

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 6, 2026

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to spend meaningful time with loved ones and returned from the holiday season rested and recharged.

The start of a new calendar year often brings reflection and resolutions. It's a fresh opportunity to reset, rebuild, and look ahead. In Louisiana education, we don't need a new direction. We need to double down on what is working.

The past year was one of historic academic progress for our state. The Nation's Report Card and the Education Recovery Scorecard affirmed what we already knew: Louisiana's back-to-basics approach is driving real results for students.

As we begin 2026, don't be distracted by shiny new things. Let's refine our focus on foundational academics and help every student graduate prepared for a career, college, or service. If you are just getting started, now is the time to build a strong foundation. If you have laid that foundation, shift your focus to doing the work even better—for the teachers you support and the students you serve.

I'm excited to move forward with you in 2026.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [January 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [January 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- 2026-2027 Super App Office Hours: [January 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [January 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [January 14 at 11 a.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [January 14 at 2 p.m.](#)
- 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.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 28 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

- 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](#)
- International Associate Teacher (IAT) Program Recruitment Needs Due: [January 15](#)
- 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](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Funding Year 2026 E-Rate

Please share with educational technology and E-Rate supervisors.

The Funding Year 2026 [E-Rate Productivity Center \(EPC\) administrative window](#) closes January 16. All applicants should have their profiles and enrollment data up to date before the window closes and profiles are locked.

The Funding Year 2026 filing window will open on January 21 and will close on April 1.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

International Associate Teacher (IAT) Recruitment

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The 2026-2027 International Associate Teacher (IAT) Program recruitment cycle is coming to a close. Schools or school systems interested in recruiting an IAT should complete and submit the [2026-2026 Requested 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.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

LEADS Evaluation Training

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

All designated observers and evaluators are required to attend training and pass the annual certification assessment prior to conducting observations and/or evaluations. [Registration](#) is now available for summer and fall 2026. Encourage newly appointed/hired observers and leaders to register. Additional slots are also available for the Louisiana Educator Rubric and Evaluation Training offered [February 9-11](#) at University View Academy.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Dyslexia Core Assessment Support Program – Portal Now Open

Please share with school leaders, special education coordinators, counselors, and teachers.

The Dyslexia Core Assessment Support Program application portal is now open, allowing families of students identified as “at risk” for dyslexia to apply for up to \$500 in reimbursement for a dyslexia core assessment completed by an LDOE-approved provider.

The [Dyslexia Core Assessment Support Program](#) webpage includes additional program details, the application portal link, and a helpful [parent overview flyer](#) that explains eligibility, the application and process and next steps.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

K-2 Knowledge Unit and Lesson Preparation Protocols

Please share with system and school leaders.

New K-2 Knowledge [Unit](#) and [Lesson](#) Preparation Protocols are now available to support high-quality, knowledge-building instruction. The protocols provide a clear process for preparing units and lessons using HQIM and include a two-phase lesson preparation structure that builds readiness and deepens teacher expertise over time. These tools help ensure intentional, text-based instruction that supports vocabulary, language development, and comprehension.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

K-2 Skills Unit and Lesson Preparation Protocols

Please share with system and school leaders.

New K-2 Skills [Unit](#) and [Lesson](#) Preparation Protocols are now available to support high-quality foundational skills instruction. The protocols provide a clear process for preparing units and lessons using HQIM and include a two-phase lesson preparation structure that builds readiness and deepens teacher expertise over time. These tools help ensure systematic, explicit instruction aligned to student needs.

System and school leaders are encouraged to explore implementation of the K-2 Knowledge and Skills Unit and Lesson Preparation resources within ILT and Teacher Collaboration structures.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Grade 3 Instructional Preparation and Tiered Support Course

Please share with system and school leaders.

The LDOE has released a new Grade 3 Instructional Preparation and Tiered Support Course to strengthen planning and instructional decision-making in Grade 3 ELA. A total of six modules will be available within this self-paced course guiding teachers through lesson preparation, assessment data analysis, and intervention to ensure instruction meets the needs of all learners. The course can be found on the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#) with course code 15E4719D.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

3-12 Literacy Extension In ELA

Please share with system and school leaders.

A new [Literacy Extension Guidance document for grades 3-12](#) is now available. This resource supports teachers in planning intentional extensions during core instruction and intervention blocks for students who have already met proficiency. It provides practical ways to deepen learning within existing HQIM lessons while keeping lesson learning objectives constant.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@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 an informational session for applicants interested in the Charter Request for Application process this fall. The final informational session held prior to the Annual RFA Process will be offered and is designed for applicants interested in applying as a Type 2 or 4 charter.

