

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: August 11, 2026

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Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Dr. Brumley, assistant superintendent Trey Folse, and I are traveling the state this week meeting with system leaders. We've had some great conversations so far around elevating the right priorities. One of the main questions is this:

Does your system have a clear academic priority for this year?

Think of it this way. *If your schools could get better at _____, it would have a significant impact on student learning.*

How does your system fill in that blank?

If you have an answer that was emphasized with principals and outlined for teachers, you are in good shape. If not, there is still time.

Here is how we filled in our blank. Last year, we focused on strong planning practices, using HQIM and teacher knowledge of students during teacher collaboration. This year, we are going deeper: identifying, planning, and implementing opportunities for student thinking, with teacher collaboration as the key structure. Where in the HQIM are students being asked to think, and is instruction preparing, supporting, and checking that thinking?

Once you have your answer, three things matter:

- **Build your principals' capacity.** They are the ones who will support and monitor the work. They need to understand it before they can lead it.
- **Explain it to teachers.** Bring them in. Build everyone's capacity at the thing you want to get better at this year.
- **Make sure it transfers.** Do not spend time or resources on work that will not show up in classrooms.

The systems that move furthest will be the ones where every principal and every teacher fills in that blank the same way. How will your team “work on the work” this school year?

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- School Safety Monthly Call: [August 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Finance Office Hours: [August 12 at 9 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.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [August 17 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Finance Office Hours: [August 19 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [August 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [August 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [August 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Finance Office Hours: [August 26 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [August 26 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [August 26 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [August 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Finance Office Hours: [September 2 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Quarterly Call: [September 3 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Finance Office Hours: [September 9 at 9 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- K-8 School Literacy Plans Due: [September 1](#)
- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and the School Health Service Provider of the Year Nominations Due: [September 11](#)
- Pupil Progression Plan Due: [October 31](#)

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.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

2026-2027 Educator Evaluations

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

For the 2026-2027 evaluation period, staff extract data must be uploaded to EdLink 360 before evaluations can begin. This includes updated position codes, locations, and assignments. After completing uploads, system staff should verify rosters and assign evaluators.

Implementation guides for [system](#) and [school](#) leaders are available in the [LEADS Library](#).

2025-2026 LES Evaluation Closeout

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

Systems should finalize educator evaluations in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) portal. Evaluations can be finalized (including VAM teachers). VAM scores will be added on the backend when available.

Evaluations should be marked incomplete by system leaders for any employee who should have been evaluated by LEADS but did not receive a 2025-2026 evaluation. Refer to [Bulletin 130](#) for the conditions under which an evaluation may be marked incomplete.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

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.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2027 Call for Presentations Reminder

Please share with system leaders, system administration, school leaders, and educators.

Teacher Leader Summit 2027 is June 1-3 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The call for presentations opens mid-August and closes October 23. Educators interested in presenting should attend the webinar on August 19 at 1 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. Submission guidelines will be available on the website soon.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Internship/Registered Apprenticeship Funding

Please share with high school principals, counselors, CTE, and secondary supervisors.

There is funding available in the fall and spring for students enrolled in approved internships (with school system 2026-2027 [attestation](#) on file) at the rate of \$1,000 per enrollment and [Registered Apprenticeships](#) (vetted as enrolled with training provider) at the rate of \$2,500 per non-rural and \$3,500 for rural enrollment, as defined by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#). This funding may be used to support all costs associated with the delivery of

internship/apprenticeship programming, such as stipends, salaries, instructor costs, travel, uniforms, work supplies, etc.

Students must be uploaded into the [Course Choice Portal](#) using the spreadsheet provided in the documents tab. The system is open for fall uploads by school/school system until September 18. Enrollments added after the system closes must be sent to coursechoice@la.gov for upload.

Reporting Deadlines:

- Fall: October 23
- Spring: March 5

There is \$2,000,000 in total funding available for the fall and spring. Due to increased funding requests this school year, eligible enrollments will be funded in the order in which they are successfully uploaded. Payment for fall enrollments will occur in January and spring enrollments in June.

