

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 27, 2026

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

For the second time this school year, Louisiana had the honor of welcoming U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon.

She first visited in August to launch her [Returning Education to the States Tour](#), highlighting our state-led efforts to improve academic outcomes. She returned last week for one of the first stops on her new [History Rocks! Trail to Independence Tour](#), focused on elevating civics education ahead of America's 250th anniversary.

Governor Landry and members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education joined us at Sophie B. Wright High School in New Orleans for a civics-themed celebration and student game show. The day continued with a special ceremony at The National WWII Museum, where Louisiana students were honored for academic achievement, leadership, and service.

Louisiana continues to set a national standard for how states can elevate civics education. We've adopted the [Freedom Framework](#) for K-12 social studies, implemented a required high school civics exam, created a [civics diploma endorsement](#), and launched [Celebrate Freedom Week](#). This spring, all Louisiana graduates will receive a special [America 250 diploma seal](#) to mark our nation's semiquincentennial.

Thank you for the work you do each day to make this possible. Together, we'll keep moving Louisiana forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 28 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 29 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [February 2 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [February 3 at 3 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.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [February 11 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [February 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Education Technology Monthly Call: [February 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [February 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [February 19 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [February 26 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- School Support Institutes Session 2: [January 21 - 28](#)
- System Leader Regional Collaboration Session 2: [January 21 - 28](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [February 4 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- 2025-2026 Graduate Diploma and Seal Order Form Due: [February 6](#)
- Science Leader Community of Practice Webinar: [February 13 at 9 a.m.](#)

Policy and Governmental Affairs

Public Notice – ESEA Waiver

Please share with system leaders and federal programs managers.

Louisiana has opted to pursue a waiver of provisions in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act related to a consolidated funding allocation for the administration of federal programs. Relevant personnel should review this [draft waiver request](#) and submit questions or comments to Ashley Townsend, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs, via email at educationpolicy@la.gov, placing “ESEA Waiver” in the subject line, by February 13.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Legislatively Required Submission of Information

Please share with system leaders.

Three acts passed during the 2025 Regular Legislative Session require LEAs to submit certain information to the LDOE.

- [HR 346 \(2025\)](#) requires LEAs to report plans for current and anticipated vacant school properties for the 2025-2026 school year. This information was to be submitted by traditional and charter system leaders by December 31, 2025, using this [Jotform link](#).
- [Act 103 \(2025\)](#) requires traditional and charter submission of updated policy providing for parent access to instructional materials, including online access and a reasonable fee schedule. An electronic copy or digital link must be emailed to educationpolicy@la.gov by January 31, 2026.
- [Act 479 \(2025\)](#) requires traditional and charter submission of updated policy related to cameras in certain special education classrooms within ten days of revision. An electronic copy or digital link may be emailed to educationpolicy@la.gov, and the updated requirements are effective on February 1, 2026.
- [Act 479 \(2025\)](#) requires traditional and charter submission of revised policy regarding the use of seclusion and restraint for students with exceptionalities. This will be collected along with the reports from local special education advisory councils and is due by May 31, 2026.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Schedule Update: SSI & System Leader Regional Collaborations Session 2

Please share with system and school leaders

The Monroe and Shreveport cohorts for session 2 of the School Support Institutes and System Leader Regional Collaborations have been rescheduled due to weather conditions.

New dates are as follows:

- March 4: Shreveport/Bossier
- March 5: Monroe

Event [locations and all other details](#) will remain the same.

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Academic Content

Limited Seating Available: Computer Science Implementation Regional Tour

Please share with CTE supervisors, STEM supervisors, and system leaders.

The LDOE is hosting Computer Science Implementation regional tour sessions to support school system leaders in developing a comprehensive K-12 computer science implementation plan. The session will guide participants through developing effective, system-level implementation strategies using state supports and key resources available in the [Louisiana K-12 Computer Science Education Plan](#).

In-person sessions are scheduled for the dates and locations below. Specific location details are included in the registration links below:

- February 5: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in East Baton Rouge Parish - [Registration](#)
- February 24: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in Bossier Parish - [Registration](#)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

Louisiana Achievement in Numeracy Act (LANE)

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

Per [Act 260 \(2023\)](#) and [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#), all K-8 math teachers must complete an LDOE-approved numeracy course. School and system leaders must collect proof of completion from all new hires teaching these grades. An optional numeracy course for high school math teachers is also available.

