

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: August 27, 2024

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### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [August 28 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [September 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Monthly Call: [September 3 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Annual Financial Report Training Webinar: [September 5 at 2 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [September 6 at 9 a.m.](#)
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: [September 9 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: [September 11 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Local-Authorizer Monthly Call: [September 11 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [September 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [September 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Student Data Collection Training Webinar: [September 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [September 18 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [September 19 at 10 a.m.](#)

#### Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Accountability Preview Webinar, Middle School Principals: [August 28 at 10 a.m.](#)
- [ACT® Work Ready Communities Boot Camp](#): August 28-29, Northshore Technical College
- Accountability Preview Webinar, Elementary School Principals: [August 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Accountability Preview Webinar, Teachers Option 2: [August 29 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Accountability Preview Webinar, Counselors: [August 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- eGMS ESSER III Obligation Tab Deadline: August 30
- National School Lunch Program Annual Application Deadline: August 30
- 2024-2025 Charter RFA Technical Assistance Webinar: [September 5 at 10 a.m.](#)
- The Writing Revolution Training Interest Form Completion Deadline: [September 6](#)
- [Early Childhood Conference](#): September 7, Shreveport
- Teacher Exit Survey Submission Deadline: September 13
- [School Support Institutes](#) Session 1: September 10 - 17
- [System Leader Regional Collaboration](#) Session 1: September 10 - 17
- Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4 - 8 Webinar: [September 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- September Charter Refresher: September 19
- [Early Childhood Conference](#): October 5, Baton Rouge

## Teaching and Learning

### Academic Content

#### **Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant**

**Please share with CTE Supervisors and STEM Supervisors.**

School system leaders are encouraged to apply for the [Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant \(CSTAG\)](#) to support [computer science](#) teacher preparation and computer science instruction for students in grades K-12. Grants of up to \$40,000 per school system are available.

System leaders should complete the online [application](#) by September 20. More information on the grant is available on the [Computer Science](#) web page.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

#### **The Writing Revolution Training Inquiry**

**Please share with ELA supervisors and school leaders**

The Writing Revolution© (TWR) is hosting a call for schools and systems to identify those who are interested in learning more about an asynchronous training option, facilitated by an ELA instructional leader within the system. Please complete [this form](#) by September 6 if you are interested in joining the informational session to learn more about this training opportunity. A link to the informational call will be shared after the survey closes. The recording of the call will be shared with all school or system leaders who register.

Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov) with questions.

#### **Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program**

**Please share with content supervisors and administrators.**

The LDOE is continuing to partner with the non-profit Core Knowledge Foundation® to develop *Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program* for whole-class instruction. Foundations of Freedom is designed to align with the high school Civics student expectations of the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) and is being created using criteria similar to the quality indicators of the [Instructional Materials Review Rubric](#).

The LDOE will release *Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program* in the spring of 2025 and plans to support implementation at the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit and through summer training. School and system leaders will be able to view a sample of Foundations of Freedom before purchasing and submitting Super App. Print orders can be made by emailing Core Knowledge at [LABayouBridges@coreknowledge.org](mailto:LABayouBridges@coreknowledge.org).

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

#### **Bayou Bridges: Grades 4 and 5 Implementation Pilot Report**

**Please share with administrators and content supervisors.**

During the 2023-2024 school year, the LDOE offered school systems the opportunity to participate in the [Bayou Bridges](#) Grade 4 and 5 implementation pilot. Eight school systems participated: Bossier, Caddo, St. Charles, Central, InspireNOLA, St. Landry, West Baton Rouge, and Zachary. The pilot consisted of teachers participating in professional learning, implementing materials, and participating in focus groups to share feedback.

