

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: May 26, 2026

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### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [June 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Call: [June 2 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [June 4 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [June 10 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [June 11 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [June 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [June 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [June 18 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [June 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [June 24 at 10 a.m.](#)

#### Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- 2026 Mid-Year RFA Informational Session Option 3: [June 3 at 9 a.m.](#)
- 2024-2025 Seclusion and Restraint Verification Forms Due [May 31](#)
- Mental Health in Schools Survey Deadline: [June 30](#)
- Behavioral Health in Schools Survey Deadline: [June 30](#)

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

### Teaching and Learning

#### System Leader Regional Collaboration 2026-2027 Registration

Please share with system leaders.

[Registration](#) is now open for 2026-2027 System Leader Regional Collaborations. Each system is asked to have representation in each pathway. The learning pathways and intended participants are:

- **System Instructional Alignment:** Superintendents, CAOs, Assistant Superintendents, Supervisors of Instruction, PD Directors, SPED Directors, Principal Supervisors
- **Attendance:** Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisors, Student Services Leaders
- **High School Opportunities:** Career and Technical Education Supervisors
- **Business Managers Collaboration:** Business Managers

#### Session dates:

- **Monroe Cohort:** September 23, 2026 & January 26, 2027
- **Shreveport Cohort:** September 24, 2026 & January 27, 2027
- **Baton Rouge Cohort:** September 30, 2026 & January 21, 2027
- **Lafayette Cohort:** October 1, 2026 & February 2, 2027

New Orleans area participants should register for the Baton Rouge cohort. Please see the System Leader Regional Collaboration [overview document](#) for more details.

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

## Diverse Learners

### **Louisiana Sign Language Interpreter Professional Standards and Registration Requirements**

**Please share with special education directors and sign language interpreters.**

Effective May 20, 2026, all sign language interpreters practicing in the state in general community settings or PreK-12 educational settings, whether virtually or in-person, must meet minimum standards, or show active progress (education, professional credentialing, experience, etc.) toward meeting the standards, and apply for inclusion in the Louisiana Interpreter Registry. Registration requirements take effect upon publication of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf's final rules in the Louisiana Register on May 20, 2026, and its codification in the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC), as required by law.

Beginning May 20, 2026, these requirements apply to all sign language interpreters working in general community settings – including healthcare, conferences, workplaces, vocational rehabilitation, and postsecondary environments – as well as in all PreK-12 educational settings under the Louisiana Department of Education. These rules apply to any individual performing sign language interpreting services or otherwise facilitating communication for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (DDBHH) individuals, regardless of job title (e.g., interpreter, paraprofessional, aide, contractor). This includes full-time, part-time, and as-needed personnel. The rules do not apply to individuals providing direct instruction in sign language (such as Teachers of the Deaf), individuals providing services without compensation, or those serving in religious settings. Enforcement of the registration requirements will begin on January 1, 2027. No penalties for noncompliance will be imposed prior to that date. Please refer to the [full memo](#) for additional important information.

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

### **FFY 2024 (2024-2025) Draft LEA Determinations**

**Please share with special education directors and gifted coordinators.**

The Department is required to issue a determination to each school system on the provision of special education and related services under IDEA, which are called LEA Determinations.

The draft FFY 2024 LEA Determinations will be available in the data management FTP in the Diverse Learners (purge in 30 days) folder the week of June 8th. The 2024-2025 Draft LEA Determination comment period is scheduled to end June 26th.

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

## Educator Talent and Workforce Development

### **EDL Alternative Pathway 4 Boot Camp**

**Please share with system leaders, school leaders, and HR directors.**

The EDL Alternative Pathway 4 offers a unique opportunity for those with graduate degrees in Business Administration or Public Administration, or JD holders and honorably discharged commissioned officers from the US military to obtain an Educational Leadership Certificate. Interested applicants should [complete the application](#) for the Fall 2026 Boot Camp.

Please contact [LouisianaLeaders@la.gov](mailto:LouisianaLeaders@la.gov) with questions about this pathway and training format.

### **Novice Principal Academy Registration**

**Please share with system leaders, school leaders, and HR directors.**

The Novice Principal Academy is an intensive, year-long cohort focusing on leadership development through self-reflection, long-range planning, and analyzing school data. Ultimately, each component is studied, analyzed, and explicitly implemented to improve student achievement in Louisiana Schools. [Applications are available now](#). Novice principals interested in participating or system leaders looking to support their new leaders are welcome to complete the application.

Please contact [LouisianaLeaders@la.gov](mailto:LouisianaLeaders@la.gov) with questions about this pathway and training format.

### **New Teacher Experience (NTE) Transitions to System-Based Model**

**Please share with system leaders, school leaders and HR directors.**

Beginning in 2026–2027, Louisiana’s New Teacher Experience (NTE) will transition to a system-based [Train-the-Trainer model](#). Systems will send 2–4 facilitators to three required training days in June and November, then deliver all five NTE modules locally using LDOE materials. [Registration](#) is now open.

