

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: December 10, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana education is near the top of another national study. [This new report](#) ranked Louisiana fourth in the nation when adjusting the most recent Nation's Report Card for student demographics such as income, ethnicity, exceptionalities, and language barriers. Published since 2015, the study adapts data from the national assessment based on differences across states.

Among the takeaways in the new report:

- Louisiana ranked fourth overall. Other states in the top five are Florida, Texas, Mississippi, and Massachusetts. In this same report from 2019, Louisiana ranked 20th overall.
- Louisiana's relative performance grew more than any other state and is one of nine states to improve by more than 10 points.
- Louisiana fourth graders ranked fifth in math and fourth in reading.
- Louisiana eighth graders ranked fifth in math and second in reading.

Whether it's this study, the [Education Recovery Scorecard](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), or [our own state assessments](#), there is solid data showing the progress we see every day in Louisiana. We should all be proud, but far from satisfied. Our state is poised to accelerate if we can continue to make the type of brave decisions that move us forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [December 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [December 11 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Monthly Call Presentation: December 12
- Education Technology Monthly Call: [December 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [December 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [December 12 at 11 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.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [December 17 at 2 p.m.](#)

- Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours: [December 17 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [December 17 at 3 p.m.](#)
- ACT 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [December 18 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [December 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- FSGR Monthly Call: [December 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [December 19 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [December 19 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinar: [December 30 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [January 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [January 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [January 14 at 2 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [January 17 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 22 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- K-3 Literacy Mid-Year (MOY) Screening: December 1-31
- Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8 Webinar: [December 11 at 3 p.m.](#)
- New Teacher of the Year Informational Webinar: [December 11 at 4 p.m.](#)
- School Performance Score Appeal/Waiver Requests: December 13
- 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 Slide Decks Available: [December 19](#)
- IEP Writing Workshop-Secondary: [December 19](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)
- IAT Recruitment Needs Due: [January 15](#)
- New Teacher of the Year Informational Webinar: [January 15 at 4 p.m.](#)
- New Teacher of the Year Application Deadline: January 24
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, Monroe: [January 28](#)
- SSI/System Leader Regional Collaborations Session 3: January 29 - February 5
- 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](#)
- Diploma and Seal Order deadline: [February 7](#)
- 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy Application Deadline: [February 28](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Assessment Rubric Training

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

The LDOE is providing resources for teacher training on the new Social Studies LEAP Assessment Rubric. This training will assist teachers in norming and scoring student writing samples and adapting questions in their HQIM to correlate with the new Social Studies Assessment Rubric for constructed and extended response items.

Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) and curriculum supervisors should view the pre-recorded presentation on YouTube after December 18 and utilize the [slide deck](#) and [note catcher](#) to facilitate this professional learning session with social studies teachers.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) Update

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

The grade 10 unit, “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”, will be removed from the Louisiana Curriculum Hub at the end of December. The LDOE is working to develop an alternate version of the unit and will post it to the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) once the unit is complete. Systems planning to implement this unit should contact the ELA team for support in navigating this change.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

New Teacher of the Year: Informational Overview for Candidates

Please share with coordinators and new TOY system-level winners.

School systems may select up to three new teachers (one for elementary, middle, and high school each) to move to the state competition. State candidates must submit their applications in the New Teacher of the Year [online application portal](#) by January 24.

The LDOE will host two optional calls to support teachers as they prepare their state-level applications and navigate the [online application portal](#).

- **Webinar Date/Time:** December 11 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99391308976?pwd=czXOblVo1uxAR2afGsoW3W0HOBuJWL.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 993 9130 8976
- **Passcode:** 777918
- **Phone:** 346 248 7799

- **Webinar Date/Time:** January 15 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92085647820?pwd=GiP82O4HKmZrFEXxYRy2XexgeRdaou.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 920 8564 7820
- **Passcode:** 121463
- **Phone:** 346 248 7799

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with any questions.

Aspiring Educators Attending 2025 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with system leads and teachers.

The LDOE has limited funding to help offset the costs of sending high school aspiring educators to the Teacher Leader Summit. Allowable expenses for this funding include:

- Student registration fees
- Student lodging and transportation fees
- Sponsor lodging and transportation fees

Funding allocations will be based on system need and will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply for funding, complete the [application](#) by January 17 at 5 p.m.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Support

Please share with counselors, principals, and principal supervisors.

Registration is now open for in-person staffing and scheduling support designed to create dynamic, effective schedules aligned with best practices. Participants will engage in discussions, ask school-specific questions, and explore strategies to increase time for special educators and interventionists to work directly with students.

Dr. Nate Levinson and the New Solutions K-12 team will share research-supported best practices from across the nation. In collaboration with the LDOE, they have developed guidance to help leaders align practices to address Louisiana's educational priorities.

- **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 SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

2023-2024 Evaluation Close-Out in CIS

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

All 2023-2024 evaluation data for teachers, counselors, and other instructional staff should be [finalized](#) in [CIS](#) at this time. The deadline to [enter](#) or edit leader evaluations is January 31.

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.