The LDOE has compiled participant data and has released the [Bayou Bridges Pilot Report](#). This report contains the methodology, the lessons learned, a participant feedback summary, and next steps. School system leaders should consult the report to discover the new Bayou Bridges teacher supports in development, based on participant feedback.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## **Celebrate Freedom Week September 16-20**

**Please share with system and school leaders.**

In accordance with state law, Louisiana will recognize Celebrate Freedom Week September 16-20. Each September, in conjunction with Constitution Day and Constitution Week, each public school shall observe Celebrate Freedom Week. As part of this observance, all students should receive age and grade-appropriate instruction, in a social studies or other appropriate course, on topics related to freedom. The LDOE has developed [school and system resources](#). These resources are optional to support educators in planning for the week.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## Educator Talent and Workforce Development

### **The New Teacher Experience - Professional Learning Modules**

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

The LDOE, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed monthly professional learning modules on topics that are critical for new teacher success. These modules include online asynchronous content followed by an in-person learning lab where participants practice and apply these concepts.

Teachers are expected to complete the entire series of Professional Learning Modules. These five modules are designed to build learning throughout the year.

- Module 1: Classroom Management/Classroom Environment
- Module 2: Standards and Curriculum
- Module 3: Data Literacy
- Module 4: Literacy for 21st-Century Learners
- Module 5: Parent and Community Engagement

This year, complimentary seating for the first 245 registrants will be offered. Half of the seats for the northern location (Monroe) and half for the southern location (Port Allen) will be reserved as complementary seating. Once those seats are exhausted, teachers may still attend, but there will be a cost of \$1,272.00 per teacher to complete the series of modules.

Teachers will need to receive approval to attend from their school leader. [Registration](#) is now open. Once teachers complete the registration, participants will receive details on selected training locations and an invitation to access the online asynchronous modules.

Please contact [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) with questions.

### **LEADS Implementation Support**

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

The Division of Educator Talent and Workforce Development will continue to support systems transitioning to LEADS. In addition to [LEADS Implementation Monthly Webinars](#), on-site support sessions will be offered. LEADS Implementation On-Site Support Sessions will take place in four locations across the state in September, October, January, and February/March. These sessions will build the capacity of system and school leaders by providing high-quality professional learning opportunities that can be replicated at the school and system level. These learning opportunities will build a deeper understanding of LEADS components and processes and advance implementation. The target audience for September is system leaders, and these sessions will focus on scripting, categorization of evidence, scoring, and selecting reinforcement and refinement areas. Registration for September sessions is now open in [EventBrite](#).

Please contact [leads@la.gov](mailto:leads@la.gov) with questions.

## Diverse Learners

### **The AEM Center to Host Annual Fall into AAC Conference**

**Please share with special education leaders and teachers.**

Louisiana's Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Center is hosting its annual fall conference, "Fall Into AAC." The conference will be held in two locations, [Baton Rouge](#) on October 16 and [Ruston](#) on November 7. This full-day learning opportunity will be centered on supporting students' communication skills by using augmentative and alternative communication devices.

Please contact [robin.king@la.gov](mailto:robin.king@la.gov) with questions.

## Tutoring

### **Steve Carter Tutoring Program**

**Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, system leaders, school leaders, school administrators, and teachers.**

The Steve Carter Tutoring Program provides \$1,500 vouchers to families of eligible K-12 public school students per year. The digital vouchers can be used to purchase high-quality literacy and math tutoring. Tutoring sessions must be held after school hours, in-person or virtually. Families can apply through the [parent portal](#) and, if approved, will connect with the tutoring provider of their choice.

School Systems are encouraged to make families aware of the program by referring them to the LDOE tutoring landing page ([Tutor.La.Gov](#)) to find more information or by distributing the [Family Flyer](#) to interested parties.

Please contact [tutoring@la.gov](mailto:tutoring@la.gov) with questions.

## Career and College Readiness

### **Elementary School Counselor Survey**

**Please share with K-6 school counselors and administrators.**

Per [R.S. 17:3005](#), "School counselors shall provide preventive and developmental counseling services to all public elementary school students in kindergarten through grade six in order to prepare them for middle, junior, and senior high school responsibilities and their social and physical development."

Elementary school counselors and administrators should complete the [Elementary School Counselor Report Survey](#) to provide feedback on your school counseling programs by October 1.

Please contact [candace.ioseph@la.gov](mailto:candace.ioseph@la.gov) with questions.

