

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: November 18, 2025

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

We [released beginning-of-year \(BOY\) literacy screener data](#) for students in kindergarten through third grade last week, and the results were encouraging. Statewide, 50 percent of K–3 students scored on or above grade level. Compared to last year’s BOY data, proficiency improved both overall and in every individual grade level.

These gains are a direct result of Louisiana’s dedicated teachers. We’ve also benefitted from strong leadership at the school and system levels, as well as student-centered policy decisions and support from state officials.

As the school year progresses, let’s keep students on a path to reading success by using this data to inform instruction and accelerate growth.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [November 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit External Presenters Office Hours: [November 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [November 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [November 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit External Presenters Office Hours: [November 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [November 20 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [November 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- New Teacher of the Year Candidate/Coordinators Webinar: [November 20 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [December 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidates/Coordinators Webinar: [December 3 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [December 3 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- New Teacher of the Year Candidate/Coordinators Webinar: [December 4 at 4 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [December 5 at 9 a.m.](#)

- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [December 9 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [December 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidates/Coordinators Webinar: [December 17 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [January 8 at 9 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Applications Due: [November 18](#)
- Alternate Assessment Justification Form Due: December 1
- Community service Endorsement Survey Deadline: [December 2](#)
- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [December 9](#)
- School Health Service Provider Award State-Level Applications Due: [December 9](#)
- School Physical Activity Award State-Level Applications Due: [December 9](#)
- Annual Dyslexia Reporting Deadline: [December 15](#)
- 2024-2025 Evaluation Close-Out Deadline: December 31
- K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Screening Deadline: December 31
- Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [January 14](#)
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [January 14](#)
- New Teacher of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [January 21](#)
- Computer Science Implementation Tour - Tangipahoa Parish: [January 28](#)
- Grow Your Own Learning Visit Registration Due: [February 2](#)
- Computer Science Implementation Tour - East Baton Rouge Parish: [February 5](#)
- Computer Science Implementation Tour - Bossier Parish: [February 24](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Pacing Guidance

Please share with school leaders, school system leaders, and content supervisors.

For systems using [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), the LDOE Social Studies team has provided pacing guidance to help leaders:

- Provide a flexible framework for planning and organizing instruction;
- Ensure all standards and curriculum objectives are addressed; and
- Support consistent progress across classrooms.

The [Pacing Guidance Document](#) is available on the [Bayou Bridges](#) and [Foundations of Freedom](#) webpages under Implementation Resources.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Office Hours

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and teachers.

Teachers, school leaders, and content supervisors are invited to join the LDOE for the fourth social studies office hours of the 2025–2026 school year. Scheduled for December 3 at 3:15 p.m., the office hours will focus on using the social studies instructional strategies located on the [K-12 Social Studies Planning](#) page. It will also offer an opportunity to address any questions related to [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Join the session using the link provided below, or by accessing the [Social Studies Office Hours Flyer](#) located on the K-12 Social Studies Planning webpage.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 3 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546?pwd=bLSSw5AUjKUQL1a6wWUCfhfWoY5ZwR.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 3607 5546

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Competencies Focus Group

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and teachers.

The LDOE invites social studies teachers and instructional leaders to join a focus group supporting the development of Louisiana Teacher Preparation Competencies, which define what a teacher candidate must know and be able to do to teach the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#).

Interested participants should complete the [registration form](#) by November 28.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Youth Legislature of Louisiana

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and teachers.

The Youth Legislature of Louisiana is a program that introduces students to the legislative process. It empowers students to step into the role of lawmakers by:

- Experiencing a mock legislative session; and
- Debating real issues with peers from across the state.

Through these experiences, students develop leadership and civic skills, growing into informed, engaged future leaders. To learn more about the Youth Legislature of Louisiana or to apply for a 2025-2026 session, contact youthlegislatureofla@gmail.com

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science Implementation Regional Tour Dates

Please share with CTE supervisors, STEM supervisors, and system leaders.

