

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 13, 2026

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### Message from the Deputy Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Last month, we asked: *Are your systems aligned to the expectations set at the start of the year?*

This month, we ask: *Are those expectations visible in every classroom?*

Now is the time to focus on core instruction. While providing students with extra time to learn is essential, a healthy core gradually reduces the need for constant bandaids. It's all about the core.

#### Mid-Year Leadership Check

As you examine mid-year data and visit classrooms, consider:

- Are you seeing high expectations for instructional excellence consistently?
- What does the data tell you? Who needs support and what should that support look like?
- If expectations aren't being met, what clarification or guidance is needed?

This moment calls for sharpened instructional leadership and precise support.

#### What does strong core instruction look like?

- Schedules protect instructional time, allowing for full implementation of HQIM
- Daily instruction includes explicit teacher modeling, student practice, and academic feedback
- Collaboration is embedded into the school day and centers on planning for core instruction using HQIM to meet the needs of all learners

To support this work, we released new planning tools to help educators effectively collaborate:

#### ELA

- K-2 [Skills](#) and [Knowledge](#) Unit Tool
- K-2 [Skills](#) and [Knowledge](#) Lesson Prep Tool
- 3-12 Unit [Study Tool](#) & [Lesson Preparation Protocol](#)

#### Math

- [Unit Study Tool](#)
- [Lesson Preparation Protocol](#)

Let's make the second half of the year count by ensuring every student receives high-quality core instruction, every single day.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson  
Deputy Superintendent

# Important Dates for School Systems

## Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [January 14 at 11 a.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [January 14 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [January 15 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [January 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [January 15 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [January 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [January 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [January 26 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 28 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 29 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [February 5 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [February 6 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 12 at 10 a.m.](#)

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- 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](#)
- International Associate Teacher (IAT) Program Recruitment Needs Due: [January 15](#)
- Supporting Implementation of HQIM in Classrooms Webinar: [January 15](#)
- 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](#)
- 2026-2207 Super App Submission Deadline: January 23
- Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant deadline: January 23
- 2025-2026 Graduate Diploma and Seal Order Form Due: [February 6](#)

## 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. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [annotated reviews](#) web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#).

- Kiddom - Core Knowledge Bayou Bridges Powered by Kiddom, Grade 8 (©2024)

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

#### **Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant (CSTAG) Due January 23**

**Please share with CTE supervisors, STEM supervisors, and system leaders.**

School systems are encouraged to apply for the [2026-2027 Computer Science Technology Assistance Grant \(CSTAG\)](#) to support [computer science](#) teacher preparation and computer science instruction for students in grades K-12. Grants of up to \$40,000 per school system are available.

Applications for 2026-2027 funding are due, along with other competitive grant applications, on January 23.

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

## Educator Talent and Workforce Development

### **New: Principal Webinar Series**

**Please share with school and systems leaders.**

The LDOE has developed a new series of webinars designed specifically to meet the needs of school leaders. The first webinar, “Supporting Implementation of HQIM in Classrooms,” will be held on January 15 at 1 p.m. In this webinar, principals will have the opportunity to hear from the academic content team about best practices for supporting teachers in implementing and using HQIM.

Following a brief overview, principals will have the opportunity to break out into groups for honest discussions based on their individual needs. This group will primarily rely on collaboration with other school leaders, with additional LDOE support and guidance to help advance the work.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 15 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://l DOE.zoom.us/j/95815056755?pwd=UJMhjwTm4f19dwbyDERcvDuwalblo.1>
- **Meeting ID#:** 958 1505 6755
- **Passcode:** 983914
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799

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

### **Annual Teacher Exit Survey Released**

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

The annual Teacher Exit Survey highlights the progress of Louisiana’s comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy and may inform future educational recruitment strategies. This past year saw the following improvements:

- Fewer teachers are citing “accepting a position outside of the field of education” as their primary reason for exiting.
- Fewer teachers cited “accepted a teaching or leadership position outside of Louisiana” as their primary reason for exiting.
- Fewer teachers cited “Resigned - dissatisfaction with school or district policies” as their stated reason for exiting.
- The number of candidates who completed a Louisiana teacher preparation program has increased for the second consecutive year.
- Over the last three years, about 32% of exits have been due to personal circumstances and 2% due to dissatisfaction or anticipated termination, showing no significant increase in negative sentiment among teachers.

The [2024-2025 Teacher Exit Survey](#) is available in the [Workforce Attributes Library](#).

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

## Teacher Leader Summit

### **Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Website**

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

Starting January 15, please visit the new Teacher Leader Summit event [website](#) for the latest information. This will be your one-stop shop for all things Summit, including registration, hotel links, session details, speaker information, and much more.

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

# Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

## Proposed Amendment to Louisiana's ESSA State Plan

Please share with system leaders.

Louisiana has opted to pursue the opportunity to amend its state plan to transition from high school subject-specific end-of-course assessments to a set of high school comprehensive exams in English language arts and mathematics. Relevant personnel should review this [addendum PDF request](#) and submit questions or comments to Ashley Townsend, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs, via email at [educationpolicy@la.gov](mailto:educationpolicy@la.gov) placing "ESEA Addendum" in the subject line, by February 6.

