

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: May 21, 2024

In This Issue

[Message from the Superintendent](#)
[Important Dates for School Systems](#)
[School Choice](#)
[School System Financial Services](#)
[Teaching and Learning](#)

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Governor Landry, Louisiana Teacher of the Year Kylie Altier, and educators from across the state will join me Wednesday at the Capitol to unveil the Let Teachers Teach workgroup recommendations. These recommendations represent the collaborative efforts of over two dozen teachers. I tasked the workgroup with finding solutions — whether at the local or state levels — that maximize the time they spend teaching students. I look forward to sharing their recommendations and working to put them into action. You can [watch the live stream](#) tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [May 22 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [May 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [May 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Choice Office Hours: [May 23 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [May 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Choice Office Hours: [May 28 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [June 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [June 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [June 12 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [June 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [June 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [June 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [June 25 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- 2024-25 LSP Site Registration Ends: May 24
- [Teacher Leader Summit 2024](#): May 28-30, New Orleans
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31
- Final Day to Upload Final SCP Roster to FTP: May 31

- Summer Transfer Window Opens for LSP/SCP Schools: June 10
- [See the Sound](#) Visual Phonics Training Registration: June 18-19
- [School Support Institutes 2024 - 2025](#) Registration: Ends: June 21
- [System Leader Regional Collaborations](#) Registration: Ends June 21
- [The New Teacher Experience-Summer Kick Off](#): July 24
- Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds: June 30
- [2024 Louisiana School Safety Summit](#): July 10-11, **virtual event**
- Deadline for EEF recipients to submit Final 6/30 PERs: July 15
- Summer EBT Application Portal Opens: July 1

School Choice

Charter School Program Grant

Please share with charter operators, non-profit organizations seeking charter authorization, and system leaders.

The Year 2 CSP Application Cycle is open and set to follow the timeline below:

- [CSP Letter of Intent](#) due June 1
- [CSP Eligibility Determination Form](#) due October 15
- CSP Application due October 30

The RFA will be updated with minor changes in the coming week. All changes to the CSP RFA will be documented on the [CSP RFA Version History PDF](#).

Once a Letter of Intent has been received, charter groups will be invited to Technical Assistance and Q&A webinars. Please contact CSPGrant@la.gov or Tammy.Morgan3@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Scholarship Program

Please share with data managers, finance officials, and nonpublic school leaders.

Site Registration for the 2024-25 Louisiana Scholarship Program will end on May 24th.

Site Registration Reminders:

- Award notifications were sent to families via email and mail on April 29th.
- The Site Registration Roster File and Final Rosters are currently available on FTP.
 - To access scholarship families' contact information, please view your roster in SEE.
- Site Registration Roster Files are due on the FTP by 5 p.m. on May 31 at 5 p.m.

Declined Awards:

- Scholarship students who no longer wish to participate in the scholarship program for the 2024-25 school year must complete a declined award form.
- This form is NOT to be used for families requesting a transfer.
- Declined awards must be submitted to our office by May 24.
- Once a family declines the award, they will no longer be eligible to receive a scholarship for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. Once the award has been removed, it cannot be reinstated.

Transfer Awards:

- Transfer window opens June 10.
 - Scholarship students who wish to transfer to another participating school before the start of the 2024-25 school year must accept the scholarship at the original awarded school.
 - Families are required to submit a Transfer Request form to LDOE signed by the parent/guardian and a representative of the receiving school.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov for assistance.

School Choice Program (SCP) for Students with Exceptionalities

Please share with data managers, finance officials, and nonpublic school leaders.

Site Registration for 2024-2025

- Award notifications were sent out to families via email and mail on April 29.
- Final Rosters were made available on the FTP on April 29.
- All Final Rosters are due on the FTP by 5 p.m. May 31.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov for assistance.

2023-2024 Interests and Opportunities Index Timeline

Please share with data managers, finance officials and nonpublic school leaders.

All nonpublic schools (K-12) who participate in the scholarship program must complete the Interests and Opportunities survey as part of the Scholarship Cohort Index. Schools are annually required to select four different indicators from two different domains to receive a score for this Index.

The [Interests and Opportunities Menu Based Approach Guidance](#) is available in the [Accountability Library](#). Failure to meet the survey submission deadline will result in a **0** for the Interests and Opportunities Index as part of the 2024 Scholarship Cohort Index.

Indicator validations are due from superintendents or their designee no later than May 24th.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

Fast Track ESL Add-On Starts in September

Please share with instructional coaches, EL departments, instructional coaches, principals, and teachers.

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an ESL Add-On credential. The program announcement has an early interest survey due by May 31, 2024.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov, diverselearnersupport@la.gov or lavisualphonics@gmail.com with any questions.

Immunization Exemption Forms

Please share with nurses and school administration.

As per [R.S. 17: 170.4](#), any written communications with students' parents, legal guardians, and tutors concerning immunizations must include information on exemptions. The LDOE has a [Statement of Dissent from Immunizations](#) for your use on the website.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

2023-2024 SCA Final Payment (Reallocation)

Please share with school financial officials.

The final SCA reallocation will be released via the May and June budget letters, which can be found in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfhelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

High School Science Instructional Leadership Cohort

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

To support the implementation of high-quality science instruction in high school, the LDOE is hosting a high school science instructional leadership cohort. This cohort aims to support instructional leaders who are new to their role or new to science teaching and learning by providing an in-depth understanding of science HQIM and how these materials can serve as key levers to improving student outcomes in science. Interested educators should review the [overview document](#) and email STEM@la.gov to apply for a seat in the cohort.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

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

- Great Minds PBC - Wit & Wisdom, ELA Grades 3-5 (without Foundational Skills) (©2016)
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Into Reading, Grades K-2 (©2020)

The LDOE has reviewed all currently posted Tier 1 and 2 ELA curricula that include foundational skills for [Act 517](#) compliance. Cover pages have been added to the posted reviews noting the impact of the review on compliance. The materials listed below have been reviewed for compliance and posted to the [Tiered Reviews](#) web page.

