

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: December 2, 2025

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Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you enjoyed a restful Thanksgiving break. As we move into the final weeks of the semester, I want to thank you for your steady leadership and the work you do each day on behalf of Louisiana students.

Before the holiday, we released the 2024–2025 [School and District Performance Scores](#). Louisiana recorded its fourth consecutive year of statewide improvement and reached its highest score under the current system. This sustained progress reflects the commitment of our teachers, leaders, students, and families across the state. Thank you for continuing to push for strong instruction and greater outcomes.

This release also marked the final year of the current accountability model, which has often been criticized as outdated, difficult to understand, and misaligned with modern expectations for true career and college readiness. Beginning this school year, we will transition to our revised system — [Grow. Achieve. Thrive](#). The new approach raises expectations, simplifies how performance is measured, and places greater emphasis on whether students graduate prepared for a career, college, or military service.

I appreciate the work many of you have already begun as you review your simulated results and plan for the transition. Our team will keep providing resources, tools, and guidance to support your efforts.

Louisiana's continued progress shows what's possible when we stay focused on what matters most for students - strong academic outcomes. Thank you for your partnership as we set a new bar for educational excellence in our state.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Social Studies Office Hours: [December 3 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [December 4 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [December 9 at 2 p.m.](#)

- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [December 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [December 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [December 17 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [December 18 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- FSGR Monthly Call: [December 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [December 18 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [January 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- 2026-2027 Super App Office Hours: [January 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [February 5 at 8 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Alternate Assessment Justification Form Due: December 1
- IQWST Transition Support Call 1: [December 5 at 11 a.m.](#)
- IQWST Transition Support Call 2: [December 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Science Leader Community of Practice Webinar: [December 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- IQWST Transition Support Call 3: [December 9 at 12 p.m.](#)
- 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](#)
- IQWST Transition Support Call 4: [December 11 at 2:30 p.m.](#)
- Annual Dyslexia Reporting Deadline: [December 15](#)
- High Cost Services Round 2 Application Deadline: January 12
- 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](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

2025-2026 Science Leader Community of Practice

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

The [Science Leader Community of Practice](#) will host its next virtual meeting on December 9. The topic of this interactive session is leading strong teacher collaboration and purposeful planning in science. Please [register](#) to reserve your seat for this session and future virtual meetings.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 9 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91585512707>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 915 8551 2707

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

IQWST Tier I Archiving and Transition Support

Please share with science content supervisors and system leaders.

The Tier I review for IQWST will be [archived](#) on December 31, 2025, in accordance with [RS 17:351.1.b](#). As a result, school systems with labeled schools currently using IQWST will need to adopt alternative Tier I science instructional materials for the 2026-2027 school year.

To support school systems during this transition, the LDOE science team will host Transition Support Calls on the following dates.

- December 5: [11 a.m.-12 p.m.](#) or [1-2 p.m.](#)
- December 9: [12-1 p.m.](#)

- December 11: [2:30-3:30 p.m.](#)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions or request custom support through the [LDOE's Menu of Services](#).

Diverse Learners

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.

Crisis Prevention Institute

Please share with school leaders and SPED coordinators.

[Act 479](#) revised Louisiana’s requirements for the use of seclusion and restraint. In alignment with these updates, the LDOE has partnered with the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) to ensure districts receive guidance on the safe use of restrictive interventions, including appropriate safety practices throughout any seclusion or physical restraint event.

To support districts without currently certified CPI instructors, CPI is offering de-escalation and Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training. Eligible districts may register two staff members to become Certified Instructors.

Upcoming training sessions are scheduled for:

- December 2–4 in New Orleans and Alexandria
- December 9–11 in Lafayette and Shreveport

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

High Cost Services Round 2 Application

Please share with special education leaders and business managers.

The High Cost Services Round 2 application is now open. School systems can apply for additional funding to support their students with the most significant needs. The Round 2 application is for new students who enrolled in a school system between July 1, 2025 and September 30, 2025. The deadline to submit a Round 2 application is January 12.

For more information, review the [2025-2026 High Cost Services State Plan](#) and [overview webinar](#).

Please contact ashley.augustine@la.gov with questions.

Annual SPP/APR Indicator Monitoring Outreach

Please share with special education leaders.

Annually, the LDOE is required to analyze special education data and conduct outreach regarding outcomes for particular indicators as part of the IDEA, Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) and report these in the special education annual performance report (APR).

Results will be provided to school systems via APR outreach packets in the data management file transfer portal (DM FTP) the week of December 8. Any school system identified as noncompliant in one or more targeted indicators will be required to submit a plan of correction to the LDOE by January 9.

Additional details on this process, including the timeline, will be provided in the APR outreach packets.

Please contact iris.jones@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

LEADS Resources

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

Resources and training materials continue to be added in the [Professional Learning Platform: LEADS Public Collections](#) to support evaluation implementation and deepen understanding of the evaluation process. The following newly added modules are available for leaders.

