

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: September 2, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Louisiana Teachers,

One of the most consistent messages from the Let Teachers Teach workgroup was that required trainings were taking too much of your valuable time year after year. We know these trainings cover important topics, but we also know they should not pull so much time and focus away from students.

That is why several important changes are now in place to make trainings smarter, more efficient, and less repetitive:

- **One and done:** Trainings such as adverse childhood experiences, bullying prevention, communicable diseases, first aid, mental health awareness, and suicide prevention remain essential, but they no longer need to be repeated every year. Once you complete these trainings, you're done for your career.
- **Handled by trained staff:** A number of training requirements that were once mandated for all teachers will now be handled by trained staff. For example, designated staff will maintain current CPR and AED certifications.
- **Built into other avenues:** Some trainings have been embedded into standards or will instead be provided as an informational resource. Examples of these include adoption awareness, breast self-exam and cervical cancer testing, child assault awareness and prevention, dating violence, eating disorders, internet and cell phone safety, litter prevention and awareness, conflict resolution, organ donation, parenthood education, safe haven training, shaken baby syndrome, substance abuse prevention, and water safety.
- **Reviewed annually:** School systems must now review training requirements each year to reduce duplication and, where possible, offer pre-test exemptions so experienced teachers can demonstrate prior knowledge instead of repeating the same training. Local school systems now have flexibility with this.

These updates are the direct result of feedback teachers shared with me through Let Teachers Teach. They keep trainings in place while respecting both their seriousness and your time as a professional. Most importantly, they give you more space to do what matters most: teaching students.

Dr. Cade Brumley
Louisiana State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- New Program Approval Application Portal Webinar: [September 3 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [September 4 at 8 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [September 4 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [September 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [September 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [September 9 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [September 9 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Community Network Office Hours: [September 9 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [September 10 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Charter School Monthly Call: [September 11 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Ed Tech Monthly Call: [September 11 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [September 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Webinar: [September 11 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [September 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [September 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Numeracy Training Office Hours: [September 17 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [September 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [September 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [September 18 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- 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.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [September 24 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Pre-Educator Pathway Quarterly Support Call: [September 25 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [September 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [September 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [October 7 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Program Nominations Due: [September 12](#)
- Deadline to Submit Teacher Exit Survey: September 12
- Teacher/Principal of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Nominations Due: [September 30](#)
- Students of the Year School System Information and Participation Level Survey: [September 30](#)
- Deadline to Submit Annual Financial Report (AFR): September 30
- Deadline to Submit General Fund Budget: September 30
- Deadline to Submit DSS Application in eGMS: October 1
- Elementary School Counselor Survey Submission Deadline: [October 1](#)
- In-Person Super App Launch at LAFEPA: [October 30](#)
- Virtual Super App Launch: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)

Executive

State Superintendent Teacher Letter

Please share with system and school leaders.

Please share [Dr. Brumley's teacher letter](#) via email with all teachers in your schools and system. The letter thanks teachers for their dedication and highlights recent updates designed to support their work.

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, early childhood providers, literacy coaches, numeracy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts ongoing Tech Readiness reviews of [Tier 1](#) materials to support school systems in selecting materials. The endorsement signifies that materials have been evaluated for their compatibility, functionality, and potential to enhance instruction through technology. The following curricula have successfully obtained the [Tech Readiness Endorsement](#).

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Into Math, Grades K-5 (©2020)
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Into Math, Grades 6-8 (©2020)
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Into Reading, Grades K-5 (©2020)
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Into Literature, Grades 6-8 (©2020)
- Zearn - Zearn Math, Grades 1-5 (©2023)
- Zearn - Zearn Math, Grades 6-8 (©2023)
- Teaching Strategies, LLC - The Creative Curriculum for Family Childcare, ECE Ages 0-5 (©2017)
- Teaching Strategies, LLC - The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos, ECE Ages 0-3 (©2015)
- Teaching Strategies, LLC - The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, ECE Ages 3-5 (©2020)

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 Resources

Please share with literacy coaches and grades 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 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

Child Abuse and Neglect System (CANS) Access & User Guides

Please share with human resource directors and systems leaders.

As part of the updates to [LA R.S. 17:15](#) under [Act 409](#), employing school systems are required to check the DCFS State Central Registry for substantiated findings of child abuse or neglect when considering new applicants for employment. School systems may request a State Central Registry clearance through CANS.

For access authentication, public school systems should refer to the [CANS K-12 Public School User Access Guide](#). Nonpublic school systems should refer to the [CANS K-12 Non-Public School User Access Guide](#). For assistance using CANS, see the [CANS User Guide](#).

Please contact DCFS-ServiceManagementTeam@la.gov with questions.

LES Refresher Webinar

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

The LES Refresher Webinar will provide an overview and refresher on the Louisiana Education System (LES) data platform. Participants will learn how to navigate key features. The session is designed for both new and experienced system and school leaders who want to refresh their skills, ensuring everyone can access and enter data with confidence.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 18 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92792072952?pwd=VuYVviR9sdbgCe4svmwb5fmSHbZPVf.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 927 9207 2952
- **Passcode:** 313541
- **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 to complete any remaining data. Evaluations may be finalized, including VAM teachers. 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.

