

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: March 17, 2026

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, BESE members heard directly from a student who represents the kind of opportunity school systems are working to provide for young people across Louisiana.

Nyssiah Ebanks, a senior at McKinley High in East Baton Rouge Parish, joined us during a presentation on Louisiana's expanding high school pathways. Nyssiah is on track to graduate this year with both his high school diploma and an associate degree. He will also leave high school with eight industry-based credentials, internship experience, and a strong foundation for his goal of becoming a mechanical engineer.

The world of work has changed, and our high schools are evolving to meet that reality. Students like Nyssiah reflect the work schools and systems across Louisiana are doing to reimagine the high school experience. Today's students are gaining access to college-level coursework, high-quality industry credentials, and work-based learning opportunities that help them explore career pathways and make informed decisions about what comes next.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [March 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [March 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [March 19 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [March 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [March 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 19 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [March 24 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [March 25 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [March 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [April 7 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Summer Feeding Applications Due: [March 18](#)
- Spring 2026 Counselor Institute (St. Bernard Parish): [March 20](#)
- International Associate Teacher Program Superintendent Signing Statements Due: March 20

- Spring 2026 Counselor Institute (Calcasieu Parish): [March 27](#)
- Aspiring Principals Fellowship Applications Due: [April 1](#)
- Principals Survey in LES Due: April 2
- Teacher Leader Summit Registration Due: [April 12](#)
- Non-Congregate Feeding Site Requests Due: [April 13](#)
- Public Comment for 2026 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for PE Due: [April 15 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Assessment Development Educator Review Committees Applications Due: [April 20](#)
- Science Leader Community of Practice Webinar: [April 22 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Portfolio Assessment Vendor Applications Due: [April 23](#)
- K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Screening Due: April 30
- Science Grades 6-8 Implementation Guidance Update Webinar Option 1: [May 6 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Science Grades 6-8 Implementation Guidance Update Webinar Option 2: [May 8 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Science Grades 6-8 Implementation Guidance Update Webinar Option 3: [May 13 at 1:30 p.m.](#)

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

International Associate Teacher Program

Please share with content supervisors or school leaders.

Schools and systems requesting international teachers for the 2026-2027 International Associate Teacher Program recruitment cycle should complete, sign, and return the Superintendent’s Signing Statements to LDOE by March 20.

Please consult the [Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Guide](#) for more information on recruitment guidelines and timelines.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

OpenSciEd Grades 6-8 Guidance for 2026-2027

Please share with science content supervisors and system leaders.

The LDOE is developing new guidance for the 2026-2027 school year for all versions of grades 6-8 OpenSciEd. The transitional scope and sequence recommendations address feedback from Louisiana educators after years of implementation. The updates will include the following recommendations:

- The Ecosystem Dynamics unit will appear on both the Grade 6 and Grade 7 scope and sequences.
- The Genetics unit will appear on both the Grade 7 and Grade 8 scope and sequences.

The LDOE will host informational webinars this spring to provide further explanation of this guidance. School and system leaders may choose to attend one of the following webinars:

Webinar Option 1

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 6 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95611340785>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 956 1134 0785

Webinar Option 2

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 8 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97433796902>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 3379 6902

Webinar Option 3

- **Webinar Date and Time:** May 14 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98940491433>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 989 40496 1433

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Applications Now Open: Aspiring Principal Fellowship

Please share with teacher leaders and principals.

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.

Aspiring principals are encouraged to apply using the [APF Application](#) by the deadline of April 1. The program tuition is \$1,000. Travel expenses (mileage, lodging, meals) are the responsibility of the participant's school system. Additional information about the Aspiring Principal Fellowship can be found in the [APF Overview document](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Portfolio Assessment Vendor Application Open

Please share with content leader providers and mentor teachers.

LDOE is seeking applications from qualified vendors to score portfolio assessments for the Mentor Teacher and Content Leader programs. Selected vendors will evaluate the portfolios of educators who complete an approved course of study, using LDOE-approved rubrics.

Scope of Work:

- Vendors may apply to assess Mentor Teacher Portfolios, Content Leader Portfolios, or both.
- Portfolios must be scored using the approved LDOE rubrics, following a required training provided/approved by LDOE to ensure fidelity, alignment, and inter-rater reliability.

The [application](#), which includes a list of required responsibilities, is due by **April 23** and selected vendors will be notified by **May 1**.

Please contact mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Principal Survey

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

The Principal Survey remains open in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) through **April 2**. Educators who have not yet participated are encouraged to submit one survey to provide feedback on their school's principal. The [Principal Survey Guide for Educators](#) is available to support survey completion. Additionally, [Best Practices for Administering the Principal Survey: A Guide for System Leaders](#) is available to provide guidance and support for system-level planning and administration. Systems should ensure internal deadlines are in place to maximize educator participation before the survey window closes.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Regular 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.

The regular registration period for Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is open now through April 12 or at sell out. The regular registration cost is \$299. The registration link is now live on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#) and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Screening

Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.

The K-3 literacy and numeracy end-of-year screenings window opens on March 18 for test setup. Students have been uploaded based on data submitted to EdLink by school systems. Students can begin screening on April 1 and all screening must be completed by April 30.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Committees

Please share with school leaders and educators.

The Assessments, Accountability and Analytics team will convene committees for the LEAP assessments and the K-3 numeracy screener in June and July to:

- Review newly-developed items for content area alignment and content-related criteria for english language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and numeracy
- Score a representative sample of open-ended student responses from the field.

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to submit applications is April 20.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.