

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: August 4, 2026

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

I've enjoyed seeing so many of you welcome everyone back for the start of another school year.

As everyone returns, we have an important story to share. Louisiana's story is one of continued progress, high expectations, and the challenges ahead.

Over the summer, we learned that [Louisiana students achieved the highest overall proficiency in state history](#), with 36 percent of students earning Mastery or Advanced on LEAP. This is an important milestone for a state that has long faced educational challenges, but we know there is still much more work to do.

We also released [results from the 2025-2026 K-3 literacy screeners](#). The data show a 16.5 percentage-point increase in the number of students reading on or above grade level from the beginning to end of the school year.

These results build on [Louisiana's No. 1 ranking among states for reading growth and No. 2 ranking for math growth](#) in the Education Recovery Scorecard from Harvard, Stanford, and Dartmouth.

As we begin this new school year, I am asking every educator to join me in being pleased, but not satisfied.

Celebrate the progress, confront the challenges ahead, and strive to make this your strongest school year yet.

Together, we are making — and will continue to make — a profound difference in the lives of Louisiana students.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nonpublic Finance Office Hours: [August 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [August 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [August 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [August 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [August 11 at 3 p.m.](#)
- 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.](#)

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022): Foundational Skills for Grade 3

Please share with ELA content supervisors, literacy coaches, and ELA leaders.

The ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units [The Stories Julian Tells](#) and [Cajun Folktales](#), located on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#), now include foundational skills activities aligned to the [Louisiana Student Standards](#) for grade three. These Words in Practice activities provide students the opportunity to practice decoding and spelling and learn complex, multi-syllabic words by breaking them down into smaller parts. Student and teacher tools are located in the materials folder on each unit's homepage.

The LDOE will update the remaining units in grade three in early fall.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

2026 Physical Education Standards: Professional Learning

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

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) will consider the revised K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Physical Education at its meeting this month. Pending approval, the LDOE will be offering professional learning opportunities to support successful implementation.

Professional learning topics will include key shifts in the revised standards, such as the new structure and coding, standards-aligned instruction and assessment, and implementation supports with sample instructional resources.

Schools interested in physical education professional learning should complete the [Physical Education Professional Learning Request Form](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Mentor and New Teacher Scope and Sequence of Responsibilities: NOW OPEN

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

The Mentor and New Teacher Scope and Sequence of Responsibilities is designed to strengthen mentor support for new teachers throughout their first year. Organized by key points in the school year- from pre-service preparation through end-of-year reflection - it outlines suggested responsibilities for both mentors and new teachers. Emphasizing collaboration, continuous professional learning, and responsive, individualized support, this scope and sequence is intended to help mentors meet the evolving needs of new teachers throughout the year.

The Mentor and New Teacher Scope and Sequence of Responsibilities course can be found by logging in as a 'LEARNER' on the [Professional Learning Platform](#) using the Course Code 51018F65.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Dyslexia Professional Learning and Funding Resources

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

A recording of the [Leveraging IDEA Funds to Strengthen Dyslexia Supports](#) webinar is now available on the LDOE website. This webinar explores IDEA-aligned funding pathways that systems may use to strengthen dyslexia supports while maximizing available federal funds. Access the webinar recording and accompanying resources on the [Students with Disabilities Resources](#) page or the [Special Education Funding](#) page.

Recordings of dyslexia sessions from Teacher Leader Summit 2026 are now available on the LDOE website, and additional session recordings will be added in the coming weeks. Access the recordings and accompanying presentation materials on the LDOE [Literacy Professional Growth Resources](#) page or the [Students with Disabilities Resources](#) page.

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

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2027 Call for Presentations

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 **August 19 at 1 p.m. or 4 p.m.** Submission guidelines will be available on the [website](#) soon.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Policy and Governmental Affairs

President's Welcome Back to School Message

Please share with system leaders.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) shared [a letter from President Trump](#) welcoming students back to school. The letter may be shared with students, teachers, school leaders, and other stakeholders in your network.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Screening Schedules

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

All school systems must participate in K-3 literacy and numeracy screenings, to be completed in the first 30 days of school. All school systems must submit a schedule to assessment@la.gov for each school on the template provided by the Office of Assessments, Accountability and Analytics. The department is assigning LDOE staff monitors to schools, who have been trained to observe the screenings. Schools should require any sign-ins normally required for school visitors and ask to see the monitor's letter and LDOE employee badge. The school shall not impede their ability to observe students during screening.

Schedules should be resubmitted if changes become necessary.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT/WorkKeys

Please share with testing coordinators and system leaders.

The [ACT Memorandum of Understanding for 2026-2027](#) is posted at [Assessment Resources](#) and is **due September 25, 2026**. This document must be completed by all school systems that plan to test students in grades 11 or 12 who do not qualify to test under the Louisiana Department of Education contract with ACT. Qualifying students include:

- All grade 11 students who take the ACT
- Grade 12 students who do not have a prior year score on file with the LDOE
- Grade 11 students who take WorkKeys **and** who meet the following two criteria:
 - Are on the Jump Start diploma pathway as evidenced by the transcript in STS
 - Do not have a prior year WorkKeys score on file with the LDOE

The memorandum confirms that school systems will reimburse the LDOE for all other students. Students in grades other than 11 or 12 are not permitted to participate in the spring statewide administration. School systems should contact ACT for information regarding a district contract for grades 9 and/or 10.

The district must have a completed [Data Sharing Agreements](#) for ACT and ACT (other realms) in order for the LDOE and the district to share student data with ACT. The agreements will be in effect through 2033. Signed agreements must be submitted to LDEData@la.gov.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Safe Haven Law

Please share with middle and high school principals, school counselors, and school psychologists.

[Act 650](#) of the 2026 Louisiana Regular Session requires public middle and high schools in grades 7 through 12 to display informational [flyers](#) about Louisiana's [Safe Haven Law](#) inside school bathroom stalls.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Required Services Reimbursement Request Forms SY 2025-2026

Please share with Diocesan Superintendents, Nonpublic School Principals, and Required School Services Contacts.

The Required Services Reimbursement Request forms and guidance for school year 2025-2026 are due to Nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov no later than Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at close of business (4:30 p.m.). Guidance and forms are available at [Nonpublic Schools](#). Assistance is available via Office Hours, which are available on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Please contact nonpublicfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.