

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: July 28, 2026

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [July 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [August 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [August 4 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [August 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [August 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School Safety Monthly Call: [August 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [August 12 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [August 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- EdTech Monthly Call: [August 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [August 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Safety Monthly Call: [August 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [August 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [August 24 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [August 26 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Quarterly Call: [September 3 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Failure to Report Form (Bullying Compliance Report) deadline: [August 1](#)

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

Teaching and Learning

System Leader Regional Collaboration 2026–2027 Registration

Please share with system leaders.

[Registration](#) is open for the 2026–2027 System Leader Regional Collaborations. Please view the [Overview Document](#) for additional information.

Learning pathways and intended participants:

- **System Instructional Alignment:** Superintendents, CAOs, Assistant Superintendents, Supervisors of Instruction, PD Directors, SPED Directors, Principal Supervisors
- **Attendance:** Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisors, Student Services Leaders
- **High School Opportunities:** Career and Technical Education Supervisors
- **Business Managers Collaboration:** Business Managers

Session dates:

- **Monroe Cohort:** September 23, 2026 & January 26, 2027
- **Shreveport Cohort:** September 24, 2026 & January 27, 2027
- **Baton Rouge Cohort:** September 30, 2026 & January 21, 2027
- **Lafayette Cohort:** October 1, 2026 & February 2, 2027

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, numeracy 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](#) webpage. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#).

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

- AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation - Every Child Ready Pre-K, ECE Ages 3-4 (©2024)

Social Studies

- Gallopade International, Inc. - Gallopade Curriculum for Louisiana Social Studies, Grade 1 (©2025)

As part of the LDOE's support for a seamless transition to the new 2026 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, the LDOE is conducting standards alignment cover page reviews on currently posted Tier 1 ELA, ELA intensive intervention, and mathematics materials to ensure alignment to the new standards. The status of the cover page reviews can be found in the [ELA and Math Standards Alignment Review Status Report](#). The following titles have been reviewed and retained their Tier 1 status:

K-12 ELA

- Amplify Education - CKLA 2nd Edition, Grades K-5 (©2017)
- Great Minds PBC - Wit & Wisdom (without Foundational Skills), Grades K-5 (©2023)

3-12 Foundations of Reading Intensive Intervention

- Center for the Collaborative Classroom - SIPPS, Grades 3-8 (©2020)
- EPS Learning by EPS Operations LLC - S.P.I.R.E. 4E, Grades 3-8 (©2021)
- Lexia Learning Systems LLC - Core5 Reading, Grades 3-5 (©2018)

K-12 Mathematics

- Curriculum Associates, LLC - Ready Classroom Mathematics, Grades K-5 (©2020)
- Curriculum Associates, LLC - Ready Classroom Mathematics, Grades 6-8 (©2021)
- Great Minds PBC - Eureka Math Squared, Grades 6-8 (©2021)
- Great Minds PBC - Eureka Math Squared, Grades K-5 (©2021)
- Kendall Hunt Publishing Company - Illustrative Mathematics, Grades K-5 (©2021)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Principal Development Cohort Opportunity

Please share with school leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education is launching **Experienced Principal Leadership Cohorts** for the 2026-2027 school year. Designed exclusively for experienced school principals, these no-cost cohorts provide targeted professional learning to strengthen instructional leadership and maximize leadership effectiveness.

Participants will engage in five sessions over several months focused on leveraging individual leadership strengths, maximizing time, delegating effectively, building stronger staff relationships, and providing meaningful, growth-oriented feedback.

[Applications](#) are now open and will close on **August 14**. Participation is limited to **75 principals**, and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested principals are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Two sections of cohorts are available to participants:

- **Principal Cohorts 1 & 2**
 - Meeting 1: September 11, 2026
 - Meeting 2: October 23, 2026
 - Meeting 3: December 4, 2026
 - Meeting 4: January 15, 2027
 - Meeting 5: February 26, 2027
- **Principal Cohorts 3 & 4**
 - Meeting 1: September 25, 2026
 - Meeting 2: November 6, 2026
 - Meeting 3: December 11, 2026
 - Meeting 4: January 22, 2027
 - Meeting 5: March 5, 2027

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

Literacy

K-8 School Literacy Plans Due September 1

Please share with system and school leaders.

The updated [Local Literacy Plan template](#) can be found in the [Literacy Library](#) under [Literacy Goals](#). This template reflects changes required by [Act 964 \(2026\)](#) for grades 4-8 literacy plans as well as the inclusion of guidance from the Tiered Pathways for Literacy Support (TPLS).