### **U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity**

**Please share with social studies supervisors, secondary administrators, counselors, charter, non-public, and student council advisors.**

The LDOE, in partnership with the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#), will select two juniors or seniors to serve as delegates for the 63rd Annual Washington Week Program March 1-8. These two students will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship after attending all sessions scheduled for that week. All information is currently available on our [awards page](#).

- Any junior or senior holding an elected or appointed leadership position at school, in the community, in the state, or the nation may qualify to [apply](#).
- The [application](#) can be found on the [LDOE website](#). Once the [application](#) has been submitted, it will trigger the release of the list of essay topics and directions for the proctored writing session from the state coordinator to the school sponsor. These topics are considered test secure by the Hearst Foundation and are to be treated as such.
- The deadline for portfolio submission is October 4 at 11:59 p.m. [Applications](#) will not be returned. Finalists will be notified by October 25.

- The national exam and interviews will be held on November 8 in Baton Rouge.
- Finalists will be notified by our office in December of their selection as a delegate or an alternate for the week of March 1-8.
- The delegates must be able to attend all scheduled events in Washington D.C. the week of March 1-8 to receive the college scholarship.

Please contact [suzette.rabalais@la.gov](mailto:suzette.rabalais@la.gov) with questions.

### **K-12 BTAM Train-the-Trainer/Facilitator Training**

**Please share with mental health professionals, school administrators, and school resource officers.**

The Louisiana State Police is providing a two-day comprehensive Train-The-Trainer/facilitator training that will allow trainees to then provide one-day Foundational BTAM training classes statewide. Attendance at a previous Foundational Training is a prerequisite for this Train-The-Trainer/ facilitator training.

All trainings will be held at Louisiana State Police (LSP) Headquarters, 7919 Independence Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806:

- [August 26-27, 2024](#)
- [August 29-30, 2024](#)
- [September 5-6, 2024](#)
- [September 12-13, 2024](#)

Please contact [michael.comeaux@la.gov](mailto:michael.comeaux@la.gov) with questions.

### **R.S. 17:3921.3 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 our individual lives. The [digital device 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 age-appropriate time and usage guidelines regarding various digital devices.

Please contact [healthyschools@la.gov](mailto:healthyschools@la.gov) with questions.

### **Career Development Fund End-of-Year Reporting**

**Share with CTE supervisors, principals, counselors, secondary supervisors, and testing coordinators.**

The [2023-2024 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End-of-Year Expenditure Report](#) is available for school systems to complete. The deadline to report on 2023-2024 CDF expenditures is August 31. When completing the form, school systems should reference the [2023-2024 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#).

CDF funds support increased student access to high-value Career and Technical Education courses and training. Examples of allowable expenses include transportation, tuition, teacher trainings towards the attainment of Jump Start credentials, and internship expenses not covered by partner businesses. CDF funds are 6% of the MFP State and Local Base Cost Per Pupil (\$241) provided for each qualifying student course enrollment in grades 9-12.

Please contact [troy.borne@la.gov](mailto:troy.borne@la.gov) with questions.

# Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

## **National School Lunch Program Annual Applications**

**Please share with school nutrition directors.**

Annual applications for the National School Lunch Program are due by August 30. Please ensure applications are completed and submitted as soon as possible to ensure continuity of claiming.

Visit [cnp.doe.louisiana.gov](http://cnp.doe.louisiana.gov) or email [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov) with questions.

## **ESSER III Obligations Due**

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

LEAs must complete or update the ESSER III Obligations tab in the Achieve! application on or before August 30. By completing this tab, the LEA is identifying the amount of ESSER III funding that will not be obligated on or before September 30.

At the close of business on August 30, the LDOE will identify all amounts of ESSER III funding that will not be obligated on or before September 30. The amount(s) identified by each LEA will be removed from the respective LEA's total allocation amount in the Achieve! application, so it is imperative that the "Projected Remaining Balance" amounts provided on the ESSER Obligations tab for ESSER III Formula, Incentive, and Evidenced-Based funding are accurate.

