

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 1, 2024

In This Issue

Message from the Superintendent
Important Dates for School Systems
Teaching and Learning
Career and College Readiness
School Choice
School System Financial Services
School System Relations
Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, I had the privilege of visiting schools across our state. One of the focuses was to explore how school and the private sector can collaborate to reimagine the high school experience and better prepare graduates for the high-wage, high-skill careers readily available in Louisiana.

At Washington Career and Technical Center in St. Landry Parish, I met with local leaders who are proactively creating opportunities for students. They are using multiple state programs to offer real-world skills and hands-on training that aligns with industry demands. Their participation in the Associate Teacher Program has allowed them to hire industry professionals as instructors. This means students are learning directly from experts in their fields, gaining practical knowledge that will serve them well in the workforce.

In addition, the school is leveraging state funding opportunities to purchase industry-standard equipment for their students. Students are not just learning theory, but are gaining experience with the same tools and technologies they will encounter in their future careers. It's exciting to see how schools are leading the way in building stronger connections between education and industry.

On a related note, I'm pleased to share that the Louisiana Workforce Commission has approved a new round of Basic Career Bundles. These bundles provide additional support for schools and students in key industry sectors. You can find more details in this newsletter.

We are committed to ensuring all Louisiana students graduate ready for a career, college, or service. Let's continue working together to provide students with the opportunities and skills they need to succeed.

Dr. Cade Brumley State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: October 1 at 1 p.m.
- System Leaders Call: October 4 at 9 a.m.
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: October 7 at 9 a.m.
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: October 8 at 3 p.m.
- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: October 10 at 9 a.m.
- High School Science Support Monthly Call: October 9 at 10:30 a.m.
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: October 10 at 9 a.m.
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: October 10 at 10 a.m.
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: October 16 at 9 a.m.
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: October 16 at 9 a.m.
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: October 16 at 2 p.m.
- Certification and Credentialing Monthly Call: October 21 at 10:30 a.m.
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: October 22 at 1 p.m.
- K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar October 23 at 9 a.m.
- K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar October 24 at 1 p.m.
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: October 30 at 10 a.m.
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: <u>December 3 at 1 p.m.</u>

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Submit public comment on K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science: September 27
- Early Childhood Conference: October 5, Baton Rouge
- School Support Institutes/System Leader Regional Collaborations Session 2: October 15-23
- 2025-2026 In-Person Super App Launch during LASAFAP: October 17
- 2025-2026 Super App Virtual Launch: October 22 at 10 a.m.

Teaching and Learning

<u>Steve Carter Tutoring Program - Program Updates</u>

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

Due to a high level of student interest, a waitlist has been implemented for the Steve Carter Tutoring Program. Families may still continue to register using the <u>Steve Carter portal</u>, but they will be placed on the waitlist and notified of their status. Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, and the LDOE will contact waitlisted families as soon as tutoring slots become available.

Approved tutoring providers will receive information about the waitlist process, as well as instructions on how best to assist in the efficient management of the program. The LDOE will continue to accept new provider applications and they will be alerted when tutoring opportunities arise.

Please contact tutoring@la.gov with any 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 <u>annotated reviews</u> web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the <u>weekly report</u>.

- Great Minds PBC Wit & Wisdom with Fundations and Geodes, Grades K-2 (©2023)
- Great Minds PBC Wit & Wisdom, Grades 3-5 (without Foundational Skills) (©2023)
- EPS Operations LLC S.P.I.R.E 4E ELA Intensive Intervention Grades 3-8 (@2021)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

See the Sound-Visual Phonics Training Opportunity

Please share with special education leaders, teachers of deaf and hard of hearing, special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, and teachers of English Learners.

The LDOE will be sponsoring a two-day training on See the Sound - Visual Phonics. Participants are required to attend and participate in both days to be officially trained to use this multisensory instructional tool that includes a system of unique hand movements and written symbols that are associated with the production of each sound. This research-based strategy can be used in conjunction with high-quality core instructional materials and is often used to support/supplement explicit reading instruction. Visual Phonics has proven successful with all students and has been the key to connecting sounds with the letters they represent for students working to master phonological awareness skills, English learners, early childhood classes, and as a quick whole group activity in kindergarten and first grade.

