

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: December 3, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Prior to the holiday, we released [school and district performance scores for the 2023-2024 school year](#). Not only did the statewide performance score increase for the third year in a row, but Louisiana students earned their highest score under the current 150-point system. I'm grateful for the many talented educators across our state for continuing Louisiana's historic education progress.

While we should all be pleased to see scores rise, we also understand that far too many students remain below proficiency in core content areas. This is one of the areas Louisiana's revised accountability system will benefit students when it goes into effect next year. Not only will schools be rewarded for proficiency, but added emphasis will be given to ensuring all students grow academically year to year.

I hope you had a restful Thanksgiving break and returned ready to make the most of the final weeks of 2024.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [December 10 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [December 11 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Monthly Call Presentation: December 12
- CLSD 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance Call: [December 12 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [December 16 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [December 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [January 7 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- K-3 Literacy Mid-Year (MOY) Screening: December 1-31
- 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.](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit 2025 External Presenter Webinar: [December 9 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit 2025 External Presenter Webinar: [December 9 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year Applications Due: December 9
- School Health Service Provider of the Year Applications Due: December 9
- School Physical Activity Award Program Applications Due: December 9
- Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8 Webinar: [December 11 at 3 p.m.](#)
- ACT Enhancements Overview Webinar: [December 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Performance Score Appeal/Waiver Requests: December 13
- Green Ribbon Schools Application Deadline: [December 16 by 5 p.m.](#)
- Bayou Bridges Unit 4 Slide Decks Available: [December 19](#)
- Unlocking Effective Schedules Through Smart Staffing Elementary, Baton Rouge: [January 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Unlocking Effective Schedules Through Smart Staffing Secondary, Baton Rouge: [January 14 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Unlocking Effective Schedules Through Smart Staffing Elementary, Natchitoches: [January 15 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Unlocking Effective Schedules Through Smart Staffing Secondary, Natchitoches: [January 15 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)
- IAT Recruitment Needs Due: [January 15](#)
- Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit, McNeese State University: [January 23](#)
- 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](#)
- Diploma and Seal Order deadline: [February 7](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

International Associate Teacher (IAT) Recruitment

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The 2025-2026 International Associate Teacher (IAT) Program recruitment cycle is underway. Schools or school systems interested in recruiting an IAT of French, Mandarin, or Spanish should complete and submit the [2025-2026 IAT Projected Needs Form](#) by January 15 to be considered for potential teacher placements.

Please consult the [Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Guide](#) for more information on recruitment guidelines and timelines.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy 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](#).

- Gallopade International, Inc. - Gallopade Curriculum Louisiana Social Studies, Grades 6-7 (©2023)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Webinar Series - Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8

Please share with principals, special education leaders, and teachers.

The LDOE has partnered with Public Consulting Group to offer a free, four-part webinar series on supporting the science of reading. The fourth webinar in the series is titled “Focus on Improving Reading Comprehension and Written Expression”.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 11 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Cw2P-hm4TaGhLBVLkSMn1Q

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver for Public Comment

Please share with educators, special education leaders, and stakeholders.

Under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Louisiana must limit the total number of students who are assessed statewide on alternate assessments to 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the state who are required to participate in statewide assessments. The LDOE intends to seek a waiver for the 2024-2025 school year of this federal requirement that would limit the number of students in the state who participate in alternate assessments. The purpose of this notice is to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the [full waiver request](#). Please submit any public comment to LDOE at specialeducation@la.gov by December 13. If you wish to provide comment, please include your full name, organization (if applicable), and contact information. All comments are subject to public records requests.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

Please share with school and system leaders.

System leaders, teacher leaders, and postsecondary teacher preparation partners are invited to attend site visits for a day of learning and community building. During site visits, participants will have an opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work that is being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their system. Please complete the [registration form](#) to attend the event at McNeese State University on January 23.

Please contact office@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Training Modules

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

Asynchronous training modules for teachers and counselors are now available in the [Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System \(LEADS\) Public Collection](#) in the [Professional Learning Platform](#). The [Louisiana Educator Evaluation Training for Teachers](#) provides a deeper understanding of the Louisiana Educator Rubric and the evaluation process. The [Louisiana Counselor Evaluation Training for Counselors](#) provides a deeper understanding of the Louisiana Counselor Rubric and the evaluation process. The LEADS Public Collection also contains additional resources to assist with LEADS implementation.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Support Webinars

Please share with counselors, principals, and principal supervisors.

Three Staffing and Scheduling webinars will be held December 6 to assist school systems in planning and developing effective schedules aligned to best practices. The LDOE has partnered with the New Solutions K-12 team to create guidance that supports Louisiana leaders as they align practices to address Louisiana priorities.

