

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: September 1, 2026

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Civics education has experienced a resurgence in Louisiana. You can see it in our most recent LEAP data, where grades 3-8 social studies proficiency is up seven points since 2023 and high school students posted a five-point gain year-over-year on the state's new required civics exam.

Thanks to the hard work of teachers and Louisiana's Freedom Framework social studies standards, more students are learning how government works and what citizenship asks of them.

Celebrate Freedom Week is part of that effort. It runs September 14-18 this year. State law requires every public school to observe Celebrate Freedom Week and provide age- and grade-appropriate instruction on topics related to freedom. Students will explore the people, events, ideas, and primary documents that shaped the United States. Our team has posted guidance and resources on our website to support your planning.

President Ronald Reagan said freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. What students learn this week, and throughout the year, helps them understand the rights they enjoy as Americans and the responsibilities that come with citizenship.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [September 8 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [September 8 at 3 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.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [September 16 at 2 p.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.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [September 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [September 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [October 6 at 1 p.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 School Health Service Provider of the Year Nominations Due: [September 11](#)
- Teacher/Principal of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Nominations Due: [September 30](#)
- JS 2.0 Enhancement Requests Due: [October 1](#)
- The Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) submission window closes: [October 15](#)
- 2027-2028 Competitive Super App Launch at LAFEPA: October 29
- Pupil Progression Plans Due: [October 31](#)

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Materials Professional Learning Partner Guide Interim Guidance

Please share with content supervisors, school and system leaders.

Due to the revision of the [Louisiana Student Standards for ELA and Math](#), the Instructional Materials Professional Learning Partner Guide (IM PLPG) is entering a restructuring phase to align with updated academic expectations and instructional priorities. During this period, the [2025–2026 Professional Learning Efficacy Indicator Survey](#) results document will serve as an interim reference for the 2026–2027 school year to support school systems in selecting approved professional learning partners.

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with any questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

2026-2027 LEADS Implementation On-Site Extensions

Please share with human resource directors and system leaders.

To strengthen local implementation of Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development (LEADS) evaluations, systems are encouraged to participate in [LEADS Implementation On-Site Extensions](#). These school-based sessions provide system and school leaders with hands-on support in authentic school settings to deepen their understanding of the educator evaluation process, strengthen evaluator reliability, and build coaching capacity. Systems may complete a [LEADS On-Site Extension Request](#) by **September 23** to secure local sessions.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Educator Evaluations in LES

Please share with system 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 be put in the LES data system. This data includes updated position codes, locations, and assignments. After completing uploads, system staff should verify rosters and assign evaluators.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

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. Educator 2025-2026 evaluations will be due **November 30**.

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.

Louisiana's 2026–2027 Professional Learning Roadmap

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

The [Professional Learning Roadmap](#) provides school systems and schools with a clear pathway for creating a coherent system of instructional improvement. The 2026–2027 Roadmap connects district instructional leadership teams (D-ILTs), school instructional leadership teams (S-ILTs), and teacher collaboration (TC) through the High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) Cycle and cycles of continuous improvement.

The updated Roadmap includes:

- A system for coherent instructional improvement grounded in continuous improvement, capacity building, and a relentless focus on the student experience.
- Guidance for D-ILTs, S-ILTs, and Teacher Collaboration to align priorities, professional learning, and instructional practices.
- The High-Quality Professional Learning Cycle to support teams in defining priorities, learning, practicing, implementing, and assessing impact.
- Implementation Conditions to establish the infrastructure necessary for sustained instructional improvement.
- Professional Learning Cycle and planning guidance to support aligned ILT and Teacher Collaboration cycles.
- Teacher and Leader Coaching Plan Cycles to connect professional learning with ongoing feedback and support.

- Curriculum Implementation Continuum and Content Area Lesson Preparation Protocols to strengthen implementation of high-quality instructional materials.

Explore the updated [2026–2027 Professional Learning Roadmap](#) to support coherent, aligned professional learning across your school system.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2027 Call for Presentations Office Hours

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. 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.