Southern Region Training:

• Location: East Baton Rouge Library, 250 North Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dates: October 22 and 23Time: 9:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. daily

Northern Region Training:

• Location: J.B. Lafargue Special Education Center, 4515 Eddie Williams Avenue, Alexandria, LA 71302

• Dates: October 28 and 29

• **Time:** 9:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. daily

Registration is on a first-come basis and is limited to 50 participants.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov or lavisualphonics@gmail.com with any questions.

Webinar Series - Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8

Please share with principals, special education leaders, and teachers.

The LDOE has partnered with Public Consulting Group to offer a free, four-part webinar series that focuses on supporting the science of reading.

- **Title:** Webinar #2: Focus on Developing Accurate and Fluent Readers
- **Date:** October 16, from 3 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.
- Zoom link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qPAmXOM1RKqts2gvHGA2Nw

Please contact <u>diverselearnersupport@la.gov</u> with questions.

Standards, Assessments, and Score Reports Workshops for English Learners

Please share with school system leaders, principals, literacy coordinators, English Learner directors, school counselors, teachers, and instructional support staff.

The LDOE is partnering with ELPA 21 to sponsor a free workshop to support educators with embedding English Language Proficiency standards into instruction, leveraging score reports from the ELP screener and summative assessments, and applying Achievement and Proficiency Level Descriptors in the classroom. This workshop is being offered twice.

Standards, Assessments, and Score Reports Workshop

• Option 1: October 9

• **Time**: 10 a.m. - 5: 30 p.m. CT

Registration Link

• Option 2: October 15

• **Time**: 10 a.m. - 5: 30 p.m. CT

Registration Link

Please contact <u>alexandra.chenevert@la.gov</u> with questions.

Differentiating Instruction for English Learners Workshop

Please share with school system leaders, principals, literacy coordinators, English Learner directors, school counselors, teachers, and instructional support staff.

The LDOE is partnering with ELPA 21 to sponsor a free workshop to support evidence-based strategies and techniques to enhance both language and content instruction in the classroom.

Workshop: Differentiating Instruction for English Learners/Multilingual Learners

Date: October 17

• **Time**: 10 a.m. - 5: 30 p.m. CT

Location: VirtualRegistration Link

Please contact <u>alexandra.chenevert@la.gov</u> with questions.

2023-2024 Seclusion and Restraint Draft Data Release

Please share with special education leaders.

The LDOE is required to collect and annually report data on the use of <u>seclusion and restraint</u> for students with disabilities. The draft data for the 2023-2024 school year annual report will be available in the DM FTP the week of September 30, 2024. Please verify that the data is accurate as these are the counts that will be used to run the analysis and data disaggregation for the public report. If the data does not accurately reflect seclusions and restraints in your school system for the 2023–2024 school year, update the information in SER. Submit a new seclusion and restraint handbook if your school system revised a previously submitted handbook to specialeducation@la.gov. All updates in SER need to be completed and any new or revised policy submitted by Tuesday, **October 15** to be reflected in the final report.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

2024-25 High Cost Services (HCS) Round 1

Please share with special education leaders.

The High Cost Services (HCS) Round 1 application will open on October 7. Round 1 applications should include students who were enrolled during the previous school year. The deadline to submit an application is November 4.

Please contact ashley.augustine@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Annual Dyslexia Reporting

Please share with special education leaders and 504 coordinators.

School systems are required to annually report the number of students with dyslexia currently enrolled and the number of students with dyslexia initially identified in the prior school year. The <u>dyslexia reporting form</u> is now available. All school systems must submit the dyslexia reporting form by **December 13**.

Dyslexia reporting guidance is available in the <u>Students with Disabilities Library</u>.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

School Support Institutes / System Leader Regional Collaboration

Please share with system and school leaders

Session 2 of School Support Institutes (SSI) and System Leader Regional Collaborations is just around the corner!