Teachers can access courses through the 2025-2026 school year, and system contacts have received the course codes. For more information, see the [Guidance and Framing](#) document on the [Louisiana Math webpage](#). Systems should actively support teachers in meeting these requirements. Numeracy leaders are invited to join monthly office hours on February 11 at 9 a.m.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Math Challenge

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

The LDOE is excited to invite math educators to participate in [Zearn's Louisiana Math Challenge](#). This challenge provides a collection of kits filled with resources designed to motivate students and celebrate their achievement as they complete at least three grade-level Zearn lessons each week. Visit [Zearn's Louisiana Math Challenge](#) webpage to see how schools across the state are celebrating student success and to download challenge materials to use in the classroom.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

English Learners Institute

Please share with English Learner directors/coordinators, federal program directors, and lead EL teachers.

The LDOE will host English Learners Institutes for EL directors and coordinators. The Institute provides essential information and updates related to English Learners. Registration is linked below.

Please note that the January 26 session was rescheduled to Friday, February 6.

- [February 6](#)
- [March 16](#)
- [May 13](#)

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

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Connect/ELPT Testing

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

Materials for upcoming LEAP Connect and ELPT/ELPT Connect testing will arrive in school systems on the following dates. Any additional materials needed can be ordered through the school system DTC as directed in the test coordinator manuals. All materials should be inventoried and all secure items must be stored in a secure area with limited access. The testing window for both assessments will begin on February 23 and close on March 27.

February 5: LEAP Connect materials arrive in districts

February 6: LEAP Connect additional materials ordering window opens in DRC INSIGHT

February 6: ELPT and ELPT Connect materials arrive in districts

February 9: ELPT and ELPT Connect additional materials ordering window opens in TIDE

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

2025-2026 CDF Mid-Year Expenditure Report

Please share with school system leaders and CTE supervisors.

The [2025-2026 Mid-Year Career Development Fund \(CDF\) Mid-Year Expenditure Report](#) is available for school systems to complete. The deadline to report on 2025-2026 CDF mid-year expenditures is February 20. School systems should reference the [2025-2026 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#) when completing the form.

CDF funds support increased student access to high-value Career and Technical Education courses and training. CDF funds are 6% of the MFP State and Local Base Cost Per Pupil (\$241) provided for each qualifying student course enrollment in grades 9-12.

Please contact bonnie.lefort@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

BESE Authorized Charter School Submissions

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

As outlined in the [Charter School Reporting Calendar](#), the following items are to be submitted in February:

- Diploma & Seal Orders
- Board Meeting Calendar
- International Associate Teacher Program
- Course Choice Spring Reporting

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

NCSC26 Registration

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

NCSC26 registration is now open. Register before Mardi Gras (February 17) to catch early bird pricing.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Annual RFA Application Cycle for Type 2 & 4 Charters

Please share with school and system leaders.

The 2025-2026 Annual RFA Application Cycle for Type 2 and 4 charters slated to open August 2027 will open February 2, 2026. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements listed in LA Bulletin 126, §503.

Application deadlines:

- February 9 (by 5 p.m.): Letters of Intent due (email to charters@la.gov)
- March 9 (by 5 p.m.): Eligibility Determination forms due (email to charters@la.gov)
- March 30 (by 5 p.m.): Submission deadline for the full application for Types 2 and 4 applicants (email to charters@la.gov)
- August 18: BESE considers applications for Type 2 and 4 new charter schools

Note: Applicants must meet each of the listed deadlines to be permitted to move to the next component of the application cycle.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Louisiana School Custodian Named National RISE Award Honoree

Please share with educators, school and school system leaders.

On January 22, the U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon named Donella Wagner, Head Custodian at Raintree Elementary School in St. Mary Parish Public Schools, as the [2026 National Recognizing Inspiring School Employees \(RISE\) Award honoree](#). The RISE Award is the nation's highest recognition for education support professionals.

Wagner was selected from a national pool of nominees representing more than 20 states and jurisdictions. With more than 27 years of service, she is recognized for her dedication to students, her school, and the broader Baldwin community.

Congratulations to Donella Wagner on this well-deserved national honor!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.