LDOE Weekly Newsletter: November 17, 2026

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

As you may have seen, the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors appointed me as its next President and CEO. This opportunity is bittersweet because I am so proud of what we have accomplished together for Louisiana students over the past seven school years.

As a lifelong Louisiana native, I grew up hearing that our state had to be first on every bad list and last on every good list. How incredible it is to no longer be in that position and to have supported the work in your schools that made it possible.

I've spent my professional life invested in better academic outcomes for students, and look forward to continuing that mission in higher education. Many of you earned degrees at one of the eight universities I'll serve as UL System president: Grambling State, Louisiana Tech, McNeese State, Nicholls State, Northwestern State, Southeastern Louisiana, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and the University of Louisiana Monroe. I know I will benefit from the foundation you have helped build in early childhood and K-12 education.

I leave behind the best state education agency anywhere in the country. The LDOE will maintain normal operations throughout this transition. The work supporting educators and students will continue without interruption.

Louisiana students have made historic academic growth, and the nation has taken notice. As the work continues, I encourage you to remain pleased with the progress but never satisfied.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: November 18 at 10 a.m.
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: November 18 at 2 p.m.
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: November 19 at 10 a.m.
- K-3 Numeracy Screener Webinar: November 19 at 10 a.m.
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: November 19 at 3 p.m.
- Dyslexia Lunch and Learn: November 20 at noon
- Teacher/Principal of the Year Candidates/Coordinators Webinar: December 1 at 10 a.m.
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: December 1 at 1 p.m.
- Attendance Monthly Call: December 3 at 8 a.m.
- Computer Science Office Hours: December 3 at 10 a.m.
- System Leaders Call: December 4 at 9 a.m.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Scholarship Schools' Assessment Selection due November 30
- 2025-2026 Evaluation Close-Out due November 30

View our School System Support Calendar for the full schedule.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Quality STEM Implementation Guide Updates

Please share with STEM content supervisors, K-8 STEM teachers, and school leaders.

The Quality STEM Implementation Guide supports school systems and school leaders in planning and supporting K-12 STEM implementation across STEM and content classrooms, after-school and summer programs, and schoolwide STEM events.

This resource provides K-12 educators, school leaders, and school systems with the following:

- An overview of STEM education
- K-8 STEM and K-5 computer science (CS) resources reviewed by Louisiana STEM/CS Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs)
- An overview of grades 9-12 Louisiana STEM Renaissance Pathways
- Information about available STEM awards, clubs, and competitions

School systems and school leaders are encouraged to share the updated guide with relevant educators and school leaders to inform STEM planning, identify relevant resources, and support STEM implementation across classrooms and schoolwide initiatives.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Energize Project Enrolling Past Participants in Computer Science Certification Supplemental Support

Please share with grades 6-12 computer science teachers, CTE supervisors, curriculum supervisors, high school principals, school leaders, and STEM/CS supervisors.

The Energize Project builds qualified computer science teaching capacity through no-cost, targeted support to help certified 6-12 teachers successfully prepare for and pass the Praxis (5652) Computer Science exam.

In addition to online and virtual cohorts for new participants, resource cohorts assist past participants who have not yet added computer science to their existing teaching certificate. These spring resource cohorts offer focused supplemental exam preparation resources. Interested past participants should register by January 4, 2027.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

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

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

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Into Literature, English I-IV (©2020)
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Into Reading, Grades K-2 (©2020)
- Great Minds PBC - Wit & Wisdom with Fundations and Geodes, ELA Grades K-3 (©2023)

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 ELA

- McGraw Hill LLC - Wonders, ELA Grades K-5 (©2020)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

2026-2027 Evaluation Reminders

Please share with system and school leaders.

Round one observations for all teachers should now be complete. New teachers should receive their first observation within the first 45 days of the school year or hire date to ensure coaching and support can begin early, and round two observations for new teachers should be completed or actively in progress.

Student Learning Target (SLT) meetings and goal-setting conferences should also have occurred, with evaluators reviewing and accepting SLTs in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES). Systems are encouraged to continue referencing the LES Timeline for all key tasks, requirements, and upcoming deadlines to ensure timely and accurate evaluation processes.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Evaluation Close-Out Reminders

Please share with system and school leaders.