Registration is available via [Jotform](#) for the January 12 session at 10 a.m.

Please contact 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, 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 or tammy.morgan3@la.gov with questions.

BESE Authorized Charter School Submissions

Please share with BESE Authorized charter schools and system leaders.

January Submissions:

As outlined in the [Charter School Reporting Calendar](#), the following items are to be submitted in January: 3rd Quarterly Waitlist Report; International Associate Teacher Program; Principal/Teacher of the Year Applications Due; Outstanding School Support Employee Applications Due; CDF MOY; Course Choice Spring Reporting; CIS Evaluation Deadline; Quarter 2 Financial Report; PERs

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

Nonpublic School Contact Information

Please share with school leaders.

Each school must complete the [Nonpublic Contact Update Form](#) to update the Office of School Choice contact list. Completing this form ensures schools receive all official communication and remain in compliance as a BESE approved school.

Please contact transcripts@la.gov with questions.

School Choice Program

Please share with school leaders.

The Office of School Choice will host two informational webinars for the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities for the 2026-2027 application cycle, one for schools and one for families.

Participating Schools Webinar: This webinar is for schools participating in the School Choice Program.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 29 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97553450195>
- **Meeting ID#:** 975 5345 0195

Parents and Families Webinar: This webinar is for parents of continuing and prospective students who are participating in or interested in the School Choice Program.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 30 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98381384003>
- **Meeting ID#:** 983 8138 4003

Please contact transcripts@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Course Choice

Course Choice Family Awareness Campaign

Please share with system leaders, CTE supervisors, principals, and counselors.

Beginning this month, LDOE will launch a digital campaign to help families learn more about Louisiana's Course Choice program during the January–February scheduling window for fall 2026 classes. The ads will direct families to a dedicated [Course Choice Family webpage](#), where they can find additional information about course options and guidance to contact school counselors for support.

School and system teams are encouraged to review the [LDOE Course Choice webpage](#) and the parent-facing resources linked below. These tools help teams understand the program, communicate effectively with families, and provide informed next steps when questions arise. Schools may also consider linking the [Course Choice Family webpage](#) on local sites and materials so families can easily access accurate information.

Helpful Resources:

- [Course Choice School Roadmap](#): A step-by-step guide for school leaders outlining how to plan, communicate, approve, enroll, and manage payments for the Course Choice program..
- [Parent Sample Letter](#): A customizable communication template schools can send to families introducing the Course Choice program and inviting them to discuss opportunities with their child's counselor.
- [Course Choice Program Flyer](#): A one-page overview for families explaining what the Course Choice program is, what types of courses are available, and how to get started by contacting their school counselor.

Please contact coursechoice@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

The LDOE Announces the 2026 Students of the Year Regional Honorees

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The LDOE recognizes that many outstanding students are enrolled in public, nonpublic and charter schools throughout the state of Louisiana. To acknowledge these accomplishments, the LDOE, in conjunction with the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), annually honors one incredible fifth, eighth, and twelfth-grade student based on their leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship and service to the school and community.

This year, school systems across the state submitted Students of the Year candidates for the zone-level process. Regional honorees were selected through public, charter, and nonpublic zone reviews per each BESE region. From this impressive group, the LDOE is proud to announce the [2026 Students of the Year Regional Honorees](#).

From this outstanding group of students, one honoree per BESE region will be named a finalist. Finalists will be announced later in the school year and celebrated at an awards ceremony where the overall honorees, one per grade level, will be named.

For questions about the Students of the Year program, email exemplaryeducator@la.gov.

State-Level Award Applications Due in January

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

Teacher/Principal of the Year applications and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on January 14. Applications for New Teacher of the Year are due by 11:59 p.m. on January 21. All application materials and resources are available on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page.

For Teacher and Principal of the Year candidates/coordinators only, please complete the [Online Portal Help Desk Form](#) if any issues are anticipated or encountered when submitting information into the online portals.

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:** January 7 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95263225773?pwd=gLluyWgWEKwILlQUfXaBjvHHcDjlj.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:** January 14 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93430089291?pwd=MQmp8m21EzJbqWpn9IDdXLHDFm7Pbf.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, laureie.carlton@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year, or shallan.jones@la.gov with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.