Literacy

Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring Plans

Please share with system leaders.

School systems are required to submit their Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring Plans through eGMS by September 15 for approval. [The Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring Workbook](#) provides school systems with a structured framework to plan their implementation. The Workbook will help ensure school systems are prepared for reporting to the LDOE in eGMS.

The LDOE encourages leaders to utilize the updated documents on the [tutoring landing page](#) to inform planning and decision-making related to Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring:

- [Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring School System Implementation Guidance](#)
- [Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring Guidance](#)
- [Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring FAQ](#)

The updated documents provide answers to common questions about implementation, eligibility, funding, and instructional requirements. They support school systems in aligning with [Act 771](#) and effectively planning tutoring for the 2025–2026 school year.

For questions or to request a one-on-one planning support call, please contact tutoring@la.gov.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2026-2027 School System Planning Launch

Please share with business managers, federal program directors, and system leaders

The LDOE is committed to providing educators at each level of the education system with the support and resources needed to continue raising the bar for students in Louisiana. The LDOE will launch the 2026-2027 Next Level Vision for Success School System Planning & Budgeting Workbook and accompanying resources through a series of in-person and virtual sessions this fall.

2026-2027 Super App Launch and Office Hours:

- 2026-2027 Super App Launch Session at LASAFAP Fall Conference (In-Person): [LAFEPA](#)
- 2026-2027 Super App Virtual Launch Session: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2026-2027 Super App Planning Office Hours: [December 4 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2026-2027 Super App Planning Office Hours: [January 8 at 10 a.m.](#)

Please contact LDOEOperations@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application

Please share with business managers, EEF coordinators, school leaders, and superintendents.

To assist school systems in preparing for the upcoming release of the 2025-2026 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application, the Division of Grants Management will host two Zoom meetings on September 16. The morning session will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the afternoon session will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting information is provided below for the morning and afternoon sessions.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96974104909?pwd=gphAcbzfccRlcaQ0CaRiGJugNO4bCb>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 969 7410 4909

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 16 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91203147897?pwd=89Vl4sKmxlchtKO1txDwP2AioTCD8V>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 912 0314 7897

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

2025-2026 Direct Student Services (DSS) Application

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

The 2025-2026 DSS Application was released in eGMS in Fiscal Year 2026 on September 1. There will be two areas of focus for the funding: Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring and Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Powered Academic Intervention. All LEAs are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to LEAs that:

- Serve schools identified as Comprehensive Intervention Required (CIR) or Urgent Intervention Required (UIR)
- Propose strategies that are scalable, measurable, and sustainable
- Demonstrate strong implementation plans and evidence of effectiveness
- Aligns interventions with Louisiana's education priorities
- Have students currently on the waitlist for the Steve Carter Literacy tutoring program

The DSS application must be submitted by October 1 to be eligible for the competitive process.

Please contact LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov with questions. Include "DSS" as the subject line in the email.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Social Studies and Civics Updates

Please share with curriculum directors, educators, school leaders, and testing coordinators.

Updates to include scale score ranges, achievement level descriptors, and interpretation guidance for reports have been completed for the following documents.

- Interpretive guides for all grades are posted in [DRC INSIGHT](#)
- Achievement Level Descriptors for all grades are posted in [Assessment Guidance](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts, data managers, and school leaders.

- DCAI: All school systems should make sure that transcripts for 2024-2025 students in grades T9 and 9 have a fully updated transcript. Points will be awarded based on the transcript available for the final download in September.
- ACT: Accountability contacts should check for any outstanding messages from department reviewers related to submissions made in La Data Review.
- Assessment rosters are now available in La Data Review. In addition to this roster, two additional downloadable roster files will be available to accountability contacts: LEAP progress roster and ELPT progress roster. The date of availability will be shared with accountability contacts as soon as they are confirmed.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

- Interests and Opportunities: In 2025-2026, the Interests and Opportunities (I & O) index will only be used in the approved alternative school performance score calculation. Regular schools will no longer see I & O in the *Grow, Achieve, Thrive* accountability system.
 - Surveys are due by October 10
 - Superintendent validations are due by October 17
 - The I & O menu and guidance is 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 grade 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 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.

2025-2026 Pupil Progression Plan

Please share with school system administrators.

The 2025-2026 PPP template is available in the LDOE [School Policy library](#).

The purpose of the PPP template is to assist school systems in developing their required Pupil Progression Plan in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and codify school system policies and procedures related to K-12 student placement, promotion, and retention. The PPP should be submitted as a PDF to ppp@la.gov by October 31.

Please contact ppp@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 High School Planning Guide

Please share with district administrators, high school counselors, and school administrators.

The [2025-2026 Louisiana High School Planning Guidebook](#) is now available on the LDOE [Graduation Requirements](#) webpage. This guidebook consolidates the policies and programs most relevant to high school educators as they plan for this academic year and prepare every student for college and career success. The Louisiana High School Planning Guidebook is published annually.

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

BESE-Authorized Charter School September Submissions

Please share with BESE-authorized charter schools and system leaders.

As outlined in the [Charter School Reporting Calendar](#), the following items are to be submitted in September:

- Principal/Teacher of the Year Application
- Student of the Year Application
- Course Choice Fall/Full Year Reporting
- Literacy Screener Gifted Referral Data – BOY
- FY 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget – Adopted
- FY 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Form A (New)
- Annual Financial Report
- Act 370 Report (New)
- Act 771: High-Dosage Tutoring
- Student Transcript System
- Charter School Assurances

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Annual RFA Charter Application Website Posting Requirements

Please share with LEA charter authorizers and school system leaders.

The 2025-2026 Common Charter Application, and the application timeline were approved by BESE on August 19. Local authorizers were invited to attend the local authorizer monthly call on August 13 to review the applications, timeline, and application tools for application review. As part of the local authorization process, district websites must provide potential applicants with the following information:

- Forms required for submission of a charter proposal - eligibility documents and common charter application with any local additions.
- Timeline for accepting and reviewing charter proposals at the district level.
- The process that will be used to review charter proposals submitted to the board.
- The name and contact information for a primary point of contact for charter proposals.

A [website template](#) has been created for district use. Usage of the template is entirely optional; each district may also choose to create and post district text in accordance with Bulletin 126. In accordance with the requirements to make public the guidelines for submitting a charter proposal, district websites will be reviewed for compliance beginning September 9.

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 the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). To become eligible for state and federal funding, schools must be approved by BESE and also comply with Brumfield v. Dodd, a federal court order that prohibits discrimination.

The [2026-2027 BESE Approval Application](#) is available now through October 15. The 2026-2027 Brumfield v. Dodd Application is accessible within the BESE application.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Nonpublic School Annual Reporting

Please share with data managers and nonpublic school leaders.

The annual enrollment report window for all nonpublic schools approved by BESE (Private Schools Seeking State Approval) to submit their school's 2025-2026 annual enrollment data opened August 1 and will close on October 15. The school should submit the enrollment through the [Edlink website](#).

Before completing the NPS annual enrollment report, school administrators responsible for entering the accurate data must set up an EdLink account and request the "NPS School Manager Role." Please review and follow the steps in the [NPS Edlink Manual for the Annual Enrollment Report PDF](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Quarter 1 Scholarship Enrollment for the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities

Please share with data managers and school leaders.

Quarter 1 reporting for the School Choice Program (SCS) must be submitted September 2-8 to receive tuition payments on time.

- If any information is incorrect or a student is missing from your roster, please contact studentscholarships@la.gov.
- If the enrollment reports are not accurate or submitted on time, tuition payments may be delayed.
- Each school is responsible for reviewing the final quarterly enrollment report as entered in the LEADS system.
- If a student drops from school, follow drop procedures in order for the student to be removed from the school's roster.

The payment report generated in LEADS does not accurately reflect final payment amounts. Schools have 30 days from the last day of the quarterly enrollment reporting period each quarter to report any enrollment issues.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2025-2026 Differentiated Compensation Allocation

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The Legislature has appropriated funding in FY 2025-2026 for Differentiated Compensation with the intent to assist city and parish school districts, charter schools, lab schools, and state schools with addressing unique market needs in the recruitment and retention of teachers.

For more details, refer to the FY 2025-2026 Differentiated Compensation Allocation Guidance Document available in

the [Business Manager Support Library](#) - State Allocations Section. Funds will be released to school systems for Differentiated Compensation Allocation on September 12.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2025-2026 Certificated and Support Stipends Allocation

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The Legislature has appropriated funding for a \$2,000 certificated stipend and a \$1,000 support staff stipend for school system employees. City and parish school districts, charter schools, university lab schools, and state school employees are eligible for this allocation.

For further guidance regarding this allocation, please refer to the FY 2025-2026 Certificated and Support Stipends Allocation Guidance Document available in the [Business Manager Support Library](#) - State Allocations Section. Funds will be released to school systems on September 5 for the Certificated and Support Stipends Allocation.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2025-2026 MFP Weighted Student Funding Calculation

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Accountability for MFP Weighted Funds is required by R.S. 17:7(2)(f)(i). Funds generated in the MFP formula by applying the weights are required to be expended on personnel, professional services, instructional materials, equipment, and supplies that serve the unique needs of students who generate such funds. The FY 2025-2026 MFP Weighted Student Fund Calculation is available in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2025 AFR Revenue Verification Report

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The verification report, which includes totals for revenues, expenditures, and weighted funds, is utilized for confirming information to be included in the AFR. The verification report for FY 2025 is currently available in the [Business Manager Support Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Seeking Nominations for Excellent Educators

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

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

- Teacher and Principal of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year - Candidates must have less than one year of teaching experience

The deadline to submit nominations via the [nominations portal](#) is September 30. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal closure, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year, laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year, or shallan.jones@la.gov with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.