The LDOE is hosting a three-stop regional tour to support school system leaders in developing a comprehensive K-12 Computer Science implementation plan. The sessions will guide participants through developing effective, system-level implementation strategies using state supports and key resources available in the [Louisiana K-12 Computer Science Education Plan](#).

In-person sessions are scheduled for the dates and locations below. Specific location details are included in the registration links below:

- January 28, 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Tangipahoa Parish - [Registration](#)
- February 5, 8:30-11:30 a.m. in East Baton Rouge Parish - [Registration](#)
- February 24, 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Bossier Parish - [Registration](#)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content 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. 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](#).

- Kiddom - Core Knowledge Bayou Bridges Powered by Kiddom, Grade 1 (©2024)
- Carolina Biological Supply Company - OpenSciEd, Carolina Certified Version, Chemistry (©2024)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Alternate Assessment Justification

Please share with special education leaders.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires school systems that exceed 1% for participation on the alternate assessment to provide justification for exceeding the 1% threshold. The alternate assessment justification form is now available in the Data Management File Transfer Portal (DMFTP). The form is located in the 2024-2025 Alternate Assessment Review folder within each school system's Diverse Learners folder on the DMFTP. School systems whose participation rate on the Spring 2025 LEAP Connect exceeded 1% must submit the justification form by **December 1**.

Please contact karen.becnel@la.gov with questions.

Dyslexia Core Assessment Program Update

Please share with school leaders, SPED coordinators, counselors, and teachers.

[Act 517](#) established a statewide pathway for identifying and supporting students flagged as “at risk” for dyslexia. LDOE is preparing for the launch of an online application portal, which will allow families to apply for up to \$500 in reimbursement for a dyslexia core assessment conducted by an [approved vendor](#). Additional guidance and school communication tools will be shared ahead of the program's January 2026 launch.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Staffing and Scheduling Support Survey

Please share with school and system leaders.

The LDOE, in partnership with New Solutions K-12, is gathering input from school leaders and system-level academic leaders to better understand how schedules and staffing are organized across the state. Input and feedback are requested to ensure that the challenges faced in the field are reflected in LDOE's upcoming resources and trainings for the 2025–26 school year. Completion of a brief survey will directly influence the design of statewide supports that enhance scheduling and staffing effectiveness for all Louisiana schools. Survey links are below:

- [School Leader Survey](#)
- [School System Leader Survey](#)

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Strategic Scheduling Support Sessions

Please share with school and system leaders.

The LDOE is excited to announce the SY25–26 Strategic Scheduling Series, a set of professional learning opportunities designed to help school and system leaders strengthen one of the most powerful levers for student success: the school schedule. Sessions are offered throughout the year and tailored for various audiences, including school administrators, school system leaders, and those in different grade bands. Participants will gain practical tools, strategies, and support to design schedules that maximize instructional time and better support teachers. Visit the [registration](#) link for additional information.

Please contact LousianaLeaders@la.gov with any questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Learning Visit

Please share with school and system leaders.

System leaders, teacher leaders, and postsecondary teacher preparation partners are invited to participate in a Grow Your Own Learning Visit on February 2, 2026 in Lafayette Parish. Learning visits provide an opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work that is being done in another school system and strategize to improve efforts in their system. Please complete the [registration form](#) to attend.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Value Added Model (VAM) Release

Please share with system and school leaders.

The value-added model (VAM) measures students' year-to-year success relative to similar peers. Value-added is a statistical model that uses student characteristics to determine anticipated student performance in the current year.

VAM results are now available in the [Louisiana Educator Portal](#) (LEP) for each employee receiving VAM. VAM reports are now available to system leaders. The [Value Added Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource can assist systems with any VAM-related questions.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Evaluation Close-Out

Please share with system and school leaders.

