

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: September 9, 2025

In This Issue

[Message from the State Superintendent](#)

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations](#)

[School Choice](#)

[School System Relations](#)

Message from the State Superintendent

Louisiana Teachers,

Educators in the [Let Teachers Teach](#) workgroup made it clear: the art of teaching is critically important. In response, new policies are removing outdated rules and scripted lessons so effective teachers have more professional autonomy.

What's changed for you:

- **Planning flexibility:** State policy now requires that teachers rated Proficient or higher (or Effective: Proficient on Compass) on the previous year evaluation must be provided professional autonomy regarding the selection and utilization of instructional strategies in alignment with state content standards.
- **Freedom from scripts:** Proficient teachers are no longer required to read directly from scripted lessons unless the content is designed for explicit, direct instruction.
- **Respect for time:** Systems are encouraged to make collaboration meetings purposeful and protect prep time at the start of the school year. State policy now requires school systems to conduct an annual needs assessment to ensure professional learning is effective and relevant.

Louisiana understands that teachers are the driving force behind our historic academic progress. We also know that school and system leaders work every day to create the conditions where teachers can teach and students can learn. Together, these updates help strengthen that partnership and position us to keep moving Louisiana forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [October 2 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [October 3 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [October 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [October 16 at 10 a.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.](#)

Teaching and Learning

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. Overview of unit updates:

- Unit text revisions:
 - Grade 8: The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Updated to use the Young Reader's version of the text
- Unit Readers:
 - Future communications will include more information about changes to Unit Readers
- Unit no longer available:
 - Grade 11: Friday Night Lights
- Units moving grade levels:
 - Diary: Moving from grade 8 to grade 9
 - A Lesson Before Dying: Moving from grade 9 to grade 10
 - The Joy Luck Club: Moving from grade 9 to grade 10
- Additional unit development:
 - Development of additional units for grades 8, 9, and 11 is underway. Future communications will include further details.

Local school systems should determine the grade-level implementation of each unit.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

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](#).

- Curriculum Associates. LLC - Phonics for Reading, ELA Intensive Intervention Grades 3-8 (©2025)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

2026 English Learner Institute Registration Now Open

Please share with English learner coordinators/directors, federal program directors, and lead EL teachers.

The English Learner Institute for EL Directors and Coordinators will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration information is now available for the following dates:

- [January 26](#)
- [March 16](#)
- [May 13](#)

All meetings will be held at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

New Resources for English Learners

Please share with EL directors/coordinators, federal program directors, instructional coaches, and teachers.

The LDOE is pleased to share five new resources to strengthen programming and instruction for English Learners. These resources provide both system-level guidance and practical tools for classroom instruction:

- [Improving Outcomes for English Learners: Louisiana's Framework](#)
- [Strategies for English Learners: A Guide for Novice Teachers](#)
- [Manual for Special Education Referral of English Learners](#)
- [Secondary English Learner Toolkit](#)
- [Supporting English Learners Through the Writing Process](#)

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

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.

[Registration](#) is now open, and complimentary seats are available. Teachers must receive approval to attend from their school leader. 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.

Quarter 1 Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinar

Please share with system leaders.

The Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinars are virtual opportunities offered quarterly for Pre-Educator Pathway/Grow Your Own System Leads to share best practices related to developing and expanding access to the Pre-Educator Pathway. All school systems are encouraged to attend regardless of current pathway status.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 25 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96480214276?pwd=ZzfpuA8GPHiFs6dDSKb13VavovnuXs.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 96480214276
- **Phone:** 470 250 9358

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

Please share with school and system leaders.

System leaders, teacher leaders, and postsecondary teacher preparation partners are invited to attend site visits for a day of learning and community building. During site visits, participants will have an opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work that is being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their system. Please complete the [registration form](#) to attend the visit in Ascension Parish on October 20.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions

Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) Training

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, superintendents, 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 non-public schools, preparation providers, and early childhood centers.

Please visit the [Teacher Certification Help Portal](#) to assist with any questions.

LEADS Resources

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

Handbooks, forms, and guides are available in the [LEADS Library](#) to support LEADS implementation. The [Other Personnel Guidance](#) has been updated to include additional information for evaluating librarians. System and school leaders may utilize the following resources 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, leaders, and counselors.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Annual Evaluator Certification Assessment

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

All LEADS evaluators and designated observers must pass an annual assessment in the LDOE Professional Learning Platform before observing. 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. System or school leaders may monitor the completion of the assessment by obtaining [Admin Permissions](#).

The following guides may assist in monitoring completion:

- [School-Based Leader - Learner progress in a course](#)
- [District-Based Leader - Learner progress in a course](#)
- [District Leader - Viewing learners by school](#)
- [Why is a learner missing from my reports?](#)

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Observation Requirements

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

LEADS provides for a differentiated approach to [educator observation](#) to allow more support for new teachers and those most in need. [Bulletin 130](#) outlines the following requirements:

- Within the first three years of teaching, three observations are required per year, one of which must be announced.
 - Best practice is to conduct the **announced** observation first for new teachers to begin coaching during the pre-conference, followed by two **unannounced** observations.
 - The first observation for new teachers should be conducted early in the year (preferably within the first 45 days of the school year or of hire) to allow coaching and support to begin.
- For teachers with three years of experience and beyond, one **unannounced** observation is conducted.
 - If the **unannounced** observation score for an experienced teacher is below 3.5, an **announced** observation is conducted.
 - If the average of the first two observations is less than 2.5, then an additional **unannounced** observation is conducted.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2025-2026 Title I, Part A - Annual Comparability Reports

Please share with federal program directors and superintendents.

The LDOE will release the 2025-2026 SY Title I Comparability Report section in eGMS on September 15. Title I Comparability requires school systems to demonstrate that services provided with state and local funds are comparable between both Title I schools and non-Title I schools, or are substantially comparable for school systems with all Title I schools. School systems with one school per grade span and single-site school systems (i.e., Type 2, 3, 3B, and 5 charters) are exempt from this submission.

School systems should use October 2024 staffing and salary data to complete this report. Please access [Comparability Instructions](#) for further details on how to complete the report. School systems may also use the [Comparability Workbook](#) in order to do some preliminary testing. The completed report should be submitted via eGMS by December 19.

For assistance with completing this report, access the [Comparability FAQ](#) document or contact DOE-program.monitoring@la.gov.

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

School Choice

Nonpublic Schools

2026-2027 BESE and Brumfield v Dodd Approval Application

Please share with nonpublic school leaders.

Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval must be approved annually by 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 now available through October 15. The 2026-2027 Brumfield v. Dodd application is accessible within the BESE application.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Notice of Intent for School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities

Please share with data managers and school leaders.

The 2026-2027 Notice of Intent (NOI) for the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities will be available soon. On October 1, the link to the form will be sent via email and posted on the scholarship website. All participating schools must complete the form to request new scholarship seats for the upcoming year, if applicable. An NOI must be submitted for each school, even if no new seats are being requested.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Award- Application Process Opening Soon

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

The Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Award application process for the 2025-2026 school year will open on September 16. Application materials and timelines will be available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page at that time.

All school systems are encouraged to select candidates as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

State-level applications must be submitted via online application portals by December 9. The LDOE will host two informational calls to share details regarding this year's processes:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 16 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97434846098>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID:** 974 3484 6098

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 17 at 11:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92700350352>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID:** 927 0035 0352

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