for the screener's administration, with full implementation

scheduled for the 2026–2027 school year. The administration timeline will align with that of the K-3 Literacy Screener, requiring schools to conduct the initial screener within the first 30 days of school.

All school test coordinators and test administrators for the statewide K-3 numeracy screener in KITE must complete the K-3 Numeracy Test Administrator Training, available on the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#). Test administrators must achieve a score of at least 80% and submit their certificate to the school test coordinator. The Test Administrator Training Course Number is F81C9F1F.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Achievement in Numeracy Act (LANE)

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

Per [Act 260](#) (2023), all grades 4–8 math teachers must complete an LDOE-approved numeracy course by August 1, 2025. School and system leaders must collect proof of completion from new hires teaching these grades. [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#) extends this requirement to K–3 math teachers by August 2027. A course for high school math teachers is available, but not mandatory.

Courses remain open through 2025–2026, and system contacts have received course codes. See the [Guidance and Framing](#) document on the [Louisiana Math webpage](#) for guidance. Systems should plan to support teachers in meeting these requirements.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies

Ronald Reagan Student Oratory Competition: Closes Sept. 1

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

This is the final week to submit entries for the Louisiana Division of the Ronald Reagan Oratory Competition, hosted by the LDOE and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation in honor of America's 250th anniversary and Celebrate Freedom Week. Finalists will compete at the state event, and middle and high school winners will earn an all-expense-paid trip to the national finals at the Reagan Presidential Library in California

- **Deadline:** September 1
- **Teacher Incentive:** The Louisiana teacher with the most student submissions will receive a \$250 book prize.
- **How to Submit:** Materials and links by grade band are available on the [Celebrate Freedom Week](#) webpage.

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

Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement

Please share with high school social studies teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.

The LDOE is pleased to introduce a new recognition for high school students who demonstrate excellence in Civics education. Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, students who achieve a Mastery or higher on the LEAP 2025 Civics assessment will receive a special diploma seal and a red, white, and blue honor cord to be worn during graduation. Educators play a vital role in helping students achieve this distinction by sharing this opportunity, encouraging academic success, and supporting civic learning in the classroom.

Please contact socialstudies@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 host the Annual Fall 2025 [Homeless Liaison Conference](#) on September 2 at the Main Library located at 7711 Goodwood Blvd. in Baton Rouge.

- **New liaisons** should attend the McKinney Vento 101 Session at 10 a.m.
- **Returning liaisons** should attend the General Session at 1 p.m.

[Advanced registration](#) is required.

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

Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2025-2026 SY (First Quarter Only)

Please share with charter school directors, federal program directors, special education supervisors, and superintendents.

The LDOE conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for scheduled monitoring events, the LDOE is releasing the [First-Quarter Monitoring Schedule](#)*. This schedule is tentative, and the LDOE reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

The LDOE will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to superintendents, federal program directors, and special education supervisors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule.

*School systems that have been severely impacted by a disaster and are currently listed on the schedule are encouraged to please contact LDOE-program.monitoring@la.gov.

Please contact LDOE-program.monitoring@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP 2025 Scores

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

LEAP 2025 Social Studies and Civics scores were released in DRC INSIGHT on August 21. High schools received reports from fall, winter, and spring testing windows. School systems are responsible for distributing scores as soon as possible.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT and DCAI Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

Data certification for ACT and DCAI opened on August 22 in La Data Review and will remain available through September 5 for requests to change data that will be used in the fall 2025 school performance score (SPS). This is the final opportunity for schools and systems to review and request changes to data. Once data certification closes, data that could have been changed during this certification period cannot be used to file an appeal or waiver of the SPS.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Course Choice Page Update

Please share with counselors, CTE supervisors, principals, and system leaders.

The [Course Choice Program](#) webpage has been refreshed to better support schools, counselors, and families. Updates include new “Family Communications Tools” under the “Resources for Schools and Counselors” section which includes:

- [Sample Parent Letter](#)
- [Parent Flyer](#)
- [Social Media Graphics](#)

In addition, the page now also includes the new [Course Choice Road Map for School Leaders](#), designed to guide systems through key steps and considerations.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2025-2026 Local Charter Request for Applications Cycle

Please share with school system leaders and LEA charter authorizers.

The 2025-2026 Common Charter Application, timeline, and supporting documentation are published and available on the LDOE website. Districts are required to provide an application process outline and a point of contact for applicant submission for interested applicants on district websites.

The Office of School Choice requests that each district complete the [Charter Authorizing Contact Information Survey](#) by September 8 to ensure the most up-to-date information for the point of contact for LEA Charter Authorization.

Key Dates for Local Authorizers:

- September 8: Deadline to post application materials to website
- October 20: Charter Applications are due to districts
- November 7: Local boards notify LDOE and legislators of charter applications received within each district
- January 29: Deadline to consider charter applications
- January 30: Deadline to notify LDOE of local board recommendations

If the district has not made a decision by January 29, the applicant is eligible to appeal to BESE.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Charter Refresher

Please share with school board members, school leaders, and school system leaders.

The 2025-2026 Charter Refresher will be held on October 7 from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the EBR Professional Development Center (3000 N. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge). Session topics will include technology readiness for testing, data management, system overview, and information on the CSP Subgrant opportunity.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Future 2026 Renewal Cohort Monthly Calls

Please share with LEA charter authorizers and school system leaders.

The LDOE has finalized the schedule for the 2026 Renewal Cohort Monthly Calls. These meetings are designed to provide ongoing guidance and support as systems prepare for renewal.

Monthly Calls will be held on the following days:

- August 26
- September 30
- October 28
- November 18

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

New Exit Code - LA GATOR Scholarship Program

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

A new exit code has been added to track students who exit the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program. School leaders should inform data managers when to use this code.

WITHDRAW_REASON_CODE- 47 = Exit to LA GATOR

Please contact lagator@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2024- 2025 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Submission

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires that local school systems and charter schools provide financial data to the LDOE no later than September 30 each year. The annual financial report is to be submitted via the EdLinks AFR portal. The portal is scheduled to be available for submission beginning September 2. The AFR documents that are needed to assist in the submission of the AFR can be found in the [Business Manager Support Library](#).

Please contact staudit@la.gov with questions.

MFP - Career Development Fund (CDF) Initial Allocation and Payments

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The LDOE will release the MFP—CDF Initial Payment for FY 2025-2026 by August 29. For more details, please refer to the CDF Guidance and Allocation document available in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Students of the Year Application Process Opens

Please share with school leaders and school system leaders.

The 2026 Students of the Year application process is now open. Materials and timeline are available in the [Resource Library](#), with program details on the [Awards](#) page. All public, charter, and nonpublic school systems are encouraged to select one student each from grades five, eight, and twelve based on their leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service.

School systems are asked to complete the [School System Information and Participation Level Survey](#) by September 30 to indicate participation and submit coordinator details. Two informational Zoom sessions will be offered to support coordinators with the process. Please select the session below that best fits your schedule:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 27 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95568829090?pwd=LbNy4VCDg7MRM0rpWnQvNK1zhUeA5D.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 955 6882 9090
- **Passcode:** 079267

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 28 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96596529492?pwd=qlEsBRu5Q3Ngkd84Xwoiev88Mhooyh.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 965 9652 9492
- **Passcode:** 570182

The dates and times of upcoming webinars will be included in the [Informational and Help Desk Zoom Calls](#) document.

For questions, please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov.