

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 22, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Providing all students with quality math instruction from foundational to advanced skills is one of Louisiana's new education priorities. Louisiana students have improved in math since the pandemic, but that progress stalled last year. We also know that across the country and here in Louisiana, students tend to do worse in math from grades 4-8. Louisiana is working to become the state that flips that trajectory.

The national decline in math proficiency from grades 4-8 was a key data point that helped us build our comprehensive math strategy. Louisiana has set ambitious math goals for the next four years that would lead to the highest achievement levels in state history.

- Grow the percentage of students proficient and above on LEAP grade 3 Math by 10 percentage points.
- Grow the percentage of students proficient and above on LEAP grade 8 Math by 10 percentage points.
- Increase NAEP 4th grade math scaled score by 10 points.

Hundreds of Louisiana teachers are getting a special delivery from us as we emphasize the state's back to the basics approach to improving foundational math skills. We're providing over 700 math kits to targeted schools and systems. The kits include tried and true tools like flash cards. We are also personally delivering graphing calculators to high schools in various parishes. These kits connect to the state's overall math strategy and help provide students with the type of meaningful practice proven to develop foundational skills.

The math kits are the latest [math resources](#) we have provided educators, school and system leaders, and families. Our [downloadable grab and go activities for families](#) have even received national recognition.

We want to provide every student with the opportunities they need to master foundational math skills. As education leaders, it's critical to set the expectation across your system or school that every kid is a math kid. All students can master foundational, grade-level content.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar: [October 23 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [October 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar: [October 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Staffing Data Collection Webinar: [October 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [October 29 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [October 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [November 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- High School Science Support Monthly Call: [November 13 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [November 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Numeracy Training Office Hours: [November 20 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [November 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [December 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Numeracy Training Office Hours: [December 18 at 9 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Registration Deadline: [October 22](#)
- System Leader Regional Collaboration (Baton Rouge): [October 23 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.](#)
- Parents as Partners in Literacy (PaPIL) Workshop: [October 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- WorkKeys administration window for accommodations and supports testing deadline: [October 25](#)
- See the Sound-Visual Phonics Training: [October 28-29](#)
- Parents as Partners in Literacy (PaPIL) Workshop: [November 6 at 2 p.m.](#)
- 2024-2025 Annual RFA Informational Session: [November 7 or November 14](#)
- [U.S. Department of Ed Attendance Champions Challenge](#): closes November 30
- Spring 2025 Federal Grants Management Training Registration Deadline: [February 28](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

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 - Magnetic Reading Foundations, ELA Foundational Skills, Grades K-2 (©2023)
- Great Minds PBC - Wit & Wisdom with Foundations and Geodes, ELA Grade 3 (©2023)
- Great Minds PBC - Wit & Wisdom, ELA Grades K-2 (without Foundational Skills) (©2016)
- Literacy Resources LLC dba Heggerty - Bridge to Reading, ELA Foundational Skills, Grades K-2 (©2023)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar

Please share with administrators, content specialists, school system leaders, and superintendents.

School system leaders are invited to attend an upcoming K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Webinar.

The webinar will be held on the following dates:

- October 23 at 9 a.m.
- October 24 at 1 p.m.

Prior registration is required. Please see the [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar](#) information document for further details and registration links.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Act 260 Numeracy Training

Please share with administrators, content specialists, school system leaders, and teachers.

[Join](#) the LDOE for Act 260 Numeracy Training office hours each month. This time serves as a collaborative space for leaders supporting the implementation and transfer of the required grades 4-8 numeracy training.

- November 20 at 9 a.m.
- December 18 at 9 a.m.

Applications for the [Numeracy Leader Cohort](#) are open now. Selected participants will be named in November.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Instructional Slide Decks

Please share with administrators, content specialists, school system leaders, and teachers.

The LDOE is developing instructional slide decks to support the implementation of Bayou Bridges in grades 3-8. Teachers will find these instructional decks helpful for increasing engagement, assisting them in lesson pacing, and completing formative checks. Instructional decks will include the following:

- Core Lesson teacher notes
- Student supports
- Images
- Questions

Slide decks can be accessed under grade-level materials on the [Bayou Bridges](#) webpage. LDOE will release unit 3 slide decks on October 31 and the remaining units on a rolling basis throughout the school year.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Parents of English Learners Literacy Workshop

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

UMASS Global is partnering with the LDOE to provide a free four-part virtual workshop to prepare and support administrators, instructional coaches, and teachers with effective engagement strategies for parents and communities of English Learners. The virtual workshops aim to support the promotion of literacy development through home and community literacy activities to teach English Learners. The workshops will cover topics such as:

- building family literacy;
- methods for engaging families in literacy activities;
- strategies and resources to support reading development; and
- using data to inform literacy development.

The Parents as Partners in Literacy (PaPIL) Workshop Series (linked below) is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the following days:

- [October 23](#)
- [November 6](#)

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

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2025-2026 Super App Launch

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

The [2025-2026 Next Level Vision for Success School System Planning and Budgeting Workbook](#), including 2025-2026 Super App questions, was released on October 17.

New for 2025-2026

- Workbook serves as a one-stop resource for all school system planning needs
- Questions and funding aligned with the LDOE's updated educational priorities
- eGMS updates
- ESSA-aligned required uploads

The [launch deck](#) is now available.