- Oct 15: Monroe ULM Campus Bayou Pointe, 1 Warhawk Way
- Oct 16: Shreveport Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo Street
- Oct 17: Lafayette ULL Student Union, 620 McKinley Street
- Oct 18: New Orleans/Kenner Pontchartrain Convention Center, 4545 Williams Blvd, Kenner
- Oct 23: Baton Rouge Cook Hotel & Conference Center, 3838 W. Lakeshore Dr

School Support Institutes are from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and System Leader Regional Collaborations are from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please note that the Baton Rouge cohort will meet at the Cook Hotel and Conference Center for Session 2.

SSI participants in the Shreveport, Lafayette and New Orleans/Kenner cohorts who missed session 1 due to cancellation should have received an email containing an asynchronous session for their leadership team to complete in preparation for Session 2. Please note, there was no asynchronous session for regional collaborations.

If you are registered for SSI or System Leader Regional Collaborations and have not received emails from <u>SSIsupport@la.gov</u>, please email us to ensure your contact information is updated in our system.

We look forward to seeing you at Session 2!

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Implementation On-Site Support

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

The Division of Educator Talent and Workforce Development has kicked off the <u>LEADS Implementation On-Site Support Sessions</u>. Participants are able to engage in the observation process in real-time, in Louisiana classrooms. This high-quality professional learning opportunity allows for collaboration around evidence and student work. During the first session, participants from St. Landry, Monroe City Schools, Red River, Webster, Ouachita, Jackson, Richland, Bossier, West Carroll, Franklin, and Winn have found these sessions beneficial in deepening understanding of the rubric. Registration for October sessions is now open in <u>EventBrite</u>.

Please contact <u>leads@la.gov</u> with questions.

LEADS Resources

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

Resources continue to be added to the LEADS Library to assist in the implementation of educator evaluation. The LES 2024-2025 Timeline, the PGP/Coaching Plan Template - Counselors, and the Formal Observation Cycle of Support Flowchart are now available. Resources are also being added to the LEADS Public Collections section of the Professional Learning Platform. The Louisiana Educator Evaluation Virtual Training Materials for Teachers is now available. Please also consider signing up for the monthly LEADS Newsletter.

Please contact <u>leads@la.gov</u> with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Industry Based Certification Basic Bundles

Please share with CTE leaders.

The Louisiana Workforce Commission's Workforce Investment Council approved the first set of Basic Bundles to the state focus list. A Basic Bundle is a set of stackable credentials, where each earned credential adds value to a student's qualifications, enhancing their competitiveness in the job market. While individual credentials may have limited value on their own, achieving a bundle of industry-validated credentials demonstrates that a student possesses a comprehensive set of technical skills that are highly valued by employers. The initial set includes five basic bundles:

Bundle 1

- Forklift Operator (with hands-on training)
- NCCER Basic Rigger
- NCCER Signal Person
- NCCER Level 1 (any craft area)

Bundle 2

- Certified Nurse Assistant
- Certified Phlebotomy Technician
- EKG Technician

Bundle 3

- Emergency Medical Responder
- IFSAC FireFighter I

Bundle 4

- Fundamentals of JavaScript, Functional Programming and Web Development Level 1
- PYTHON Certification

Bundle 5

- American Welding Society 3G and 3F (plate or pipe)
- American Welding Society 4G and 4F (plate or pipe)

Please contact_<u>iumpstart@la.gov</u> with questions.

K-12 Threat Response Guidance

Please share with school and system leaders.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has released the <u>Anonymized Threat Response Guidance</u>: A <u>Toolkit for K-12 Schools</u>, a new resource to help kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools and their law enforcement and community partners create tailored approaches to addressing anonymous threats of violence, including those received on social media. The toolkit outlines steps school leaders can take to assess and respond to anonymous threats, better prepare for and prevent future threats, and work in coordination with law enforcement and other local partners when threats arise. It is co-sealed with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which provided expert feedback on the toolkit's key principles and strategies.

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Pupil Progression Plan

Please share with school system administrators.

The 2024-2025 PPP template is available in the <u>LDOE School Policy library</u>. The purpose of this document is to assist school systems in developing their required Pupil Progression Plan in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and to 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.