School systems should submit literacy plans for schools in their systems by September 1, 2026, using the [K-8 School Literacy Plan Submission Form](#). Plans must also be posted on school websites by September 1, 2026.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

School Support Institutes 2026-2027 Registration

Please share with system and school leaders.

[Registration](#) is open for School Support Institutes 2026–2027. Participation in SSI is required for CIR schools. Principals of CIR schools should register themselves and two additional ILT members using the [registration link](#). System leaders who support CIR schools and/or supervise principals of attending schools are encouraged to register and attend SSI with their school teams. System leaders are to follow up with their CIR schools to ensure registration

has been completed. Session dates, locations, and cohort assignments can be found on the [SSI Overview document](#). Please note that the location for the New Orleans cohort has been changed to the Hilton New Orleans Airport.

Session dates:

- **Monroe Cohort:** September 23, 2026 & January 26, 2027
- **Shreveport Cohort:** September 24, 2026 & January 27, 2027
- **New Orleans Cohort:** September 29, 2026 & January 20, 2027
- **Baton Rouge Cohort:** September 30, 2026 & January 21, 2027
- **Lafayette Cohort:** October 1, 2026 & February 2, 2027

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Dyslexia Modules on the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform

Please share with system leaders, school leaders, and educators supporting students with dyslexia.

A new course titled *Understanding Dyslexia: What Louisiana Educators Need to Know* is now available on the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform. The course Introduction and Module 1: Understanding Dyslexia in Louisiana are now live, with additional modules being released throughout the 2026–2027 school year.

This professional learning series is designed to build educator understanding of dyslexia, Louisiana policy and guidance, evidence-based instructional practices, and the state's 5-Step Dyslexia Referral Process. The course can be incorporated into Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) priorities, Teacher Collaboration (TC) meetings, and instructional coaching cycles to strengthen educator knowledge, support consistent implementation of Louisiana guidance, and build local capacity to ensure effective instruction for all students.

Access the course on the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#) using Course Code: 1246NDEI.

Please contact wendy.brooks@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

Funding Available for Math HQPL

Please share with system leaders and curriculum leaders.

A special funding allocation is available to support professional learning focused on improving HQIM implementation in mathematics. To qualify for funding, a system must have adopted Tier 1 rated HQIM for mathematics. Interested system leaders should complete the [application](#) by August 7.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Policy and Governmental Affairs

Act 782: Improper Images Information and Acknowledgement Form

Please share with system leaders.

[Act 782 \(2026\)](#) requires the principal of each public school, including charter schools, to disseminate information provided by the LDOE within the first five days of each school year to each student in grades six and above regarding the crime and consequences of unlawful dissemination or sale of images of another created by artificial intelligence and unlawful possession of images of another created by artificial intelligence. This information must also be provided to each student's parent or legal guardian and must be signed and returned to the school. [The required form](#) is now available along with guidance for implementation.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Operations and Federal Programs

Nutrition

Act 628: Food Insecurity Questionnaire and Resources

Please share with system leaders, McKinney-Vento homeless liaisons, and other designated staff.

[Act 628 \(2026\)](#) requires the LDOE to add food insecurity questions to the residency questionnaire that districts already administer for McKinney-Vento homeless student identification. Before students return this fall, districts are encouraged to ensure they are prepared to 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 reasonable suspicion of food insecurity. Districts should also be prepared to connect any student identified as at-risk (or the student's parent/guardian) [with the LDH-compiled resource information](#).

The [revised statewide questionnaire](#) and [revised referral form](#) are now available. Districts should identify who (e.g., the McKinney-Vento liaison, school counselor, or another designated staff member) will receive and respond to flagged questionnaires and incorporate these distribution triggers into enrollment and address change procedures before the start of the new school year.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Act 674: State and Local Assessment Schedules

Please share with system leaders.

[Act 674 \(2026\)](#) requires each public school governing authority to post a direct hyperlink to the statewide assessment schedule and a PDF copy of the schedule on its public website **no later than 10 business days after the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) posts or updates the schedule**. Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, each public school governing authority must also post a schedule of all locally adopted or required assessments on its public website and submit the schedule to the LDOE through the Act 674 Assessment Schedule Reporting Form (Jotform) by November 1 of each year. As part of this annual submission, public school governing authorities must also complete the Outcome of Annual Review for each locally adopted or required assessment, indicating whether the assessment was retained, reduced, consolidated, replaced, or eliminated as a result of the required annual assessment review.

To support implementation, the LDOE has developed the 2026–2027 Louisiana Assessment Calendar, the 2026–2027 School System Assessment Calendar Template, the Act 674 Assessment Schedule Reporting Form (Jotform), and additional implementation guidance and resources. All implementation resources will be available on the [LDOE Measuring Results - Assessment Calendar](#) webpage. School systems may link directly to this webpage from their local websites, as required by Act 674. The LDOE Measuring Results - Assessment Calendar webpage will be updated no later than August 1 to include all templates, guidance, and reporting resources.

