

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: September 10, 2024

---

### In This Issue

[Message from the Superintendent](#)  
[Important Dates for School Systems](#)  
[Teaching and Learning](#)  
[Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations](#)  
[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)  
[Career and College Readiness](#)  
[School Choice](#)  
[School System Financial Services](#)

### Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana's system and school leaders are in the midst of emergency preparedness as Francine approaches our coast. We have been in contact with a number of you and appreciate the proactive steps being taken to ensure the safety of students, educators, and families.

This week's newsletter includes updates relative to the storm. All state offices will be closed Wednesday. If you planned on attending an LDOE call or event this week, we have rescheduled some dates. You can find more information in this week's entries. I also want to share our [Hurricane Preparedness Playbook](#). Released last year, it includes best practices and expert guidance to support school system leaders before, during, and after a hurricane.

Stay safe,

Dr. Cade Brumley

### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [September 10 at 3 p.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.](#)
- High School Science Support Monthly Call: [September 16 at 10:30 a.m.](#) (Rescheduled due to storm)
- Certification Monthly Call: [September 16 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Student Data Collection Training Webinar: [September 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [September 17 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [September 18 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [September 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [September 19 at 9 a.m.](#) (Rescheduled due to storm)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [September 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [September 25 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [September 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [September 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [October 1 at 1 p.m.](#)
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: [October 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: [October 16 at 9 a.m.](#)

## **Upcoming Events and Deadlines**

- [School Support Institutes](#) Session 1: September 10-17
- [System Leader Regional Collaboration](#) Session 1: September 10-17
- Teacher Exit Survey Submission Deadline: September 13
- 2024-2025 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application Webinar: [September 16 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- 2024-2025 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application Webinar: [September 16 at 2:30 p.m.](#)
- Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8 Webinar: [September 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- September Charter Refresher: September 19
- [Submit public comment](#) on K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science: September 27
- [Early Childhood Conference](#): October 5, Baton Rouge
- 2025-2026 In-Person Super App Launch during LASAFAP: October 17
- 2025-2026 Super App Virtual Launch: [October 22 at 10 a.m.](#)

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Academic Content

#### **Public Comment Open for K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science**

**Please share with all stakeholders.**

The [K-12 Computer Science Standards Writing Committee](#) has completed the development of Louisiana's new computer science standards. Please share the [public comment link](#) and timeline with educators and stakeholders in your community. Public comment on the draft [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#) is now open and will close on September 27 at 4 p.m. Public comment will be shared with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) on October 9.

Details on how to submit public comments can be found on the LDOE's [Computer Science](#) webpage.

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

#### **High School Science Office Hours Rescheduled**

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

The LDOE has rescheduled the high school science monthly support call in anticipation of Tropical Storm Francine. The call will now take place on September 16 from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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

#### **OpenSciEd for Middle School Transition**

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

The OpenSciEd Pilot for Grades 6-8 is now complete with the recent rating of several versions of the curriculum as [Tier I](#). There are [two pathways](#) for schools or systems interested in adopting these materials. Schools and systems should plan for both introductory and ongoing professional learning with both adoption pathways. Information on approved professional learning partners appears on the [LDOE Professional Learning Partner Guide](#).

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

### Diverse Learners

#### **Dyslexia Summit**

**Please share with special education leaders, teachers, reading coaches, and parents.**

The Center for Literacy & Learning, in partnership with ALTA Louisiana and Decoding Dyslexia Louisiana, is hosting an inaugural Plain Talk About Dyslexia Summit on October 4-5 at the Baton Rouge Marriott. Experts will share insights, strategies, and innovations in the field of dyslexia. From cutting-edge research to practical applications, participants will gain invaluable tools to support individuals with dyslexia in their communities, schools, and homes.

[Registration](#) is open.

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

## **Diverse Learners' Literacy Screening Guidance**

**Please share with school system leaders, principals, special education directors, special education teachers, testing coordinators, and speech-language pathologists.**

The Louisiana mCLASS system is now open for DIBELS screening of all students in grades K-3.