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 NCCER Accreditation Updates

Please share with school system leaders, CTE Supervisors, and NCCER program contacts.

The 2026-2027 NCCER Accreditation Updates will provide school systems and NCCER program contacts with important updates on accessing and utilization of NCCER curriculum and industry-based certifications for the upcoming school year. Reporting changes, new NCCER teacher training, and audit cycles will be discussed.

2026-2027 NCCER Accreditation Updates

Webinar Date and Time: September 9, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99257641349?pwd=NswYuMb5H9Ne7wzw280IAHJDACOegi.1>

Meeting ID#: 992 5764 1349

Passcode: 855683

Please contact bonnie.lefort@la.gov with questions.

Youth Employment Certification

Please share with school system leaders, CTE Supervisors, H.S. School Counselors, and H.S. Office Managers.

As of July 24, House Bill 232 (Act 61) removes Schools and School Boards from being responsible for issuing employment certificate forms for minors. Responsibility has been placed on employers to verify a minor's age, maintain the required documentation, and issue the worker's permit using the New Louisiana Works process. The process can be found at [Youth Employment Certificates](#)

Please contact EmploymentCertificate@la.gov or 225-342-2683 with questions.

CDF Allocation Reporting

Please share with school system leaders, CTE supervisors, and Fiscal/Business Office staff.

School systems have until the end of each August to complete and submit the [CDF End of Year Report](#). Due to [Act 413](#), any school system that has not spent more than 95% of the previous year's CDF allocation, along with non-reporting schools, will be published each December on the LDOE website in the Career Development Fund Compliance report.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Annual Financial Report (AFR) Training

Please share with business managers and school business officials.

The Office of School System Financial Services will be hosting an in-person training session for individuals who are responsible for preparing and submitting the Annual Financial Report (AFR) via the EdLinks AFR Portal. The training will be held on Monday, August 24, 2026. [Registration](#) is required to attend the training. Due to capacity limitations, attendance is limited to one individual per school system. Once registered, individuals will receive an email with pertinent information regarding the training. Registration deadline is Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 26-27 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.

School System Relations

Seeking Nominations for School Support Employees and Health Providers

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

The Louisiana Department of Education is currently seeking nominations for two recognition programs: the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and the School Health Service Provider of the Year.

The [nomination portal](#) is now open and will close on September 11.

We invite teachers, principals, school system leaders, colleagues, families, students, and community members to nominate exceptional individuals whose dedication, expertise, and service make a meaningful difference for students, schools, and communities. Multiple nominations are welcome, and self-nominations are accepted.

Submit nominations through the nomination portal by September 11. After the portal closes, nomination information will be shared with local school systems for consideration as they select district nominees for the state recognition process.

Please share this opportunity with your networks and encourage others to nominate outstanding school support employees and school health providers who help Louisiana students thrive.

Learn more on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Students of the Year Application Process Opening August 18

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The 2027 Louisiana Students of the Year application process will open on August 18. On that date, the timeline, guidelines, application materials, and additional resources will be available in the Students of the Year Resources section on the [Student Awards](#) page.

All public, charter, and nonpublic school systems are encouraged to select one fifth-grade, one eighth-grade, and one twelfth-grade student based on leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to their school and community.

To support this year's process, two informational webinars will be held for Students of the Year Coordinators. Coordinators are encouraged to attend the session that best fits their schedule.

Option 1

Webinar Date and Time: August 19 at 1 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99200675584>

Webinar Phone Number: 346 248-7799

Meeting ID#: 992 0067 5584

Option 2

Webinar Date and Time: August 20 at 9 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94039155355>

Webinar Phone Number: 346 248-7799

Meeting ID#: 940 3915 5355

Additional webinar and Help Desk session dates will be included in the [Informational and Help Desk Calls](#) document.

Please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov with questions.