All 2025-2026 evaluation data for teachers, counselors, and other instructional staff should be finalized in LES by November 30. The deadline to enter or edit leader evaluations is January 29, 2027.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Resources

Please share with superintendents, human resource directors, school leaders, and system leaders.

Many resources, including handbooks, forms, and guides, are available in the LEADS Library to support LEADS implementation. System and school leaders may use the following resources to support implementation.

- Other Personnel Guidance
- Pre-Conference Template and Post-Conference Template
- PGP/Coaching Plan Samples, PGP/Coaching Plan Template, and Counselor PGP/Coaching Plan Template

Materials to support rater reliability are available in the Professional Learning Platform: LEADS Public Collections.

- Full-Length Lesson Sets
- Video Clip Collection

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Dyslexia Professional Learning Opportunities

Please share with system leaders, school leaders, and educators supporting students with dyslexia.

The Dyslexia Lunch and Learn series is offering monthly, 30-minute professional learning sessions to inform educators on current dyslexia research and its practical implications for instruction and intervention. Please join us for our next webinar session using the link below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Friday, November 20 at noon
- **Webinar Link:** https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99851180091?pwd=K0XsXbmBjxGHokyI4P1zCpUb09FRRF.1
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 998 5118 0091
- **Meeting Passcode:** 151103

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

K-3 Numeracy Screener Webinar

Please share with school administrators, instructional coaches, math interventionists, K-3 math teachers, and other educators who support foundational numeracy instruction.

The LDOE will host the next monthly webinar in the K-3 Numeracy Screener series on November 19 at 10 a.m. Participants will explore how to gather evidence of student numeracy understanding by looking deeply into student work samples. Participants will also explore how to use this new evidence to refine their instructional responses. Monthly webinar details can be found within the K-3 Numeracy Screener Response Toolkit.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

BESE-Authorized Charter School Submissions

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

As outlined in the Charter School Reporting Calendar, the following items are to be submitted in December:

- Course Choice Spring Reporting
- Cohort Graduation Certification - Collection
- Dyslexia Reporting
- Teacher SLT Reporting
- OSSE and SHSPY - Closes

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Scholarship Schools' Assessment Selection

Please share with LA GATOR and Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Schools.

The 2026-2027 Scholarship Schools' Assessment Selection is due Monday, November 30. Please complete the Schools Assessment Selection form.

Please contact lagator@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

TDC Program: Student Assessment Data Collection

Please share with nonpublic school leaders with students enrolled in the TDC Program.

Student Tuition Organizations (STOs) have begun contacting participating schools to collect norm-referenced assessment score results and student roster spreadsheets for the 2025-2026 school year. Schools must provide English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessment results for all TDC scholarship students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Schools will upload the required files to the designated folder in the secure FTP portal. Schools should follow the detailed file-naming conventions provided to ensure proper submission and processing no later than Wednesday, December 16, 2026.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

Round Two: *BESE and Brumfield v Dodd* Approvals

Please share with nonpublic school leaders.

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

Round two of the 2027-2028 BESE Approval Application will be available from January 14, 2027 through January 29, 2027. Applications submitted during this period will be reviewed and forwarded for final approval at the March 2027 BESE meeting.

Note: This is the final application window for the 2027–2028 school year.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2026 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Submissions

Please share with business managers and school business officials.

La. R.S. 17:92 requires local school systems to provide annual financial data to the LDOE no later than September 30 of each year. School systems that have provided financial data in accordance with the requirements of the law are listed in the AFR Approval Listing included on the Business Manager Support Resources page.

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, 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 on the Staff and Educator 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.

State-level applications are due by January 14, 2027, and must be submitted via the online application portal.

To support candidates and coordinators in using the online portals, we will host the following informational webinars:

Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidates/Coordinators Webinars:

Webinar Date and Time: December 1 at 10 a.m.
Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98779589226?pwd=gTggZARzyQZKPuLApXpceoaBKDSzwS.1
Webinar Phone Number: 346-248-7799
Meeting ID#: 987 7958 9226
Passcode: 080698

Webinar Date and Time: December 15 at 4 p.m.
Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97125600592?pwd=zCehl081LrqTBa7D5I3iX4LHZKrdgr.1
Webinar Phone Number: 346-248-7799
Meeting ID#: 971 2560 0592
Passcode: 031129

The dates and times of future webinars are also listed in the Zoom Details for Candidates and Stakeholders document.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.