

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 29, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to the educators, students, and system leaders who welcomed me into their schools last week in Caddo Parish. It's always a pleasure to be back in the classroom. October is Dyslexia Awareness Month, and I was able to learn more about the work taking place to serve these children and their families at Louisiana Key Academy — a charter school for dyslexic students.

We've taken important steps over the past few years to better meet the needs of students with dyslexia. It's part of our commitment to improve outcomes for all students with disabilities. In fact, Louisiana's dyslexia policy was developed by a group that included parents, advocates, and educators of this vital community.

Earlier this school year, we released [A Guide to Dyslexia in Louisiana](#). This resource provides basic guidelines on identifying and educating dyslexic students in our state. It also summarizes policy and state law.

I'm grateful to the teachers and leaders across the state who go above and beyond to meet the needs of these special students. I also appreciate the parents who continually advocate on behalf of their children. Together, we will continue to make a difference in our schools and in our state.

Dr. Cade Brumley

State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [October 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [October 31 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [October 31 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [October 31 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [November 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Students of the Year Zone Coordinator Informational Call: [November 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Joint Informational System Leaders/Stakeholder Awards Program Call: [November 7 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational/Help Desk Calls: [November 12 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational/Help Desk Calls: [November 12 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Students of the Year Online Portal Call: [November 13 at 9 a.m.](#)

- K-12 Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar [November 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- High School Science Support Monthly Call: [November 13 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- K-12 Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar [November 13 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [November 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- CLSD 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance Call: [November 14 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [November 18 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Joint Informational System Leaders/Stakeholder Awards Program Call: [November 19 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [November 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- CLSD 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance Call: [November 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [December 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- High School Science Support Monthly Call: [December 3 at 3:30 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [December 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [December 6 at 9 a.m.](#)
- CLSD 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance Call: [December 12 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Eligibility Deadline for K-3 Literacy Alternate Assessment (LAAR): November 1
- IEP Writing Workshop- Elementary: [November 7](#)
- Louisiana Farm To School Application Deadline: [November 15](#)
- IEP Writing Workshop- Secondary: [November 21](#)
- Student of the Year Submission Deadline: November 22
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)

Teaching and Learning

National Training on Child Passenger Safety

Please share with occupational therapists, physical therapists, special education administrators, and transportation administrators.

The LDOE is offering school districts the opportunity to send a team of four personnel for national training on child passenger safety. School teams should consist of transportation administrators, special education administrators, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. There are new training opportunities throughout the state during the spring of 2025.

Register in advance to attend the [Child Passenger Training on School Bus Training](#). The sessions are limited to 20 registrants per session and will be closed when maximum capacity is reached. All sessions will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also available is the [National School Bus Curriculum](#), an 8-hour course that provides an overview of the use of child safety restraint systems on school buses, with a focus on children with disabilities and chronic conditions.

Participants will learn about:

- federal, state, and local laws, crash dynamics and forces, and occupant protection;
- the types of occupant protection that can be used on school buses and will gain knowledge on appropriate team assessments that lead to the appropriate selection of child safety restraints for individuals with disabilities who travel to school on buses;
- safely installing the child safety restraint system on the bus and also properly securing the occupant; and
- the securement of wheelchairs and emergency evacuation procedures and considerations will be explored.

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Extra Time to Learn

Please share with business managers, federal program directors, and superintendents.

Federal funding can be used in various ways to support extra time to learn for students. [Act 771](#) requires all students in grades K-5 who failed to achieve mastery on any statewide assessment in reading or math to be eligible for expanded academic support.

Access the [2025-2026 Federal Funding Guide](#) to learn how various federal funds can be used, either on their own or together, to meet the specific needs of students and staff.

High-dosage tutoring is an eligible expenditure for multiple federal funding sources, including:

- Title I (PD and Tutoring activities)
- Title II (PD Only)
- Title IV (Enrichment activities)
- Title V (PD and Tutoring activities)

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@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](#).

- Great Minds PBC - Wit & Wisdom with Really Great Reading® and Geodes® Grades K-3 (©2023)
- Imagine Learning LLC - Imagine Learning Guidebooks, English II-IV (©2020)
- Imagination Station dba Istation - Istation, ELA Intensive Intervention Grades 6-8 (©2015)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Literacy Screening

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

The Louisiana mCLASS admin portal is closed until November 11 to update all K-3 literacy student information based on October enrollment that was reported to EdLink by school systems. Until the portal opens again on November 12, schools can continue to access progress monitoring.

Eligibility for K-3 literacy alternate assessment (LAAR) must be finalized by November 1 in eSER.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2024 Fall High School Administration

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

- All unique accommodations requests for human reader and paper accommodated test materials must be submitted to assessment@la.gov by November 1.
- All accommodations for participating high school students must be final in eSER by November 1.
- It is not necessary to apply accountability codes to students who are retesting.
- DRC INSIGHT test setup is open to schedule testing sessions and to assign TA numbers.
- Test coordinator and administration manuals are posted in the INSIGHT portal.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Seeds to Success: Harvest of the Month

Please share with CTE supervisors and system leaders.

