

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: July 14, 2026

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Message from the State Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

As school leaders return and preparation for the new school year accelerates, now is the time to ensure you have set a clear direction for 2026-2027.

High-quality teaching and learning are the result of intentional decisions about people, direction, time, and instruction.

Here are some areas for system leaders to keep top of mind before welcoming back teachers and students over the next 3-4 weeks.

- **People:** The goal is a high-quality teacher in every classroom. Closely track vacancies and make every adjustment within your control around recruitment and retention.
- **Direction:** Clearly communicate your priorities, especially to principals. Give school leaders a few specific instructional expectations and ensure they understand what to prioritize, support, and monitor throughout the year.
- **Time:** Lift up the importance of scheduling. How are teachers and students spending their time? Plan and set expectations for adequate (curriculum required) uninterrupted time for ELA and math core instruction.
- **Instruction:** High-quality instructional materials are critical during core time. Ensure teachers have the knowledge, preparation, and support to implement HQIM.

These decisions should reinforce one another. When people, direction, time, and instruction are aligned, leaders create a coherent system that supports stronger teaching and learning.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [July 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [July 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [July 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [July 20 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [July 21 at 3 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [July 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [July 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [July 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [August 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [August 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [August 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- EdTech Monthly Call: [August 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [August 20 at 8:30 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Attendance Funding Virtual Orientation: [July 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- K-12 Science Summer Professional Learning for Leaders: [July 22, or July 27](#)
- K-12 Science Summer Professional Learning for Educators: [July 23, or July 28](#)
- Failure to Report Form (Bullying Compliance Report) deadline: [August 1](#)

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

Executive

2026-2027 System Leader Call Dates

Please share with system leaders.

System Leader Call dates for the 2026-2027 school year are now available. All calls begin at 9 a.m., with most taking place on the first Friday of the month. Each call includes high-level updates from LDOE leadership.

- August 7
- September 4
- October 2
- November 6
- December 4
- January 8 (second Friday)
- February 4 (Thursday)
- March 5
- April 9 (second Friday)
- May 7

2026-2027 System Leader Call

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99384339919>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 993 8433 9919

Please contact courtney.greathouse@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Science Instructional Planning Resources

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

The LDOE has released new Science Instructional Planning Resources to support educators and leaders in planning for high-quality science instruction. These resources are designed to strengthen curriculum implementation by supporting unit internalization, lesson preparation, and classroom observations aligned to Louisiana's vision for science instruction and the [Louisiana Educator Rubric \(LER\)](#).

New resources include:

- [Science Unit Study Tool](#)
- [Science Lesson Preparation Protocol](#)
- [Science Walkthrough Tool](#)

All resources are available on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Principal's Webinar

Please share with system level administrative teams.

The first Principal's webinar of the 2026-2027 school year will focus on important topics related to Literacy, English Language Arts, and Mathematics. Principals will receive information to ensure a strong foundation is established in literacy and numeracy for the upcoming school year.

Establishing the Expectations for Secondary ELA and Math

Webinar Date and Time: July 21 at 9 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92520334493?pwd=3sg4iPgCRt7Z1n1QGi3o5JxbLoD6tA.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 938 4889 2417

Establishing the Expectations for Elementary Literacy and Numeracy

Webinar Date and Time: July 21 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93848892417?pwd=sc3E29KymC2f4O2hK5llvzTf7qWv2z.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 938 4889 2417

Mentor and Resident Fall Data Collection Webinar

Please share with system leaders and HR directors.

The Fall 2026 Mentor and Resident Funding call will review important information related to the funding eligibility criteria and required data reporting process to ensure compensation is provided to both mentors and residents during the 2026-2027 school year. Participants will have the opportunity for questions and answers at the conclusion of the presentation.

Mentor Resident Data Collection Webinar

Webinar Date and Time: August 6 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97164622679?pwd=Mv0aZfxAqHwpuvNlj2jO6hGaYcDkS.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID#: 971 6462 2679

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Mentor Teacher Waivers

Please share with system leaders, school leaders, and Human Resources (HR) directors.

The window to complete the [Mentor Teacher](#) waiver opened on **June 15** and will remain open until **October 1**. HR leads who initiate the Mentor Teacher waiver will receive an automated email once the waiver has completed and approved.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with questions.

Principals Achieving Career Excellence - Leadership Development Opportunity

Please share with system leaders and school leaders.

The LDOE has developed a leadership cohort model designed to fit the needs of experienced school leaders (principals only). These cohorts are designed to improve the way principals lead and will be offered at no cost to participants for the 2026-2027 school year. The program consists of five meetings over several months to help school leaders develop leadership strategies aligned to their individual leadership skills. The focus is on harnessing individual strengths, maximizing time, delegating, deepening relationships with staff, and giving effective, supportive feedback. [Applications are open now](#) and will close on July 24. Please [complete the application](#) as soon as possible, as these cohorts are limited to 75 spots and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with questions about this pathway and training format.

Operations and Federal Programs

Federal Programs

FY24 ESEA Tydings Waiver

Please share with federal program directors, business managers, and superintendents.

