

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 6, 2026

In This Issue

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)

[Career and College Readiness](#)

[School System Financial Services](#)

[School System Relations](#)

Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

October is National Principals Month, a good time to ask how well your school system supports these instructional leaders.

Principals turn their school system's instructional priorities into daily practices in their buildings, but they should not carry that work alone. Our updated [Professional Learning Roadmap](#) describes the team that shares that work: the school instructional leadership team (S-ILT). The principal leads this team. Assistant principals, master teachers, teacher leaders, and specialists help carry the work into every classroom.

Here are five things to keep top of mind as you support principals and their S-ILTs:

- **Set clear expectations:** Communicate to principals how their teams should operate, including who serves, how often they meet, and how they use student work to decide next steps.
- **Connect to student needs:** Use evidence about student learning, engagement, and experiences to identify areas for growth and determine the focus of the professional learning.
- **Protect the time:** Make room in school schedules for the S-ILT to meet weekly, and keep other demands from crowding out this time.
- **Support the principal as the team leader:** Give principals regular feedback and coaching on how they lead their teams, in addition to the outcomes the teams produce.
- **Keep the student experience at the center:** Professional learning should ultimately translate into stronger learning experiences and outcomes for every student.

If your teams want help getting started or going deeper, instructional leadership team coaching is available through our [Menu of Services](#).

The best way to recognize principals this month is to make sure they have the support and structures in place to lead well.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- BESE-Authorized Monthly Call: [October 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- EdTech Monthly Call: [October 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Principal Webinar: [October 8 at 1 p.m.](#)
- EdLink 360 Office Hours: [October 13 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [October 13 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [October 13 at 3 p.m.](#)
- School Safety Monthly Call: [October 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [October 14 at 11 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.](#)
- 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.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [November 5 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [November 10 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- High-Cost Services Webinar: [October 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Applications for the [United States Senate Youth Program](#) Due: [October 9 at 11:59 p.m.](#)
- 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 OpenSciEd Users: [October 21 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- 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](#)
- Pupil Progression Plans Due: [November 2](#)
- Science Leader Webinar 5: Targeted Support for PhD Science Users: [November 5 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- 2027-2028 Super App Virtual Launch Session: [November 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Health and PE in Schools Survey: [November 15](#)
- 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grantee Readiness — Program Evaluation, Data Collection & Reporting Webinar: [November 17 at 10 a.m.](#)

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

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

The LDOE conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. View all tiered reviews on the [annotated reviews](#) webpage and the status of all instructional materials submissions in the [weekly report](#).

Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below:

Early Childhood Education

- Teaching Strategies, LLC - The Creative Curriculum for Pre-K, ECE Ages 4-5 (©2024)

To support a seamless transition to the revised K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics, the LDOE is conducting standards-alignment cover page reviews of currently posted Tier 1 ELA, ELA intensive intervention, and mathematics materials. These reviews determine whether the materials align with the revised standards. View the status of the cover page reviews in the [ELA and Math Standards Alignment Review Status Report](#).

The following titles retained their Tier 1 status following cover page review:

K-12 ELA

- Curriculum Associates, LLC. - Magnetic Reading Foundations, ELA Foundational Skills, Grades K-2 (©2023)
- Great Minds PBC - Wit & Wisdom with Really Great Reading and Geodes, ELA Grades K-3 (©2023)
- Great Minds PBC - Wit & Wisdom, ELA Grades 6-8 (©2023)
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Into Literature, Grades 6-8 (©2020)
- Imagine Learning (formerly LearnZillion) - EL Education, ELA Grades K-5 (©2019)
- Imagine Learning LLC - Imagine Learning Guidebooks, English I-IV (©2020)
- Literacy Resources LLC dba Heggerty - Bridge to Reading, ELA Foundational Skills, Grades K-2 (©2023)

K-12 Mathematics

- McGraw Hill LLC - Reveal Math, Algebra I and Geometry (©2020)

Beginning June 2027, the following titles will no longer be considered Tier 1 as they do not align with the revised Louisiana Student Standards:

K-12 Mathematics

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Into Math, Grades K-5 (©2020)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Health and PE in Schools Survey

Please share with school leaders.

School leaders should complete the [2026-2027 Health and PE in Schools Survey](#) by November 15. State law requires schools to provide students with daily physical activity and recess and requires the LDOE to monitor and evaluate health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools. Also, beginning this year, the LDOE is collecting information regarding the use of fitness assessments. Participation is essential to ensure the LDOE collects accurate, high-quality data.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Writing Learning Series for ELA Instructional Leaders

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

Registration is now open for the full five-part Writing Learning Series, and the next session is October 27 at 9 a.m. The series helps ELA instructional leaders support teachers in using the writing built into their high-quality instructional materials, aligning writing expectations with grade-level standards, using exemplars, rubrics, and peer editing, and using curriculum-embedded assessment data to plan intervention. Session dates and registration are in the [Writing Learning Series for ELA Instructional Leaders overview](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Leader Series: Supporting English Learners with Disabilities

Please share with principals and assistant principals.

The Division of Diverse Learners offers a leader series designed to support school leaders in strengthening programming and instruction for English learners. Supporting ELs with disabilities provides principals with guidance for strengthening EL and special education collaboration, using multiple sources of data to support appropriate identification, and ensuring instructional supports are aligned to students' language and learning needs.

