

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: December 17, 2024

In This Issue

[Message from the Superintendent](#)

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations](#)

[Career and College Readiness](#)

[School Choice](#)

[School System Relations](#)

[Assessment and Accountability](#)

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana K-3 students showed encouraging gains on the literacy screener administered at the start of this school year. Reading proficiency is up when compared to last year's beginning of year screener and when looking at how students fared as they advanced from one grade to the next.

You can find our [release](#), the [2024 Fall Reading Report](#), and [school system data](#) online. Here are some of the highlights.

- The overall K-3 proficiency rate is up 2.3 percentage points.
- First grade improved by 4 points, second grade by 3.8, and third grade by 2.4.
- Student cohort data increased by 9.3 percentage points, with last year's kindergarteners leading the way.
- Last year's kindergarteners improved by over 20 points this year as first graders, last year's first graders improved by 8.6 points as second graders, and last year's second graders improved by 3.3 points as third graders.

Louisiana students are benefitting from quality instruction, sound policy, and a return to basic fundamentals like phonics. We're seeing encouraging growth and must take advantage of this opportunity to continue aligning our state around what we know is best for students and teachers.

With Christmas and New Year's coming up the next two weeks, this will be the final newsletter until January 7, 2025. On behalf of everyone at the Louisiana Department of Education, I'd like to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- 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.](#)
- EdLink Weekly Office Hours: [January 7 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [January 7 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [January 8 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [January 8 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [January 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar: [January 9 at 1 p.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.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [January 27 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 29 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- CSI/TSI Plan Application Opens in eGMS: January 6
- K-3 Literacy Mid-Year (MOY) Screening: December 1-31
- Educator Background Credentialing Call: [December 18 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Bayou Bridges Unit 4 Slide Decks Available: [December 19](#)
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)
- IAT Recruitment Needs Due: [January 15](#)
- 2025-2026 Super App (competitive portion) Deadline: January 23
- New Teacher of the Year Application Deadline: [January 24](#)
- Standards for ELA and Math Review Committee Applications Deadline: [January 27](#)
- 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](#)
- CSI/TSI Plan Submission Deadline in eGMS: May 2
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Louisiana Student Standards for ELA and Math Review: Committee Applications Now Open

Please share with curriculum leaders, schools, and school systems.

The LDOE will review the state's student standards for Math and English Language Arts (ELA). The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved the review process during the December meeting, and the [standards review committee application](#) is now open. Louisiana teachers, administrators, school system staff, higher education faculty, parents, and community members are encouraged to apply. Participation requires attendance at regular in-person meetings scheduled from April through July. Funding is available for participants traveling long distances.

All interested educators and community members should apply by 8 a.m. on January 27. Please share the [application](#) with potential participants.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Assessment Rubric Training

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

The LDOE has provided resources for teacher training on the new Social Studies LEAP Assessment Rubric. This training will assist teachers in norming and scoring writing samples and adapting questions in the 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](#) 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.

Social Studies Office Hours

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

Join the LDOE social studies team on January 8 at 3:15 p.m. to receive additional support with the [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 8 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92800306323?pwd=eObx7y79EwbnVD70GfK2nHap7GN7qV.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 928 0030 6323
- **Meeting Passcode:** 644638

Please see the [2025 Social Studies Office Hours](#) flyer for future dates and topics.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Fast Track ESL Add-On

Please share with EL departments, instructional coaches, principals, and teachers.

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an ESL Add-On credential. Please complete the 2024-2026 Early Interest Survey to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

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

Webinar Series: Writing IEPs That Support Instructional Best Practices

Please share with educators, special education leaders, and related service providers.

The LDOE has partnered with New Solutions to offer a three-part webinar series that focuses on the incorporation of the Special Education Playbook and best instructional practices into a student's IEP.

Registration is required. Participants may use the below webinar link to register.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 19 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtcOGspzluGdKxLI3b-UoaOUjy90Yj0Emg>

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) Getting Started Guide

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

The Louisiana Educator Support (LES) [Getting Started Guide](#) is now available and serves as a resource for educators to access and set up their LES accounts. The guide also provides frequently asked questions that will help systems as they navigate the new systems.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Removes \$25 Credential Clearance Processing Fee for Certification

Please share with system leaders, school leaders, human resources directors, teacher preparation providers, educators, and teacher candidates.

The LDOE previously announced a \$25 processing and handling fee for the Credential Clearance (CC) application, applicable to certification applicants without a criminal background check (CBC) on file and run in the past five years.

Applicants will not be required to pay a fee to the LDOE when submitting their Credential Clearance (CC) application packet. All other certification fees will remain the same as outlined on the [Certification Fee chart](#). The previously communicated fees associated with the criminal background check for the vendor, state police, etc., also remain the same.

Please contact educatorclearance@la.gov with questions.

Educator Background Credentialing CBC for Certification Roll-Out

Please share with educators, human resources directors, school leaders, system leaders, teacher candidates, and teacher preparation providers.