Please contact the [LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov) with questions or for support. Please include "ESSER III Obligations" in the subject line.

## **Policy Waiver Requests**

**Please share with system leaders.**

The [BESE regulation waiver request form](#) is now located on the [School System Support Toolbox](#) page of the LDOE website. As a reminder, waivers of BESE policy, including foreign language waivers, are valid for one school year. A completed form, along with a signed letter from the system superintendent justifying the request, must be submitted to the policy office for processing.

Please contact [educationpolicy@la.gov](mailto:educationpolicy@la.gov) with questions.

## **Act 641 Reporting Template**

**Please share with system leaders.**

[Act 641 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session](#) requires reporting regarding programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. A report must be made by each public and public charter school to its school board no later than October 31, 2024. Reports from each school board must be received by LDOE no later than December 31, 2024. A [reporting template form](#) has been created for each school board report. A [template for local reporting](#) has also been created and may be copied by school boards to use in collecting information from individual schools.

Please contact [educationpolicy@la.gov](mailto:educationpolicy@la.gov) with questions.

## **Grow. Achieve. Thrive. Accountability Preview Webinars**

**Please share with accountability contacts, counselors, school leaders, and teachers.**

This week, the LDOE is hosting informational webinars to provide an overview and implementation guidance for Louisiana's new accountability system, *Grow. Achieve. Thrive*. LDOE leaders will share resources and guidance for their particular area of implementation and participants will receive a clear understanding of the accountability system, as well as definitive next steps relative to their role.

Webinar information and past webinar recordings can be found on the [LDOE Accountability Landing Page](#).

Please contact [accountability@la.gov](mailto:accountability@la.gov) with questions.

## **Teacher Training Changes**

**Please share with principals, teachers, and system leaders.**

[Act 686](#) of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session repealed several previous training requirements for teachers and students. This [guidance document](#) contains an overview of the impacted topics as well as recommended next steps for school and system leaders.

Please contact [ashley.townsend@la.gov](mailto:ashley.townsend@la.gov) with questions.

## **2024 Legislative Acts Recording**

**Please share with principals, parents, teachers, and system leaders.**

School and system leaders are encouraged to view this [video](#) which provides an overview of the various acts passed during the 2024 Legislative Session that impact key educational topics.

Please contact [ashley.townsend@la.gov](mailto:ashley.townsend@la.gov) with questions.

## **School Choice**

### Charter Schools

#### **2024-2025 Annual RFA Charter Application Updates and Webinar**

**Please share with school system leaders and LEA Charter Authorizers.**

The 2024-2025 Common Charter Application was revised and approved by BESE August 20, 2024. A [Technical Assistance Webinar](#) will be held at 10 a.m. September 5 to share application revisions, including the new Common Charter Application timeline and important documents for districts.

Please contact [Jade.Gambino@la.gov](mailto:Jade.Gambino@la.gov) with questions.

#### **2024-2025 Virtual September Refresher for BESE-Authorized Charters**

**Please share with BESE-Authorized school leaders.**

The Office of School Choice is developing virtual training sessions for BESE-Authorized Charter School Leaders. This virtual session will be held on September 19. Topics will include:

- Technology Readiness for Testing
- Data Management
- System Overview
- CSP Subgrant Opportunity
- Financial Submissions and Audits
- Q & A

This series will be designed for schools in pre-opening, newly hired staff in related positions, or those needing a refresher. A registration link will be provided in next week's newsletter.

Please contact [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov) with questions.

### Nonpublic Schools

#### **2025-2026 BESE and Brumfield v Dodd Approval Application**

**Please share with Nonpublic School Leaders.**

Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval must apply annually for approval by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. To become eligible for state and federal funding, schools must be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and also comply with Brumfield v Dodd, a federal court order that prohibits discrimination.

The [2025-2026 BESE Approval Application](#) is now available. The 2025-2026 Brumfield v Dodd Application is accessible within the BESE application.

Please contact [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with questions.

