

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



August 31, 2017

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Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP, TDR	8/31/17	Select paper or computer-based testing for 3rd/4th graders in eDirect	Testing coordinators
All nonpublics	9/1/17	Complete Child Nutrition Program off-site Administrative Review Forms	Child nutrition supervisors
LSP	9/6/17	Register for Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations	School leaders, test coordinators, and administrators
LSP	9/6/17	Return SPED Tuition and Fee forms and supporting documentation	School leaders serving students with disabilities
LSP	9/8/17	Return signed 2017-18 Approved Tuition and Fees Certification sheets and Assurances	School leaders
LSP, SCP	9/8/17	Complete Q1 enrollment verification in SEE or SCS	School leaders or Scholarship contacts
LSP, TDR	9/29/17	Submit ACT MOU	High school testing coordinators

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Q1 Enrollment Opens on 9/6

The Quarter 1 (Q1) enrollment verification process for the Louisiana Scholarship Program will open on Wednesday, 9/6 and close on Friday, 9/8. Please be prepared to complete the enrollment verification process on time to ensure prompt payment. Instructions for completing enrollment verification can be found [here](#).

Please remember that LEADs passwords expire every 30 days and must be reset at <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>. Additionally, pop-up blockers must be turned off.

Schools will not receive their Q1 payments until they have submitted registration workbooks to the FTP and signed and returned all required Tuition and Fees documentation. Please contact StudentScholarships@LA.gov with any questions.

New: 2017-18 Approved Tuition and Fee Certification Sheets and Assurances

The Scholarship team is currently in the process of sending schools their 2017-18 Approved Tuition and Fees Certification Sheets along with two assurance forms. After receiving your certification sheets and assurance documents, please sign and return all documents to studentscholarships@la.gov by **Friday, September 8th** in order to ensure timely Q1 payment. Schools will not receive their Q1 payment until all required items have been submitted.

If you have any questions, please reach out to studentscholarships@la.gov.

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP 2025

- **Today is the deadline to select computer-based or paper-based assessments for grades 3-4 in [eDIRECT](#).** DTCs must make these selections for each school in their system.

New File Layout Posted to eDIRECT

A new file layout will be posted to [eDIRECT](#) on September 13, 2017. This layout will now include online accommodations for Interim, Diagnostic, EAGLE 2.0, and Practice Test assessments. **This new layout must be used to upload students for these assessment administrations. Students will not load unless schools add the appropriate headers or move the students to the new layout.**

Please complete the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form and the [Security and Confidentiality Agreement](#) located in the Assessment Library under Resources + Forms and submit them to assessment@la.gov. Changes to the following personnel must be reported to the Department:

- District Test Coordinator (DTC)
- Backup DTC
- Accountability Contact
- Backup Accountability Contact

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: Tuesday, September 5, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380
- Participant PIN code: 89147656

ACT

- The 2017-2018 [ACT MOU](#) and supporting documents are now posted in the Assessment Library under the ACT and WorkKeys section. The **ACT MOU** with original signatures and the Estimated Number of Expected Testers Worksheet **must be received by Department no later than September 29.**

Test Security

- August 31 is the deadline for school systems selected for the test security audit to submit plans.

Resources

The following updated resources have been posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

- Accommodations forms
 - [IEP](#)
 - [Personal Needs Profile](#)
 - [English Language Learner plan](#)
 - [Unique Accommodation Request](#)
- [2017-2018 Assessment and Accountability Month-by-Month Checklist](#)
- [The Assessment and Accountability Office Hours Question and Answer document](#)

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: September Superintendents' Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on Wednesday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. You may begin dialing into the call fifteen minutes in advance by following the instructions below.

To join the Superintendents' September 13 call

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall>.
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109.
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #34167449.
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

Reminder: Scholarship Kickoff Meeting Materials and Contact Information

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Scholarship Kickoff Meeting on Tuesday, 8/22. All materials presented at the meeting and contact information for the presenters are available in the table below:

Session Topic	Presenter
Opening Session	Olin.Parker@LA.gov
AFC Survey Session	MFrancis@federationforchildren.org
Data Systems & Reporting	Jill.Zimmerman@LA.gov
Curriculum Resources	Jill.Cowart@LA.gov
State Assessments	Em.Cooper@LA.gov or Assessment@LA.gov
Auditing & Financial Reporting	Jameka.Henderson@LA.gov or Christina.Pitre@LA.gov

Additionally, if schools would like additional information on progress points, please consult the [K-8](#) or [9-12](#) Progress Point fact sheets.

