

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: December 9, 2025

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Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

The mid-point of the school year is a time to take an honest look at what's happening in classrooms and ask: *Are we seeing what we set out to see?*

If the expectations you set in August aren't consistently showing up across your system, now is the time to act. Here are some key actions to guide your reflection:

- **Revisit your ILT's long-range plan.** Is it still guiding decision-making, communication, and support?
- **Monitor progress on system-wide priorities.** What's on track? What needs renewed attention?
- **Reevaluate school support.** Are your supports aligned to the urgency of need?
- **Reinforce expectations** for:
 - Teacher collaboration
 - HQIM implementation
 - Lesson preparation
 - Tutoring

We're seeing real momentum in systems that are using the available tools with clarity and consistency. Let's use this mid-year moment to realign and refocus so we can finish strong for every student.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [December 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [December 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours/Monthly Call: [December 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [December 17 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [December 18 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- FSGR Monthly Call: [December 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [December 18 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [January 8 at 9 a.m.](#)

- 2026-2027 Super App Office Hours: [January 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [January 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [February 5 at 8 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [December 9](#)
- School Health Service Provider Award State-Level Applications Due: [December 9](#)
- School Physical Activity Award State-Level Applications Due: [December 9](#)
- IQWST Transition Support Call 4: [December 11 at 2:30 p.m.](#)
- Annual Dyslexia Reporting Deadline: [December 15](#)
- Seclusion and Restraint Policy Updates Deadline: December 31
- Public Comment on Alternate Assessment Deadline: January 2
- High Cost Services Round 2 Application Deadline: January 12
- Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [January 14](#)
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [January 14](#)
- New Teacher of the Year State-Level Applications Due: [January 21](#)
- School Support Institutes Session 2: [January 21 - 28](#)
- System Leader Regional Collaboration Session 2: [January 21 - 28](#)

Teaching and Learning

System Leader Regional Collaboration Session 2

Please share with system leaders

Session 2 of [System Leader Regional Collaboration](#) will take place in January.

- January 22: Baton Rouge Cohort - Cook Hotel & Conference Center
- January 23: Lafayette Cohort - University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- January 27: Monroe Cohort - University of Louisiana Monroe, Bayou Pointe
- January 28: Shreveport Cohort - Hilton Garden Inn, Bossier City

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Academic Content

Public Comment on Revised Math and ELA Standards

Please share with math and ELA content supervisors and teachers.

[Public comment](#) for the revised K-12 Louisiana Student Standards in math and English language arts is now open and will close on January 30. Educators and community stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the standards revisions. The LDOE will present the revised standards, along with a summary of public comments, at the March 2026 BESE meeting.

The LDOE will provide sessions at the [2026 Teacher Leader Summit](#) to introduce the new standards and best practices for implementing these standards.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Alternate Assessment Waiver

Please share with special education stakeholders.

The LDOE is seeking a waiver for the 2025-2026 school year for the federal requirement that limits the number of students who participate in alternate assessments. The LDOE's 2025-2026 alternate assessment waiver is available for public comment. Please submit comments to specialeducation@la.gov by January 2. Comments must include full name, organization (if applicable), and contact information. All comments are subject to public records requests.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

School Support Institutes Session 2

Please share with system and school leaders.

Session 2 of [School Support Institutes](#) will take place in January.

- January 21: New Orleans Cohort - Pontchartrain Convention & Civic Center, Kenner
- January 22: Baton Rouge Cohort - Cook Hotel & Conference Center
- January 23: Lafayette Cohort - University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- January 27: Monroe Cohort - University of Louisiana Monroe, Bayou Pointe
- January 28: Shreveport Cohort - Hilton Garden Inn, Bossier City

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.

Ensuring Alignment and Quality in High-Dosage Tutoring Sessions

Please share with system and school leaders.

High-dosage tutoring has the potential to transform learning outcomes when schools prioritize high-quality implementation. Aligning tutoring to LDOE-approved curriculum, student data, and continuous progress monitoring helps ensure every session effectively meets students' needs.

Principals and other school leaders are encouraged to regularly observe high-dosage tutoring sessions to ensure quality and provide targeted feedback to tutors. Leaders are encouraged to utilize the [High-Dosage Tutoring Quality Assessment](#) tool during observations. This tool supports consistent monitoring of session quality, guides constructive feedback, and ensures tutoring remains tightly aligned with core classroom instruction.

When working with an external tutoring provider (in-person or virtual), it is critical that school leaders regularly monitor tutoring sessions and provide specific feedback directly to the provider and/or the tutor.