Fall 2024 Counselor Institute

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

Registration links for the Fall 2024 Counselor Institute sessions are now open. Please share with your counseling colleagues and invite your CTE Supervisor to join in conversations regarding the new Accountability system implementation and the Counselor Evaluation Rubric. Each participant must register <u>individually</u> through Eventbrite; registration is on a first come, first served basis. Maximum registration is based on location capacity.

Date	8 a.m 11 a.m.	1 p.m 4 p.m.
October 22	West Monroe, LA	Bossier City, LA
October 23	Leesville, LA	Lafayette, LA
October 24	Mandeville, LA	Luling, LA

Contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 School Health Survey

Please share with school principals.

As required by state law, the LDOE monitors and evaluates health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature. Participation is critical to providing accurate, high-quality data to the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare. Also, the LDOE needs to collect information in order to provide funding to schools for AEDs and CPR/First Aid kits.

Although information may be collected from other staff, please have each Principal in each school complete the <u>2024-2025 School Health Survey</u> by **Friday, October 18, 2024**.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Nonpublic Schools

<u>Deadline: October 15 for 2025-2026 BESE and Brumfield v Dodd Approval Application</u> Please share with nonpublic school leaders.

Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval must apply annually for approval by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. To become eligible for state and federal funding, schools must be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and also comply with Brumfield vs. Dodd, a federal court order that prohibits discrimination.

The <u>2025-2026 BESE Approval Application</u> is now available through October 15. Late applications cannot be accepted. The 2025-2026 Brumfield v Dodd Application is accessible within the BESE application.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Nonpublic School Annual Reporting

Please share with nonpublic school leaders and data managers.

The annual enrollment report window for all nonpublic schools approved by BESE (private schools seeking state approval) to submit their school's 2024-2025 annual enrollment data opened August 26 and closes on October 15.

Prior to completing your school's NPS annual enrollment report, the school administrator that will be entering the accurate data is required to set up an EdLink account and request the "NPS School Manager Role." Please review and follow the request steps in the NPS Edlink Manual for the Annual Enrollment Report PDE.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

Notice of Intent: 2025-2026 School Choice Program (SCP) for Students with Exceptionalities Please share with nonpublic school leaders and data managers.

The Notice of Intent is submitted to the LDOE each year in the fall to participate in our scholarship program and request *NEW* seats for the upcoming school year. SCP schools must complete the Notice of Intent (NOI) even if no new seats are being requested for the 2025-2026 school year.

The NOI will collect information including (but not limited to):

- Number of available scholarship seats per grade
 - This does not include returning or transfer students
 - This is meant to include students who are new to the scholarship program
- Any Special Education services provided
- Tuition and Fee Amounts (SCP schools only).
- The NOI will be available on October 1st via Jotform that will be sent to all participating SCP schools and it will be posted on the Louisiana Believes website.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

FY 2024-2025 Louisiana Scholarship Program Audit

Please share with principals and financial officials.

Under Section 1303 of Bulletin 133, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education requires the LDOE to audit the financial performance and capacity of Scholarship schools as a criterion for continued participation in the Scholarship Program.

• Scholarship Audit - Internal Control Questionnaire

Participating Scholarship schools are required to complete the <u>Internal Control Questionnaire</u>. This information is provided to assist in evaluating that financial operations are effective and efficient and that schools have a reliable financial reporting system and comply with applicable laws and regulations. The completed questionnaire is due by Friday, October 18 via e-mail to staudit@la.gov.

Scholarship Audit Engagement Letters

Beginning Monday, October 7, the audit firms conducting the financial audits will begin contacting schools via an engagement letter. The letter will include audit dates and an in-depth description of the process and school responsibilities. The audit firm assigned to your school is based on the district in which your school is located. Refer to the <u>list</u> to see what firm is covering your district. The assigned audit firm should contact schools by October 14.

Scholarship Program Budget

The initial <u>Scholarship Program Budget</u> is due Friday, October 14. Schools should provide specific details in this budget demonstrating how the total estimated SSEEP revenue will be allocated and spent for the 2024-2025 school year.

Note:

- No actual expenditures should be reported in the expenditures column at this time.
- The total enrollment on the budget should exclude Pre-K students.

