

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: November 4, 2025

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

This morning, I joined students and staff in Jefferson Parish to celebrate an incredible Louisiana educator. Stella Worley Middle's Sarah Watkins was surprised with the Milken Educator Award, which comes with a no-strings-attached \$25,000 prize. She earned it by doing what great teachers do every day: improving academic outcomes for students, constantly pushing herself to get better, and helping her colleagues grow in their craft.

Watkins is a great example of the kind of classroom leadership that's driving Louisiana's unprecedented academic progress. These outcomes haven't happened by chance. They're the result of educators who are laser-focused on student growth, committed to continuous improvement, and invested in the success of their schools and fellow teachers.

We're proud of how far we've come, but we're not done yet. Led by outstanding educators across our state, we're going to keep moving forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Social Studies Office Hours: [November 5 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [November 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [November 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [November 12 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Monthly Call: [November 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [November 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [November 13 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [November 17 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [November 18 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [November 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [November 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [November 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [November 20 at 8:30 a.m.](#)

- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [November 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [December 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [December 9 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Virtual Super App Launch: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- High Cost Services Round 1 Application Deadline: November 11
- Physical Education Standards Review and Revision Feedback Survey due: [November 15 by 5 p.m.](#)
- Annual Dyslexia Reporting Deadline: [December 15](#)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Applications Due: [November 18](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy and numeracy coaches, early childhood providers, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts ongoing Tech Readiness reviews of [Tier 1](#) materials to support school systems in selecting materials. The endorsement signifies that materials have been evaluated for their compatibility, functionality, and potential to enhance instruction through technology. The following curricula has successfully obtained the [Tech Readiness Endorsement](#).

- Savvas Learning Company LLC - enVision Math, Grades K-5 (©2020)

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Names Physical Education Standards Review Committee

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

On October 15, BESE approved the [Physical Education Standards Review Committee](#) members who will lead the formal review of the state's K-12 physical education student standards. Committee meetings began on October 29 and will continue through February 2026. All meetings will be held in person at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge and are open to the public.

Additional information is available on the [Physical Education Standards Review Overview](#) page and the [FAQ](#) page. Educators and stakeholders are encouraged to share feedback on the current standards using the [PE Standards Review and Revision Feedback Survey](#) through November 14.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Updates

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

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Educators interested in presenting can apply using the [Sessionboard](#) application link. The call for presentations closes December 5.

Early-bird registration for Teacher Leader Summit (TLS) 2026 opens on February 16, 2026. School systems may prefer to submit TLS 2026 registration payments for large groups by check. To ensure a smooth process, school

systems must complete the [Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Registration Check Submission Request form](#) to obtain pre-approval for submitting a system-level check. Forms are due by January 9, 2026. Review this [guidance](#) for additional requirements and timelines.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Public Notice – ESEA Waiver Request

Please share with system and district leaders.

At its October 2025 meeting, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) directed the LDOE to request authorization from the U.S. Department of Education to waive the requirement in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(iii) of the ESEA that requires a State implementing the exception for advanced mathematics in middle school to use a student's performance on:

1. The end-of-course high school mathematics assessment in the year in which the eighth-grade student takes the assessment for purposes of measuring academic achievement and participation for statewide accountability; and
2. A more advanced high school mathematics assessment in the year in which the student takes that assessment for purposes of measuring academic achievement and participation for statewide accountability.

As an alternative, BESE, through LDOE, is requesting a waiver of the requirements in ESEA section 1111(b)(2)(C) and the corresponding regulation 34 CFR § 200.5(b) during a two-year transition period over the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years.

Interested personnel and members of the public may submit questions or comments to Ashley Townsend, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs, via email at EducationPolicy@la.gov, placing "ESEA Waiver" in the subject line, by November 21.

Please contact EducationPolicy@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Super App Launch

Please share with federal program directors.

The [2026-2027 Next Level Vision for Success School System Planning and Budgeting Workbook](#), including 2026-2027 Super App questions, was released on October 30.

