

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: March 10, 2026

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

I had the pleasure of visiting Belle Chasse Middle last week to present [Plaquemines Parish Schools](#) with the [Models of Excellence](#) award for its implementation of Louisiana's [Freedom Framework](#) social studies standards and [Bayou Bridges](#) curriculum.

Plaquemines Parish Schools is showing what strong implementation looks like in practice. Superintendent Dr. Shelley Ritz and her team have paired strong curriculum alignment with clear instructional expectations, ongoing professional learning, and a literacy-based approach to social studies. Students also regularly engage with primary source documents, giving them more opportunities to analyze history through original texts.

These efforts are producing strong results, including their civics mastery being among the highest in the state. Plaquemines is providing a strong example for school systems across Louisiana as they continue strengthening social studies instruction and helping students better understand civics, history, and their responsibilities as citizens.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [March 11 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [March 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [March 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [March 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [March 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [March 19 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [March 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [March 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 19 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [March 25 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [March 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [April 7 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Spring 2026 Counselor Institute Ouachita Parish: [March 13](#)
- Summer Feeding Plan Survey Due: [March 16](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 3: [March 16](#)
- LA GATOR Student Applications Due: [March 16](#)
- Spring 2026 Counselor Institute St. Bernard Parish: [March 20](#)
- IDEA Grant Application Public Comment Due: [March 20 at 5 p.m.](#)
- Spring 2026 Counselor Institute Calcasieu Parish: [March 27](#)
- Non-Congregate Feeding Site Requests Due: [April 13](#)
- Revised Physical Education Standards Public Comment Due: [April 15 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Summer Feeding Applications Due: [May 18](#)

View our [School System Support Calendar](#) for the full schedule.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Public Comment on Revised Physical Education Standards

Please share with physical education content supervisors and teachers.

The LDOE is seeking public comment on the [revised physical education standards](#). These revised standards reflect the collaborative efforts of the steering committee and workgroups, which included stakeholders such as professional Louisiana educators, leaders from community health organizations, and university representatives. A summary of the review process and committee goals can be found in the [Physical Education Standards Overview](#). All stakeholders can review the revised standards and submit feedback through the [2026 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for PE Public Review Form](#) from March 9 at 8 a.m. until April 15 at 4 p.m.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

FFY26 Louisiana IDEA Grant Application Public Comment Form

Please share with administrators, community members, educators, and parents.

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments regarding Louisiana's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 grant application. Individuals providing comments will be asked to include personally identifiable information and may be contacted by a representative of the LDOE for additional feedback or clarification.

Please note that all written comments submitted are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be made publicly available.

Before submitting comments, respondents are encouraged to review [Louisiana's draft application](#) and the outline of proposed activities. Written public comments must be submitted through this [form](#) by 5 p.m. on March 20.

Please contact diverselearnerssupporte@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Portfolio Assessment Vendor Application Open

Please share with content leader providers and mentor teachers.

LDOE is seeking applications from qualified vendors to score portfolio assessments for the Mentor Teacher and Content Leader programs. Selected vendors will evaluate the portfolios of educators who complete an approved course of study, using LDOE-approved rubrics.

Scope of Work:

- Vendors may apply to assess Mentor Teacher Portfolios, Content Leader Portfolios, or both.
- Portfolios must be scored using the approved LDOE rubrics, following a required training provided/approved by LDOE to ensure fidelity, alignment, and inter-rater reliability.

The [application](#), which includes a list of required responsibilities, is due by April 23 and selected vendors will be notified by May 1.

Please contact mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Early Bird Registration Closes March 15

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 closes March 15. The early bird registration cost for the three-day professional learning conference is \$249. The registration link is now live on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#). Regular registration will be from March 16 to April 12. The regular registration cost is \$299. Registration will be on a first-come-first served basis.

Invoice downloads are available on the confirmation page of the registration. Attendees are responsible for providing invoices to their systems for reimbursement. Invoices now show the last 4 digits of the credit card used for payment.

A full session list with session descriptions and target audiences will be available on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#) on May 1.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Nonpublic Schools

High School Requirements and TOPS Eligibility

Please share with school leaders and counselors.

Please ensure that participating LA GATOR scholarship students in grades 8–12 are aware of their Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) eligibility requirements [here](#).

Please contact LAGATOR@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 LA GATOR Applications Now Available

Please share with nonpublic school leaders.

LA GATOR Scholarship student applications are now available and will close on March 16 for the 2026-2027 school year. Families of students currently participating in the LA GATOR Scholarship Program must log in to the Odyssey portal and renew their application during the application window to maintain eligibility.

- [Returning Students Application Portal](#)
- [Returning Students Application Guide](#)

Families of Louisiana students not currently participating in the program may submit a new application during the application window. This includes families applying for the first time and families previously placed on the waitlist.

- [New Students Application Portal](#)
- [New Students Application Guide](#)

Please contact help.la@withodyssey.com with any questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2026 Year-End Deadlines

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The deadlines noted below have been established to ensure that funding for FY26 is utilized completely. The LDOE cannot guarantee the payment of late claims, invoices, or travel reimbursements. Failure to meet deadlines risks funding availability. Responsible stewardship of funds dedicated to improving education within our state is appreciated.

- June 19: All 8g claims are due in eGMS.
- July 7: All Carl Perkins claims are due in eGMS.
- July 15: All other state and federal awards claims ending June 30 are due in eGMS.

Please contact LDOE.federalclaims@la.gov with questions.