

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 13, 2026

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- School Safety Monthly Call: [October 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [October 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [October 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [October 15 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [October 19 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- EdLink 360 Office Hours: [October 20 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [October 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [October 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [October 22 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools CoP Quarterly Call: [October 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [October 28 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [October 28 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) Submission Window Closes: [October 15](#)
- School Physical Activity Award Nominations Due: [October 16](#)
- Science Leader Webinar 3: Targeted Support for Amplify Users: [October 19 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grantee Readiness — Program Design & Operational Structure Webinar: [October 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Science Leader Webinar 4: Targeted Support for Open Sci Ed Users: [October 21 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- 2026-2027 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Grant Submission Deadline: [October 21 at 11:59 p.m. CST](#)
- Writing Learning Series for ELA Instructional Leaders: [October 27 at 9 a.m.](#)
- 2027-2028 Super App Launch Session at LAFEPA Fall Conference (In-Person): [October 29](#)

View our [School System Support Calendar](#) for the full schedule.

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

Final Reminder: Alternate Assessment Participation Percentages Justification Forms

Please share with superintendents and special education leaders.

The Department has calculated school system alternate assessment participation percentages according to federal guidance. **If your school system exceeded the 1.0 percent threshold during the 2025-2026 statewide alternate assessment testing period, your school system must take the following actions:**

1. **Review LDOE FTP Data:** (The folder in the FTP is named Diverse Learners and the file is named LEA Code_LEA Name_1% CAP 2025-26 District and school roster). Check system and school-level participation data across ELA, math, and science, including subgroup breakdowns (race/ethnicity, low-income, EL, homeless, military, and foster care). Also review the Assurances Form, the 2026 LEAP Connect Letter, and LEAP Connect Participation Guidance.
2. **Review Internal Data:** Analyze local alternate assessment records, including eSER system reports.
3. **Submit Justification Form:** Complete and submit the *LEAP Connect Participation Justification Form (2025-2026)*. *Please do not use electronic signatures.
4. **Request LDOE Review:** Submit a written request per BESE [Bulletin 111](#) with assurances and evidence that your system:
 - o Followed state participation criteria.
 - o Addressed subgroup disproportionality.
 - o Trained IEP team members on participation criteria.

These steps should be completed by the close of business **Friday, October 23**. Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Literacy Screening Gifted Referral Data Collection

Please share with special education directors and gifted coordinators.

[Louisiana R.S. 17:24.9](#) mandates school systems to report the number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation for literacy screening administration for Kindergarten through Grade 3. The following data sets will be collected for each grade level:

- The number of gifted students scoring in the above-average range on the literacy screener
- The number of non-gifted students referred for additional screening
- The number of non-gifted students referred for gifted evaluation
- Please [submit](#) the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) gifted referral data by October 16.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Principals Aspiring for Career Excellence (PACE) Site Visits

Please share with all experienced school leaders.

[PACE Site Visits](#) provide participants with opportunities to explore innovative practices, gain fresh ideas and strategies, see leadership practices in action, build meaningful connections, and collaborate around real challenges.

- [October 27](#): Denham Springs Junior High; Justin Wax, 2026 Principal of the Year
Site Visit Focus: Capacity Building, School & Community Environment
- [October 28](#): Math, Science, and Arts Academy East; Dr. Amanda Austin, 2025 Principal of the Year
Site Visit Focus: Instructional Leadership: Meeting Student Needs
- [October 29](#): Central High School; Brandon LaGroue, 2025 High School Principal of the Year
Site Visit Focus: Strategic Goal Setting and Capacity Building

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with questions.

Final Reminder: Spring 2027 BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Applications Closing Soon

Please share with teachers.

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. [Online applications](#) for coursework funding for the Spring 2027 semester will close **October 16**. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact louisianaleaders@la.gov.

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visits

Please share with pre-educator system and teacher 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 Vermilion Parish on **November 10**.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Numeracy

Teacher Collaboration Facilitator Training Sessions Available

Please share with math educators, school and system leaders.

Registration is open for upcoming [Regional Teacher Collaboration \(TC\) Facilitator Training sessions](#) for both math and literacy. These sessions will support instructional leaders in strengthening collaborative planning, effective lesson preparation, and implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) through the HQPL Cycle.

