

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: November 19, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana is making historic education progress, and as we enter the holiday season I want to share how thankful I am for the work we have done together. Just last week, Louisiana was hailed as an example for other states to follow during a national education summit. Our literacy strategy, artificial intelligence, guidance, and revised accountability system were all on display. The event even opened with Louisiana's revised accountability system being called the strongest in the country.

Anyone who still repeats the phrase that we are last in education just isn't paying attention.

It's been hard work moving our state ahead these past few years, and we all know it only gets harder as we continue to take the critical next steps forward. But we also know it's what the students of Louisiana deserve.

We won't have a newsletter next week, so I want to wish you a warm and blessed Thanksgiving.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [November 20 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [November 20 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [November 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [November 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [November 21 at 3 p.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.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [December 5 at 8 a.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.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [December 16 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- IEP Writing Workshop - Secondary: [November 21](#)
- 2024 Louisiana Child Care Parent Poll Submission Deadline: [November 21](#)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program [Application](#) Deadline: November 22
- Student of the Year Submission Deadline: November 22
- Assessment Development Educator Review Committees Application Deadline: December 1
- K-3 Literacy Mid-Year (MOY) Screening: December 1-31
- FY24 eGMS Program Evaluation Submission Deadline: December 2
- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and School Physical Activity Award Informational Webinar: [December 2 at 9 a.m.](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 2, Baton Rouge: [December 3](#)
- Staffing and Scheduling Support Webinar - Elementary: [December 6 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Staffing and Scheduling Support Webinar - Middle School: [December 6 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Staffing and Scheduling Support Webinar - High School: [December 6 at 1:30 p.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [December 9 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [December 9 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit 2025 External Presenter Webinar: [December 9 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [December 9 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit 2025 External Presenter Webinar: [December 9 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year Applications Deadline: December 9
- School Health Service Provider of the Year Applications Deadline: December 9
- School Physical Activity Award Program Applications Deadline: December 9
- Green Ribbon Schools Application Deadline: [December 16 by 5 p.m.](#)
- Educator Background Credentialing Call: [December 18 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Bayou Bridges Unit 4 instructional slides decks for remaining grades available: [December 19](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, Monroe: [January 28](#)
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, Lafayette: [January 30](#)
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, New Orleans: [February 4](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 3, Baton Rouge: [February 4](#)
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, Baton Rouge: [February 5](#)
- 2025 PAEMST Nomination Deadline: [February 6](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Quality STEM Implementation Guide - Now Available

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

The [K-12 Quality STEM Implementation Guide](#) is now available on the [STEM Initiative webpage](#). This resource is intended to provide school systems, as well as educators, with:

- an overview of STEM education;
- K-8 STEM resources that have been reviewed by Louisiana STEM Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs);
- an overview of 9-12 Louisiana STEM Renaissance Pathways; and
- available STEM awards, clubs, and competitions.

This resource can be used to support K-12 STEM implementation within schools and systems. School systems are encouraged to share this resource with STEM directors, K-12 administrators, and STEM and content teachers.

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 in lesson pacing, and completing formative checks. Instructional decks include:

- core lesson teacher notes
- student supports
- images
- questions

Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks for Units 1 and 3 are available now. Unit 4 instructional slide decks for grades 3 and 8 are available November 14. Unit 4 instructional slide decks for the remaining grades will be available December 19.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Credential Clearance with a Criminal Background Check (CBC) for Certification

Please share with human resources directors, preparation providers, school leaders, system leaders, and teachers.

Effective January 1, 2025, Louisiana law ([R.S. 17:8.9](#)) requires criminal background checks (CBCs) for credentialing. This law is much more comprehensive than what has historically been in place where the CBC was requested and required for employment ([R.S. 17:15](#)).

- A CBC will be required before a credential can be issued if LDOE does not have one on file less than five years old.
- If a person has already been issued a credential prior to implementation of this new law, and the LDOE does not have a cleared CBC for that person, the credentialed individual will be required to complete the CBC process at the time of applying for renewal, advancement, or modification.