Keep in mind the consideration of diverse learners when assessing students. Updated guidance for these learners is available:

- Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is allowable, based on the student's individualized needs and documentation on the student's IEP
- Extended time should only be considered for the following students:
  - English learners as identified in EdLink 360 enrollment
  - Students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing, with fluency-based speech disorders documented on IEPs, assessed with alternative rubrics (i.e. significant cognitive disabilities), with limited verbal language skills, as documented on the IEP, that are not participating in an alternate assessment, and/or students who require braille
- For students that are deaf and/or hard of hearing, consider flexible administration options:
  - Have the speech language pathologist or teacher of the D/HH conduct the screening
  - Consider using an interpreter to assist with the test administration
  - Student's response modes may consist of ASL, finger spelling, AAC, visual phonics, gestures, or other modes of communication
- Students with limited verbal skills need additional ways to communicate or respond to testing items
  - Communication strategies may include pictures, communication boards, communication devices, and/or sign language or gestures
  - Teachers should work closely with the speech-language pathologist (SLP) in the school to make assessment accommodations
- Students with significant cognitive disabilities that meet eligibility criteria should participate in the [Literacy Alternate Assessment Rubric \(LAAR\)](#)

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

## **Parents of English Learners Literacy Workshop**

**Please share with school system leaders, principals, literacy coordinators, English Learner directors, school counselors, teachers, and instructional support staff.**

UMASS Global is partnering with the LDOE to provide a free four-part virtual workshop to prepare and support administrators, instructional coaches, and teachers with effective engagement strategies for parents and communities of English Learners. The virtual workshops aim to support the promotion of literacy development through home and community literacy activities to teach English Learners.

The workshops will cover topics such as:

- Building family literacy
- Methods for engaging families in literacy activities
- Strategies and resources to support reading development
- Using data to inform literacy development

The Parents as Partners in Literacy (PaPIL) Workshop Series (linked below) is scheduled from 2 p.m.-3 p.m. on the following days:

- September 25
- October 9
- October 23
- November 6

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

## **English Learner Institute**

**Please share with English Learner directors and coordinators.**

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner Institute for EL Directors and Coordinators. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration is linked below.

Please make your calendars for the following days:

- [October 1](#)
- [December 3](#)
- [February 4](#)
- May 13

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

## Educator Talent and Workforce Development

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

**Please share with all system and school 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. These five modules are designed to build learning throughout the year. Teachers are expected to complete the entire series of Professional Learning Modules.

**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, we are offering 245 complimentary seats. We are reserving half for the northern location (Monroe) and half for the southern location (Port Allen). At this time, we still have availability for the complimentary seats.

Teachers will be asked to receive approval to attend from their school leader.

[Registration](#) is still open.

Once teachers complete the registration, participants will receive details on selected training locations. Participants will also receive an invitation to access the online asynchronous modules.

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

### **LEADS Implementation On-Site 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. [LEADS Implementation On-Site Support Sessions](#) will be offered in four locations across the state in September, October, January, February, and March. These sessions will build the capacity of system and school leaders by providing high-quality professional learning opportunities in a school setting. In September, system leaders will engage in the observation process to develop a deeper understanding around evidence categorization, scoring, and selecting reinforcement and refinement areas. The activity can then be replicated with local leadership teams to build rater reliability. Registration for September sessions are now open in [EventBrite](#).

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

## School Improvement

### **School Support Institutes/System Leader Regional Collaborations: Session 1**

Please share with system and school leaders.

Due to the inclement weather expected this week, School Support Institutes and System Leaders Regional Collaborations are canceled in Shreveport on September 11 and in Lafayette on September 12. Information on rescheduling will be sent to registrants as soon as possible.

An email will be sent later in the week to registrants for the Kenner session on September 13 to announce if sessions will be held or rescheduled.

For registrants attending Baton Rouge on September 17, please see the [Session 1 Logistics Document](#) for venue parking directions and room assignments for each of our regional locations. We look forward to seeing all registered participants!

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

## Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

### **2024-2025 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application**

Please share with superintendents, school leaders, EEF coordinators, and business managers.

To assist school systems in preparing for the upcoming release of the 2024-2025 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application, the LDOE will host two Zoom meetings on September 16.