Louisiana K-12 schools and youth organizations can register free of charge at any point during the school year to start a [Harvest of the Month](#) program. In addition to receiving all [materials](#) in a printed packet, registered sites will have access to workshops, professional development opportunities, and technical support.

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

Louisiana Farm To School Team Application

Please share with CTE supervisors and system leaders.

The [Louisiana Farm to School Program](#) strives to provide a resource for Louisiana students, parents, and teachers to find fun and educational materials related to agriculture and nutrition at both school and home. This program enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools. The free program offers five schools or districts one year of support and coaching to plan and implement a comprehensive Farm to School program.

Complete one application per school or district team. Individuals may not apply. The [Louisiana Farm To School](#) application closes on November 15.

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

School Choice

Charter Schools

2024-2025 Annual RFA Charter Application Rubric

Please share with LEA charter authorizers and school system leaders.

The 2024-2025 Common Charter Application Rubrics for New and Experienced Operator applications were revised to align with the Common Charter Applications approved by BESE August 20. Districts may access the rubric standards on the [School Choice Application](#) webpage. Rubric standards may be utilized during the review of submitted applications; however, districts may include additional standards specific to their district and school choice priorities.

Please contact jade.gambino@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2024-2025 First Quarter Financial Report

Please share with Type 2 and Type 5 charter school business managers and finance officials.

The FY 2024-2025 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 to submit the annual operating budget. The first quarter financial report should contain year-to-date actual information from July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024, along with budgeted data for FY 2024-2025.

Please contact charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Approval Listing

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The [FY 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Approval Listing](#), which has been compiled in accordance with L.R.S. 17:88, is available for reference via the Business Manager Support Library.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

International Associates Teacher Stipends

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The first-year International Associates Teachers allocations were released to school systems on October 18. The allocation amounts by systems were included in the September budget letter, which can be found in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2023-2024 Fiscal Risk Assessment

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The FY 2023-2024 Fiscal Risk Assessment, which includes financial data reported and independent audit information for FY 2022-2023, is available for each school system in the EdFin FTP Portal. Please review the preliminary data and information in the assessment and submit any concerns or questions by close of business November 8. The data in the EdFin FTP Portal will be considered final after this date.

Systems that have been identified as being in corrective action or in monitor will be notified by the close of business November 8. The Fiscal Risk Assessment results will be presented to BESE during the December meeting.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Act 370 Training Webinars

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The Louisiana Department of Treasury will host three informational sessions to present the data elements and reporting platform for the Act 370 Transparency site via Zoom. Information regarding the upcoming webinars is provided below.

- **Webinar Link for 1st Session:** [October 31 at 9 a.m.](#)
- **Webinar Link for 2nd Session:** [October 31 at 10 a.m.](#)
- **Webinar Link for 3rd Session:** [October 31 at 1 p.m.](#)

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Online Portals Are Now Open

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

The online portals for coordinators and state-level applicants for Teacher and Principal of the Year are now open. All application materials and links to the online portals are available in the [Library](#) and on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, 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 are **due by January 15** and must be submitted via the online application portal.

The LDOE will host an informational Zoom for candidates and coordinators regarding the online portals and the Teacher and Principal of the Year application process. Please see the details listed below:

Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational/Help Desk Calls for Coordinators:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 12 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95140043346?pwd=5gJl0cJSc11KUdiHoYFdanXvzzcJ3a.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 951 4004 3346
- **Passcode:** 355820

Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational/Help Desk Calls for Coordinators/Candidates:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 12 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98777071507?pwd=0pOA3KvivyipVdbl3OidPtOEJvdx6PB.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 987 7707 1507
- **Passcode:** 106329

The dates and times of future webinars are listed in the [Informational Webinars for Candidates and Stakeholders document](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Students of the Year Online Portal Opens

Please share with school system leaders.

The 2025 Students of the Year online portal will open on November 13. All public, charter, and nonpublic school systems are encouraged to submit one student from grades five, eight, and twelve based on their leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to the school and community. The applications for the school system candidates must be submitted in the online portal by **November 22**.

To assist with the process for submitting applications in the online portal, an informational Zoom call will be held for the Students of the Year coordinators on November 13 at 9 a.m. The Zoom details are listed below and may be found in the [Informational and Help Desk Call document](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 13 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91593308517?pwd=CUS29kEmmpcH4nU008Mm1xu4FDJ2VT.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 915 9330 8517
- **Passcode:** 062516

Please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov with questions.

Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Award programs - Informational Zoom Call

Please share with school system leaders.

State-level applications for the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, the School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Award programs are due by December 2 and must be submitted via the online application portals.

All application materials and links to the online portals are available in the [Library](#) and on the [Awards](#) page. All school systems are encouraged to submit candidates to the state-level process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

The LDOE will host informational Zoom calls for school system leaders and stakeholders to review the online application portals and provide information regarding the application processes. Please see the details listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 7 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94928528391?pwd=4lPUqaBrdPCmHFxbBz6O5ZBChvg2TY.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 949 2852 8391
- **Passcode:** 635111

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 19 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97396202248?pwd=G93OyR5TUDdJ8wS5yxshRfhjkwIP09.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 973 9620 2248
- **Passcode:** 605302

The dates and times of future webinars are listed in the [Informational Webinars for Stakeholders document](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.