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

## Career and College Readiness

### 2026 Diplomas and Seals

Please share with school counselors, principals, data coordinators, and system personnel responsible for ordering diplomas and seals.

A new BESE president was elected in December, and all surplus diplomas should be destroyed. New proofs are being created with the signatures of currently sitting officials. In addition, all historical diploma seals have been redesigned, and [two new seals](#) have been added. Surplus diploma seals should also be disposed of.

Orders for diplomas with current official signatures and updated seals should be submitted using the [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#). Each school system should submit only one form, covering all 2025-2026 graduates. The LDOE will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution. Orders must be submitted through the electronic form by February 6. Shipping will begin in March, and the LDOE will not be able to process or send diplomas or seals before that time, as they will still be in production.

Please contact [jenny.moran2@la.gov](mailto:jenny.moran2@la.gov) with any questions.

### Registered Apprenticeship Funding

Please share with high school principals, counselors, CTE, and secondary supervisors.

Funding is available for students enrolled in approved Registered Apprenticeship programs at a rate of \$2,500 per non-rural student and \$3,500 per rural student, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Funds may be used to support costs associated with delivering apprenticeship programming, including student stipends, instructor costs, travel, uniforms, and required work supplies.

To be eligible for funding, students must be accurately uploaded into the [Course Choice Portal](#) by March 7. The portal will remain open for uploads through January 30, and enrollments added after the system closes must be submitted to [coursechoice@la.gov](mailto:coursechoice@la.gov) for upload. Due to increased funding requests this school year, eligible enrollments will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the order in which uploads are successfully completed. Payments for this round of funding will be issued in June.

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

### Internship Funding

Please share with high school principals, counselors, CTE, and secondary supervisors.

Funding is available to defer the costs of delivering internship programming to students. The allocation is \$1,000 per eligible student enrolled in a spring internship program that meets policy requirements. To request this funding, students must be enrolled in the [Course Choice Portal](#) in a spring LDOE Internship course. Enrollments entered after January 30 should be sent to [coursechoice@la.gov](mailto:coursechoice@la.gov) for upload. The template can be found on the Course Choice [webpage](#). An [attestation](#) for the 2025-2026 school year must be completed and sent to [coursechoice@la.gov](mailto:coursechoice@la.gov), and all required documentation must be on file at the local level.

The deadline for reporting spring enrollments is March 7. Due to an increase in funding requests, enrollments will be funded in the order in which they are received. Payment for this round of funding will occur in June.

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

## **U.S. Presidential Scholars Program**

**Please share with school and system-level administrators and counselors.**

The [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#) was established to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school students selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship. All high school seniors graduating between January and August 2026, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

School systems can submit, for LDOE consideration, up to two students in the General Component and up to two students in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Component. The LDOE can nominate up to 10 males and 10 females AND up to 5 additional students for the CTE recognition component.

This is a recognition program, not a scholarship program. The 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

In order to recommend students for nomination to the program, school systems are required to submit to the LDOE a [parental release form](#) for each nominated student and complete a [JotForm application](#) for each student by 5 p.m. on January 30.

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

## **School Choice**

### **Charter Schools**

#### **Charter School Program Grant Application (Year 4)**

**Please share with charter school leaders, charter management organizations, and charter developers.**

The next CSP application cycle has been adjusted and will follow the timeline below. Information is available on the [CSP Grant page](#) Charter schools that have already been authorized to open, expand, or replicate, or will be, by August 20, are eligible to apply during this cycle. Reminders will be included in upcoming newsletters as the cycle approaches.

#### **Year 4 - CSP Subgrant Application Cycle - 2026 Timeline**

- **July 30:** CSP Letter of Intent due
- **August 20:** CSP Eligibility Determination Form due
- **September 6:** CSP Subgrant Application due

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

## **School System Financial Services**

#### **FY 2025-2026 Second Quarter Financial Report**

**Please share with Type 2 and Type 5 charter school business managers and financial officials.**

The Second Quarter Financial Report for FY 2025-2026 for all Type 2 and Type 5 charter schools is due on January 31. The quarterly report template is included in the workbook used to submit the annual operating budget. Charter systems are required to submit the entire workbook with updates to the Quarter 2 Budget tab. The Second Quarter Financial Report should contain year-to-date actual information from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, along with budgeted data for FY 2025-2026. If an organization operates more than one charter school, a separate financial report must be submitted for each charter school.

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

## **Single Audit Report Submission Portal**

**Please share with business managers, external auditors, and financial officials.**

The [single audit report submission portal](#) allows school systems to upload their single audit reports. The deadline for submission is April 15.

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

## **School System Relations**

### **State-Level Award Applications Due in January**

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

Teacher/Principal of the Year applications and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on January 14. Applications for New Teacher of the Year are due by 11:59 p.m. on January 21. All application materials and resources are available on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page.

For Teacher and Principal of the Year candidates/coordinates only, please complete the [Online Portal Help Desk Form](#) if any issues are anticipated or encountered when submitting information into the online portals.

To support New Teacher of the Year candidates in using the online portal, we will host the following informational webinar:

#### **New Teacher of the Year Candidate/Coordinators Webinar:**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 14 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93430089291?pwd=MQmp8m21EzJbqWpn9IDdXLHDFm7Pbf.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 934 3008 9291
- **Passcode:** 272430

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