- Tier 1: Center for the Collaborative Classroom - SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words), Grades 3-8 (©2020)
- Tier 3: Imagine Learning - Imagine Language & Literacy - ELA Intensive Intervention Grades 3-6 (©2019)

The [Act 517 Compliance Reviews Status Report](#) is now complete and lists all of the Act 517 compliance reviews that have been completed and titles that have not been reviewed for Act 517 compliance. For any materials not reviewed for compliance under Act 517, the Department recommends that school systems engage in a [local review process](#) using the [Act 517 Three-Cueing System Ban Guidance](#) located on the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension](#) web page.

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

ELA and Social Studies Professional Learning

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

The ELA and Social Studies content teams are hosting two summer professional learning opportunities.

ELA session topics will include supporting student fluency using the newly released FUEL resources, planning for implementation of the ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) units, and assisting instructional leaders in implementing strategies to best support high-quality instruction in their ELA classrooms. Participants will learn best practices for planning and supporting the learning for all students.

Social Studies sessions will be divided by grade band and designed to support the implementation of the Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Curriculum. Participants will learn best practices for lesson internalization, planning, and pacing.

Registration is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

- [Registration](#) for South Louisiana sessions on June 28
- [Registration](#) for North Louisiana sessions on July 29

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov or classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Fast Track ESL Add-On Starts in September

Please share with EL departments, instructional coaches, principals, and teachers.

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an [ESL Add-On credential](#). [The program announcement](#) has an early interest survey due by May 31, 2024.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

See the Sound-Visual Phonics Training Opportunity

Please share with special education leaders, special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, teachers of deaf and hard of hearing, and teachers of English Learners.

The LDOE will be sponsoring a two-day training on [See the Sound - Visual Phonics](#). Participants are required to attend and participate in both days to be officially trained to use this multisensory instructional tool that includes a system of unique hand movements and written symbols that are associated with the production of each sound. This research-based strategy can be used in conjunction with high-quality core instructional materials and is often used to support/supplement explicit reading instruction. Visual Phonics has proven successful with all students and has been the key to connecting sounds with the letters they represent for students working to master phonological awareness skills, English learners, early childhood classes, and as a quick whole group activity in kindergarten and first grade.

- **Date: June 18 and June 19**
- **Time: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
- **Location: State Library of Louisiana (Seminar Center, first floor)
701 N. 4th St. Baton Rouge**

[Registration](#) is on a first-come basis and is limited to 50 participants.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov or lavisualphonics@gmail.com with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

LEADS Resources

Please share with counselors, human resource directors, school leaders, and system leaders.

The [Louisiana Counselor Rubric](#) is now available in the [Compass Library](#). The [LEADS Informational Webinar for Counselors](#) and the [companion slides](#) are also available. Additional information is available on the [Evaluation Frequently Asked Questions List](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

The New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick Off

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

The LDOE will host a Summer Kick-Off for [The New Teacher Experience](#) for 500 new teachers. The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome teachers to the profession
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience
- Engage in professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers

[Registration](#) is now open and will close on July 12 or when capacity is reached. School systems may register their new teachers or send the registration link to new teachers for them to self register. School systems should share details about the event with their new teachers and ensure that they are able to attend prior to registering. This event is provided at no cost to systems; however, any travel costs may be covered by the school system. Registration includes lunch and a tote bag with lots of start-of-the-year goodies.

- **Date:** July 24
- **Time:** 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Location:** Lod Cook Alumni Center
3838 W. Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Pre-Educator Pathway Development & Expansion Funding Application

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

Limited funding is available for school systems that are interested in developing and expanding access to the Louisiana [Pre-Educator Pathway](#).

Systems may apply for either Pathway Development Funding or Pathway Expansion Funding. If funding requests exceed the amount of available funds, priority will be given to systems requesting Pathway Development Funding. To apply, systems should complete the [funding application](#). The funding application will be open from May 22 through June 14.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes

Please share with system and school leaders.

In 2024-2025, the Department will host [School Support Institutes](#) with a continued focus on strengthening the HQPL structures of ILT, Teacher Collaboration, and Observation and Feedback. There will be three in-person half-day sessions in regional locations in Monroe, Shreveport, Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans and a final full-day session at 2025 Teacher Leader Summit.

Registration for SSI is now open and should be completed by June 21st. System leaders supporting CIR schools are welcome to attend with their school teams and should register using the link found in the overview document.

For session dates, venue locations, and the registration link, please see the [School Support Institutes Overview](#), which can also be found on the [school improvement landing page](#).

Please contact schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov with questions.

System Leader Regional Collaborations

Please share with system and school leaders.

Following each School Support Institute morning session, the LDOE will host [System Leader Regional Collaborations](#). These half-day afternoon sessions will allow system leaders to collaborate with the LDOE and other system leaders as they learn about system leadership best practices. Topics will include:

- Building the capacity of leaders to drive impactful practices
- Louisiana's Sped Playbook: Supporting core instruction for all learners
- Effective core instruction using HQIM
- Developing and implementing strong literacy plans
- Best practices for successful LEADS transition and implementation

Registration will be active from May 28 to June 28. For session dates, venue locations, and the registration link, please see the [System Leader Regional Collaborations Overview](#), which can also be found on the [school improvement landing page](#).

Please contact schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov with questions.