

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 20, 2026

### In This Issue

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Operations and Federal Programs](#)

[Policy and Governmental Affairs](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)

[School Choice](#)

[School System Financial Services](#)

### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [January 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [January 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [January 26 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [January 27 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 28 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 29 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [February 5 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [February 6 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [February 10 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [February 19 at 3 p.m.](#)

#### Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- New Teacher of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [January 21](#)
- School Support Institutes Session 2: [January 21 - 28](#)
- System Leader Regional Collaboration Session 2: [January 21 - 28](#)
- 2026-2207 Super App Submission Deadline: January 23
- English Learner Institute: [January 26](#)
- 2025-2026 Graduate Diploma and Seal Order Form Due: [February 6](#)

### Operations and Federal Programs

#### Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2025-2026 SY (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Only)

Please share with superintendents, federal program directors, special education supervisors, charter board presidents, and charter school directors.

The LDOE conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the LDOE is releasing the [second quarter monitoring schedule](#). This schedule is tentative, and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

The assigned statewide monitoring team leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to superintendents, federal program, and special education supervisors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule.

LEAs with questions about the monitoring schedule and school systems severely impacted by a disaster that are currently listed on the schedule are asked to please contact [LDOE-program.monitoring@la.gov](mailto:LDOE-program.monitoring@la.gov).

## Policy and Governmental Affairs

### **Public Notice – Application for the Ed-Flex Program**

**Please share with system leaders and federal programs managers.**

Louisiana has opted to pursue the opportunity to apply for the Educational Flexibility (Ed-Flex) Program. Participation in this program would allow LDOE to waive certain statutory or regulatory requirements applicable to one or more federal programs for local education agencies in Louisiana. Relevant personnel should review this [addendum PDF](#) and submit questions or comments to Ashley Townsend, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs, via email at [educationpolicy@la.gov](mailto:educationpolicy@la.gov) placing “Ed-Flex Application” in the subject line, by February 6.

Please contact [educationpolicy@la.gov](mailto:educationpolicy@la.gov) with questions.

## Teaching and Learning

### Diverse Learners

#### **English Learner Institute**

**Please share with english learner directors/coordinators, federal program directors, and lead EL teachers.**

The LDOE is hosting an English Learner Institute for EL directors and coordinators. The institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration is linked below for the following days:

- [January 26, 2026](#)
- [March 16, 2026](#)
- [May 13, 2026](#)

Please contact [alexandra.chenevert@la.gov](mailto:alexandra.chenevert@la.gov) with questions.

### **New Resources for English Learners**

**Please share with English Learner directors/coordinators, federal program directors, instructional coaches and teachers.**

The LDOE has five new resources to strengthen programming and instruction for English Learners. These resources provide both system-level guidance and practical tools for classroom instruction.

[Improving Outcomes for English Learners: Louisiana's Framework](#)

[Strategies for English Learners: A Guide for Novice Teachers](#)

[Manual for Special Education Referral of English Learners](#)

[Secondary English Learner Toolkit](#)

[Supporting English Learners Through the Writing Process](#)

Please contact [alexandra.chenevert@la.gov](mailto:alexandra.chenevert@la.gov) with questions.

## Educator Talent and Workforce Development

### **EDL Alternative Pathway 4 LDOE Training**

**Please share with school and system leaders.**

The EDL Alternative Pathway 4 offers a unique opportunity for current MPA, MBA, or JD holders and honorably discharged commissioned officers from the US military to obtain an Educational Leadership Certificate. To be

eligible, you must complete training provided by the LDOE and have passed the School Leadership Licensure Assessment. Interested applicants should [complete the application](#) for the Fall 2026 boot camp.

Please contact [louisianleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianleaders@la.gov) with questions about this pathway and training format.

## Teacher Leader Summit

### **Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Early Bird Registration**

**Please share with system leaders, system administration, school leaders, and educators**

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Early bird registration for Teacher Leader Summit 2026 now opens February 9 and runs through March 15. The early bird registration cost for the three-day professional learning conference is \$249. Regular registration will be from March 16 until April 12. The regular registration cost is \$299. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Be sure to check out the new Teacher Leader Summit event [website](#). The registration link will go live on the event website on February 9.

Two presenters for a session receive complimentary admission. Please wait for registration instructions via email from the LDOE events team. Those emails will be sent in early February.

**Date Extension:** Systems that still wish to pay for Teacher Leader Summit 2026 by check must complete the [Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Registration Check Submission Request form](#) to obtain pre-approval by **February 13**. For full guidance, visit the Teacher Leader Summit [website](#).

