

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: September 23, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Louisiana Teachers,

This year marks the statewide launch of a new evaluation system built with and for Louisiana educators. After hearing from more than 8,000 of you and testing the system through pilots and a learning year, we are now moving forward with LEADS: Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System.

What's different with LEADS:

- **Support where it's needed most:** New and struggling teachers receive more observations, coaching, and individualized feedback.
- **Respect for effectiveness:** Teachers rated "Highly Effective" or higher will be observed less often, with one required unannounced observation each year. If results remain strong, no additional formal evaluations are needed. This shift gives effective teachers more time to focus on students while still receiving meaningful feedback.
- **Better feedback:** Observations are tied to actionable next steps, with follow-up coaching and growth plans.
- **Fair and transparent:** The system includes multiple measures, self-reflection, and a five-point scale that gives room for growth.

This is about more than evaluation. It's about professional trust, meaningful support, and recognizing the critical role teachers play in student success.

Over the past several weeks, I've shared updates on teacher pay, reduced training requirements, restored professional autonomy, stronger discipline support, and better access to instructional resources. LEADS represents the next step in our shared effort to ensure Louisiana teachers are supported and respected as professionals.

We've made incredible academic progress, and the nation is taking notice. But there is more to do. Together, we will keep improving Louisiana education so every student can thrive.

With appreciation,

Dr. Cade Brumley
Louisiana State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [September 24 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Pre-Educator Pathway Quarterly Support Call: [September 25 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [September 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [September 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [September 30 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Social Studies Office Hours: [October 1 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [October 2 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [October 3 at 9 a.m.](#)
- HDT Outcome-Based Contracts Webinar [October 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [October 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [October 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [October 9 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Numeracy Training Office Hours: [October 15 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [October 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [October 16 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [October 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [October 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [October 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [October 20 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Teacher/Principal of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Nominations Due: [September 30](#)
- Students of the Year School System Information and Participation Level Survey: [September 30](#)
- Deadline to submit Annual Financial Report (AFR): September 30
- Deadline to submit General Fund Budget: September 30
- Deadline to submit DSS Application in eGMS: October 1
- Elementary School Counselor Survey Submission Deadline: [October 1](#)
- Charter School Refresher: [October 7 at 8:45 a.m.](#)
- Grow Your Own Learning Visit: [October 20](#)
- In-Person Super App Launch at LAFEPA: [October 30](#)
- Virtual Super App Launch: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Office Hours

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and teachers.

Teachers, school leaders, and content supervisors are invited to join the LDOE for the second social studies office hours of the 2025–2026 school year. Scheduled for October 1 at 3:15 p.m., the office hours will focus on strategies to increase knowledge building for students during guided reading. It will also offer an opportunity to address any questions related to [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Join the session using the link provided below, or by accessing the [Social Studies Office Hours Flyer](#) located on the K–12 Social Studies Planning webpage.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 1 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 3607 5546

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

The New Teacher Experience Professional Learning Modules: Registration OPEN

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

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.

Half of the seats for the northern location (Monroe) and half for the southern location (Baton Rouge) will be reserved as complimentary seating. Once those seats are exhausted, teachers may still attend, but the cost to complete the series of modules will be \$1,272.00 per teacher. **There are still complimentary seats available.**

Teachers must 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 with questions.

Quarter 1 Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinar

Please share with system leaders.

Offered quarterly, the Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinars are virtual opportunities for Pre-Educator Pathway/Grow Your Own System Leads to share best practices related to developing and expanding access to the Pre-Educator Pathway. All school systems are encouraged to attend regardless of current pathway status.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 25 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96480214276>
- **Meeting ID#:** 964 8021 4276
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470 250 9358

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

Please share with school and system leaders.

System leaders, teacher leaders, and postsecondary teacher preparation partners are invited to attend site visits for a day of learning and community building. During site visits, participants will have an opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work that is being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their system. Please complete the [registration form](#) to attend the visit in Ascension Parish on October 20.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

High-Dosage Tutoring Outcome-Based Contracts

Please share with system leaders.

School systems may soon apply for additional Accelerate: High Dosage Tutoring funds to extend high-dosage tutoring through outcome-based contracts (OBCs). OBCs must be with existing external partners and will support an additional 10-week tutoring cycle.

Please join our HDT Outcome-Based Contracts Webinar to learn more:

Webinar Date and Time: October 6 at 10 a.m.
Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93869126044>
Webinar Phone Number: 312 626 6799
Meeting ID#: 938 6912 6044

Please contact tutoring@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

Requests for changes to data provided in assessment rosters are due in La Data Review by end of day, September 23. ELPT progress, LEAP 2025 progress and progress VAM exclusion rosters are all available as downloadable roster files.

Requests for changes to progress points rosters are due by end of day, September 26.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Fall 2025 Counselor Institute Sessions

Please share with school administrators and school counselors.

This year's Fall 2025 Counselor Institute features a brand new format designed to inspire collaboration and provide hands-on planning time. The three-part webinar series is designed to share foundational information ahead of the in-person workshops. Participants can then decide which in-person working session they would like to attend, as sessions will focus on interactive, hands-on activities, and collaborative planning.

- **Webinar Series:** October 28-30 (three sessions)
- **In-Person Sessions:** November 7, 14, or 20
 - **Locations:** St. Bernard Parish, Caddo Parish, or East Baton Rouge Parish

Registration links will be shared soon.

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

Charter School October Refresher

Please share with board members and department heads.

Please [register](#) for the upcoming Charter School Refresher on October 7 from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the East Baton Rouge Professional Development Center. This refresher will provide key updates from LDOE, guidance on upcoming requirements and deadlines, opportunities to share best practices, and time for questions and discussion.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

2025-2026 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 2025-2026 annual enrollment data opened August 1 and will close on October 15, 2025. 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 2024-2025 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Submission

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires local school systems and charter schools to provide financial data to the LDOE by September 30 each year. The Annual Financial Report (AFR) is to be submitted via the EdLinks Ops AFR portal. School systems that do not submit their initial AFR by the required deadline will be granted an automatic 15-day extension. If a school system needs an extension beyond October 15 to submit the AFR, a request must be made via the EdLinks Ops AFR Portal. Extensions will not be granted beyond November 1, 2025, for the initial submission of the AFR. The portal will not be accessible to systems that do not submit the initial AFR timely or do not have an approved extension request. School systems should strive to be compliant with the mandatory state statute by submitting the initial AFR by September 30. Please be reminded that in order to receive an Excellent rating on the Fiscal Risk Assessment, school systems must submit an initial AFR by September 30, and must have a clean and final AFR by October 31.

Please contact staudit@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Seeking Nominations for Excellent Educators

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

The LDOE recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the LDOE honors some of the state's most successful educators through the following award initiatives:

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

Part of the selection process for naming the school system and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, school system employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a [nominations portal](#) was created.

The [nominations portal](#) is open and will close on September 30. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon closure of the portal, 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 teachers and leaders.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year, laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year, or shallan.jones@la.gov with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.