Louisiana is requesting an FY24 ESEA Tydings waiver to extend the period for obligating federal funds. The additional time will support the state's ongoing efforts to address the lasting instructional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through evidence-based instructional strategies, targeted professional development for educators, and continued investments in literacy, STEM, and college and career readiness initiatives. Louisiana has already seen encouraging progress in student learning recovery, and the extension will help sustain and build on those gains.

LDOE is requesting the waiver pursuant to section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Review the [LA FY24 ESEA Tydings Waiver Request](#) for additional information.

Federal program directors, business managers, financial officials, and relevant personnel of public school systems should review this waiver request and submit all questions or comments by July 23.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions and comments.

School System Planning

Updated LA Student Residency Form and Referral Form

Please share with homeless liaisons and federal program directors.

During the last legislative session, [Act 628 \(2026\)](#) was passed, which requires the LDOE to add food insecurity questions to the residency questionnaire that LEAs already administer for McKinney-Vento student identification. Before students return this fall, LEAs must distribute the updated questionnaire to every K-12 student at enrollment, at any change of address, and whenever school staff or a school-based health clinic has a reasonable suspicion of food insecurity to connect any student flagged as at-risk (or their parent/guardian) with the [LDH-compiled resource information](#). The revised [questionnaire](#) and [referral form](#) are also available on the [LDOE's website](#).

LEAs should identify who (e.g., McKinney-Vento liaisons, school counselors, etc.) will receive and act on flagged

responses by building a process into enrollment and address change procedures ahead of the new school year.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions about the food insecurity resources or questions. All other McKinney-Vento-specific questions should be directed to antiqua.hunter@la.gov.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Beginning of Year (BOY) Screening

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

KITE and mCLASS are both now open for test administration preparation. School systems will not have access to actual student screeners prior to their first official day of school. The department provided the vendors with student information based on final reporting for 2025-2026 in EdLink. District test coordinators have information for how to submit grade level or demographic changes to the department.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

School Access to Louisiana Works Employment Certificate System Ends July 24

Please share with administrators, counselors, and CTE coordinators.

A new state law has shifted responsibility for issuing minors' employment certificates from schools to employers. As a result, school access to the Louisiana Works Employment Certificate System will be permanently discontinued effective July 24, 2026.

[Act 61 of 2026](#) removes the requirement that schools and school boards issue employment certificates for minors. Employers will now verify a minor's age, maintain the required documentation, and issue the certificate through the new Louisiana Works process.

If a minor presents an outdated worker's permit application at a school, please direct them to the new [employment certificate](#) or to the Louisiana Works Office of Workforce Development at 225-342-2683 or employmentcertificate@la.gov.

Please contact employmentcertificate@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2026 Mid-Year RFA Application Deadline

Please share with school and system leaders.

The application deadline for the 2026 Mid-Year RFA Application Cycle will be due July 20, 2026 by 5 p.m. CST. Applicants must submit the full application and completed overview template to charters@la.gov by the deadline.

Note: The application will only be reviewed if a Letter of Intent and Eligibility Determination form were received by the due date and the applicant received confirmation from the department of meeting eligibility criteria. Any applications submitted without adherence to the Letter of Intent and Eligibility Determination due date requirements will not be reviewed.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 26-27 Annual General Fund Budget Adoption and Submission

Please share with business managers and school business officials.

Louisiana R.S.17:88 requires that city/parish school boards submit an adopted balanced budget to the Department no later than September 30 each year. The required documents must be submitted to the department no later than the close of business on September 30, 2026. Required forms and instructions are located in the [Business Manager Support Library](#) in the section entitled **City/Parish School System Resources, General Fund Budget**.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2026-2027 MFP Formula Allocations

Please share with business managers and finance officials.

The statewide MFP formula allocation for FY 2026-2027 and the associated guidance are now available on the LDOE website. The formula documents will be located in the [MFP Library](#) under the section titled **2026-2027 MFP Budget Letter**. Specific New Type 2 Charter School MFP allocations may be viewed in the school's secure EdFin FTP sites.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

USDA Required School Lunch

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The USDA requires an annual match of state funds for the school lunch program. The LDOE is provided a total state match amount by the USDA each year that must be divided into individual school system match amounts. A memorandum explaining the requirements and the schedule for FY 2026-2027, which contains the required match for each school system, is available in the [MFP Library](#) under the USDA Required School Lunch Match Section.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

SY 2025-2026 Required Services Reimbursement Request Forms

Please share with Diocesan Superintendents, Nonpublic School Principals, and required services contacts.

The Required Services Reimbursement Request Forms for school year 2025-2026 are due to be submitted to nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov before September 30. Guidance documents and applicable forms are available at [Nonpublic School Resources](#) in the Nonpublic School Finance section.

Please contact nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 26-27 Charter Budget Adoption and Submission

Please share with charter school business managers and charter school business officials.

The FY 2026-2027 Annual Operating Budget is due Friday, July 31, 2026. If the Annual Operating Budget submitted by August 1 is not adopted in accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, submission of the budget adopted in accordance with the Budget Act is required no later than September 30.

Each school must submit an Annual Operating Budget Form via email to CharterFinanceHelpdesk@la.gov. Information about the Annual Budget submission and resources are available in the FY 2026-2027 Annual Operating Budget Memo.

Please contact CharterFinanceHelpdesk@la.gov with questions.