As January 1 approaches, the process requiring a CBC for issuance, renewal, or modification of a credential is coming into focus. Please join an informational webinar on December 18 to learn more. The steps for obtaining a CBC prior to applying for certification and how it has been integrated into the application process will be discussed. Time will be permitted for participant questions and feedback.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 18 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97570516599>

Please contact educatorclearance@la.gov with questions.

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 one more optional call to support teachers as they prepare their state-level applications and navigate the online application portal.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 15 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92085647820?pwd=GiP82Q4HKmZrFEXxYRv2XexgeRdaou.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 920 8564 7820
- **Passcode:** 121463
- **Phone:** 346 248 7799

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

Aspiring Educators Attending 2025 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with pre-educator pathway coordinators, school leaders, 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 questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

R.S. 17:2122 Reporting

Please share with system leaders.

R.S. 17:2122, as enacted by Act 641 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, requires each school board to submit a report to LDOE no later than December 31, 2024. [The report form](#) must be completed at least once for each public school district, including public charter schools. Locally authorized charters should report through their authorizing boards.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Unity Certified User Training

Please share with CTE supervisors and school system leaders.

Unity is a widely used platform for developing and managing games and other interactive, real-time 3D (RT3D) content. Spanning 2.5 months, the Unity Certified User training will take 15 educators in Louisiana through a technical learning journey. Upon successful completion, participants will have an opportunity to earn the industry-recognized Unity Certified User certificate and the opportunity to bring Unity into the classroom.

To register for Unity Certified User training, contact Justin Dedden at justin.dedden@la.gov. The submission portal will close on January 30. Training will be held on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. from February 11 until April 22.

Please contact justin.dedden@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Charter School Program Grant Application Cycle

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

The Office of School Choice is pleased to announce a winter/spring CSP grant application cycle 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.

Local Authorizer Reporting Timelines

Please share with school and system leaders.

Local school boards who have received an application for a Type 1, 3, or 3b charter during the 2024-2025 Annual RFA Cycle are required to consider all applicants by January 17. The deadline to notify the LDOE of decisions regarding the approval or denial of received applications is January 31.

Notification of local school board decisions may be submitted through the [Application Determination Notice](#) form.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Annual RFA Informational Session

Please share with LEA charter authorizers and school system leaders.

The Office of School Choice will continue to host informational sessions for interested applicants. Informational sessions will be offered three times during the month of January and are designed for applicants interested in applying as a Type 2, 4, or 5 charter.

All sessions are scheduled for 10 a.m. Please utilize the [registration form](#) for the below available dates:

- January 9
- January 16
- January 23

Please contact jade.gambino@la.gov with questions.

Local-Authorizer Monthly Call

Please share with school and system leaders.

- **January Topic:** Applications and Public Meeting Requirements
- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 8 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92929487417?pwd=ZUIRTVc2Q1MyNGp2a2pabTdaSk9vQT09#success>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 470 250 9358
- **Meeting ID:** 929 2948 7417

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Louisiana's Teacher/Principal of the Year Applications: Due January 15

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

Teacher/Principal of the Year applications are due by midnight on January 15. 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 must be submitted via an online application portal, which is now open. Please see below for information regarding the online portals.

- **Coordinators** are to submit the names/info of their school system level honorees (one for elementary, middle, and high) in the [Coordinator's Online Portal](#). Coordinators may refer to the [Coordinator's Online Portal Guide](#) for more information.

- **State-level candidates** are to submit their applications in the [Candidate's Online Portal](#). Candidates may refer to the [Candidate's Online Portal Guide](#) for more information.

The LDOE will host informational meetings for candidates and coordinators regarding the online portals and the application process.

Please see the details listed below:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 18 at 11:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94601797682?pwd=Q8bdyEGlpWi6OqmmOUlirOigJwu3qw.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 946 0179 7682
- **Passcode:** 960005

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 8 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97138324791?pwd=9HZhmYqlpyWS4kRX4bSEzUab4hn48N.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 971 3832 4791
- **Passcode:** 506603

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

All application materials and timelines are available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page. If any issues are anticipated or encountered when submitting applications, candidates should complete the [Online Portal Help Desk Form](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

LEAP 2025 Fall High School Testing

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

All accommodation materials must be returned to DRC by December 31. Testing coordinators should schedule the pickup with UPS no later than December 26.

The deadline to submit rescore forms for eligible students is January 3. The form must be sent to DRC using the directions found in the test coordinator manual. Fees for each assessment are listed in the directions.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Eligibility for Participation in LEAP Connect or ELPT Connect

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

Students must meet eligibility criteria to participate in any alternate assessment. The final determination must be made no later than January 10 as evidenced by the IEP in eSER. Students who participate in alternate assessments and who are not deemed eligible by the deadline will receive an achievement level assignment of unsatisfactory for each subject in school and district performance score calculations.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.