

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 14, 2025

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana elementary schools are receiving a special delivery: a set of instructional math flashcards for K–5 teachers. More than just a classroom resource, these cards represent something much greater — our back-to-basics focus on building a strong foundation in math for every student.

Flashcards are simple, effective, and timeless. When used intentionally, they support fluency, reinforce strategies, and help students build the confidence and skills they need to take on more advanced math. They are especially helpful for students who benefit from extra practice with foundational concepts.

This resource is part of Louisiana’s broader strategy to improve math outcomes statewide. We know that student performance in math often declines between grades 4 and 8. That is why we are committed to reversing that trend by providing tools that work, supporting teachers, and setting a clear expectation: every student can succeed in math.

Whether or not your school received a set of flashcards, I encourage you to explore the [updated math section of our website](#). You’ll find flashcard activities, information about our statewide strategy, and a wide range of resources for educators and families.

Strong fundamentals lead to strong futures. Just as our literacy work has driven real progress, our comprehensive math strategy is designed to help every student in Louisiana achieve success.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Numeracy Training Office Hours: [October 15 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [October 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [October 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Office Hours: [October 16 at 8:30 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [October 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [October 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [October 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [October 20 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [October 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [October 28 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [October 29 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [November 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Attendance Monthly Call: [November 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [November 7 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [November 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Computer Science Office Hours: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- In-Person Super App Launch at LAFEPA: [October 30](#)
- Virtual Super App Launch: [November 6 at 10 a.m.](#)
- High Cost Services Round 1 Application Deadline: November 11
- Annual Dyslexia Reporting Deadline: December 15
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Applications Due: [November 18](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

2025-2026 Science Leader Community of Practice

Please share with science content supervisors, school leaders, and science content leaders.

The [Science Leader Community of Practice](#) will host its next virtual meeting on October 22. The topic of this interactive session is conducting meaningful classroom learning walks and providing targeted and actionable feedback to teachers. Please [register](#) to reserve your seat for this session and future virtual meetings.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 22 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91585512707>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 915 8551 2707

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Resources for English Learners

Please share with EL directors/coordinators, federal program directors, instructional coaches, and teachers.

The LDOE has resources to strengthen programming and instruction for English Learners. These resources provide both system-level guidance and practical tools for classroom instruction.

[Improving Outcomes for English Learners: Louisiana's Framework](#)
[Strategies for English Learners: A Guide for Novice Teachers](#)
[Manual for Special Education Referral of English Learners](#)
[Secondary English Learner Toolkit](#)
[Supporting English Learners Through the Writing Process](#)

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

High Cost Services Round 1

Please share with special education leaders, federal program directors and business managers.

The High Cost Services grant allows school systems to seek reimbursement for high cost special education and related services. The 2025-2026 High Cost Services Round 1 application is open in eGMS. During Round 1, school systems can request reimbursement for their current students who were also enrolled in the 2024-2025 school year. The deadline to submit a Round 1 application is **November 11**.

Please contact ashley.augustine@la.gov with questions.

BOY K-3 Literacy Gifted Referral Data Collection

Please share with gifted coordinators and special education leaders.

Louisiana Statute 17:24.9 mandates school systems to report the number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation for every literacy screening administration for grades K-3. The deadline to submit BOY K-3 literacy gifted referral data was October 13. Any school system that did not submit by the deadline must submit their [BOY data](#) by **October 17**.

Please contact carolyn.wilkinson@la.gov or yolanda.oates3@la.gov with questions.

Transition Planning Guidance for IEP Teams

Please share with special education leaders and IEP facilitators.

Transition services are a coordinated set of activities for students with disabilities, designed as a results-oriented process to improve academic and functional achievement. The LDOE developed [transition guidance](#) for IEP teams to begin early transition planning for middle, high school, and beyond to aid in building skills, setting goals, and ensuring smooth transitions. Additional resources, such as a [middle school transition planning checklist](#) and a [high school transition planning checklist](#) are also available on the [Diverse Learners page](#).

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Applications Now Open for Spring 2026

Please share with teachers.

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the spring 2026 semester/quarter are open now through November 6. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact louisianaleaders@la.gov.

