

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: March 31, 2026

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### Message from the State Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach LEAP testing, we are asking students to “show what they know.” Their performance will help answer an equally important question for educators and leaders: Have we focused our time, resources, and efforts on the right things?

But we do not have to wait for those results to begin reflecting. The evidence is already in front of us through what we see in classrooms and what current student data tells us. That evidence can help us better understand what is yielding a strong academic return and where adjustments may be needed. Now is the time to use those insights to finish this year strong and plan well for summer and the next school year.

As you reflect, keep these three areas in mind:

- [Focus on Coherence](#): Are students experiencing clear, consistent expectations across classrooms? Are core instruction and HQIM implementation evident throughout the school day? Are your efforts aligned, or are they competing for time and attention?
- [Audit Your Systems](#): Now is a great time to self-reflect, even audit, our own systems. What materials are we using? What additional programs are accessible to students? What assessments are we administering and how are we using that data?
- [Audit Your Time and Priorities](#): How are district and school leaders spending their time and attention? Do school schedules provide enough time for strong core instruction? Are you protecting time for teaching, learning, and meaningful collaboration?

The insights you gain now should shape how you finish this year and prepare for the next. Let’s use this moment to reflect with clarity, act with purpose, and strengthen outcomes for students.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson  
State Deputy Superintendent of Education

# Important Dates for School Systems

## Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Attendance Monthly Call: [April 2 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [April 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [April 8 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [April 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [April 9 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [April 14 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [April 16 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [April 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [April 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [April 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [April 20 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [April 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [April 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [April 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [April 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Spring 2026 Mentor and Resident Funding Call: [April 30 at 1 p.m.](#)

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Non-Congregate Feeding Site Requests Due: [April 13](#)
- Aspiring Principal Fellowship Applications Due: [April 15](#)
- Public Comment for 2026 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for P.E. Due: [April 15 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Principal Survey Deadline: April 22
- Science Leader Community of Practice Webinar: [April 22 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Science Grades 6-8 Implementation Guidance Update Webinar Option 1: [May 6 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Science Grades 6-8 Implementation Guidance Update Webinar Option 2: [May 8 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Science Grades 6-8 Implementation Guidance Update Webinar Option 3: [May 13 at 1:30 p.m.](#)
- Summer Feeding Applications Due: [May 18](#)
- School Resource Officer Annual report Survey: [May 29](#)
- Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Applications Due: [June 26](#)

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

## Teaching and Learning

### Educator Talent and Workforce Development

#### **End-of-Year Mentor and Resident Funding: Overview Call**

**Please share with data managers, finance managers, human resource managers, and system leaders.**

Data collection for spring mentor compensation will take place during the 2025-2026 academic year. Please plan to attend this webinar for updated requirements for coding and reporting.

The spring 2026 Mentor and Resident Funding Call will also review the funding eligibility and process.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** April 30 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98394424582>
- **Meeting ID:** 983 9442 4582
- **Phone:** 470-381-2552

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

## **Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application Deadline April 15**

**Please share with system leaders, school leaders, and HR directors.**

The deadline to apply for the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship](#) has been extended until **April 15**.

This year-long leadership development program is designed to prepare future school leaders to become principals.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in school visits with high-performing Louisiana principals, participate in collaborative learning aligned with state priorities, and gain job-embedded leadership experiences focused on developing their instructional leadership skills.

If you are ready to grow as a leader committed to improving student and teacher outcomes, we encourage you to apply by completing the [APF Application](#). The deadline to apply is **April 15**.

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

## **Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application**

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

[Applications](#) are open for the LDOE's year-long Recruitment and Retention Fellowship until June 26.

The fellowship is for HR leaders seeking to become strategic partners in building an effective educator workforce.

Participants will receive high-quality professional learning focused on:

- Strengthening recruitment and pipelines
- Using data for workforce planning, improving hiring
- Implementing retention strategies
- Aligning human capital decisions to instructional priorities.

