



LDOE Weekly Newsletter: August 25, 2026

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana has [adopted new K-12 physical education standards](#) designed to keep students moving and build healthy habits for life. Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, these standards will place a greater emphasis on movement, personal fitness, and the skills students need to stay active well past high school graduation.

We will provide professional learning and practical implementation resources so educators understand the new expectations and can adapt instruction to their local facilities and resources.

This work was shaped over more than a year with educators and stakeholders from across Louisiana, including many of your peers. Their experience and perspective helped ensure the standards are clear, practical, and grounded in what works for students and schools.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [August 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [September 1 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Finance Office Hours: [September 2 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [September 2 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [September 3 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Quarterly Call: [September 3 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [September 4 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [September 8 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Finance Office Hours: [September 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School Safety Monthly Call: [September 9 at 10 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Monthly Call: [September 10 at 9 a.m.](#)
- EdTech Monthly Call: [September 10 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [September 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [September 17 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [September 17 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [September 21 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- K-8 School Literacy Plans Due: [September 1](#)
- Students of the Year School System Information and Participation Level Survey: [September 9](#)
- Homeless Liaison Conference for New Homeless Liaisons: September 9
- Homeless Liaison Conference General Webinar Session: [September 10](#)
- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and the School Health Service Provider of the Year Nominations Due: [September 11](#)
- Pupil Progression Plans Due: [October 31](#)

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Technology Readiness Tool Collection

Please share with system IT directors, technology coordinators, education technology staff, and system leaders.

The [Technology Readiness Tool \(TRT\)](#) collects information about technology infrastructure across Louisiana school systems. The information submitted through the TRT will help LDOE better understand each school system's digital footprint and inform future technology planning, support, and resource needs.

The [2026–2027 TRT Collection Form](#) is now open and will close on October 15.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with any questions.

Social Studies Office Hours

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

To answer questions and provide technical assistance with [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#), [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), and [Land of Liberty: The History of the United States](#), the LDOE will hold social studies office hours the first Wednesday of each month from 3:15 to 4 p.m.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 2 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92792266713>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 927 9226 6713
- **Meeting Passcode:** 063740

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with any questions.

United States Senate Youth Program

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

The LDOE is currently accepting applications to select two Louisiana student delegates to the United States Senate Youth Program and the 65th Annual Washington Week, which takes place March 6 to 13, 2027. This program invites high school juniors and/or seniors from across the nation to participate in a week-long experience focused on education, leadership, and public service. Student delegates will expand their understanding of the political process and strengthen their commitment to public service through meetings with national leaders. Each delegate will receive a \$12,500 scholarship upon the completion of all Washington Week on-site events. The [2026-2027 Louisiana Logistics Memo](#) lists eligibility requirements, school nomination and application processes, and required submission materials.

The [application](#) is open now and will close at 11:59 p.m. on October 9.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with any questions.

Youth Legislature of Louisiana

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

The [Youth Legislature of Louisiana](#) provides students with the opportunity to learn about the legislative process through a mock legislative session and debates alongside peers from across the state. Participants develop skills in leadership, critical thinking, public speaking, and civic engagement while gaining firsthand experience in the role of a lawmaker.

The 2027 session dates are listed below.

- Session 1: March 1–2
- Session 2: March 3–4
- Session 3: March 8–9 (early dismissal)
- Session 4: March 10–11
- Session 5: March 15–16
- Session 6: March 17–18
- Session 7: March 22–23
- Session 8: March 24–25 (early dismissal)
- Session 9: April 5–6
- Session 10: April 7–8

To learn more about the [Youth Legislature of Louisiana](#) or to apply for a 2026–2027 session, contact youthlegislatureofla@gmail.com.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with any questions.

Celebrate Freedom Week 2026

Please share with content supervisors and school and system leaders.

Louisiana schools will recognize Celebrate Freedom Week September 14-18. Celebrate Freedom Week is a statewide observance that promotes civic understanding and constitutional literacy among Louisiana students.

To support instruction during Celebrate Freedom Week, the Louisiana Department of Education has made [guidance and resources available](#).

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with any questions.

Diverse Learners

Special Education Camera Policy Updates – Act 237 (2026)

Please share with special education directors.

Act 237 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session requires school systems to review and, as necessary, update their local policies regarding cameras in special education classrooms to ensure alignment with the requirements of the new law. Pursuant to R.S. 17:1948, school systems must submit a copy of their local policy to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) within 10 days of any revision to the policy. Updated Special Education Camera policies should be submitted to educationpolicy@la.gov.

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.

Behavioral Health Services in Schools

Please share with school leaders, special education directors and teachers, and related service providers.