The LDOE assessment calendar dates, released earlier this year, have not changed. A more comprehensive state assessment calendar will be posted that includes elements of testing that are required by Act 674, but the current calendar will continue to be available without changes.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Bullying Reporting Requirements and Compliance

Please share with school system leaders.

Under *Bulletin 741* §1303, any school employee who witnesses or receives a report of bullying must report it to a school official. Failure to do so requires an investigation by the school governing authority.

School administrators shall be investigated if they fail to:

- Notify a parent/guardian of a bullying report
- Investigate the report in a timely manner
- Take prompt, appropriate disciplinary action
- Report criminal conduct to law enforcement

Each school system, charter school, and non-public school must report the number of employee suspensions related to failure to report bullying.

Please submit the [Failure to Act Reporting Form](#) by August 1.

Please contact tiffany.thomas@la.gov with any questions.

School Threat Accountability and Safety Act

Please share with school system leaders and principals.

[Act 619 \(2026\)](#) (School Threat Accountability and Safety Act) requires public school principals to inform students in grades 6–12 about the crimes and consequences of terrorizing or menacing school property, functions, and firearm-free zones. This information must be disseminated within the first five days of the school year, using the [department-created form and implementation guidance](#).

Please contact healthyschool@la.gov with questions.

School System and School Safety Questionnaire

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, principals, and response coordinators.

[Act 821\(2026\)](#) requires that each public school shall complete an annual school safety questionnaire developed and distributed by the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools in partnership with the state Department of Education. The questionnaire shall request information on the school's compliance with plan requirements, completion of required drills, and identified needs in emergency response and preparedness.

Upon completion of the school-level questionnaire by each school, each public school governing authority shall complete a district-level questionnaire. Both the school-level and district-level questionnaires shall be submitted to the department and the center on a date and at a frequency to be determined.

Questions and a survey link will be provided to each school system and school in early August to complete the questionnaire.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Mental Health in Schools Survey

Please share with the principals or designee.

[R.S. 17:173.1](#) requires each public school to report at the end of each school year to the state Department of Education, by grade level, the number of screenings administered to students in grades 3–12 under its jurisdiction.

The survey will open on May 3, 2027, and close on June 30, 2027.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Behavioral Health in Schools Survey

Please share with the school system leaders.

[R.S. 17:416.23](#) requires school systems to report the number of students having behavioral or emotional challenges, the number of students for whom a conference was scheduled, and the number of students referred for supportive services.

The survey will open on May 3, 2027, and close on June 30, 2027.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Digital Devices Guidelines

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, and school staff.

The prevalence and use of digital devices (e.g., computers, laptops, tablets, Chromebooks, smart devices, project screens, smartboards, and smartphones) by students and educators is an everyday component of the school day and individual lives. The [guidelines](#) were developed in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health and other stakeholders.

These [guidelines](#) have been developed to provide school systems with health and safety resources relative to best practices for the effective integration of digital devices in public schools. The resources are not exhaustive but are intended to provide school systems with the age-appropriate time and usage guidelines regarding various digital devices.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Act 144: K-8 Career Awareness and Exploration

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, and counselors.

[ACT 144 \(2026\)](#) requires that each school year, at least six activities shall be conducted at each grade level in grades six through eight to expose students to career and technical and academic fields of study. The activities must align with the high-demand sectors by region and state as provided annually by Louisiana Works. The information from LA Works will be available on their [website](#) in the coming weeks.

- Each school year, at least three of the six activities for each grade level shall meet one of the following criteria:
 - An activity that provides direct interaction with an employer.
 - An activity that involves career pathway instruction linked to high school course options.
 - An activity that provides a work-based learning exposure.
 - A career interest inventory.
- At least one career awareness and exploration activity shall be documented for each school year in each student's Individual Graduation Plan (IGP), and career interest inventories should be completed in grade six and updated in seventh and eighth grades.

Each school that has grades K-5 shall provide students with at least one career awareness experience or activity each school year meeting at least one of the criteria listed above.

Each school board shall certify compliance to LDOE and maintain auditable records for each school and grade level's activities annually. A form will be disseminated in May 2027 for compliance purposes.

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

BESE Authorized Charter School Submissions

Please share with BESE-Authorized charter schools and system leaders.