The [launch deck](#) is now available.

Please contact LDOEOperations@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Cameras in Classroom During Testing

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

ACT strictly forbids the use of cameras in classrooms that are administering ACT. Cameras should be turned off.

For LEAP and K-3 screening:

- In order to ensure compliance with department agreements to maintain the industry standard security on test items, no recording of items, derivatives of items, or readings of items is permissible.
- Any camera which records or broadcasts in any way must be positioned such that any screen being used for the assessment is not visible to the camera.

- In any classroom within which “test-read aloud” is provided, students must use headphones, the audio recording must be disabled, or the student who requires test-read aloud without headphones must be tested in an alternate location where audio recording does not occur.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

ACT has introduced new assessments beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

What's Changing?

- Shorter tests - 44 fewer questions
- More time per question
- Shorter reading passages
- Mathematics section now has four answer choices instead of five

What's Staying the Same?

- Core content and subject areas remain the same
- Same skills and knowledge assessed
- Reading section still measures comprehension and analysis
- No impact on predicting First-Year college success
- Both paper and online tests still offered (no paper option for state spring administration)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Course Choice Family Awareness Campaign

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

Later this month, LDOE will launch a digital campaign to help families learn more about Louisiana's Course Choice program ahead of the January–February scheduling window for fall 2026 classes. The ads will direct families to a dedicated Course Choice Family webpage, where they can find additional information about course options and guidance to contact school counselors for support.

To prepare, school and district teams are encouraged to review the [LDOE Course Choice webpage](#) and the parent-facing resources linked below. These tools help teams understand the program, communicate effectively with families, and provide informed next steps when questions arise. Schools may also consider linking the [LDOE Course Choice webpage](#) on local sites and materials so families can easily access accurate information.

Helpful Resources:

- [Course Choice School Roadmap](#): A step-by-step guide for school leaders outlining how to plan, communicate, approve, enroll, and manage payments for the Course Choice program..
- [Parent Sample Letter](#): A customizable communication template schools can send to families introducing the Course Choice program and inviting them to discuss opportunities with their child's counselor.
- [Course Choice Program Flyer](#): A one-page overview for families explaining what the Course Choice program is, what types of courses are available, and how to get started by contacting their school counselor.

Please contact CourseChoice@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2025-2026 Local Charter Request for Applications Cycle - Reporting Deadline

Please share with school system leaders and LEA charter authorizers.

Local authorizers are required to report any Type 1 and 3 application submissions to the LDOE by November 7. Local authorizers are required to report the following information regarding charter applications received in their district:

- Non-profit foundation name of applicant
- Proposed charter school name
- Name of primary applicant
- Date application submitted

Information regarding applicants being considered may be submitted to the LDOE using the [Applicant Submission Notice form](#). Additionally, local authorizers are required to notify state legislators of charter applications received within each district.

Per August 2024 Bulletin 126 update, applicants are now also required to report their submission to the local authorizer and may use the [Applicant Submission Notice form](#). Local authorizers may provide this information to any applicant who has submitted an application to their district for the 2025-2026 RFA process.

Upcoming Key Dates for Local Authorizers

- November 7, 2025: Local boards notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district
- January 29, 2026: Deadline to consider charter applications
- January 30, 2026: Deadline to notify LDOE of local board recommendations

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

70% Instructional Expenditure Requirement

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Per the MFP Resolution, school systems must ensure that 70% of the local school system general fund expenditures are in the areas of instruction, pupil and instructional support, and school administration at the school building level. Compliance with this expenditure requirement is calculated annually.

The results of the FY 2023-24 70% Instructional Expenditure Requirement will be available via the edFin FTP site by November 7, 2025. Systems are encouraged to review their reports and notify the Office of School Systems Financial Services of any questionable reporting before November 19, 2025.

BESE will receive a report of the results for all school systems at the January 2026 meeting. Systems that are not in compliance with this requirement will be required to submit a Corrective Action Plan to the Office of School Systems Financial Services by December 12.

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.