

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: April 21, 2026

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### Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

For over a year, we've worked with Louisiana educators to update the state's ELA and math standards. [BESE](#) approved these standards last month following a [comprehensive review process](#) that included an [open application](#) for the committee, public meetings, and a period of public comment. These revisions build on Louisiana's progress by strengthening foundational skills, clarifying expectations, and reinforcing practices that are already helping students succeed.

The [ELA standards](#), in particular, have [attracted national interest](#) for their emphasis on timeless academic principles that have benefitted students for generations. They strengthen alignment to the science of reading, provide a clearer progression in grammar, and embed cursive writing into the standards.

The [updated standards](#) will take effect in 2027-2028. We will support implementation through [regional standards institutes](#) this summer, along with continued professional learning and guidance. The updated standards will also be part of our offerings at the [Teacher Leader Summit](#) in May.

Thank you for your leadership as we continue building on the progress we've made for Louisiana's students.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [April 28 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [April 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [May 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [May 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [May 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [May 21 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [May 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [May 21 at 3 p.m.](#)

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- LEP Open for Roster Verification: [April 20](#)
- 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](#)
- Louisiana ACT Regional Conference Call for Proposals deadline: [June 5](#)
- Land of Liberty Summer Professional Learning Registration deadline: [June 15](#)
- The New Teacher Experience Registration deadline: [July 16](#)

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

## Teaching and Learning

### Academic Content

#### **Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews**

**Please share with content supervisors 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](#).

- Gallopade International, Inc. - Gallopade Curriculum for Louisiana Social Studies, Grade K (©2025)

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

#### **2025-2026 Science Leader Community of Practice**

**Please share with science content supervisors, school leaders, and science content leaders.**

The [Science Leader Community of Practice](#) will host its final virtual meeting of the 2025-2026 series on April 22. All school and system leaders are invited to attend to reflect on science instruction over the 2025-2026 school year and begin thoughtful planning for the next school year.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 22 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91585512707>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 915 8551 2707

[Register](#) now to reserve your seat.

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

#### **Social Studies Office Hours**

**Please share with social studies content supervisors, school leaders, and social studies teachers.**

The LDOE will host social studies office hours on May 6 at 3:15 p.m., featuring a preview of 2026 Teacher Leader Summit sessions and summer professional learning opportunities.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 6 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 3607 5546

See the [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#) for access to past office hours slides.

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

## **Land of Liberty Summer Professional Learning**

**Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and teachers.**

The LDOE will offer free, in-person regional professional learning opportunities to support high school U.S. History instruction on June 17 and 18.

Educators can attend half-day sessions focused on implementing [Land of Liberty: The History of the United States](#), during which participants will explore the curriculum, engage in lesson study, and plan for performance tasks.

- **Time:** Half-day sessions, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Locations:** St. Tammany Parish and Ouachita Parish
- **Registration Deadline:** June 15

See the [Land of Liberty Summer Professional Learning flyer](#) for session dates, details, and the [registration form](#).

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

## **ELA Standards Institute**

**Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, school leaders, and teachers.**

The LDOE is hosting [ELA Standards Institutes](#) in various regions of the state this summer. Registration is now open, but space is limited. Registration will close when the session is filled.

Educators in the following school systems should use the registration link provided to them by their system: Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Tangipahoa.

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

## **Educator Talent and Workforce Development**

### **LEADS Updates**

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

Following rubric and evaluation training, all observers and evaluators are required to pass an annual evaluator assessment to remain in “good standing.” Those who do not pass annually are required to repeat training prior to observing.

The 2026-2027 evaluator certification assessments are now available in the LDOE Professional Learning Platform for those who passed the 2025-2026 assessments by the March 31 deadline. The deadline for completing the 2026-2027 assessments is September 30. Systems may monitor completion by using the Admin section of the Professional Learning Platform.

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

## **The New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off Registration is OPEN**

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

The LDOE will host the [New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off](#) on July 24 from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. in Baton Rouge for 400 new teachers.

The Summer Kick-Off will take place at the Lod Cook Alumni Center in Baton Rouge, located at 3838 W. Lakeshore Drive. Registration is now open and will close July 16 or once capacity is reached, whichever comes first. [Registration](#) includes lunch and a tote bag with lots of start-of-the-year goodies.

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

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **2025-2026 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM**

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

The [Louisiana Educator Portal](#) (LEP) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analysis. The data in LEP will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies (grades 4-8), and Algebra I, Geometry, English I and English II LEAP High School courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores.

LEP will be open for roster verification April 20-May 28. This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school system and school level in the system.

The current [Roster Verification User Guide](#) is available.

Please create a ticket through the [Data System Support portal](#) for assistance with Edlink 360 submissions related to teacher and student course enrollment, or contact [LEADS@la.gov](mailto:LEADS@la.gov) with general teacher evaluation related questions.

## Career and College Readiness

### **Call for Proposals: Louisiana ACT Regional Conference**

**Please share with system leaders, school leaders, counselors, teachers, and test administrators.**

ACT would like to invite educators and the workforce to [submit session proposals](#) for the 2027 Louisiana Regional Conference, scheduled for January 26, 2027, in Baton Rouge. Sessions will be 45 minutes, with priority given to sessions that are relevant to education and the workforce, such as:

- Innovative uses of ACT programs to boost outcomes
- Leveraging AI in the classroom
- Proven test preparation strategies
- K-12, higher education, and workforce partnerships
- Engaging parents and communities.

The deadline to submit is June 5.

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

## School Choice

### Nonpublic Schools

#### **School Contact Changes**

**Please share with nonpublic school leaders.**

The Edlink Ops SPS Portal will replace the Legacy Sponsor Site application. While the new portal maintains a similar layout to Sponsor Site, it introduces streamlined functionality and an enhanced user experience.

SPS District Data Analyst will now have the ability to edit or request updates directly within the application, eliminating the need to complete Jotform requests for opening/closing schools or making changes to existing sites.

This capability is now available. Please refer to the [Edlink Ops K12 User Guide](#) for further assistance.

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

## School System Relations

### **LDOE Names Overall Honorees for Award Programs**

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

On April 15, all [School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award](#) honorees were formally recognized at the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting followed by a special celebration at the Old State Capitol sponsored by Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL).

During the event, [Richard Aaron Spring](#), a paraprofessional at Creekside Junior High in St. Tammany Parish, was named the 2026 Louisiana Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and [Lacie Thomas Fontenot](#), a speech-language therapist with Livingston Parish Public Schools, was named the 2026 Louisiana School Health Service Provider of the Year.

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