

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: February 10, 2026

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Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

February is a unique time for school and system leaders. You are working to maximize student learning this school year, while also beginning to plan for the next. Decisions made now directly shape the year ahead.

As I shared during this week's [Superintendents Advisory Council](#), the work to prevent vacancies at the start of next school year begins now. This is also the right moment to take stock of how your people, time, and resources are working together in service of your priorities.

I encourage school and system leaders to focus on two areas when planning for 2026-2027.

Staffing and Scheduling: Consider whether current staffing assignments and schedules are supporting high-quality instruction.

- Are roles, responsibilities, and assignments still serving your highest priorities?
- Do schedules prioritize teacher collaboration around high-quality instructional materials?
- Is adequate time provided for students to engage in core instruction and targeted interventions?

Staffing and Scheduling Best Practices Guidance is available to support this work and can be accessed by grade band: [Elementary](#), [Middle](#), and [High School](#).

Funding and Sustainability: Examine how resources are being used to support long-term success.

- Are funds aligned to the strategies and instruction producing measurable impacts on student outcomes?
- Can dollars be shifted now to strengthen implementation of high-quality instructional materials?
- Are federal and state funds on track to be fully spent this year, including Super App, CLSD, and HDT?

Using this moment to make intentional adjustments helps ensure both a strong finish this year and a strong start to the next.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [February 11 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [February 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [February 19 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [February 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [February 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [February 19 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [February 23 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [February 24 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [February 25 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [February 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [February 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [February 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [March 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [March 6 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [March 10 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- 2025-2026 Graduate Diploma and Seal Order Form Due: [February 13](#)
- Science Leader Community of Practice Webinar: [February 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Summer Feeding Plan Survey Due: [March 16](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 3: [March 16](#)
- Non-Congregate Feeding Site Requests Due: [April 13](#)
- Summer Feeding Applications Due: [May 18](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

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

- Carolina Biological Supply Company - Smithsonian Science for the Classroom, Grade 1 (©2021)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Bulletin 1508 Guidance

Please share with special education leaders.

The Division of Diverse Learners has developed two important guidance documents to support school systems with the implementation of the updated Bulletin 1508 – Pupil Appraisal Handbook.

- [Revised Bulletin 1508 Guidance Document](#): Provides clarification and practical guidance on updated evaluation policies and procedures, with an emphasis on student-centered decision-making and continuity of services.
- [Bulletin 1508 Timeline Guidance Document](#): Offers clear direction on evaluation timelines, including considerations for evaluations in progress and those initiated during the transition period.

These resources are intended to promote consistent understanding, support compliance, and assist multidisciplinary evaluation teams in navigating updates without disrupting required timelines or services for students with disabilities.

Special education leaders are encouraged to share these documents with pupil appraisal staff, special education administrators, and multidisciplinary evaluation team members and to incorporate the guidance into local procedures and professional learning activities as appropriate.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

Please share with special education leaders, community members, and families.

The LDOE annually surveys a sample of parents on their perception of the quality of their child's special education and the quality of their relationship with their child's school. The following school systems were selected to participate in this year's survey:

School Districts:

Bienville Parish, Bossier Parish, Claiborne Parish, Jackson Parish, Jefferson Davis Parish, Madison Parish, Morehouse Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Vermillion Parish West Baton Rouge Parish, Special School District

Charter Schools:

Lake Charles Charter Academy Foundation, Inc., Crescent City Schools, LA Key Academy, Knowledge is Power (KIPP), Willow Charter Academy, Dr. Martin Luther King Charter School for Sci Tech, Lake Forest Elementary, Lake Charles College Prep, Willow Charter School, Einstein Charter Middle School at Sarah Towels Reed, Dwight D. Eisenhower Charter School, Benjamin Franklin Charter.

Special education leaders at participating school systems will receive detailed communication from the Diverse Learners team by March 1. The survey is scheduled to close July 1.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Quarter 3 Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinar

Please share with system leaders.

Offered quarterly, the Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinars are virtual opportunities for Pre-Educator Pathway/Grow Your Own System Leads to share best practices related to developing and expanding access to the Pre-Educator Pathway. All school systems are encouraged to attend regardless of current pathway status.

