

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 21, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

As winter weather impacts Louisiana, the safety of students, teachers, and school staff is our top responsibility. I understand the difficult decisions system leaders face in times like these. Whether adjusting schedules, managing operations, or supporting families, your leadership helps ensure stability and a seamless return to the classroom.

Please know the Louisiana Department of Education stands ready to help as you navigate these challenges. If you need anything, including coordination from other state agencies, please reach out to us at the LDOE for support. Thank you for your dedication to keeping students and educators safe, and for the many ways you rise to meet these moments with resilience and care.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Certification Monthly Call: [January 27 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [February 5 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- High School Science Leaders Support Monthly Call: [February 12 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [February 13 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [February 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 13 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [February 19 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [February 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [February 27 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- 2025-2026 Super App (competitive portion) Deadline: January 23
- New Teacher of the Year Application Deadline: [January 24](#)
- Standards for ELA and Math Review Committee Applications Deadline: [January 27](#)
- SSI/System Leader Regional Collaborations Session 3: January 29 & February 5
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 1: [January 31](#)

- English Learner Institute Session 3, Baton Rouge: [February 4](#)
- 2025 PAEMST Nomination Deadline: [February 6](#)
- Diploma and Seal Order Deadline: [February 7](#)
- Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Session 2: [February 26](#)
- 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy Application Deadline: [February 28](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

State reviews are published for a period of six years on the [Tiered Reviews](#) webpage. After this six year period, the published reviews are archived and moved into the [Archived Tiered State Reviews](#) report. The following math and ELA titles were set to [archive](#) on December 31, 2024, but will remain posted and keep the Tier 1 status until the [2025 Math and ELA Standards Review](#) process is complete:

- Curriculum Associates, LLC - Ready Louisiana Mathematics, Grades K-5
- JUMP Math - JUMP Math, Grades K-8
- Kendall Hunt Publishing - Illustrative Math, Grades 6-8
- Mike Patterson - Geometry Common Core
- Open Up Resources - Illustrative Math, Middle School, Grades 6-8
- Amplify Education - Core Knowledge Lang. Arts (CKLA) 2nd Edition, Grades K-5
- Open Up Resources - EL Education, Grades 3-5
- Imagine Learning - ELA Guidebooks, Grades 6-8

To avoid a gap in Tier 1 status, publishers have the option to resubmit updated materials at least one year prior to their archive date. In doing so, the currently published state review remains posted as Tier 1 until the new review is complete. The [Tier 1](#) science titles listed below were set to archive on December 31, 2024, however; all three titles have been resubmitted and will remain posted as Tier 1 until the new reviews are complete.

- Amplify Education - Amplify Science, Grades K-5
- Great Minds PBC - PhD Science, Grades K-5
- Activate Learning, LLC - IQWST, Grades 6-8

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Early Bird Registration

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

Early bird registration for Teacher Leader Summit 2025 will open February 10 and close March 14. The early bird registration cost for the three-day professional learning conference is \$249. Regular registration will be from March 15 until April 18. The regular registration cost is \$299. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Please review the [Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#). A registration link will be made available on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#).

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Call for Presenters and Exhibitors

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

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 is June 10-12 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The call for presentations is open until January 31. Educators interested in presenting should read the [submission guidelines](#) and [apply online](#). The [presenter webinar](#) is also available. The call for exhibitors is open until February 3. Exhibitors

wishing to participate in the Education Expo should read the [submission guidelines](#) and [apply online](#). The [exhibitor webinar](#) is also available.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Annual Teacher Exit Survey Released

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

The annual Teacher Exit Survey highlights the progress of Louisiana's comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy and may inform future educational recruitment strategies. This past year saw the following improvements:

- The rate of teachers exiting current positions from traditional Louisiana school systems decreased by two percentage points.
- The number of candidates who completed a Louisiana teacher preparation program has increased for the first time since the reporting of the Teacher Exit Survey began in 2012-2013.

The [2023-2024 Teacher Exit Survey](#) is available in the [Workforce Attributes Library](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Comprehensive Criminal Background Check (CBC) Requirement for Certification

Please share with system leaders, school leaders, human resources directors, teacher preparation providers, educators, and teacher candidates.

In accordance with Louisiana law (R.S. 17:8.9), a comprehensive criminal background check (CBC) is required for teacher certification. This requirement goes beyond the CBC conducted for employment purposes. A fingerprint-based CBC, processed through the Louisiana State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, is mandatory for issuing, renewing, advancing, or modifying a certificate.

Effective January 1, certification applicants will utilize the [updated professional conduct form](#), included with all certification applications, to authorize the LDOE to receive a CBC on the educator if one is not already on file and less than five years old. At the time of applying for certification, if no valid CBC is found, applicants will be instructed to [schedule fingerprinting at an IdentoGO location](#). If the applicant already knows that the LDOE does not have a CBC on file, the applicant may schedule fingerprinting with IdentoGO using the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#).

Once the applicant's CBC is received, reviewed, and free of disqualifying convictions, [a "Clear Credential" will be added to their certification record](#), allowing all certification requests to be processed.