Please contact tutoring@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

Zearn Math Challenge

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

The LDOE is excited to invite math educators to participate in [Zearn's Louisiana Math Challenge](#). This challenge provides a collection of kits filled with resources designed to motivate students and celebrate their achievement as they complete at least three grade-level Zearn lessons each week. Visit [Zearn's Louisiana Math Challenge](#) webpage to see how schools across the state are celebrating student success and to download challenge materials to use in the classroom.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Math Leaders Community of Practice

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

LDOE, in partnership with the Charles A. Dana Center, is launching a [Community of Practice for Math Leaders](#) to strengthen math teaching and coaching across Louisiana. Through this initiative, participants will connect and collaborate with math leaders from across the state, share best practices and coaching strategies for implementing High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) more effectively in their work.

Beginning in January 2026, participants will meet virtually for two hours each month and will conclude their experience with a special session at the [2026 Teacher Leader Summit](#). For more information, including access to the interest form, review the [Community of Practice for Math Leaders](#) document.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Title 1, Part A (TIA) and Title I, Part D (TID) CSPR Data Submission

Please share with federal program directors.

The LDOE must report student data for participation in Title I, Part A & D in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR).

The TIA data (SY 2024-2025) will be collected in eGMS. LEAs and charters that receive Title I, Part A must complete this request. Data must be entered for SWP, TA, Private School, and Neglected students served.

The Annual Count for Title I, Part D will be collected in eGMS (Annual Count Tab). Please complete tabs 1-3 for the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR). Data from SY 2025-2026 will be used for tabs 1-3. This request is only for state agencies/school systems that receive Title I, Part D funds (Not charter schools).

Data must be submitted via [eGMS](#) by January 6.

Please contact Edeltress.Brown@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

Two documents have been updated for use with fall/MOY administrations.

- The [Assessment Testing Irregularity Form](#) has been updated as a pdf fillable document. Testing coordinators cannot submit handwritten irregularity forms as indicated in the directions.
- The [High School Leap Grade Conversion Table](#) has been updated to align to a 10 point grading scale and includes conversions for Civics.

All students who are in an assessment-eligible high school course must take the assessment, regardless of graduation requirement, unless a score for the subject test from a prior administration can be used as part of the final grade.

Any changes to high school schedules that were submitted to assessment@la.gov previously must be updated if any changes are made, so that state-assigned monitors can receive an update prior to their visit to the site. Schools must allow state-assigned monitors to observe testing and cannot determine which testing group can be monitored.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ELPT

Please share with testing coordinators, ELPT supervisors, and school leaders.

The [Request for ELPT Domain Exemption Form](#) is due no later than December 19. Louisiana does not exempt any students from the reading or writing domains. Please see below for information regarding the listening and speaking domains.

- To be eligible for a listening domain exemption, a documented IEP must indicate substantial hearing impairment that is not improved through any technology device.
- To be eligible for a speaking domain exemption, a documented IAP or IEP must indicate a substantial speech impairment or substantial use of a communication device. Students who have less severe articulation challenges are not eligible for an exemption.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Screenings

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

The K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Middle-of-Year (MOY) screenings must be completed no later than December 31, 2025. Please note that there may be limited support from vendors and the LDOE on the official holidays — December 24–26, 31.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Alternative Education Submission Portal

Please share with school system leaders and AE site supervisors.

[2026-2027 AE Submission Portal](#) is scheduled to open on December 11, 2025. All school systems are required to verify the existence of AE sites using the submission portal. Additionally, the portal must be used if a school system seeks to establish a new site or make changes to an existing site.

The authorization timeline is as follows:

- December 11: [2026-2027 AE Submission Portal](#) opens
- February 2: Submission portal closes
- February 9-13: Interviews for 2026-2027 new site authorization
- April 14-15: AE site recommendations presented to BESE

Please contact terran.perry@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

December Monthly Calls

Please share with school and system leaders.

The Office of School Choice will not hold the BESE-Authorized Monthly Call or the Nonpublic Monthly Call in December. Both calls will resume on their regular schedules in January 2026.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Charter Schools

Request for Applications - CSP Supplemental Funding for Charter Schools

Please share with district charter authorizers and charter school leaders.

The Office of School Choice has successfully secured an additional \$13.5 million for charter schools across Louisiana. With this funding, the LDOE has created a per-pupil funding opportunity for charters to apply toward Louisiana initiatives. It is **not** limited to new, expanding, or replicating charter schools. Please see the program description found [here](#) and visit the [CSP Grant page](#) for more information and resources.

The supplemental funding application will open in eGMS on December 1, 2025 and close December 19, 2025. Charters that do not serve as their own LEA should reach out to their authorizing district to ascertain the deadline for which the district will need their application information. An [application tool](#) is available to provide district personnel with application information.

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov with questions.