Operations and Federal Programs

Federal Programs

Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for the 2026–2027 School Year: First Quarter

Please share with superintendents, federal program directors, special education supervisors, charter board presidents, and charter school directors.

The LDOE conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems with thoughtful planning and preparation for scheduled monitoring events, the LDOE is releasing the [first-quarter monitoring schedule](#).

The assigned statewide monitoring team leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification, planning documents, and instructions directly to the superintendent, federal program director, and special education supervisor of each school system included on the monitoring schedule.

Please contact DOE-program.monitoring@la.gov with questions.

School systems severely impacted by a disaster and currently included on the monitoring schedule are asked to contact DOE-program.monitoring@la.gov to discuss specific circumstances. The schedule is tentative, and the LDOE reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Act 420 Student Transfer Data Collection

Please share with system leaders and data managers.

Act 420 ([R.S. 17:4035.1](#)) requires that public school districts report data around student transfer requests, including the number of interdistrict and intradistrict transfer requests received, accepted, appealed, and denied.

School systems must submit their qualifying transfer request data through the [Act 420 Annual Reporting Jotform](#) by Friday, October 2. School systems should report requests submitted during the transfer period established in their local policies. Charter LEAs are exempt from this data collection.

Please contact [Data Systems Support](#) with questions.

Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

Data certification is the final opportunity that school systems have to review and request some documented changes to data that will be used to calculate school and district performance scores. Data that are not corrected during the official cleanup cannot be used to appeal the SPS released in late fall. All official accountability contacts and their backups have been given login credentials and are responsible for distributing rosters and collecting requests.

- Cohort graduation data certification is open through September 11, 2026, to download student-level rosters that include data for each 2026 cohort member that will be used to calculate the three THRIVE components included in the SPS for schools with a grade 12.
- Assessment and alternative school DCAI and core academic credit data certification will be open from September 3 through September 18 to provide data used to calculate the ACHIEVE and GROW components of the SPS. The rosters include test scores and growth information from LEAP, LEAP Connect, ELPT, ELPT Connect, K-2 End-of-Year literacy screening, and LAAR.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Please share with school counselors, social workers, school nurses, coordinators, teachers, administrators, and principals.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people, making awareness, connection, and early support especially important ([NAMI](#); [Youth.gov](#); [SAMHSA](#)). Every community is impacted, and prevention begins with creating environments where young people feel seen, heard, valued, and supported. Local Education Agencies can share the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) with students and families and utilize resources within SAMHSA's [Suicide Prevention Awareness Digital Toolkit](#).

Please contact Robyn.Thomas@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana 988 Day

Please share with school counselors, social workers, school nurses, coordinators, teachers, administrators, and principals.

Nationwide, September 8 is known as 988 Day. The Louisiana State Capitol will bring communities together to raise awareness of the 988 Lifeline, promote mental health, and strengthen suicide prevention across Louisiana. Local Education Agencies (LEAs), local school systems, and educators are encouraged to participate by helping spread awareness of 988.

- When: Tuesday, September 8, 10 a.m. - noon
- Where: Louisiana State Capitol Garden, Baton Rouge

Please contact Robyn.Thomas@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Pupil Progression Plan

Please share with school system administrators.

The 2026-2027 PPP template and guidance are available in the LDOE [School Policy](#) library.

The purpose of this document is to assist school systems in developing their required Pupil Progression Plan in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and to codify school system policies and procedures related to K-12 student placement, promotion, and retention. **Submit the PPP as a PDF to ppp@la.gov by October 31.**

Please contact ppp@la.gov with questions.

Course Choice School/System Webinar

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

This webinar will provide a live overview of and guidance on reporting in the Course Choice Portal.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 8 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94291640342>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID:** 942 9164 0342

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

School Choice

Charter Schools

2026-2027 Annual RFA Charter Application District Website Posting Requirements

Please share with school system leaders and district charter personnel.