Participants will engage with tools and resources designed to support teacher collaboration, HQIM implementation, and alignment to the Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics. [Register](#) today to join an upcoming training session.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

K-3 Numeracy Screener Webinar

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

The LDOE will host the next monthly webinar in the K-3 Numeracy Screener series on [October 15 at 10 a.m.](#) Participants will explore how to use evidence from student responses to plan for instructional support. Monthly webinar details can be found within the [K-3 Numeracy Screener Response Toolkit](#).

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Operations and Federal Programs

2026-2027 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Grant Guidance

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

The [EEF Grant](#) is now open to all interested public local education agencies (schools and city school districts), public charter schools, Louisiana Special School Districts (as recognized by the Louisiana Legislature), and [Brumfield v. Dodd-approved](#) nonpublic and diocesan schools. Applications must be completed by October 21 at 11:59 p.m. CST.

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

2027-2028 School System Planning Launch

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

The Louisiana Department of Education (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 2027-2028 Next Level Vision for Success School System Planning & Budgeting Workbook and accompanying resources through a series of in-person and virtual sessions this fall and early winter 2027..

2027-2028 Super App Launch and Office Hours:

- 2027-2028 Super App Launch Session at LAFEPA Fall Conference (In-Person): [October 29](#)
- 2027-2028 Super App Virtual Launch Session: [November 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2027-2028 Super App Planning Office Hours: [December 10 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2027-2028 Super App Planning Office Hours: [January 14 at 10 a.m.](#)

Please contact LDOEOperations@la.gov with questions.

FY 2027 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application

Please share with school nutrition directors.

Applications for the 2026-2027 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are available for returning sponsors via the [Child Nutrition Program \(CNP\) website](#). Applications must be completed and submitted by **November 13**.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Fall High School Test Administration

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

The LEAP fall high school testing window will be open in DRC INSIGHT from November 30 through December 18 for all seven LEAP high school subject tests. Students who need to retest in order to meet graduation requirements are encouraged to participate.

Students who have completed coursework for an assessment-eligible course at the end of the first semester must take the corresponding assessment during this window in order to have their LEAP score included in the final grade for the course.

- **October 19:** Test setup opens for district and school test coordinators to assign test administrators, create test sessions, and verify student accommodations.
- **October 26:** Test coordinator and administrator manuals will be available in DRC INSIGHT.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Educator Committees

Please share with system leaders and educators.

The LDOE will convene assessment committees for the LEAP and LEAP Connect assessments in January to

- review newly developed LEAP Connect items for alignment and content-related criteria; and
- review proposed English language arts passages to ensure the selections align with content standards, are clearly worded with grade-appropriate language, and are appropriate for all Louisiana students.

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees](#) document for information. The deadline to complete the application is November 16.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Early Childhood

NEW: 2026 Parent Poll Opening October 28

Please share with school leaders.

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Education, is administering its annual parent survey to help further understand the child care needs of Louisiana families with children under the age of 5.

The 2026 Louisiana Child Care Parent Poll opens Wednesday, October 28. Please share the survey with your families:

- [Survey in English](#)
- [Survey in Spanish](#)
- [Survey in Vietnamese](#)

This survey is for any Louisiana parent, guardian, or caregiver raising children under the age of 5, not just for moms and dads, regardless of their child care arrangement. Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary and will not affect families' eligibility for child care or other services. Families do not need to complete this survey to continue participating in any public program, including the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). All answers will be kept confidential, and participants can answer the survey without giving their name. The survey will take less than 15 minutes to complete.

Please share the survey with families in one of the following ways:

- Download printable flyers (available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#)) with the survey link and post them on a family information board.
- Share the survey on social media. This [social media toolkit](#) has several templates and graphics for Facebook and X (Twitter) posts to help promote the survey.
- Send a [letter](#) about the Parent Poll home to families.
- E-mail the content of the [Parent Poll letter](#) to families.

The poll closes November 11.

Please contact info@policyinstitutela.org with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2026-2027 Local Charter Request for Applications Cycle: Applications Due

Please share with school system leaders and LEA Charter Authorizers.