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **ACT Match/No Match File**

**Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.**

ACT Match/No Match rosters have been posted to the ftp with file name LEA Code\_2025-2026 ACT Match\_No Match Roster. Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, ACT scores will be used in Thrive indicators. All members of a graduation cohort will be expected to have a score from a nationally-recognized assessment. While students on the TOPS University pathway can use any of the assessments listed in policy to meet the indicator goal, they must have participated in ACT, CLT or SAT. Students who are on the Jump Start diploma pathway do not have to participate in ACT, SAT or CLT to meet the goal, but we encourage schools to offer this free opportunity to take the ACT to qualifying students. The LDOE will continue to absorb the cost for all grade 11 students and grade 12 students who have not tested, regardless of graduation pathway.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **LEAP Connect, ELPT and ELPT Connect**

**Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.**

The LEAP Connect, ELPT and ELPT Connect administration will be open from February 23 through March 27. All school systems must submit school testing schedules, including any alternative sites, for all assessments using the LDOE provided schedule template no later than January 23. Additional notifications will need to be submitted to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) if schedules are changed. Schools and alternative sites may be monitored on-site by LDOE staff.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **Data Sharing Agreements for Assessments**

**Please share with test coordinators, data managers, and school leaders.**

In order to provide full demographic information of students to testing vendors, school systems must opt into a data-sharing agreement. All school systems that will use the EL screener and/or administer ELPT/ELPT Connect

need to complete a new data sharing agreement with Cambium. Specific information has been shared with district test coordinators and accountability contacts. The addendum should be submitted to [ldedatala.gov](mailto:ldedatala.gov) per their direction.

- [ELPA UCLA-Cambium DSA Amendment 2025](#)
- [ELPA UCLA-CAMBIV AMENDMENT 2025 - Addendum](#) – Should be signed by the school system superintendent and submitted to the LDOE either by uploading the signed agreement to this [ELPA UCLA-Cambium Addendum Submission JotForm](#) or by emailing the signed agreement to [LDEdata@la.gov](mailto:LDEdata@la.gov)

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) or [ldedatala.gov](mailto:ldedatala.gov) with questions.

## School Choice

### Charter Schools

#### **2025-2026 Local Charter Request for Applications Cycle- Reporting Deadline**

**Please share with school system leaders and LEA Charter Authorizers.**

On January 30, local authorizers are required to report notice of board action taken on Type 1 and 3 charter applications as part of the local district timeline.

Local authorizers 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 of School Board Meeting
- School Board Action Taken
  - If Approved: Proposed Opening Date

Information regarding applicants being considered may be submitted to the LDOE using the [Jotform](#).

Additionally, local authorizers are required to notify each state senator and state representative in whose district the charter school is to be located whether the proposal was approved or denied in the form of postal and electronic mail.

#### Upcoming Key Dates for Local Authorizers

- January 29: Deadline to consider charter applications
- January 30: Deadline to notify LDOE of local board recommendations

Please contact [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov) with questions.

#### **Charter School Program Grant Application (Year 4)**

**Please share with charter school leaders, charter management organizations, and charter developers.**

The next CSP Application cycle has been adjusted and will follow the timeline below. Information is available on the [CSP Grant page](#). Charter schools that have already been authorized to open, expand, or replicate, or will be, by August 20, 2026, are eligible to apply during this cycle. Newsletter entries will provide reminders as the cycle approaches.

#### **Year 4 - CSP Subgrant Application Cycle - 2026 Timeline**

- CSP Letter of Intent - Due July 30
- CSP Eligibility Determination Form - Due August 20
- CSP Subgrant Application - Due September 6

Please contact [cspgrant@la.gov](mailto:cspgrant@la.gov) or [tammy.morgan3@la.gov](mailto:tammy.morgan3@la.gov) with questions.

## School System Financial Services

### **Special Education Camera Maintenance Allocation**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

The allocation for SpEd camera maintenance provides for payments to assist school systems with maintenance costs associated with the purchase of cameras for special education classrooms. Allocations for SpEd camera maintenance were released on January 16, to school systems. This funding should be coded to a restricted fund and utilized for the intended purposes of maintaining special education cameras only. Unspent funds should remain in the restricted fund and be labeled as fund balance.

Please contact [schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

### **Mentor Teacher Stipend Payments**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

Per the FY 2025-2026 Minimum Foundation Program formula, a stipend of \$2,000 will be provided for teacher mentors serving as assigned mentors of record, responsible for supporting undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents. Apart from the regular MFP monthly payment, a separate payment is being processed and should be released by February 16. FAQs and payment information are posted in the MFP Library.

Please contact [LDOEmfphelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOEmfphelpdesk@la.gov) with payment-related questions or [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with participation and qualification questions.