[Access the leader series here.](#)

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

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Principal Webinar

Please share with all school leaders.

Join us for this quarter's Principal Webinar as we explore systems and strategies for gathering and using real-time data to help Instructional Leadership Teams (ILTs) identify high-impact opportunities for teacher collaboration. We will focus on how leaders can leverage high-quality instructional materials to guide purposeful collaboration and strengthen instructional practice.

- **Webinar date/time:** October 8 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179?omn=97092355228>
- **Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179
- **Phone:** 470-381-2552

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2027 Overview and Call for Presentations Office Hours

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

Teacher Leader Summit 2027 is June 1-3 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Educators interested in presenting at Teacher Leader Summit 2027 should review the webinar recording and read the full submission guidelines under the "Call for Presentations" section of the [event website](#). The call for presentations [application](#) closes October 23. If there are questions or more guidance is needed, please join us for office hours on [October 8](#) from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Educator Feedback Sessions on LEAP Assessments

Please share with system leaders and educators.

The LDOE is partnering with the Center for Assessment to host a series of virtual feedback sessions this fall to gather educators' perspectives on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). A random sample of educators from across Louisiana will receive invitations from the LDOE to participate.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

October CCR Monthly Call: Extended Content CTE Bootcamp

Please share with new system leaders, CTE Coordinators/Supervisors, and counselors.

Immediately following the October CCR Monthly Call on [October 15, at 3 p.m.](#), we will provide a CTE Bootcamp for new CTE leaders on CTE basics, including work-based learning and tailoring pathways.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Instructional Expenditure Requirement

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Per the MFP Resolution, school systems must ensure that 70% of the local school system general fund expenditures are in the areas of instruction, pupil and instructional support, and school administration at the school building level. Compliance with this expenditure requirement is calculated annually.

The results of the FY 2024-2025 70% Instructional Expenditure Requirement are available via the edFin FTP site. Systems are encouraged to review their reports and notify the Office of School System Financial Services of any questionable reporting before October 30, 2026. BESE will receive a report of the results for all school systems at the January 2027 meeting. Systems that are not in compliance with this requirement will receive communication from the LDOE and be required to respond to the Office of School Systems Financial Services by a date specified in the communication.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2026-2027 Nonpublic Textbooks

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The FY 2026-2027 Nonpublic Textbooks Application became available on October 5 in the LDOE electronic grants management system (eGMS). All applicants are encouraged to ensure that the nonpublic textbooks contact information is updated and in eGMS. Ensure that orders for textbooks, etc. are received by the eligible nonpublic school during the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 to be eligible for reimbursement.

Please contact nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2026-2027 EEF Application

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The FY 2026-2027 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application is now available in eGMS. The application deadline is October 9. Further information is provided on the eGMS homepage.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

International Associate Teachers' Stipends

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The first-year International Associate Teachers allocations will be released to school systems by October 16. 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.

2026 Federal Year End Deadlines

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The deadlines noted below have been established by the Department to ensure it uses all of its federal funding.

LEA/Subgrantee eGMS Claims and PER Deadlines:

- November 16 – For federal awards ended 9/30/2026

Please contact ldoe.federalclaims@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Excellent Educator Awards: Application Process Now Open

Please share with educators, school and school system leaders.

The Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year application process opened today, October 6. The application materials and timelines are posted in the resource section for each program on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to:

1. Select one honoree per elementary, middle, and high school division level as their local-level honorees for the following:
 - o Teacher of the Year
 - o Principal of the Year
 - o New Teacher of the Year (with less than one year of teaching experience)
2. Submit these selections to the state-level process.

Please contact brandee.david@la.gov regarding the submission process for Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year.

Applications for Teacher/Principal of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year are due January 14. State-level applications must be submitted through an online application portal, which will open later this fall.

The LDOE will host informational webinars to share details regarding the application process for these award programs. Please join the session that best fits your schedule:

Option 1

Webinar Date and Time: October 7 at 9 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91607570926?pwd=YbxXvuh0UFehpc0dg0XPXLLkpAa3Ji.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 346-248-7799

Meeting ID#: 916 0757 0926

Passcode: 464017

Option 2

Webinar Date and Time: October 15 at 11:30 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99500165457?pwd=b0kzwo6Cmnc0Ji7MqPCMfbaF5rK3ro.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799

Meeting ID#: 995 0016 5457

Passcode: 571495

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year, mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year, or brandee.david@la.gov with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.

Applications Open: Support Employee & Health Service Provider of the Year

Please share with educators, school and school system leaders.

The application process for the 2026–2027 Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and School Health Service Provider of the Year is now open. Application materials, guidelines, and timelines are available in the resources on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select candidates as their local-level honorees and submit those selections for state-level consideration. School systems without a formal selection process may elect to submit candidates directly to the state-level process. State-level applications must be submitted through the online application portals by December 10.

The LDOE will host virtual help calls throughout the application window to provide an overview of the programs, answer questions, and assist with the application process.

October Application Process Review

Date and Time: October 20 at 11:30 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97155856948>

Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799

Meeting ID#: 971 5585 6948

November Application Process Review

Date and Time: November 18 at 11:30 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98307646668>

Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799

Meeting ID#: 983 0764 6668

December Help Desk Call

Date and Time: December 7 at 11:30 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95288758895>

Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799

Meeting ID#: 952 8875 8895

For questions about the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year or School Health Service Provider of the Year, please contact excellenteducators@la.gov.