The 2026-2027 Common Charter Application and application timeline were approved by BESE on August 19, 2026. Local authorizers were invited to attend the local authorizer monthly call on August 12 to review the applications, timeline, and application tools for application review.

As part of the local authorization process, district websites must provide potential applicants with the following information:

- Forms required for submission of a charter proposal, including eligibility documents and common charter application with any local additions.
- Timeline for accepting and reviewing charter proposals at the district level.
- The process that will be used to review charter proposals submitted to the board.
- The name and contact information for a primary point of contact for charter proposals.

A website template has been created for district use and is available [online](#). Usage of the template is entirely optional; each district may also choose to create and post district text in accordance with Bulletin 126. In accordance with the requirements to make public the guidelines for submitting a charter proposal, district websites will be reviewed for compliance beginning September 9, 2026.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

United States Senate Youth Program

Please share with school leaders.

Applications for the 2026–2027 United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) are now open.

- Two Louisiana delegates will be selected.
- Each selected delegate will receive a \$12,500 scholarship.
- Delegates will attend Washington Week, March 6–13, 2027.

Eligible juniors and seniors must hold a qualifying leadership position and be nominated by their principal. [Applications](#) are due October 9, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

Additional information, including the [National Brochure](#), [Louisiana Logistics Memo](#), eligibility requirements, and application details, can be found on the [LDOE Student Awards](#) webpage.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

2027-2028 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 [2027-2028 BESE Approval Application](#) is now available through October 15. The 2027-2028 *Brumfield v. Dodd* Application is accessible within the BESE application. Please review and follow the steps in the [NPSB Initial and Renewal Application User Guide](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 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 (Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval) to submit their school's 2026-2027 annual enrollment data opened August 1, 2026, and will close on October 15, 2026. The school should submit the enrollment through the [EdLink Website](#).

Prior to completing your school's NPS annual enrollment report, the school administrator responsible for entering the accurate data must 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

FY 2026-2027 Differentiated Compensation Allocation

Please share with business managers and school business officials.

The Legislature has appropriated funding in FY 2026-2027 for Differentiated Compensation with the intent to assist city and parish school districts, charter schools, lab schools, and state schools with addressing unique market needs in the recruitment and retention of teachers. For more details, refer to the FY 2026-2027 Differentiated Compensation Allocation Guidance Document available in the [Business Manager Support Library](#) – State Allocations Section. Funds will be released to school systems for Differentiated Compensation Allocation on September 11.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Seeking Nominations for Excellent Educators

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

The LDOE is accepting nominations for the following educator recognition programs:

- Teacher and Principal of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year (*Candidates for the New Teacher of the Year program must have less than one year of teaching experience.*)

The [nomination portal](#) closes on September 30. Multiple nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. After

the nomination period ends, all nomination information will be shared with school systems for consideration in their local selection process.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year, mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year, or brandee.david@la.gov with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.

Seeking Nominations for School Support Employees and Health Service Providers

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

The LDOE is accepting nominations for the following educator recognition programs:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)

The [nomination portal](#) will close on September 11. Multiple nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. After the nomination period ends, all nomination information will be shared with school systems for consideration in their local selection process.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Students of the Year School System Information and Participation Level Survey

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The Students of the Year program recognizes exceptional fifth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students whose leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service exemplify excellence.

The 2027 Students of the Year application process is now open. The timeline, guidelines, application materials, and additional resources are available in the Students of the Year Resources section of the [Student Awards](#) webpage.

All public, charter, and nonpublic school systems are encouraged to select one fifth-grade, one eighth-grade, and one twelfth-grade student to represent their school system in the state selection process.

School System Information and Participation Level Survey:

The [Students of the Year School System Information and Participation Level Survey](#) is due by September 9.

Each school system should designate one Students of the Year Coordinator to complete the survey. The coordinator will:

- Provide contact information for the school system's Students of the Year Coordinator(s).
- Indicate the grade levels the school system plans to participate in for the 2027 state-level selection process.
- Submit the contact information for representatives who will serve on the State Application Review Committee and Semifinalist Review Committee.

Please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov with questions.