The Louisiana Department of Education has released updated [Behavioral Health Services in Schools guidance](#) to support school leaders, special education directors, and service providers in implementing Louisiana R.S. 17:173, as amended by Act 745 (2024) and Act 944 (2026), and *Bulletin 135 – School Health and Safety*. The law requires public school governing authorities to ensure student access to medically necessary behavioral health services, including applied behavior analysis (ABA), when authorized by a parent or legal guardian and an independent third-party payor.

New requirements established through Act 944 (2026) strengthen coordination between schools and behavioral health providers, including a School-Based Service Delivery Review Meeting to establish shared expectations for scheduling, communication, classroom routines, provider responsibilities, and coordination with students' educational plans. The meeting must occur within 21 calendar days of the parent or guardian submitting the behavioral health treatment plan, with additional timelines applying when services begin before the meeting.

School systems are encouraged to review the updated guidance and local procedures to ensure alignment with these requirements. Importantly, behavioral health treatment plans do not replace or supersede a student's IEP, Section 504 Plan, BIP, or Individualized Health Plan, and schools and providers should collaborate to support students' behavioral health needs while minimizing disruption to instruction.

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

2026–2027 Mentor Expansion Grant

Please share with HR Directors and system leaders.

The Department is pleased to offer school systems an opportunity to expand their pipeline of certified mentors through the Mentor Teacher Grant. Systems may apply for funding through one of the following two options:

Option 1: Add the Mentor Teacher Endorsement

This option allows systems to identify current employees who have completed an approved pathway and are eligible to add the Mentor Teacher endorsement to their teaching certificate. Reimbursement will be provided for the

certificate application fee and the required Criminal Background Check.

Option 2: Mentor Teacher Training and Assessment

This option provides up to \$500 toward enrollment in a BESE-approved Mentor Teacher training program, as well as up to \$175 to cover the cost of the culminating assessment for eligible participants.

Systems may access the application through eGMS under Louisiana Recruitment and Retention (LA RR). The application will open on August 24, 2026, and close on October 12, 2026.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 LEADS Resource Updates

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

Leaders may now use [The ILT and LEADS: Bridging Leadership and Instruction](#), located in the [LEADS Library](#), to plan to include evaluation data and topics in Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) meetings. Several key LEADS resources have also been updated. Updates to the [Other Personnel Guidance](#) include guidance for evaluating deans and disciplinarians. The evaluation implementation guidance documents for [School](#) and [System](#) leaders provide updated language. The [Louisiana Educator Rubric and Evaluation Handbook](#) now includes examples for the Professionalism Domain. All handbooks now include timelines for evaluation implementation. Educators are encouraged to visit the [LEADS Library](#) for the most up-to-date resources.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

Teacher Collaboration Facilitator Training

Please share with principals, math and literacy curriculum leaders.

[Teacher Collaboration Facilitator Training](#) focuses on deepening facilitators' understanding of high-quality professional learning (HQPL) and providing strategies for leading effective teacher collaboration to support improved student outcomes.

- Additional seats are available for school and district leaders. Those interested should register using the links in the Teacher Collaboration Facilitator Training document.
- Funded teacher collaboration facilitators serving at CIR/UIR-A schools are required to attend and already registered. They should not register using the links.
- Training dates and registration details are in the [Teacher Collaboration Facilitator Training](#) document.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

New Math Standards Resources Are Now Available

Please share with principals, math and literacy curriculum leaders.

Resources are now available to support capacity building in the new Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics during the 2026-2027 learning year.

- The [2025 Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics](#) (LSSM), along with the [K-12 LSSM Crosswalk](#), are also available in the Standards section of the Louisiana Math page.
- The Standards Resource Guides (SRG) are now available on the [Louisiana Math](#) page under the Standards Resource Guides dropdown. SRGs will replace the Teacher Companion Documents.
- The Mathematics Standards Institutes – Leader Training is now available in the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#) to support school and school system leaders as they prepare for implementation of the updated mathematics standards. Use course code A72E57U7 to enroll.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2027

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. Please visit our [Cvent event website](#) for full details. Early bird registration opens on **February 16, 2027**. A full list of sessions, session descriptions, and presenters will be available **May 3**.

Educators interested in presenting at Teacher Leader Summit 2027 should review the **August 19** webinar recording and read the full submission guidelines under the “Call for Presentations” section of the [Cvent event website](#). The call for presentations opens tentatively on **September 1** via Sessionboard and closes **October 23**. If there are questions or more guidance is needed, please join us for office hours on [September 2](#) or [October 8](#) from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Policy and Governmental Affairs

2026 Acts of Note for System Leaders

Please share with appropriate system leaders and staff.