LDOE previously communicated there would be a \$25 processing and handling fee for the Credential Clearance (CC) application, applicable to certification applicants without a CBC on file and run in the past five years. We are pleased to inform you that this fee has been removed during the implementation of this new process. **Applicants will not be required to pay a fee to the LDOE and the applicant will not be required to complete an application separate from the certification application** requesting issuance, renewal, advancement, or modification. All other certification fees remain the same as outlined on the [certification fee chart](#). The previously communicated fees associated with fingerprinting for the CBC paid directly to IdentoGO stay the same.

School systems with their own "Enroll-Your-Own" (EYO) fingerprinting machines may offer fingerprinting services to educators. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) has indicated the following school systems have EYO fingerprinting machines: Acadia, Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Lafayette, Livingston, Ouachita, St. Charles, St. Landry, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, and Archdiocese of New Orleans. Individuals may schedule fingerprinting within the school system using the LDOE's service code included in the [Educator Fingerprinting Packet](#) and the location code provided by the school system. **Preparation Providers with teacher candidates placed in the school systems with EYO machines are encouraged to direct those teacher candidates to the school system for the location code before scheduling fingerprinting.**

Please contact EducatorClearance@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Reading Interventions in Secondary Schools Webinar, Session 1 Rescheduled

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

Due to inclement weather, the literacy team is rescheduling session 1 of the Reading Interventions in Secondary Schools to [January 31 at 10 a.m.](#) Please ensure participants have access to the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform through EdLink to fully engage in the session.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2025-2026 Super App (Competitive Portion)

Please share with system leaders and federal program staff.

The competitive portion of the 2025-2026 Super App is due by January 23. This is a crucial deadline for LEAs to submit their applications for funding to support their educational initiatives and programs for the upcoming school year. Please ensure applications are complete and submitted on time to avoid delays in the review process.

Please contact ldoeoperations@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Unity Certified User Training

Please share with CTE supervisors and school system leaders.

Unity is a widely used platform for developing and managing games and other interactive, real-time 3D (RT3D) content. Spanning 2.5 months, the Unity Certified User training will take 15 educators in Louisiana through a technical learning journey. Upon successful completion, participants will have an opportunity to earn the industry-recognized Unity Certified User certificate and the opportunity to bring Unity into the classroom.

The submission portal closes on January 30.

Online Training Schedule:

- Tuesdays 6-9 p.m.
- February 11-April 22

Please contact justin.dedden@la.gov with questions.

Spring 2025 Counselor Institute

Please share with assistant principals, CTE supervisors, high school principals, and school counselors.

The Spring 2025 Counselor Institute is scheduled for early February. Please share with counseling and CTE colleagues and encourage attendance. The sessions will provide policy updates, resources, and communications useful for the work of school counselors and CTE teachers/supervisors.

Session locations and times are listed below:

- February 4
 - 8-11 a.m. [Bossier City](#)
 - 1-4 p.m. [Ruston](#)
- February 5
 - 8-11 a.m. [Alexandria](#)
 - 1-4 p.m. [Lafayette](#)

- February 6
 - 8-11 a.m. [Luling](#)
 - 1-4 p.m. [Walker](#)

Please contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 CDF Mid-Year Expenditure Report

Please share with school system leaders and CTE supervisors.

The [2024-2025 Mid-Year Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End of Year Expenditure Report](#) is available for school systems to complete. The deadline to report on 2024-2025 CDF mid-year expenditures is February 28. School systems should reference the [2024-2025 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#) when completing the form.

CDF funds support increased student access to high-value career and technical education courses and training. CDF funds are 6% of the MFP State and Local Base Cost Per Pupil (\$241) provided for each qualifying student course enrollment in grades 9-12.

Please contact roy.borne@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Informational Session–Rescheduled

Please share with charter school leaders, system leaders, and new charter applicants.

The CSP Informational Session scheduled for January 21 has been rescheduled to [January 23 at 11 a.m.](#) Anyone interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity for charter schools in Louisiana is invited to attend.

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov or tammy.morgan3@la.gov with questions.

Charter School Program Grant Application Cycle

Please share with charter school leaders, system leaders, and new charter applicants.

The Office of School Choice is pleased to announce a winter/spring CSP grant application cycle with the following timeline. This application cycle is open to those charter groups that have already been authorized either by BESE or their local district and those seeking local authorization with anticipated approval in January.

- Letter of Intent due: January 14
- Eligibility Determination Form due: February 3
- CSP Subgrant Application due: March 12

Organizations submitting a Letter of Intent will be invited to Technical Assistance Webinars before the Eligibility Determination Form due date.

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov or tammy.morgan3@la.gov with questions.

BESE Authorized Charter Schools

Please share with charter school leaders.

The Office of School Choice will have the first virtual meeting of the year for the 2025 Renewal Cohorts on January 28 at 12 p.m. All schools that will be renewed in 2025 will need to attend. Topics discussed include Assessments & Accountability and general BESE Charter compliance items. An email with the [meeting link](#) has been shared with all schools in the 2025 Renewal Cohort.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Connect and ELPT/ELPT Connect

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

Schedules for LEAP Connect and ELPT/ELPT Connect assessment administration are now due to the LDOE. Schedules should include specific testing dates, schools by date, and starting times for each testing day. Schedules and all other requests regarding assessments should be sent only by the DTC to assessment@la.gov.

LEAP Connect materials are scheduled for delivery to school systems on January 30.

The LDOE will be sending state monitors to school systems for LEAP Connect and ELPT/ELPT Connect administrations. Monitors must be allowed to observe testing.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.