Certification applications **submitted before January 1, 2025**, will be processed without sending the applicant to be fingerprinted.

For applications **submitted on and after January 1, 2025**, the applicant will check www.teachlouisiana.net to see if LDOE has a CBC on file that is less than five years old. If none exist in the applicant's LDOE file or if the applicant has no certification file at all, the applicant will be directed to the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet where the individual will schedule fingerprinting with IdentoGO **BEFORE** certification can be processed. Certification applications are being updated with a new Professional Conduct form, the link to the Credential Clearance (CC) application packet, and other documents addressing certification clearance and how to determine if one exists or if the applicant will be subject to a new background check for certification.

Additional details and resources regarding the CBC for Certification process are forthcoming. Please join our Educator Background Credentialing Call on [December 18 at 11 a.m.](#)

Please contact educatorclearance@la.gov with questions..

Leader Mentors Needed

Please share with human resources directors, school leaders, and system leaders.

The LDOE is seeking effective school leaders to serve as mentors for the next generation of school leaders. Interested current school leaders will receive free professional development focused on supporting and coaching future school leaders.

Multiple mentoring opportunities are available and can last between three and twelve months. The LDOE will schedule some meetings, but mentors will schedule the majority at their convenience, which can occur virtually or in-person.

Mentoring future leaders is a core component of the new alternative pathway into principalship recently approved by BESE (EDL Pathway 4). Active educational leaders interested in compensated mentoring of future leaders while gaining professional development should complete an application.

[Applications](#) for the first round of mentors are due November 22.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

2023-2024 Evaluation Close-Out

Please share with data managers, human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

The deadline to enter or [upload](#) 2023-2024 evaluation data into [CIS](#) for teachers, counselors, and other instructional staff is November 29. Leader evaluations will be due following the release of School Performance Scores (SPS) later this winter.

As a reminder, all 2024-2025 evaluation data should be entered directly into LES for all schools, regardless of the chosen evaluation type; there will be no transfer of scores or spreadsheet uploads in the new system.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Evaluator Training

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

The Division of Educator Talent and Workforce Development will offer evaluator training for newly hired evaluators. [Registration](#) for the three-day Louisiana Educator Rubric and Evaluation Training on January 28-30 is now available. [Registration](#) for the two-day Louisiana Leader Rubric and Evaluation Training on February 5-6 is also available. Both training sessions will take place at University View Academy in Baton Rouge. Please note that those participating in the Learning Year will be given first preference to participate in the training.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES)

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

[LES](#) is live and all 2024-2025 evaluation data (observations, SLTs, PGP/Coaching Plan) for educators can now be entered. Even if using legacy systems (COMPASS or approved alternate observation tools) rather than transitioning to LEADS, data will be entered into LES. LES system contacts are encouraged to collaborate with human resources and data managers to ensure that educators are able to [access](#) LES. The [LES 2024-2025 Timeline](#) is available in the [LEADS Library](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System Performance Profile Release

Please share with teachers, systems leaders, school leaders, human resources (HR) directors, and preparation providers.

2022-2023 Teacher Preparation Quality Rating System (TPQRS) Performance Profiles were released at the October 2024 BESE meeting. The performance profiles contain information on each BESE-approved teacher preparation program's overall quality rating and individual domain ratings. The domains included in the overall score are: 1.) Preparation Program Experience, 2.) Meeting Educator Workforce Needs, and 3.) Teacher Quality. This information can be used to make informed decisions as systems support newly hired teachers as they enter the workforce as well as assisting systems to select post-baccalaureate programs for certification of candidates. The TPQRS Performance Profiles are available in the Louisiana Believes [Preparation Library](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Guidance “Maximize Efficiency: Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing”

Please share with systems leaders, school leaders, and counselors.

The LDOE is releasing guidance for effective staffing and scheduling. “Maximize Efficiency: Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing” is a comprehensive, research-based guide focusing on how to create schedules that utilize all staff effectively and provide optimal learning opportunities for students. This guidance provides sample schedules based on national best practices.