The [2026 Acts of Note for System Leaders](#) document is now available. This document serves as a curated list of legislative instruments from the 2026 Regular Legislative Session, as well as links to any applicable forms or guidance documents that are now available. Please keep in mind that these resources do not constitute legal guidance or interpretation.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Mandated Reporter Compliance Collection

Please share with appropriate system leaders and staff.

All mandated reporters must annually complete training as required by [CHC 603.1](#) using the [mandated reporter training](#) from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, entities that employ teaching or childcare providers as defined by CHC 603 must submit a list of all teaching or childcare providers employed, identifying employees that have and have not complied with the requirement.

- All teaching or childcare providers must annually participate in mandatory reporter training between June 1 and August 31.
- DCFS Mandated Reporter Training completion data must be submitted to EdLink 360 **by 5 pm on September 30, 2026**.
 - Public and Charter school systems should report K-12 staff completion of this training as “Y” (yes); “N” (no) indicates that the training is not complete. Blank/null indicates the data has not been reported.

Additional information can be found in the [LDOE Training Guidance](#) resource.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Ten Commandments Guidance for Louisiana Schools

Please share with school and system leaders.

Guidance on the implementation of [Act 676](#) of the 2024 Regular Session is available on the [Louisiana Department of Justice website](#). The web page includes resources such as a guidance letter from the Attorney General, a draft resolution for school boards, and multiple downloadable posters.

Operations and Federal Programs

Federal Programs

2026–2027 Title I, Part A Annual Comparability Report

Please share with superintendents and federal program directors.

The 2026–2027 Title I, Part A Annual Comparability Report will be available in eGMS beginning September 14, 2026.

Title I Comparability requires eligible school systems to demonstrate annually that services funded with state and local resources are comparable between Title I and non-Title I schools, or substantially comparable for school systems in which all schools receive Title I funds. School systems should use October 2025 staffing and salary data to complete the report.

To prepare for submission, review the [comparability instructions](#) and use the [comparability workbook](#) to conduct preliminary calculations.

School systems must submit completed reports in eGMS no later than December 14, 2026.

For assistance, refer to the [comparability FAQ](#) or contact DOEprogram.monitoring@la.gov.

School systems with one school per grade span and single-site school systems (i.e., Type 2, Type 3, Type 3B, and Type 5 charter schools) are exempt from this submission.

School Choice

Charter Schools

BESE-Authorized Charter School Submissions

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

September Submissions:

As outlined in the [Charter School Reporting Calendar](#), the following items are to be submitted in September: School Board Disclosure, Super App - New Charters, Course Choice Fall/Full Year Reporting, OSSE - Opens, SHSPY - Opens, Student Transcript System, Literacy Screener for K-3 Gifted Referral Data - BOY, ESYS Data and Verification Report, IDEA Child Count Setup for Preliminary Runs, Personnel Table 2 Setup for Preliminary Runs, Act 79 Report, FY 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget, FY 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Form A, Annual Financial Report (AFR), Act 370 Report, Act 771: High-Dosage Tutoring, Alternate Assessment Participation Review

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Local Charter Request for Applications Cycle

Please share with school system leaders and LEA Charter Authorizers.

The 2026-2027 Common Charter Application, timeline, and supporting documentation are published and available on the Department website. Districts are required to provide an application process outline and point of contact for applicant submission for interested applicants on district websites.

The Office of School Choice requests each district complete the [Charter Authorizing Contact Information Survey](#) by September 8 to ensure the most up-to-date information for point of contact for LEA Charter Authorization.

Key Dates for Local Authorizers

- September 8, 2026: Deadline to post application materials to website
- October 19, 2026: Charter Applications are due to districts
- November 2, 2026: Local boards notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district

- January 28, 2027: Deadline to consider charter applications
- January 29, 2027: Deadline to notify LDOE of local board recommendations

Note: If the district has not made a decision by January 28, 2027, the applicant is eligible to appeal to BESE.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2025-2026 Annual Financial Report (AFR)

Please share with business managers and school business officials.

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires that local school systems and charter schools provide financial data to the LDOE no later than September 30 each year. The annual financial report is to be submitted via the EdLink AFR portal. The portal is scheduled to be available for submission beginning August 31. The AFR documents that are needed to assist in the submission of the AFR can be found in the [Business Manager Support Library](#).

MyLa Accounts and EdLink Profiles should be created, requested, and approved for new users prior to submitting the FY 2025-2026 AFR by following the instructions included in the [User Guide for Business Managers](#).

Please contact staudit@la.gov with questions.

MFP - Career Development Fund (CDF) Initial Allocation and Payments

Please share with business managers and school business officials.

The LDOE released the MFP-CDF Initial Payments for FY 2026-2027 on August 13. For more details, please refer to the CDF Guidance and Allocation Document available in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.