

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: February 24, 2026

In This Issue

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)

[Career and College Readiness](#)

[School System Relations](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [February 25 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [February 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [February 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [February 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [March 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [March 3 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [March 5 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [March 6 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [March 10 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 12 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [March 16 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 19 at 3 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- LEAP Testing Accommodations Due: March 2
- Educator Talent and Workforce Development Staffing Webinar: [March 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Counselor Institute Ouachita Parish Session: [March 13](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit Early Bird Registration Due: [March 15](#)
- Summer Feeding Plan Survey Due: [March 16](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 3: [March 16](#)
- Counselor Institute St. Bernard Parish Session: [March 20](#)
- Counselor Institute Calcasieu Parish Session: [March 27](#)
- Aspiring Principal Fellowship Applications Due: [April 1](#)
- LEADS Principal Survey Due: April 2
- Teacher Leader Summit Registration Due: [April 12](#)
- Non-Congregate Feeding Site Requests Due: [April 13](#)
- Summer Feeding Applications Due: [May 18](#)

Teaching and Learning

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Applications Now Open: Aspiring Principal Fellowship

Please share with teacher leaders, principals, and system-level leaders.

The LDOE is now accepting applications for the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship \(APF\) 2026-2027](#), a selective, year-long leadership experience for educators preparing to become principals.

Participants engage in full-day school visits with high-performing Louisiana principals, learning aligned to state priorities, and leadership experiences focused on instructional leadership skills.

Educators ready to grow as leaders are encouraged to apply by completing the [APF Application](#). The application deadline is April 1. Additional information about the Aspiring Principal Fellowship is available in the [APF Overview document](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Boosting Your School System's Workforce: March 2026 Staffing Webinar

Please share with school board members, superintendents, and system level leaders.

School systems looking for teachers or school leaders are invited to join the Educator Talent and Workforce Development Staffing Webinar. This webinar will cover staffing pathways and support resources to help strengthen the educator workforce. Superintendents, system-level leaders, and school board members are encouraged to attend this important discussion.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 5 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93886494074?pwd=FJR9Dvz57ID2D41JfcpCKotoMjbWbY.1>
- **Meeting ID:** 938 8649 4074
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799

Please contact arthur.joffrion@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Principal Survey

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

The Principal Survey will open in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) on March 2. Each educator will be allowed to submit one survey that provides feedback on the principal of their school. Please note that once submitted, surveys cannot be edited or resubmitted. The [Principal Survey Guide for Educators](#) can be used as a resource for completing the survey. Although the survey will remain open through April 2, systems should set an internal deadline prior to this date to ensure participation from educators.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Resources

Please share with superintendents, human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

Resources and training materials continue to be added and updated in the [LEADS Library](#). The [LCR Evidence Collection Sheet](#) is now available. The [LA Leader Evaluation Handbook](#) has been updated to include additional guidance on leader PGP/Coaching Plans. Leaders are encouraged to bookmark the page to access the most current resource editions.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

Zearn Math Challenge

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

With the LEAP test six weeks away, now is an important time to maximize instructional impact with Zearn. Schools that prioritize consistent usage of three or more lessons per week, show stronger math growth and greater student confidence ahead of testing. Challenging every student to complete 30 lessons before LEAP can help reinforce key standards and close learning gaps.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Achievement in Numeracy Act (LANE)

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

Per [Act 260 \(2023\)](#) and [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#), all K–8 math teachers must complete an LDOE-approved numeracy course. School and system leaders must collect proof of completion from all new hires teaching these grades. An optional numeracy course for high school math teachers is also available.

Teachers can access courses through the 2025–2026 school year, and system contacts have received the course codes. For more information, see the [Guidance and Framing](#) document on the [Louisiana Math webpage](#). Systems should actively support teachers in meeting these requirements. Numeracy leaders are invited to join monthly office hours on March 18 at 9 a.m.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Zearn's Louisiana Math Challenge

Please share with school leaders and educators.

Zearn's fourth challenge kit, [All-Star](#), supports schools in increasing Zearn lesson completion. The printable kit includes bulletin board materials, student trackers, and certificates — all designed to encourage students to complete at least three grade-level Zearn lessons per week. Download the All-Star challenge now and join schools across Louisiana in celebrating math learning!

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Early Bird Registration Now Open

Please share with system leaders, system administration, school leaders, and educators.

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 will be held May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Early bird registration for Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is open until March 15. The early bird registration cost for the three-day professional learning conference is \$249. The registration link is now live on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#). Regular registration will be open from March 16 until April 12 at a cost of \$299. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

School systems can utilize the following federal funding sources for Teacher Leader Summit 2026:

- Title I
- Title II
- Title V REAP
- Title IV SSAE: Sessions about STEM/STEAM/Foreign Language/School Climate
- IDEA: Sessions about special education

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Accommodations for LEAP Testing

Please share with testing coordinators, special education staff, and school leaders.

Accommodations for LEAP testing must be completed on IEPs, IAPs, and EL Checklists no later than March 2 to be used with spring LEAP testing that begins on April 1. Accommodations for testing must also be used routinely by the student during instruction in order to be used on the LEAP test.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

2025-2026 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM

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

The [Louisiana Educator Portal](#) (LEP) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analysis. The data in LEP will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies (grades 4-8), and Algebra I, Geometry, English I and English II LEAP High School courses (all grades) should review their rosters during the view-only period as they are eligible to receive VAM scores.

February 2-April 15: LEP will be open for a view-only period. During this time, users can view and check roster data for accuracy, and make any corrections in EdLink 360. System Support will be available to assist with any issues that a school system must correct in EdLink 360. LEP will be updated daily during view-only to reflect any submitted changes to EdLink 360.

April 16-May 28: LEP will be open for roster verification. This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school system and school level in the system.

The current [Roster Verification User Guide](#) is available.

Please create a ticket through the [Data System Support portal](#) for assistance with Edlink 360 submissions related to teacher and student course enrollment, or contact LEADS@la.gov with general teacher evaluation related questions.

Career and College Readiness

Spring 2026 Counselor Institute In-Person Sessions

Please share with school counselors, administrators, and CTE supervisors.

Registration for the Spring 2026 Counselor Institute in-person session is now available on Eventbrite. Attendees will participate in sessions focused on interactive, collaborative planning that promotes student success.

There are three options for in-person sessions:

March 13: [Ouachita Parish](#)

March 20: [St. Bernard Parish](#)

March 27: [Calcasieu Parish](#)

If you are unable to attend any of the three in-person session options, slide decks and handouts will be provided on the [Counselor Support](#) page after the last in-person session.

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

School System Relations

Announcing the 2026 Health Provider, School Support, and Physical Activity Award Finalists

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The LDOE is pleased to announce the [2026 finalists for the Health Provider, School Support, and Physical Activity Awards](#). These outstanding honorees are making remarkable strides in their schools and communities, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to student success and well-being. Their efforts exemplify the very best of Louisiana's education system.

All honorees will be formally recognized at the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting in Baton Rouge on April 15, followed by a special celebration at the Old State Capitol. That day, the overall honorees will be named for the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and the School Health Service Provider of the Year award programs.

Congratulations to these exceptional educator stakeholders!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.