August Submissions:

As outlined in the [Charter School Reporting Calendar](#), the following items are to be submitted in August: Website Compliance, Website Self-Assessment, Student Handbook, New Charter School Student Enrollment Report, Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) Opens, Teachers SLTs, Evaluators Observations; Course Choice Fall/Full Year Reporting, Students of the Year. Cohort Graduation Certification - Collection Opens, SPED Camera Policy, EdLink 360: Staff EOY Collection, Mentor Resident Stipend Spring Data Collection, Education Excellence Fund Application Release, Alternate Assessment Participation Review, FY 2025-26 MFP Forward Funding Request

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Charter School Program Subgrant - Letter of Intent

Please share with charter school leaders and operators.

The due date for the CSP subgrant Letter of Intent is approaching. The [CSP Grant](#) page provides resources and information for interested applicants.

The following timeline shows upcoming due dates that will apply.

- CSP Letter of Intent - Due July 30, 2026
- CSP Eligibility Determination Form - Due August 20, 2026
- CSP Subgrant Application - Due September 6, 2026

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

2027-2028 BESE and Brumfield v Dodd Application Opens

Please share with all Nonpublic school leaders.

Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval must apply annually for approval by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The BESE and Brumfield v Dodd application will open in August 2026.

The 2027-2028 school year application window is August 1, 2026 through October 15, 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

Act 587: Prekindergarten Information and Monitoring

Please share with pre-kindergarten program leaders.

[Act 587](#) of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session amends and adds to provisions of Act 409 (2025). Changes include updating the [child safety and welfare standards](#), the implementation of a monitoring requirement for all nonpublic school prekindergarten programs that do not meet the exemption requirements of Act 587, and additional information about the pre-K program required to be shared with parents.

The LDOE shall conduct monitoring activities of any nonpublic school prekindergarten programs that do not meet the exemption requirements of Act 587, for compliance with those standards, as follows:

- Monitoring activities shall include an annual unannounced site visit as well as prompt response to any report of noncompliance with the child safety and welfare standards.
- In addition to what is observed on the site visit, monitoring specialists will also review the site's written

- procedures regarding the Act 587 child safety and welfare items.
- Any violation of the standards will be documented by the LDOE on louisianaschools.com.

[Act 587](#) (2026) also requires that any parent who chooses to enroll his/her child in an authorized nonpublic school prekindergarten program shall be provided the following information by the nonpublic school:

- The prekindergarten program is operated by a school.
- The prekindergarten program is not either of the following:
 - Subject to federal daycare regulations pursuant to 45 CFR 98, or its successor.
 - Licensed by the department as an early learning center in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 17:407.31, *et seq.*
- The monitoring and complaint processes as provided in R.S. 17:407.41 for compliance with the child safety and welfare standards.

In accordance with the legislation passed last year, [R.S. 17:407.41](#) still requires schools to distribute, at the beginning of each school year, an LDOE-provided informational [document](#) to the parents and legal guardians of all children enrolled in the prekindergarten program. The document may be distributed electronically.

To register an accredited nonpublic school prekindergarten program for a monitoring exemption, please complete the Jotform.

Please contact LDELicensing@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Nonpublic Annual Enrollment Reporting Opens

Please share with all Nonpublic school leaders and Data Managers.

All nonpublic schools with BESE approval must provide their 2026-2027 enrollment figures via the annual reporting system. This submission window opens on August 1 and will conclude on October 15, 2026.

Prior to completing your school's NPS annual enrollment report, the school administrator that will be entering the accurate data is required to set up an EdLink account and request the "NPS School Manager Role." Please review and follow the steps in the [NPS Edlink Manual for the Annual Enrollment Report PDF](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Business Managers Regional Collaboration

Please share with Business Managers and financial officials.

The LDOE will host in person regional collaboration meetings with Business Managers to discuss relevant financial-related topics regarding school business operations according to the following schedule:

- September 28: Alexandria - Rapides Parish School Board Media Center
- September 29: New Orleans: Hilton New Orleans Airport (Kenner)
- September 30: Baton Rouge: Cook Hotel & Conference Center
- October 1: Lafayette: University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Center

Space is limited. Please register to attend by accessing the [registration form](#) before August 14, 2026.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Department Names State-Level Honorees for Award Programs

Please share with teachers, school and school system leaders.

On July 25, the Department, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), hosted the 20th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. The evening honored outstanding educators from across the state and celebrated their dedication to students, schools, and communities.

During the event, the Department announced the overall and division-level honorees for the [2027 Teacher and Principal of the Year](#), as well as the [2027 New Teacher of the Year](#) and the [2027 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year](#).

Also recognized were the [New Teacher of the Year finalists](#), [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader finalists](#), [Milken Educator Award recipient](#), [Louisiana's Public Interest Fellow](#), [2026 National Recognizing Inspiring School Employees \(RISE\) Award Honoree](#), and the [Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists and finalists](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.