#### Session 1

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93292209236?pwd=sZ3JMBtSGuyTGBp9l08Amcaef3lRk3.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 932 9220 9236

#### Session 2

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 16 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91091039965?pwd=bVjLyxy0AXDnbTLu0BkoogY1rmXXxq.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID#:** 910 9103 9965

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

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **Data Collection: Student Transfers**

Please share with school leaders and data managers.

Act 420 (R.S. 17:4035.1) mandates that public school districts report data around student transfer requests. Each LEA is required to report the number of inter-district and intra-district transfer requests received, accepted, appealed, and denied during your system's transfer period, disaggregated by economically disadvantaged status and race and ethnicity, to the best of your knowledge.

Data managers should submit the requested information via the Annual Reporting for Act 420: Inter- and Intra-district Transfers Jotform by Monday, October 14. LEAs that do not submit required data by the October 14 deadline will be identified as "not reported" in all reporting provided to the Legislature.

For additional support, please review the FAQ and reach out to [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## **New Assessment Resource: Using LEAP Social Studies Rubrics**

**Please share with system supervisors, testing coordinators, instructional support leaders, and social studies teachers.**

A new assessment resource, Using LEAP Social Studies Rubrics, is now available in the Assessment Guidance library. This document includes information about:

- Differentiating between constructed-response (CR) and extended-response (ER) questions
- Defining language used in the LEAP CR and ER rubrics
- Creating questions compatible with the LEAP CR and ER rubrics
- Adapting the LEAP CR and ER rubrics to classroom use
- Scoring using the LEAP CR and ER rubrics

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

## **Innovative Assessment for ELA Close-Out**

**Please share with school system leaders and test coordinators of IAP participating school systems.**

School systems who participated in the Innovative Assessment program should download all reports from ADAM no later than September 30. Beginning October 1, Louisiana users will no longer have access to the ADAM testing platform. The LDOE will maintain score files but will not have access to individual student or school reports.

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

## **Career and College Readiness**

### **Fall 2024 Counselor Institute - SAVE THE DATE**

**Please share with high school principals, assistant principals, CTE Supervisors and school counselors.**

Registration links for the Fall 2024 Counselor Institute sessions will be released in the October Counselor Connect newsletter. Please invite your CTE Supervisor to join in conversations regarding the new Accountability system implementation and the Counselor Evaluation Rubric. **Each participant must register individually through Eventbrite;** registration is on a first come, first served basis. Maximum registration is based on location capacity.

<b>Date</b>	<b>8 a.m. - 11 a.m.</b>	<b>1 p.m. - 4 p.m.</b>
<b>October 22</b>	West Monroe	Bossier
<b>October 23</b>	Vernon	Lafayette
<b>October 24</b>	St. Tammany	St. Charles

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

## **School Choice**

### Charter Schools

#### **CANCELED: This Week's Excellence in Authorizing Meeting**

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

The Excellence in Authorizing Consortium Meeting set for Thursday, September 12 has been canceled due to the weather. The virtual meetings on September 24 and 30 will still occur.

Please contact [megan.thompson2@la.gov](mailto:megan.thompson2@la.gov) with questions.

## Nonpublic Schools

### **2025-2026 Notice of Intent for School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities**

**Please share with school leaders and data managers.**

The 2025-2026 Notice of Intent (NOI) for the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities will be available soon. On October 1, the link to the form will be available via email and the scholarship website. The Notice of Intent is submitted to the LDOE each year in the fall by schools that wish to participate in the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities and request \*NEW\* scholarship seats for the upcoming school year.

Schools must complete an NOI for each school even if no new seats are being requested for the upcoming year. Please contact [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with questions.

## **School System Financial Services**

### **Certificated and Support Staff Stipends Allocation**

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

In FY 2024-2025, the Legislature appropriated funding for a \$2,000 certificated stipend and a \$1,000 support staff stipend for school system employees. City and parish school districts, charter schools, university lab schools, and state school employees are eligible for this allocation. For further guidance regarding this allocation, please refer to the State Allocations section in [The Business Manager Support Library](#).

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