Submit your budget form via email to staudit@la.gov.

Please contact staudit@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Act 370 Budget Requirement

Please share with business managers and school finance officers.

During the 2023 Legislative session, Act 370 required public school governing authorities to post certain fiscal information on their website. No later than September 30 of each year, public school governing authorities shall post their most recent approved budget and general fund summary on their website per R.S. 17:88.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

<u>Teacher/Principal, New Teacher and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Application Process Open</u>

Please share with educators, school and school system leaders.

The Teacher/Principal, New Teacher and the Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year application process for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. The application materials and timelines are available in the <u>Library</u> on the <u>Awards</u> page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers, three principals, and three *new* teachers (with less than one year of teaching experience), one per division (elementary, middle, and high) 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 an online application portal, which will open in late 2024.

- Teacher/Principal of the Year and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year will be due January 15.
- New Teacher of the Year will be due January 24.

The LDOE will host an informational Zoom to share details regarding this year's Teacher/Principal, New Teacher of the Year, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year application processes.

• Webinar Date and Time: October 2 at 4 p.m.

• Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97470495861

• **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799

• **Meeting ID#:** 974 7049 5861

Please contact the following with questions:

- Teacher/Principal of the Year- excellenteducators@la.gov
- New Teacher of the Year- laurie.carlton@la.gov
- Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year- shallan.jones@la.gov

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

Please share with educators, school 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 2024-2025 school year is now open. The application materials and timelines are available in the <u>Library</u> on the <u>Awards</u> page.

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.

By December 2, the state-level applications must be submitted via online application portals. The LDOE will host an informational Zoom to share details regarding this year's Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Award application processes.

• Webinar Date and Time: October 8 at 12 p.m.

• Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/i/99786393019?

Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799

• **Meeting ID#:** 997 8639 3019

• Passcode: 092723

Please contact the following with questions:

- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year- excellenteducators@la.gov
- School Health Service Provider of the Year-elizabeth.duncan@la.gov
- School Physical Activity Awards- healthyschools@la.gov

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

<u>Assessment Literacy: Local Assessment System Review</u>

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

The LDOE and Center for Assessment (CFA) will be teaming up with leaders from local schools and school systems (November 2024 to May 2025) to lead them through a Local Assessment System Review Process. This process is designed to evaluate the structure, efficiency, and usefulness of each school or system's specific assessment system. The CFA partners will also use the review findings to assist in creating evidence-based action plans to support local system objectives. If interested in this opportunity, please join one of the two informational webinars below for more details.

Webinar Date and Time: October 2 from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. CT

Webinar Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/i/83473680606?pwd=Sf8ugFwCfKA5poMuiYgXv6v8saDCMP.1

• Meeting Phone Number: 646-568-7788

Meeting ID: 834 7368 0606Meeting Passcode: 056790

• Webinar Date and Time: October 9 from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. CT

Webinar Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88266944873?pwd=b0npTim1YZyTlHUpAg1xJ9R8vFaiih.1

Meeting Phone Number: 646-568-7788

Meeting ID: 882 6694 4873Meeting Passcode: 058030

Please contact <u>assessment@la.gov</u> with questions.

ACT

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

Test accommodations for ACT must be approved by ACT. The <u>Test Accessibility & Accommodations (TAA) System</u> is open for accommodation submissions.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Data Certification

Please share with accountability coordinators and school leaders.

LEAP progress point rosters were added to La Data Review for review. Please submit any requests for change to data from assessment, ELPT, and LEAP progress points rosters in La Data Review no later than Friday, October 4. This is the final opportunity that schools have to request changes to data that may impact the calculation of fall 2024 school performance scores. Schools will not be eligible for appeal of the SPS once released based on any data that should have been addressed during data certification

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

2023 Cohort Graduation Post-Data Certification Student Rosters

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

The 2023 cohort graduation post-data certification student rosters are now available on the school system ftp. The rosters include data used to calculate the graduation rate and strength of diploma indices that represent 45% of the 2024 high school SPS to be released later this fall.

- All data on the rosters are final.
- The rosters include all approved changes requested by school systems in spring data certification.

Please contact <u>assessment@la.gov</u> with questions.