Strategic Scheduling Series

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

The LDOE is excited to announce the **SY25–26 Strategic Scheduling Series**, a set of professional learning opportunities designed to help school and system leaders strengthen one of the most powerful levers for student success: the school schedule. Sessions are offered throughout the year and tailored for various audiences, including school administrators, school system leaders, and those in different grade bands. Participants will gain practical tools, strategies, and support to design schedules that maximize instructional time and better support teachers. Use the following [registration](#) link for additional information.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

LEADS Counselor Handbook

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

The [Louisiana Counselor Rubric and Evaluation Handbook](#) is now available in the [LEADS Library](#). This handbook provides examples to deepen understanding of the rubric indicators. Coaching questions and sample evidence are also included. Evaluators are encouraged to use this resource to assist with the counselor evaluation process.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

CIS to LES Transition

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

The Compass Information System (CIS) will be permanently shut down on November 3. After this date, educators and school systems will no longer have access to evaluation data within the CIS platform.

To prepare for the shutdown, please communicate with employees to ensure they use View Only mode to download all past evaluations.

The LDOE will retain all evaluation data, including effectiveness data, to support application processing. After the shutdown, system leaders may contact LEADS@la.gov to confirm past evaluations for certification purposes. Historical data and attachments will be moved into LES in the coming months.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Call for Presentations

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

Big ideas start here! Educators interested in presenting at Teacher Leader Summit 2026 should attend the [informational webinar](#) on October 15 at 1 p.m. or 4 p.m. If unable to attend, the webinar, along with submission guidelines, will be posted on the [website](#).

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

FY 2026 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application

Please share with school nutrition directors.

Applications for the 2025-2026 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are available for returning sponsors via the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) [website](#). Applications must be completed and submitted by November 18.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

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

The Office of Assessments, Accountability and Analytics will convene assessment committees for the LEAP and LEAP Connect assessments in January and February to:

- review newly developed LEAP Connect items for alignment and content-related criteria, and
- review Science and English language arts proposed stimuli/passages to ensure content alignment, the selections are clearly worded with grade-appropriate language, and the selections are appropriate for all Louisiana students.

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 complete the applications is November 13.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Internship Funding

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

Funding is available to offset the costs of delivering internship programming to students. The allocation is \$1,000 per eligible student enrolled in an internship program that meets policy requirements. To request this funding, students must be enrolled in the Course Choice [portal](#) in an LDOE Internship Course. In addition, an [attestation](#) must be completed and sent to coursechoice@la.gov, and all required documentation must be on file at the local level and available for review. The deadline for reporting full-year and fall enrollments is October 31. Payment for this round of funding will occur in January.

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

October CCR Monthly Call: Extended Content with Kira Learning

Please share with system leaders, CTE supervisors, and IT teachers.

Immediately following the [October CCR Monthly Call](#) on October 16 at 3 p.m., we will provide more information on the two-year pilot to expand AI-powered CTE education in Python Programming through a partnership between the LDOE, Bossier Parish Community College, and Kira Learning.

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2025-2026 Local Charter Request for Applications Cycle - Applications Due

Please share with school system leaders and LEA charter authorizers.

On October 20, all Type 1 and 3 applications will be due to local authorizers at the district level. Local Authorizers are required to report the following information regarding charter applications received in their district:

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

Information regarding applicants being considered by local authorizers is due to LDOE by November 7, using the Jotform [link](#). Additionally, local authorizers are required to notify state legislators of charter applications received within each district.

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

Decisions regarding approval or denial of each applicant are due to LDOE by January 30.

Upcoming Key Dates for Local Authorizers:

- October 20: Charter Applications due to districts
- November 7: Local boards notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district
- January 29: Deadline to consider charter applications

- January 30: Deadline to notify LDOE of local board recommendations

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

International Associates Teacher Stipends

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The first-year International Associates Teachers allocations will be released to school systems on October 17. The allocation amounts by systems were included in the September budget letter, which can be found in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Programs - Application Open

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The application process for the following awards initiatives is now open:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [School Physical Activity Award](#)

Application Deadlines:

- By December 9, the state-level applications must be submitted via online application portals. All application materials, timelines, and links to the online application portals, are available on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select candidates as their local-level honorees, and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

To assist stakeholders with the application process, [informational webinars](#) will be conducted throughout the application process. On these calls, information will be shared about the timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals. Additionally, there will be time for questions to be answered.

Please contact the excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, and healthyschools@la.gov for questions about School Health Service Provider of the Year and School Physical Activity Awards.