All 2024-2025 evaluation data for teachers, counselors, and other instructional staff should be finalized in LES by **December 31**. The deadline to enter or edit leader evaluations is **January 31**.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Resources

Please share with superintendents, system leaders, human resource directors, and school 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 first-semester implementation.

- [Other Personnel Guidance](#)
- [LA Leader and Counselor Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#)
- [LA Educator Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#)
- [Pre-Conference Template](#) and [Post-Conference Template](#)
- [PGP/Coaching Plan Samples](#), [PGP/Coaching Plan Template](#), and [Counselor PGP/Coaching Plan Template](#)
- [LLR Evidence Collection Sheet](#)
- [Student Learning Target \(SLT\) Reflection Tool](#)

Materials to support rater reliability are also available in the [Professional Learning Platform: LEADS Public Collections](#).

- [Full Length Lesson Sets](#)
- [Video Clip Collection](#)

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Associate Teacher Coding

Please share with data managers.

[Revised Statute 17:78](#) allows schools to hire individuals holding an associate's degree who are enrolled in a teacher preparation program to serve as the teacher of record. The LEA issues the authorization for the associate teacher to serve as a teacher of record, not the LDOE Certification Division.

Systems should report associate teachers by flagging "Y" in the "ASSOCIATE_TEACHER" flag on the Staff Extension in the [Staff Extract File](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions regarding the [associate teacher program](#).

Numeracy

Math Leader Community of Practice

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

LDOE, in partnership with the Charles A. Dana Center, is launching a [Community of Practice for Math Leaders](#) to strengthen math teaching and coaching across Louisiana. Through this initiative, participants will connect and collaborate with math leaders from across the state, share best practices and coaching strategies for implementing High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) more effectively in their work.

Beginning in January 2026, participants will meet virtually for two hours each month and will conclude their experience with a special session at the [2026 Teacher Leader Summit](#). For more information, including access to the interest form, review the [Community of Practice for Math Leaders](#) document.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

K-3 Numeracy Screener

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

The LDOE is implementing the K-3 Numeracy Screener in alignment with [Act 650 \(2024\)](#) and [Bulletin 118](#). The 2025–2026 school year serves as a learning year before full implementation in 2026–2027.

School systems have completed the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) screener within the first 30 days of school and should now prepare for the Middle-of-Year (MOY) window in December.

The best preparation is strong core math instruction and clear communication about the screener's purpose, which is to identify students needing support, not to measure mastery of all standards. Viewing it as a comprehensive assessment may misrepresent student progress and hinder long-term success. Visit the [Numeracy Screener](#) webpage for more information.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Achievement in Numeracy Act (LANE)

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

Per [Act 260 \(2023\)](#) and [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#), all K–8 math teachers must complete an LDOE-approved numeracy course. School and system leaders must collect proof of completion from all new hires teaching these grades. An optional numeracy course for high school math teachers is also available.

Teachers can access courses through the 2025–2026 school year, and system contacts have received the course codes. For more information, see the [Guidance and Framing](#) document on the [Louisiana Math webpage](#). Systems should actively support teachers in meeting these requirements. Numeracy leaders are invited to join monthly office hours on November 19 at 9 a.m.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Zearn's Louisiana Math Challenge: Winter Games

Please share with school leaders, educators, and families.

[Zearn](#) is an online math platform that blends digital lessons with teacher-led instruction. LDOE provides Zearn access to all public schools serving grades K–8 to support stronger math learning statewide.

Families and schools can participate in free, month-long [Louisiana Math Challenges](#), which encourage K–8 students to complete at least three Zearn lessons each week. Each challenge includes printable materials such as family flyers, student trackers, and celebration certificates (available in English and Spanish). The newest challenge, Winter Games, is now available.

All Louisiana Math Challenge kits can be accessed from the [Math Resources for Louisiana Families page](#).

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Overview and Call for Presentations Office Hours

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

Refer to the [2026 TLC Overview](#) on the [Teacher Leader Summit landing page](#) for important information, including registration dates, check requests, and hotel booking links.