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

### **Criminal Background Check (CBC) Processing Update**

**Please share with system leaders, HR directors, preparation providers, and teachers.**

LDOE recently experienced an unexpected delay in the receipt of criminal background check (CBC) results from the Louisiana State Police (LSP) due to system updates. The issue has been resolved, and results are actively being processed. As a result, some applicants fingerprinted last week may experience longer-than-normal turnaround times before their Clear Credential appears online. Applicants are encouraged to continue checking the Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) system in the [Louisiana Educator Portal \(LEP\)](#) throughout this week for updates. We appreciate your patience as processing returns to normal operations.

If a Clear Credential is still not appearing online after this week, please submit a helpdesk ticket through the [Teacher Certification Help Portal](#) and select the topic “Background and Professional Conduct.”

## Literacy

### **Outcome-Based Contracting for HDT**

**Please share with system leaders.**

Beginning in 2026–2027, contracts with external tutoring providers funded through Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring must be structured as Outcome-Based Contracts (OBC). Under OBCs, a portion of contract payment is tied to agreed-upon student outcomes and implementation expectations, ensuring tutoring investments are connected to student progress and program quality. This approach encourages stronger alignment between providers and school systems around student goals, implementation quality, attendance, and progress monitoring.

Many Louisiana school systems and approved providers are already familiar with OBC, having participated in a successful pilot during the 2025–2026 school year.

Information and resources for OBC are available on the [tutoring landing page](#). Additional guidance and resources will be provided this summer prior to allocation release. The LDOE Tutoring Team will also provide individualized support upon request.

For questions, please contact [tutoring@la.gov](mailto:tutoring@la.gov).

## **High-Dosage Tutoring Q4 Fiscal Reporting**

Please share with system leaders.

Fiscal reporting for HDT expenditures in Quarter 4 is due in eGMS on June 30.

Please review your remaining HDT fund balance in eGMS and ensure that all [eligible expenditures](#) are reported. Any funds not reported as expended in 2025–2026 will be deducted from next year’s allocation.

Allowable expenses include:

- Salary and benefits for full or part time LEA staff providing tutoring based on the percentage of time spent delivering high-dosage tutoring
- Services provided by approved external tutoring providers

For questions, please contact [tutoring@la.gov](mailto:tutoring@la.gov).

## **School Support Institutes 2026-2027 Registration**

Please share with system and school leaders.

[Registration](#) is open for SSI 2026-2027. Principals of CIR schools should register themselves and two additional ILT members. System leaders who support CIR schools and/or supervise principals of attending schools are encouraged to attend SSI with their school teams. Session dates, locations and cohort assignments can be found on the [SSI overview document](#).

**Session dates:**

- **Monroe Cohort:** September 23, 2026 & January 26, 2027
- **Shreveport Cohort:** September 24, 2026 & January 27, 2027
- **New Orleans Cohort:** September 29, 2026 & January 20, 2027
- **Baton Rouge Cohort:** September 30, 2026 & January 21, 2027
- **Lafayette Cohort:** October 1, 2026 & February 2, 2027

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

## **Operations and Federal Programs**

Attendance

### **Super App 2026-2027 Attendance Funding Expectations**

Please share with child welfare and attendance leaders, federal programs directors, and business managers.

LEAs that received 2026-2027 Super App Attendance Funding should hire attendance-focused personnel prior to the start of the 2026-2027 academic year. The [sample Attendance Improvement Specialist job description](#) may be used to facilitate the hiring process. Additionally, systems should have at least one representative plan to attend the virtual orientation meeting detailed below.

#### **2026-2027 Attendance Funding Virtual Orientation**

- **Date/Time:** Tuesday, July 21 at 10 a.m.
- **Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95585569501?pwd=oNhUtS8KZpywcFUh5MHSPiFsM5u2Cd.1>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 955 8556 9501

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

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **DRC Online Student Corrections for LEAP and LEAP Connect**

**Please share with district test coordinators and school leaders.**

The annual DRC Online Student Corrections application will be available to school and district test coordinators on June 2 and will remain open through June 8. This cleanup period cannot be extended for any reason since additional days will delay statewide reporting.

Testing coordinators will have the opportunity to correct two types of errors that occurred during LEAP or LEAP Connect spring testing:

- **Student demographic error:** In some cases, student subject test demographic information did not match across subject tests. To attach all subjects to the student, the testing coordinator will be advised to review specific demographic fields that were entered into DRC INSIGHT. These corrections are especially important to growth measures in accountability calculations.
- **Missing accountability codes:** All students who were provided to DRC as expected to test will receive the lowest achievement level of Unsatisfactory to be included in applicable accountability measures. Students who have a documented reason for not testing (no longer enrolled or medical excuse) should have an applicable accountability code applied to their record in order to remove them from testing expectations. Documentation for use of the code must be available for any audits that may be conducted by the department.