Listed below are two opportunities to learn more about this guidance. The first opportunity is a one hour webinar on December 6. The second opportunity is a half day in-person training. The in-person trainings will be held in Baton Rouge and Natchitoches.

Elementary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 6 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95593185432?pwd=ZgzRr7VPYSbPdeDFHuDyWR5dl1clbu.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 955 9318 5432
- **Passcode:** 838420

Middle Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing

- **Webinar Date and time:** December 6 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91726488905?pwd=bSDEqOmeCSpPxdctI9ns6Qq0XFixb6.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 917 2648 8905
- **Passcode:** 476767

High Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 6 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93510088061?pwd=aKEltC1huUyBCgMpZ9eeXlYVPxYCfo.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 935 1008 8061
- **Passcode:** 914809

Registration is now open for the in-person trainings which are designed to assist schools and systems in developing dynamic and effective schedules aligned to best practices. Participation is of no cost to the school systems. School systems are encouraged to send those who are involved in the staffing and scheduling at the school level.

Registration is currently open on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **January 14 at 9 a.m.:** [Elementary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge](#)
- **January 14 at 1 p.m.:** [Secondary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge](#)
- **January 15 at 9 a.m.:** [Elementary School Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at Northwestern State University](#)
- **January 15 at 1 p.m.:** [Secondary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at Northwestern State University](#)

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

FY 2025 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application

Please share with school food authorities and nutrition directors.

Applications for the 2024-2025 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are available for returning sponsors via the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) [Child Nutrition Program \(CNP\) website](#). Applications must be completed and submitted by November 22.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

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.

Local-Authorizer Reporting Requirements

Please share with school and system leaders.

On October 25, 2024, all Type 1 and 3 applications were due to local authorizers. Local Authorization are required to report the following information regarding charter applications received in their district:

- Non-Profit Foundation Name of Applicant
- Proposed Charter School Name
- Name of Primary Applicant
- Date Application Submitted

Information regarding applicants being considered by local-authorizers was due to LDOE by November 11, 2024 using the Jotform [link](#). Additionally, local-authorizers are required to notify state legislators of charter applications received within each district.

Per August 2024 Bulletin 126 update, applicants are now also required to report their submission to the local authorizer and may use the Jotform [link](#). Please provide this information to any applicant who has submitted for the 2024-2025 RFA process.

Decisions regarding approval or denial of each applicant are due to LDOE by January 31, 2025.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

2024-2025 Nonpublic School Annual Reporting Due

Please share with nonpublic school leaders and data managers.

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 data closed on October 15. Prior to completing your school's NPS annual enrollment report, the school administrator that will be entering the data is required to set up an EdLink account and request the "NPS School Manager Role." Please review and follow the request steps in the [NPS Edlink Manual for the Annual Enrollment Report PDE](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

LA GATOR – Louisiana's Education Scholarship Account

Please share with teachers, principals, central office, and superintendents.

The LDOE is preparing for the launch of LA GATOR, Louisiana's first education scholarship account. Detailed information, training sessions, and guidance will be shared soon, but please consider signing up for the LA GATOR newsletter to be the first to learn about eligibility, school participation, and the application process.

Please [sign up](#) for the LA GATOR newsletter to receive information as it becomes available.

School System Financial Services

70% 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 FY 2022-23 70% Instructional Expenditure Requirement are available via the edFin FTP site. BESE will receive a report of the results for all school systems at the January 2025 meeting. Systems that are not in compliance with this requirement will be required to submit a Corrective Action Plan to the Office of School Systems Financial Services by December 4.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

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

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 9 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 calls for school system leaders and stakeholders to review the online application portals, provide information regarding the application processes, and to answer questions. Please see the details listed below for the next Zoom call:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 2 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93023114348?pwd=YRHPHKjJANtemURslGST8eHSsMoRZD.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 930 2311 4348
- **Passcode:** 616661

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

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.