LEADS evaluator training is available for newly hired evaluators and designated observers. [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 and Counselor 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 for participating in this training.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) Upcoming Support Webinars

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

The LDOE will host two webinars for system leaders and school leaders on common trends and valuable tips with LES. As a reminder, [LES](#) has replaced the Compass Information System (CIS), and all 2024-2025 evaluation data should be entered into LES. Even if a system is using a legacy evaluation (COMPASS or approved alternate rubric), data is reported in LES. These webinars will be useful to all systems, regardless of the rubric being used.

LES for System Leaders Webinar

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 8 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94719920144?pwd=G0vvvtlpZ2briAxb95sl0iBAI2WkRA.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 947 1992 0144
- **Passcode:** 503528

LES for School Leaders Webinar

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 9 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98570292306?pwd=EkoSuptyzcMqrmzNLhljvNf02gapE2.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 985 7029 2306
- **Passcode:** 829512

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes/System Leader Regional Collaboration

Please share with school and system leaders.

Session 3 of [School Support Institutes](#) (SSI) and [System Leader Regional Collaborations](#):

- **Jan 28: Monroe** - ULM Bayou Pointe, 1 Warhawk Way
- **Jan 29: Shreveport** - Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo Street
- **Jan 30: Lafayette** - ULL Student Union, 620 McKinley Street
- **Feb 4: New Orleans (Kenner)** - Pontchartrain Convention Center, 4545 Williams Boulevard
- **Feb 5: Baton Rouge** - Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge, 4728 Constitution Avenue

SSI participants are asked to bring their Teacher Collaboration cycle long-range plan to session 3.

Please contact SSIsuport@la.gov with questions or changes in registration

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

New LDOE Website Launching Soon

Please share with school and system leaders.

Later this month, the LDOE is planning to launch a new and improved website at www.louisiana.doe.gov, replacing the current site at <https://louisianabelieves.com/>. This year-long project was undertaken to create a more user-friendly platform, improve public access to information, and enhance the overall user experience. Please watch for this upcoming change and contact the LDOE communications team with any questions or concerns.

Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Date Change: January System Leaders Call

Please share with school and system leaders.

Please note that the date for the January System Leaders Call has been changed:

- **Date and Time:** January 17 at 9 a.m.
- **Zoom Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92911036388?pwd=PMsYm5zvVfzfivPazlZGR0Uibybyb9SL.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 929 1103 6388
- **Passcode:** 783795
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Dial-in Passcode:** 783795

Please contact sabre.masters@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA)

Please share with counselors, teachers, students, and system leaders.

FBI New Orleans, Tulane University Police Department, and the Louisiana Chapter of the FBI National Academy are proud to announce the introduction of the 2025 Future Law Enforcement Youth Academy (FLEYA) to Louisiana. Two of the nation's most notable and iconic institutions will conduct law enforcement and legal training for selected youth from Louisiana.

The FLEYA training program will be a FREE weeklong overnight camp exposing students (15 to 17 years of age) to federal, state, and local law enforcement practices. This joint effort promotes law enforcement career paths by giving the selected youths an inside look at the various procedures and techniques taught by subject matter experts and agency instructors. Tulane's Uptown campus will serve as the home base for an academic environment with the premier atmosphere to encourage students to pursue higher education and careers in law enforcement.

FLEYA Eligibility Criteria

- United States citizen residing in the state of Louisiana
- Currently enrolled in a Louisiana high school
- 15 to 17 years old at the time of FLEYA, which will be held June 1-6
- Minimum GPA of 2.7
- Must be present each day of the FLEYA program

A [completed application](#) in entirety and essay must be submitted in PDF form to LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov. No Google Docs or applications requiring a password to access will be accepted. This program is only for current high school students. Students graduating from high school in the spring of 2025 are not eligible.

Please contact LouisianaFLEYA@fbi.gov with any questions.

Alternative Education Submission Portal

Please share with school system leaders and AE site supervisors.

The [2025-2026 AE Submission Portal](#) will open on December 12 for all school systems seeking AE authorization based on one of the following conditions:

- Verify an existing AE school or program site
- Make a change to an existing AE site
- Apply for a new AE school or program site

The submission portal closes on January 30.

Please contact terran.perry@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Charter School Program Grant Application Cycle

Please share with charter school leaders, new charter applicants, and system leaders.

The Office of School Choice is pleased to announce a winter/spring CSP grant application cycle with the below timeline. This application cycle is open to those charter groups that have already been authorized either by BESE or their local district and those seeking local authorization with anticipated approval in January.

Important deadlines associated with this cycle include:

- **January 14** - Letter of Intent due
- **February 3** - Eligibility Determination Form due
- **March 12** - CSP Subgrant Application due

Organizations submitting a Letter of Intent will be invited to Technical Assistance Webinars before the Eligibility Determination Form due date.

Please contact csprgrant@la.gov or tammy.morgan3@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

ACT/WorkKeys

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

WorkKeys score reports will arrive in districts the week of December 17.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Deadline for Alternate Assessment Eligibility Determinations

Please share with school leaders, special education supervisors, and testing coordinators.

The last day to establish and record eligibility for LEAP Connect and ELPT Connect on IEPs in eSER is January 10. Students who do not meet eligibility and who participate in alternate assessment may negatively affect accountability outcomes for schools and systems.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.