Fellows will collaborate with HR leaders statewide to improve workforce stability and student outcomes. More details are available in the [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Overview](#).

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

## **LEADS Principal Survey Deadline Extended**

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

The Principal Survey deadline in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) has been extended to **April 22**. LES system contacts are encouraged to check the survey dashboard to track completion per school to ensure strong participation from all educators.

The [Best Practices for Administering the Principal Survey: A Guide for System Leaders](#) is available to guide system-level planning and administration, while educators are encouraged to use the [Principal Survey Guide for Educators](#) as a reference when completing the survey.

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

## **Operations and Federal Programs**

### Nutrition

#### **Summer EBT**

**Please share with Local Education Agencies (LEAs).**

LEAs should be aware that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has developed a new Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) for the 2026 Summer EBT (SUN Bucks) program. Superintendents should have received this DSA directly from the LDH P-EBT Support email address ([LDH.PEBTSupport@la.gov](mailto:LDH.PEBTSupport@la.gov)) on Thursday, March 5. The purpose of this agreement is to securely share student eligibility data for free and reduced-price meals or other qualifying criteria, as required to determine SUN Bucks eligibility. All shared information will be handled in strict compliance with

applicable federal and state privacy laws and used solely for the administration of this program. LEAs can return the signed agreements using either DocuSign or a wet signature.

Please note, LDH has currently suspended data manager access to the Summer EBT portal for data uploads. Access will be reinstated only after the corresponding Data Sharing Agreement is fully executed by the LEA.

Please contact [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov) or [LDH.PEBTSupport@la.gov](mailto:LDH.PEBTSupport@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **Data Certification**

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

Phase I of cohort graduation data certification is now open to allow school systems to submit documentation for students who were transferred to out-of-state or approved nonpublic schools and to BESE-approved home study. Accountability contacts should complete all submissions by **April 30**.

Interest and Opportunities data certification will open on April 20 and close on May 29. This data certification is only necessary for systems with alternative schools. Schools now have the option to choose up to two documentation-based indicators. Additionally, E9 can only be selected one time.

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

## Career and College Readiness

### **Save the Date: 2026 School Safety Summit**

**Please share with school system leaders, school principals, school safety/security personnel, mental health providers, school healthcare professionals, law enforcement, and emergency preparedness partners.**

The Louisiana Center for Safe Schools, in partnership with the LDOE and the Louisiana State Police, will host the Louisiana School Safety Summit on July 7 and 8 at the Lake Charles Event Center. This event aims to provide school system leaders and staff with best practices in school safety and emergency preparedness. Registration information will be available in the coming weeks.

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

### **2025-2026 School Resources Offer (SROs) annual report**

**Please share with school system leaders.**

[Act 148](#) of the 2019 Regular Legislative Session requires that a city, parish, or other local public school system that has entered into an agreement with a local law enforcement agency to provide for school resource officers (SROs) shall annually report to the LDOE the total number of school resource officers provided to the system. Please have the superintendent or school safety coordinator complete the [survey](#) by **May 29**.

Please contact [healthyschools@la.gov](mailto:healthyschools@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 April: 4th Quarterly Waitlist Report, LEA Determination Review -Draft, SLT and Evaluator Ratings, Teacher Roster Verification for VAM, IDEA MOE Confirmation, Quarter 3 Financial Report, PERs.

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

## Nonpublic Schools

### **School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities**

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

The School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (Round 2) [application](#) will open from March 23-25.

Please note that all applicants must submit their eligibility documents to the first-choice school listed on their application by April 1.

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

## School System Relations

### **Announcing State-Level Honorees for Teacher/Principal of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year**

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

The LDOE announced the [2026 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists, the 2026 New Teacher of the Year Finalists and the 2026 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists](#). These educators and leaders are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All of these state-level honorees will be honored at the *20<sup>th</sup> Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala*, which will be held at the World War II Museum on the evening of July 25. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Please contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov) with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year, [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) with questions about New Teacher of the Year, or [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov) with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.