The AAA team conducted a webinar for District Test Coordinators on Thursday, May 21 that will be repeated on Friday, May 29 at 11 a.m. This webinar is only open to DTCs. All DTCs were provided with the links to the meetings via email. The webinar deck will be shared with DTCs; however, all directions for correcting errors during this time are clearly outlined in the DRC Portal User Guide available in DRC INSIGHT beginning on page 127.

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

### **ELPT/ELPT Connect Score Release**

**Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.**

ELPT and ELPT Spring 2026 scores were released on Friday, May 22 in TIDE. Schools may share results with families and instructional staff as needed for instructional planning.

Please send questions to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

## School Choice

### Charter Schools

#### **BESE Authorized Charter School Submissions**

**Please share with BESE-Authorized charter schools and system leaders.**

June Submissions:

As outlined in the [Charter School Reporting Calendar](#), the following items are to be submitted in June: Charter School Contact Information, CDF EOY, Parental Involvement Survey Participation, Super App, and Act 771: High Dosage Tutoring

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

#### **BESE Authorized Charter Board Training**

**Please share with all BESE Authorized Charter Board Members.**

The next BESE Authorized Charter Board Training will be June 15, 2026 from noon to 2 p.m. The training will

satisfy the required training as outlined in §2103 of Bulletin 126. If you have already completed the required training through another avenue, send the documentation of completion to [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov).

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

## **2026 Mid-Year RFA Application Cycle for Type 2 & 4 Charters**

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

The 2026 Mid-Year RFA Application Cycle for Type 2 and 4 charters slated to open August 2027 will open June 1, 2026. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements listed in [LA Bulletin 126, §503](#).

Application Deadlines:

- June 8, 2026 by 5 p.m. CST (emailed to [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov)): Letters of Intent due
- July 6, 2026 by 5 p.m. CST (emailed to [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov)): Eligibility Determination forms due
- July 20, 2026 by 5 p.m. CST (emailed to [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov)): Submission deadline for the full application
- December 8, 2026: BESE considers applications for Type 2 and 4 new charter schools

Note: Applicants must meet each of the listed deadlines to be permitted to move to the next component of the application cycle.

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

## **School System Financial Services**

### **Funding Allocation Review Audit**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

A review/audit of the usage of both the Differentiated Compensation Allocation and Certificated and Support Stipend Allocation funding is being conducted. As an initial step, two distinct questionnaires, one for each funding allocation, are being distributed. Please use the links provided below to access the respective questionnaires. Each document contains instructions for completion.

All systems that received funding for either the Differentiated Compensation Allocation or Certificated and Support Stipend Allocation must complete and submit the applicable questionnaire.

The [Differentiated Compensation Allocation Review](#) and the [Certificated and Support Staff Stipend Allocation Review](#) must be submitted by **June 1, 2026**.

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

### **Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Fiscal Requirements**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials.**

An annual assessment of school systems' ability to meet the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements is an integral part of the business process to confirm compliance and determine eligibility for federal grant funding for ESSA and IDEA. The USDOE requires an annual review that determines if each LEA has not decreased spending of general fund dollars, and is budgeting expenditures to meet the MOE standards.

There are three (3) MOE measurements that are required to be submitted via the eGMS system.

- 2025 IDEA MOE Confirmation (Compliance) was due for submission by May 4.
- 2027 ESSA MOE Verification became available on May 11, and the submission deadline is **June 5**.
- 2027 IDEA MOE Verification (Eligibility) became available on May 11, and the submission deadline is **June 5**.

The MOE Quick Reference Guide is available to assist in the MOE submission process. A Local Only Funds Calculator is available in the Business Manager Support Resources to assist with completing the Local Only Funds section of the IDEA MOEs.

Please contact [monique.livious2@la.gov](mailto:monique.livious2@la.gov) with questions about the MOE review process or [jason.berard@la.gov](mailto:jason.berard@la.gov) with technical inquiries.

## School System Relations

### **Department Announces the 2026 Students of the Year**

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

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that many outstanding students are enrolled in public, nonpublic or charter schools throughout the state of Louisiana. To acknowledge these accomplishments, the Department, in conjunction with the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), annually honors one incredible fifth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade student based on their leadership, academic performance, achievements, citizenship, and service to the school and community.

On May 18, the Department celebrated the outstanding achievements of the [Students of the Year finalists](#) at the 2026 Students of the Year Award Ceremony, held at the Lod Cook Alumni Center on the Louisiana State University campus. During this special event, the Department announced the [overall 5th, 8th, and 12th-grade Students of the Year](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding students!

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