The Quarter 3 webinar will be held in person at the [Pre-Educator State Conference](#) at Louisiana Christian University on March 13.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Principal Survey

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

The Principal Survey will be open in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) from March 2-April 2. Each educator may submit one survey to provide feedback on the principal of their school. Once submitted, surveys cannot be edited or resubmitted. The [Principal Survey Guide for Educators](#) is available as a resource to support survey completion.

Systems are encouraged to develop a process and set an internal deadline within the survey window to ensure educator participation.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Observer and Evaluator Training and Certification Assessment

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; please encourage newly appointed/hired observers and leaders to register. Additional individuals should be trained to support coaching and serve as backup evaluators.

Following training, participants are required to take and pass the annual certification assessment to remain in “good standing.” Each spring (March), all evaluators and designated observers who were certified on the assessment for the current year will be enrolled in the assessment for the upcoming school year. Those who lapse in certification (have no score or do not pass during a school year) must attend training again prior to serving as an observer or evaluator.

System-level administrators can monitor evaluator certification by obtaining Administrator [permissions](#) to the LDOE Professional Learning Platform.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Principal Goal Setting

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

The [2025-2026 Principal Goal Setting Toolkit](#) is now available in the [LEADS Library](#). Leader goals set during the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) Conference may be revisited based on current student data and the toolkit information.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Early Bird Registration Now Open

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

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

Early-bird registration for Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is open now through March 15. The early-bird registration cost for the three-day professional learning conference is \$249. Visit the [Teacher Leader Summit event webpage](#) to register. Regular registration will be \$299 and will be open from March 16 to April 12. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

School systems can utilize the following federal funding sources for Teacher Leader Summit 2026:

- Title I
- Title II
- Title V REAP
- Title IV SSAE: Sessions about STEM/STEAM/Foreign Language/School Climate
- IDEA: Sessions about special education

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Operations and Federal Programs

Nutrition

Summer Food Service Trainings

Please share with school nutrition directors.

The Nutrition Support team will host an in-person training for SFAs interested in participating in the USDA Summer Food Service Program on February 20, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at 1201 N. 3rd Street in Baton Rouge. Please [register](#) to attend.

An additional in-person training session for returning sponsors will be offered on March 3, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the same location. Please [register](#) to attend.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov for more information.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP 2025 Spring Administration

Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.

Test coordinator and administrator manuals for grades 3-8 and high school spring administration are now available in DRC INSIGHT.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

FTP Update

Please share with accountability, assessment, and data managers.

All school performance score post-data certification rosters provided to school systems on the ftp have been moved to the Assessment folder. Please note that files posted by the AAA team are purged after six months. Contacts should download and save all post-data certification files before they are permanently removed.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.

- **February 9-27:** order non-college reportable materials for use in this test window in [PearsonAccess](#)
- **February 12-March 20:** request qualified exceptions to the deadline for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees who will test in the last test event. For more information, see [General Information on Qualified Exceptions to the Deadline](#)
 - For each eligible examinee
 - Complete the [Qualified Exception to the Deadline \(QED\)](#) form.
 - Upload form to Other Documentation in TAA
 - Verify all required documentation is complete and accurate, including the QED form, before selecting submit in TAA.
- **March 18:** Deadline to verify enrollment, complete enroll and unenroll requests and review/correct student demographic information

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice

Please share with school system leaders and LEA charter authorizers.

The Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice was developed to build the individual and collective capacities of school systems in Louisiana to authorize charters using best practices. In conjunction with the LDOE, The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) will provide participants with resources, professional development, and collaboration opportunities targeting charter school authorizing. LEA charter authorizers will attend two full-day, in-person trainings and three virtual courses aimed to enhance the expertise of local authorizers and offer ongoing development in the best practices of charter school authorization. [Register](#) to participate in the Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice beginning in March.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

Nonpublic Schools Assessment Update

Please share with school leaders and test coordinators.

All nonpublic schools serving scholarship students are required to complete all mandated assessments for students in grades K-12 by May 15. Schools should plan testing schedules accordingly to ensure full compliance with program requirements and accountability measures.

Please contact LAGATOR@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

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 for Mentor Teacher stipends is being processed and will be released on February 13. FAQs and payment information are posted in the MFP Library.

Please contact LDOEmfphelpdesk@la.gov with payment-related questions or believeandprepare@la.gov with participation and qualification questions.