On October 19, 2026, all Type 1 and 3 applications will be due to local authorizers at the district level. Local Authorizers are required to report the following information regarding charter applications received in their district:

- Nonprofit Foundation Name of Applicant
- Proposed Charter School Name
- Name of Primary Applicant
- Date Application Submitted

Information regarding applicants being considered by local authorizers is due to the LDOE by November 2 using the Jotform [link](#). Local authorizers must notify district state legislators of received charter applications in each district.

Applicants are also required to report their submission to the local authorizer using the Jotform [link](#). Local authorizers may share this with any 2026-2027 RFA applicant in their district. Decisions regarding approval or denial of each applicant are due to LDOE by January 29, 2027.

Upcoming Key Dates for Local Authorizers

- October 19, 2026: Charter Applications due to districts.
- November 2, 2026: Local boards notify LDOE and state legislators of district charter applications received.
- January 28, 2027: Deadline to consider charter applications.
- January 29, 2027: Deadline to notify LDOE of local board recommendations.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Local Authorizer Call for October 2026 Rescheduled

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

The Local Authorizer Call for October 14 has been rescheduled to [November 4, 2026 at 11 a.m.](#) Local authorizers are encouraged to attend and will be provided a copy of the slide deck ahead of the meeting. The agenda will include:

- An overview of upcoming key dates pertaining to the local authorization timeline.
- Details on the consideration of application recommendations, including public meeting requirements.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2026-2027 First Quarter Financial Report

Please share with Type 2 and Type 5 business managers and financial officials.

The FY 2026-2027 First Quarter Financial Report for Type 2 and Type 5 charter schools is due on October 31. The quarterly report template is included in the workbook used to submit the annual operating budget. Charter systems are required to submit the entire workbook with updates to the Quarter 1 Budget tab. The First Quarter Financial Report should contain year-to-date actual information from July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026, along with budgeted data for FY 2026-2027. If an organization operates more than one charter school, a separate financial report must be submitted for each charter school.

Please contact charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

School Physical Activity Award — Nominations Portal is Open Through October 16

Please share with educators, school and school system leaders.

The [nominations portal](#) for the 2026–2027 School Physical Activity Award program is open through October 16. Anyone may submit nominations or self-nominations. Following the deadline, submissions will be sent to local school systems for their review and selection.

The application process will open on October 20. At that time, the application information, program guidelines, rubrics, and other helpful materials will be available on the [Schools and School Systems](#) webpage. The LDOE will host informational webinars during the application window to present program overviews, review application requirements, and answer questions.

Webinar Date and Time: October 21 at 9 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97861583930>

Password: 217815

Webinar Phone Number: 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID#: 97861583930

For questions about the School Physical Activity Award, please contact healthyschools@la.gov.

Louisiana's Excellent Educators: Stay Connected

Please share with teachers, school and school system leaders.

The LDOE recognizes the important role exceptional educators and school leaders play in supporting student success. Educators who have previously been recognized as a state-level semifinalist, finalist, division-level honoree, or overall honoree through one of the following programs are valued members of Louisiana's Excellent Educators cohort:

- Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year
- Milken Educator Award
- Louisiana Exemplary Educators

Members of the Excellent Educators cohort may be invited to share their expertise, experiences, and perspectives with the LDOE through a variety of opportunities.

To help ensure the LDOE has the most current contact and professional information for past state-level honorees, eligible educators are encouraged to complete the [Excellent Educator Form](#) by October 30.

Please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov with questions.

New LDOE Disaster Playbook Available

Please share with principals, school system leaders, and emergency response coordinators.

The LDOE has released a new [Disaster Playbook](#) to help school systems strengthen preparedness, response, recovery, and long-term resilience. Designed as a practical, role-based resource for school system leaders and operational staff, the Playbook provides guidance to support continuity of operations, effective documentation, financial recovery, and compliance before, during, and after a disaster.

The Playbook uses a four-phase approach covering preparedness and governance, immediate response and documentation, recovery and financial stewardship, and long-term resilience and improvement.

Digital versions of the [Disaster Playbook](#) may be found on the [Emergency Preparedness and Recovery](#) web page. Printed copies of the Playbook will also be distributed to school systems later this year.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.