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Educators interested in presenting at Teacher Leader Summit 2026 should review the [webinar](#) and read the [submission guidelines](#). Submit your [application](#) before the call for presentations closes on December 5.

If there are questions or more guidance needed, please join us for [office hours](#) on November 19 at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Public Notice – ESEA Waiver Request

Please share with system and district leaders.

At the October 2025 meeting, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) directed the LDOE to request authorization from the U.S. Department of Education to waive the requirement in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(iii) of the ESEA that requires a state implementing the exception for advanced mathematics in middle school to use a student's performance on:

1. The end-of-course high school mathematics assessment in the year in which the eighth-grade student takes the assessment for purposes of measuring academic achievement and participation for statewide accountability; and
2. A more advanced high school mathematics assessment in the year in which the student takes that assessment for purposes of measuring academic achievement and participation for statewide accountability.

As an alternative, BESE, through LDOE, is requesting a waiver of the requirements in ESEA section 1111(b)(2)(C) and the corresponding regulation 34 CFR § 200.5(b) during a two-year transition period over the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years.

Interested personnel and members of the public may submit questions or comments to Ashley Townsend, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs, via email at EducationPolicy@la.gov, placing "ESEA Waiver" in the subject line, by November 21.

Please contact EducationPolicy@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Screening

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

The platforms for administering K-3 literacy and numeracy screenings are now open for completion of administrative setup tasks needed to begin student screening when the window opens on December 1. Student data have been updated to reflect the enrollment provided by school systems in EdLink for October reporting. The windows for both screeners will close on December 31.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

December 1-February 4: Complete site readiness mock administration, validate configuration, and freeze test environment for online testing. For information on accommodations, refer to the [ACT State and District Technical](#)

[Guide for Online Testing.](#)

Note: Please do not select paper testing unless the accommodation has been approved by ACT. All other paper test selections will be changed to online by ACT.

- The [ACT Schedule of Events](#) is posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site.
- Visit [What's New for the ACT](#) for spring ACT testing updates.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Community Service Survey

Please share with high school counselors, administrators, and staff responsible for documenting students' community service experiences.

The [Community Service Diploma Endorsement](#) recognizes students who complete a minimum of 80 hours of documented community service at any point from ninth through twelfth grade. Please complete the [Community Service Endorsement Survey](#) by December 2 to identify the categories in which students are earning these hours and to offer suggestions for improving overall opportunities.

Please contact jenny.moran2@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Teacher/Principal of the Year /New Teacher of the Year Application Portals Are Now Open

Please share with educators, school and school system leaders.

The online portals for coordinators and state-level applicants for Teacher/Principal of the Year and New Teacher 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 one honoree at the elementary, middle, and high school levels for each category for submission to the state-level process.

- Teacher of the Year
- Principal of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year (with less than one year of teaching experience.)

Application Deadlines

- January 14: Teacher/Principal of the Year
- January 21: New Teacher of the Year

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 Webinar:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 3 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97407452719?pwd=82eF8HhAfDeI9lDLqnGRpY451p4Dn2.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 0745 2719
- **Passcode:** 846168

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 17 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96067070050?pwd=1DqbJGWJYRCFlbjeD54t7JsF9TYa.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 960 6707 0050
- **Passcode:** 155548

New Teacher of the Year Candidate/Coordinators Webinar:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 20 at 4 p.m.
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96450037023?pwd=TiHJClvxRED5XPPRHFghoZMZliO8J.1>
 - **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
 - **Meeting ID#:** 964 5003 7023
 - **Passcode:** 003476
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- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 4 at 4 p.m.
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91723047852?pwd=56uo16Q23qh9D4E6yNpkRdkjgdfoqn.1>
 - **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
 - **Meeting ID#:** 917 2304 7852
 - **Passcode:** 581804

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 about Teacher/Principal of the Year and laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year.