

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: September 8, 2026

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Message from the State Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Quality core instruction is essential. Students need daily access to grade-level content. At the same time, we must also ensure students receive targeted support for their individual needs. Our updated [Professional Learning Roadmap](#) reinforces the importance of using proven structures to support educators in the important work of connecting core instruction, evidence of student learning, and intervention.

Our August Teaching and Learning call spotlighted [literacy and numeracy screener resources](#) to help educators use screeners and classroom assessments to better understand individual student needs and plan for core and individualized instruction.

As you support this work, keep these intervention look-fors top of mind:

- Materials matter: Do intervention materials prepare students for or reinforce what they are learning in core instruction?
- The level of the lesson matters: Does the intervention address what students actually need in content and the right level of support? Beware of intervening at too low of a level and not addressing where students actually are academically.
- Consistency matters: Is uninterrupted core instruction protected, and is intervention provided consistently enough to make an impact?

The newly announced [Teacher Leader Summit 2027](#) theme, Win the Day, is a fitting reminder that student success is built through daily decisions. Protecting core instruction and providing the right intervention at the right time are two daily decisions that can lead to a lifetime of success.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 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.](#)
- EdLink 360 Office Hours: [September 15 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [September 15 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [September 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [September 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [September 17 at 10 a.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.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [September 24 at 10 a.m.](#)
- EdLink 360 Office Hours: [September 29 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [September 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [October 1 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [October 1 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar: [October 1 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [October 6 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- 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](#)
- Science Leader Webinar 3: Targeted Support for Amplify Users: [October 19 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Science Leader Webinar 4: Targeted Support for Open Sci Ed Users: [October 21 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Science Leader Webinar 5: Targeted Support for PhD Science Users: [November 5 at 9:30 a.m.](#)

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, numeracy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. All tiered reviews can be found on the [annotated reviews](#) webpage. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#). Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below.

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

- AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation - Every Child Ready Pre-K, ECE Ages 3-4

To support a seamless transition to the revised K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, the LDOE is conducting standards alignment cover page reviews on currently posted Tier 1 ELA, ELA intensive intervention, and mathematics materials to ensure alignment to the new standards. The status of the Cover Page Reviews can be found in the [ELA and Math Standards Alignment Review Status Report](#). The following titles have been reviewed and retained their Tier 1 status:

K-12 ELA

- Imagine Learning - EL Education, Grades 6-8 (©2020)
- McGraw Hill LLC - StudySync, Grades 6-8 (©2021)
- Open Up Resources - EL Education Language Arts, Grades 6-8 (©2019)
- Savvas Learning Company LLC - myPerspectives, Grades 6-8 (©2017)
- Savvas Learning Company LLC - myPerspectives, Grades 9-12 (©2017)

3-12 Foundations of Reading Intensive Intervention

- Lexia Learning Systems LLC - Lexia PowerUp Literacy, Grades 6-8 (©2018)

K-12 Mathematics

- Kendall Hunt Publishing - Illustrative Math, Grades 6-8 (©2019)
- Kendall Hunt Publishing - Illustrative Math, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (©2019)
- Zearn - Zearn Math, Grade K (©2018)
- Zearn - Zearn Math, Grades 1-5 (©2023)
- Zearn - Zearn Math, Grades 6-8 (©2023)
- Agile Mind Educational Holdings, Inc. - Agile Mind Louisiana Mathematics, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (©2017)
- Agile Mind Educational Holdings, Inc. - Agile Mind Mathematics, Grades 6-8 (©2016)
- Great Minds PBC - Eureka Math Squared, Algebra I (©2021)
- McGraw Hill LLC - Illustrative Mathematics, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry (©2021)
- Savvas Learning Company LLC - enVision Mathematics, Grades 6-8 (©2021)
- Savvas Learning Company LLC - enVision AGA, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (©2018)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Literacy Screening Gifted Referral Data Collection

Please share with special education directors and gifted coordinators.

Louisiana R.S.17:24.9 mandates school systems to report the number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation for literacy screening administration for Kindergarten through Grade 3.

The following data sets will be collected for each grade level:

- The number of gifted students scoring in the above-average range on the literacy screener
- The number of non-gifted students referred for additional screening
- The number of non-gifted students referred for gifted evaluation

Please [submit](#) the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) gifted referral data by October 16.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with any questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Spring 2027 BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Applications Opening Soon

Please share with teachers.