Please contact ldoeoperations@la.gov with questions.

School System Board Member BESE Updates

Please share with school board members and system leaders.

In October, BESE approved an LDOE revision to bulletins regarding communication pathways. The LDOE is establishing a communication pathway for electronic delivery of information regarding key priorities and initiatives directly to each member of a local school board and to each local education agency (LEA). In short, the LDOE will begin emailing a summary of updates following each BESE meeting. Along with state KPIs and initiatives, the LDOE will also share school system-specific data related to KPIs and initiatives with each school board member.

The new [policy](#) reads that "each board member shall ensure that an accurate email address is on file with the LDOE for this purpose." Email addresses can be submitted to Sabre Masters by emailing sabre.masters@la.gov.

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

Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP 2025 Assessment Guides

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

Updated [LEAP 2025 assessment guides](#) are now posted to the LDOE website and include important information about the new shortened ELA and math tests that will be administered in grades 3-8 in spring 2025. Specific times, sessions, and item descriptions are found in the guides.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

K-3 Literacy Alternate Assessment

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

All students screened for K-3 literacy using the Louisiana Alternate Assessment Rubric (LAAR) during December must meet alternate assessment eligibility as recorded on a current IEP no later than November 1.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT and WorkKeys

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

- PAST DUE: ACT MOUs are required for all school systems that administer ACT retesting or WorkKeys testing during state administrations. Please submit them to assessment@la.gov as soon as possible.
- WorkKeys data sharing agreements are mandatory for school systems that wish to use WorkKeys tests administered in a non-LDOE realm. The LDOE will not accept any WorkKeys documentation during data certification if a WorkKeys data sharing agreement is not in place.
- [Test Accessibility & Accommodations \(TAA\) System](#) is open for submissions for ACT Spring testing.
- The WorkKeys administration window for accommodations and supports testing closes on October 25. Testing coordinators should follow the instructions for [returning materials](#). **Note:** *There are two different tabs to find information based on testing mode — WorkKeys on Paper and WorkKeys Online.*

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start 2.0 Enhancements

Please share with CTE supervisors and system leaders.

The deadline to request enhancements for Jump Start 2.0 is approaching. The window will close on October 31 at 11:59 p.m. Jump Start enhancements are based on recommendations made by CTE supervisors and approved by the Jump Start 2.0 Review Committee and BESE.

Requests can be submitted through the [Jump Start 2.0 Enhancement Request Form](#). Please submit requests before the deadline, as no requests will be considered after that time.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

2025 Spring Federal Grants Management Training

Please share with CTE supervisors and system leaders.

On March 19-20, The Bruman Group will be conducting a virtual training on behalf of LCTCS.

Topics will include:

- Statutory and compliance issues for the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (Title II of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act).
- Use of funds and other issues relating to the Career and Technical Education (Perkins V) program, including fiscal concerns such as supplanting.
- Federal grants management rules applicable to all non-federal entities, including financial management, procurement, inventory, time & effort, record retention and close-out requirements.

[Registration](#) for the Spring 2025 Federal Grants Management Training ends February 28.

Please contact bbaptistewilliams@lctcs.edu with questions.

Attendance and Student Services

Please share with all attendance and engagement stakeholders.

The U.S. Department of Education has launched the [Attendance Champions Challenge](#) to boost student attendance and engagement. Open to schools, 501(c)(3) organizations, and youth (ages 13-19), the challenge closes Nov. 30, 2024.

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

School Safety Data Submission to FTP Site

Please share with school principals and system leaders.

[Senate Bill 207, Act 334](#) of the 2023 Regular Legislative session requires LEAs and schools to submit data to the LDOE:

- The local school superintendent is required to provide an annual report to the public school governing authority on the status of the crisis management and response plan of each school under the governing authority's jurisdiction. They shall submit a copy of the report to the LDOE and the Center for Safe Schools.
- Each public school principal is responsible for providing in-service training, which may be incorporated into a meeting or training session held for another purpose, for all teachers and school employees pertaining to the crisis management and response plan. They shall involve local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials in the preparation and presentation of the training. The training shall include an active shooter exercise. The training shall be reported to the local school superintendent and the LDOE.

Submission of Documentation:

- All documents should be submitted electronically via the LDOE's Data Management FTP site only.
- Naming conventions for individual files:
 - The school system annual status report: **SystemName_YearAnnualStatusReport.pdf**
(Example: OakSchoolSystem_24-25AnnualStatusReport.pdf)
 - School in-service training documents (Include the agenda, agencies involved in the training, and sign-in sheets): **SchoolName_SystemName_YearSchoolTraining.pdf**
(Example: AspenElem_OakSchoolSystem_24-25SchoolTraining.pdf)
- The Annual Status Report and School Training documents should be compiled into **one zip file** with the following naming convention: **SiteCode_SiteName_Year_Program Name** (Example: 123_OakSchoolSystem_24-25School Safety)
- Provide the zip file to your FTP Coordinator to upload to a School Safety subfolder in the Data Management FTP.
- Email healthyschools@la.gov when the files have been uploaded to the FTP by your FTP Coordinator.

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

School Choice

Nonpublic Schools

2024-2025 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 2024-2025 annual enrollment is now closed. An extension can be requested through Edlink.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.