### **2024-2025 Nonpublic School Annual Reporting**

**Please share with Nonpublic School Leaders and Data Managers.**

The annual enrollment report window for all nonpublic schools approved by BESE (Private Schools Seeking State Approval) to submit their school's 2024-2025 annual enrollment data opens early September and closes on October 15.

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 request steps in the [NPS Edlink Manual for the Annual Enrollment Report PDF](#).

Please contact [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with questions.

### **2024-2025 Louisiana Scholarship Program Q1 Enrollment Period**

**Please share with Nonpublic School Leaders and Data Managers.**

Schools should begin checking LEADS account access and alert the Office of School Choice if needed. Transfers must be completed before the Q1 enrollment period. Important Q1 dates to remember are:

- September 3 Q1 Enrollment for LSP and SCP opens
- September 9 Q1 Enrollment for LSP and SCP closes

Please contact [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with questions.

## **School System Financial Services**

### **FY 2023-2024 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Collection Times**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires that local school systems and schools provide financial data to the LDOE no later than September 30th each year. The financial data is submitted via the LEADS portal. The LEADS portal is scheduled to be available for submission beginning Tuesday, September 3, 2024. The AFR documents that are needed to assist you in the submission of your data can be found at <https://leads13.doe.louisiana.gov/lug/AFR/AFR.htm>.

Please contact [staudit@la.gov](mailto:staudit@la.gov) with questions.

### **FY 2024-2025 Annual Adopted Budget and General Fund Budget Submission**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

Louisiana R.S.17:88 requires that city/parish school boards submit an adopted balanced budget to the LDOE no later than September 30th each year. The FY 2024-2025 Adopted Budget Submission Instructions included in [The Business Manager Support Library](#) provide guidance, documents to be completed, and additional resources.

Please contact [schoolfinacehelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:schoolfinacehelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

### **AFR Verification Report**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

The verification report, which includes totals for revenues, expenditures, and weighted funds and is utilized for confirming information to be included in the AFR, is currently available via the edFin portal for each system.



Please contact [ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## **School System Relations**

### **Students of the Year Application Process Opens**

**Please share with school and school system leaders.**

The Students of the Year application process for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. Information regarding Students of the Year can be found on the [Awards](#) page. The application materials and timelines are available in the [Resource Library](#). All public, charter, and nonpublic school systems are encouraged to select one student from grades five, eight, and twelve to participate based on their leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to the school and community. School systems are asked to complete the [School System Information and Participation Level Survey](#) by September 30 to indicate interest in participating as well as submitting information for the school system's Students of the Year coordinators.

Two informational zoom calls will be conducted to assist with preparing for the application process. These sessions are designed to provide coordinators/school systems with the necessary support and guidance. Please select the Zoom that works best for your schedule.

**Webinar Date and Time:** September 4 at 9 a.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98922597461?pwd=00srNOY5JZnChkCn01FfZfRREtskA8Z.1>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248-7799

**Meeting ID#:** 989 2259 7461

**Webinar Date and Time:** September 5 at 1 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91572240785?pwd=uZpNg3vYR7XcvgdglW8sbAYdl2Fr2.1>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248-7799

**Meeting ID#:** 915 7224 0785

The dates and times of upcoming webinars will be included in the [Informational and Help Desk Zoom Calls](#) document.

For questions, please contact [exemplaryeducator@la.gov](mailto:exemplaryeducator@la.gov).

### **Seeking Nominations for Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and School Physical Activity Awards**

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

The LDOE is seeking nominations for the following award initiatives: Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Awards. The nomination portal is now open and will close on September 30.

Please submit nominations via the [nominations portal](#) by **September 30**. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal closure, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share the information for the [nominations portal](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding health providers, employees, or schools.

For further details, please visit the [Awards](#) page.

Please contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov) with questions about the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year award, [elizabeth.duncan@la.gov](mailto:elizabeth.duncan@la.gov) with questions about the School Health Service Provider award program, and [healthyschools@la.gov](mailto:healthyschools@la.gov) for answers to questions about the School Physical Activity Award.