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the Spring 2027 semester will open September 21. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact louisianaleaders@la.gov.

2026–2027 Mentor Expansion Grant

Please share with HR Directors and system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) 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 and close on October 12.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov with questions.

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. The resource also highlights relevant [Louisiana Educator Rubric \(LER\)](#) focus areas to guide conversations, reflection, and goal setting, while providing optional tools and resources to support implementation. 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 Opportunities

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

The Dyslexia Lunch and Learn series will offer monthly, 30-minute professional learning sessions to inform educators on current dyslexia research and its practical implications for instruction and intervention. Please mark the following dates on your calendar, and use the links below to access each session:

Friday, September 25	12:00–12:30 p.m.	Meeting ID: 964 5966 3464	Passcode: 193540
Friday, October 30	12:00–12:30 p.m.	Meeting ID: 989 2092 9108	Passcode: 933150
Friday, November 20	12:00–12:30 p.m.	Meeting ID: 998 5118 0091	Passcode: 151103
Friday, January 29	12:00–12:30 p.m.	Meeting ID: 990 6918 3022	Passcode: 721275
Friday, February 26	12:00–12:30 p.m.	Meeting ID: 983 3755 2722	Passcode: 495653
Friday, March 19	12:00–12:30 p.m.	Meeting ID: 978 0940 5867	Passcode: 550630
Friday, April 30	12:00–12:30 p.m.	Meeting ID: 927 1789 6697	Passcode: 441575

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

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2027 Call for Presentations Application Open

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 [application](#) closes October 23.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Policy and Governmental Affairs

U.S. Ed Dear Colleague Letter on FERPA and PPRA

Please share with system leaders.

The U.S. Department of Education issued a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) regarding the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).

Please consult your legal counsel with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Grade 3-8 Enrollment Verification

Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.

LEAP enrollment verification will be conducted in DRC INSIGHT from September 21 through October 16. The verification function is found under the *Materials* tab. During AAA Office Hours, district test coordinators received guidance and reminders of the following:

- School systems that choose to administer grade 3 on paper must indicate this selection in Enrollment Verification by October 16. The department will not approve late requests for grade 3 paper-based testing.
- School systems must select delivery dates for manuals and materials.
- School systems should confirm enrollment by grade.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

Assessment data certification will close on Friday, September 18. Please note that this is the final opportunity for school systems to review and request changes for assessment data that are used in the fall SPS and DPS. Any data not corrected during a state-hosted cleanup period cannot be used as justification for an appeal of the SPS or DPS.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Reminder: School System and School Safety Questionnaire

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, principals, and response coordinators.

[Act 821 \(2026\)](#) requires each public school to complete an annual school safety questionnaire developed and distributed by the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools in partnership with the Department of Education. The questionnaire shall request information on the school's compliance with plan requirements, completion of required drills, and identified needs in emergency response and preparedness.

After each school completes the school-level questionnaire, each public school governing authority shall complete a district-level questionnaire. Both the school-level and district-level questionnaires shall be submitted to the department and the center on a date and at a frequency to be determined.

The LSU Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) will provide a survey link to each school system and school on September 14 to complete the questionnaire. The link will be submitted to the principal, and the superintendent will be notified to complete it.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Charter School Refresher

Please share with all board members and department heads.

[Register](#) for the upcoming Charter School Refresher September 15, 2026. The Refresher will be held at the EBR Professional Development Center (3000 N Sherwood Forest Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70814). Topics at the event will include key updates from LDOE, guidance on upcoming requirements and deadlines, opportunities to share best practices with fellow leaders and more.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 26-27 General Fund Budget Adoption and Submission

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Louisiana R.S.17:88 requires that city/parish school boards adopt a balanced budget by September 15 of each year and submit the adopted budget to the Department no later than September 30 each year. The required documents must be submitted to the department no later than the close of business on September 30, 2026. Required forms and instructions are located in the Business Manager Support Library in the section entitled City/Parish School System Resources, General Fund Budget.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2026 AFR Revenue Verification Report

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

The verification report, which includes totals for revenues, expenditures, and weighted funds, is utilized for confirming information to be included in the AFR. The verification report for FY 2026 is currently available in the Business Manager Support Library.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.