Participants will have opportunities to engage in conversations, ask school specific questions, and learn how to get special educators and interventionists more time with students.

Registration is currently open on a first-come, first-served basis for the December 6 webinars:

- Elementary [December 6](#) at 10:30 a.m.
- Middle School [December 6](#) at 12 p.m.
- High School [December 6](#) at 1:30 p.m.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Unlocking Effective Schedules Through Smart Staffing

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

Registration is now open for in-person staffing and scheduling support in developing dynamic and effective schedules that are aligned with best practices. This event will focus on strategies to create effective schedules through smart staffing in schools. Participants will hear from experts in the field, participate in interactive workshops, and network with fellow educators. Registration is currently open on a first-come, first-served basis for the following in-person trainings:

- Elementary [January 14](#) at 9 a.m. in Baton Rouge
- Secondary [January 14](#) at 1 p.m. in Baton Rouge
- Elementary [January 15](#) at 9 a.m. in Natchitoches
- Secondary [January 15](#) at 1 p.m. in Natchitoches

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Educator Background Credentialing Webinar

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 Criminal Background Check for issuance, renewal, or modification of a credential is coming into focus. Please join an informational webinar explaining the steps for obtaining a CBC prior to applying for certification and how it has been integrated into the application process. 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.

Literacy

CLSD 2024 RFA Addendum and Rubric Released

Please share with system leaders.

The [Louisiana CLSD 2024 Request for Applications \(RFA\) Addendum](#) along with the application scoring rubric has been posted to the Literacy Landing Page. This resource will provide additional guidance and support for applicants throughout the application process. The scoring rubric will support applicants with self-assessing the strength of their proposed project.

Please contact wendy.brooks@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Work-Based Learning/Internship Teacher Coordinator Training

Please share with CTE supervisors, principals, school counselors, and secondary supervisors.

YouthForce NOLA has been approved to provide WBL Internship Teacher-Coordinator Training. The training equips educators with the knowledge and tools to design, implement, and manage effective high school internships aligned with the new Louisiana work-based learning requirements and evidence-based practices. By the end of the training, educators will have developed personalized plans to support real-world learning experiences. [Registration](#) is currently open, with the first session starting December 10.

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

ACT Webinar on Latest ACT Enhancements

Please share with administrators, counselors, teachers, and testing coordinators.

[Registration](#) is open for the ACT webinar that will detail the latest ACT enhancements. ACT experts will help prepare participants for the implementation timeline and answer any questions about changes to the test. If you cannot attend, a recording will be sent to those who register. The webinar will take place on December 12 at 10 a.m.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Graduate Diploma and Seal Order

Please share with charter schools, data coordinators, nonpublic schools, principals, and school counselors.

Please use the [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2024-2025 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the electronic form by February 7. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The LDOE will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

Please contact suzette.rabalais@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

BESE Monthly Call

Please share with school and system leaders.

The December BESE Monthly call presentation recording will be sent to all BESE schools via e-mail on December 12. Please view this recording for importation updates, deadlines, and protocols.

Please contact charters@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 [Jotform link](#).

Please contact charters@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 - State Applications Due December 9

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.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov for questions about the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year Award. For questions about the School Health Service Provider of the Year Award or the School Physical Activity Award, please contact healthyschools@la.gov.

Assessment and Accountability

School Performance Score Appeal/Waiver Request

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

Requests for an appeal or waiver of the 2024 School Performance Scores released on November 20 must be submitted no later than December 13. Requests for appeals or waivers cannot be based on data that could have been corrected during an official data certification or cleanup period. The [2024-SPS Appeal/Waiver Form](#) must be signed by the superintendent and submitted to accountability@la.gov with original signatures per direction on the form.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025 Fall High School Assessment Administration

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

The LEAP fall administration window opened on December 2 and will close on December 20. By the end of the testing window, district test coordinators must submit testing irregularities and voids to assessmen@la.gov no later than the close of the administration window. School systems should not submit forms with full PII for students.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Growth to Mastery Rosters

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

The following files are now available on the data manager ftp:

- **Growth Targets for Current Formula** The grade 3-8 roster has been updated since this summer to reflect students who are enrolled based on the new 10/1 enrollment reported to EdLink. This is the first release of the high school growth rosters, which are always held until grade 8 students matriculate to a high school site.
 - File Name: 2024-25 HS Growth To Mastery Student Roster
 - File Name: 2024 LEAP Grade 3-8 Growth Target Roster Updated Site Code
- **Growth Targets based on New 2025-2026 Formula** This roster has been updated to reflect the most current site code.
 - File Name: 2024_Revised Formula Grade 3-12 Growth Target Roster Post DataCert

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.