- [LEADS Leader Module: Understanding Leading Instructional Rigor](#)
- [LEADS Leader Module: ILTs that Impact Teacher and Student Growth](#)
- [Purpose of LEADS & Creating Observation Schedules to Support the Process](#)
- [BOY Conference & Goal-Setting Process for Leaders/Counselors](#)

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Educator Newsletter

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

The LDOE publishes the LEADS Educator Newsletter, a monthly resource offering in-depth guidance on key components of the LEADS process. Each edition provides expert insights, best practices, and peer-driven strategies to support educators and leaders as they navigate the transition to LEADS.

A growing library of past editions is available and serves as a valuable reference for educators seeking resources and practical guidance.

- [View past issues](#)
- [Sign up to receive the LEADS Newsletter](#)

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Evaluation Reminders

Please share with system and school leaders.

Round 1 observations for all teachers should now be complete. For new teachers, it is highly recommended that the first observation occur within the first 45 days of the school year or hire date to ensure early coaching and support, and Round 2 observations for new teachers should be completed or well underway.

SLT meetings and goal-setting conferences should also have occurred, with evaluators reviewing and accepting SLTs in LES. Systems are encouraged to continue referencing the [LES Timeline](#) for all key tasks, requirements, and upcoming deadlines to ensure timely and accurate evaluation processes.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Evaluation Close-Out Reminders

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.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Title 1, Part A (TIA) and Title I, Part D (TID) CSPR Data Submission

Please share with federal program directors.

The LDOE must report student data for participation in Title I, Part A & D in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR).

The TIA data (SY 2024-2025) will be collected in eGMS. LEAs and charters that receive Title I, Part A must complete this request. Data must be entered for SWP, TA, Private School, and Neglected students served.

The Annual Count for Title I, Part D will be collected in eGMS (Annual Count Tab). Please complete tabs 1-3 for the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR). Data from SY 2025-2026 will be used for tabs 1-3. This request is only for state agencies/school systems that receive Title I, Part D funds (Not charter schools). Data must be submitted via [eGMS](#) by January 6.

Please contact Edeltress.Brown@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-2 Accountability

Please share with school leaders.

Guidance for the inclusion of K-2 in Accountability is now available on the [Accountability page](#) under Accountability Resources.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with any questions.

Career and College Readiness

2025-2026 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders

Please share with school counselors, principals, data coordinators, and system personnel responsible for ordering diplomas and seals.

Please use the [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2025-2026 graduates. All diploma and seal requests must be submitted through the electronic form by February 6, 2026. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The LDOE will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

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

School Choice

Charter Schools

2025-2026 Annual RFA Informational Sessions

Please share with school system leaders and LEA Charter Authorizers.

The Office of School Choice will host informational sessions for applicants interested in the Charter Request for Application process this fall. Informational sessions will be offered twice monthly and are designed for applicants interested in applying as a Type 2 or 4 charter.

Refer to the available dates below and utilize [Jotform](#) for registration:

- December 8 or 15 at 10 a.m.
- January 5 or 12 at 10 a.m.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

BESE-Authorized Charter School Submissions

Please share with BESE-authorized charter schools and system leaders.

December Submissions:

As outlined in the [Charter School Reporting Calendar](#), the following items are to be submitted in December: Website Compliance Review; Course Choice Spring Reporting; Dyslexia Reporting; SLT and Evaluator Ratings; Achieve!; High Cost Services Grant Round 2

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Request for Applications - Supplemental Funding for Charter Schools

Please share with district charter authorizers and charter school leaders.

The Office of School Choice has successfully secured an additional \$13.5 million for charter schools across Louisiana. This funding will be available to all charter schools serving K-12 students in the 2025-2026 school year. It is not limited to new, expanding, or replicating charter schools. Please see the [program description](#) and visit the [CSP Grant page](#) for more information and resources.

The supplemental funding application will open in eGMS on December 1, 2025 and close December 19, 2025.

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

2026-2027 Q2 Payment Adjustment Forms for the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities

Please share with school leaders and data managers.

The final day to submit all Q2 Payment Adjustment Forms is December 7.

Forms received after the deadline will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. As a reminder, attendance records must be included with all submissions for consideration.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Louisiana's Teacher/Principal of the Year and New Teacher of the Year Applications

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 per elementary, middle, and high school division level as their local level honorees for the following:
 - Teacher of the Year
 - Principal of the Year
 - New Teacher of the Year (with less than one year of teaching experience.)
- Submit these selections to the state-level process.

Application Deadlines

- Teacher/Principal of the Year applications due by 11:59 p.m. on January 14.

- New Teacher of the Year applications due by 11:59 p.m. on January 21.

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=82eF8HhAfDel9IDLqnGRpY451p4Dn2.1>
- **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=1DqbJGWJYRCFIbizeD54t7JsjF9TYa.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 960 6707 0050
- **Passcode:** 155548

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 7 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95263225773?pwd=gLluyWgWEKwILlQUfXaBjivHHcDilj.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 952 6322 5773
- **Passcode:** 968448

New Teacher of the Year Candidate/Coordinators Webinar:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 4 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91723047852?pwd=56uo16O23qh9D4E6yNpkRdkjqdfoqn.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 917 2304 7852
- **Passcode:** 581804

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 14 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93430089291?pwd=MOmp8m21EzJbqWpn9lDdXLHDFm7Pbf.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 934 3008 9291
- **Passcode:** 272430

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.