Reminder: Complete and Return Special Education Tuition and Fees

Per Bulletin 133, if a Scholarship school charges a higher tuition for students receiving special education services, the state may allocate additional tuition based on the cost of providing special education services identified for that student. The total tuition and fees for students receiving special education services shall not exceed the amount allocated for that student to the local school system if the student otherwise would be attending public school. Schools must meet the criteria listed on the [SPED Tuition and Fees form](#) in order to receive additional funding for students receiving special education services.

Please return form along with supporting documentation to studentscholarships@la.gov by **Wednesday, September 6th**.

Reminder: Register for the September Supervisor Collaborations

Sessions at the September Supervisor Collaborations will focus on topics relevant to Scholarship school staff including but not limited to accountability, instruction, early childhood, assessment, teacher professional development, and data systems. Additionally, **all first-time District Testing Coordinators should attend one of the dates listed below**. Please refer to the [Supervisor Collaboration Overview](#) for more information.

The September Supervisor Collaborations will take place in the following locations from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12	Trinity Methodist Church, Ruston
Thursday, September 14	Bayou Church, Lafayette
Tuesday, September 19	Jefferson Parish School Board Office, Harvey
Wednesday, September 20	Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge

[Teacher Leader Collaborations](#) will take place from 12:00 until 4:00 p.m. in the same locations.

Registration will remain open until Wednesday, September 6. The registration code for the [Supervisor Collaborations](#) is **SEPT2017SUP**. There is no code required to register for the [Teacher Leader Collaborations](#).

Please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions related to this event.

Reminder: Register for the Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka

Due to high demand, the Department is hosting additional Principal Institutes for Implementing Eureka Math.

- [October 11 in Baton Rouge](#)

The institutes will allow principals and other instructional leaders to dive deeply into the things that matter most in today's math classroom. Learning will spotlight shifts in the mathematics standards, strategic lesson planning, yearlong planning, and key "look-fors" in a Eureka math classroom. The Curriculum Implementation Scale will be used throughout the day to discuss concrete ways principals can improve Eureka implementation in their schools.

Reminder: Guidance on Student Fees

[House Resolution 183](#) of 2017 urges and requests all schools participating in the Louisiana Scholarship Program to enact and publish policies relative to student fees. Please refer to this [guidance](#) if your school or governing board has not yet enacted and published these policies. The Department will submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2018, identifying the policies that have been adopted, pursuant to the Legislature's request. Contact erin.bendily@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Assessment Rosters Available

Earlier this month, schools with students in grades 3-12 in 2016-17 received notice that assessment rosters are available for review for data verification. Please have someone on your staff review this data and provide any corrections to Jennifer.Baird@LA.gov.

Reminder: Submitting Transfers for the 2017-18 SY

As in previous years, [transfer forms](#) must be completed and signed by the **receiving school** and sent to StudentScholarships@LA.gov. Families in Orleans parish should be directed toward the receiving school, not the Family Resource Centers. Students should not purchase uniforms or begin attending the new school until the transfer has been processed and approved by the Department of Education.

If you have a particular question or concern regarding a transfer request, you can email studentscholarships@la.gov or call (504) 304-5467.

Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News

Reminder: Assessment Rosters Available

Earlier this month, schools with students in grades 3-12 in 2016-17 received notice that assessment rosters are available for review for data verification. Please have someone on your staff review this data and provide any corrections to Jennifer.Baird@LA.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information

Information about the Tuition Donation Rebate Program can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart](#). Currently, Louisiana has three School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Rebate Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, and New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund. Schools interested in participating in the TDR program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

School Tuition Organization	Regional Focus	STO Website	Email	Phone
ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	225-245-3610
New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund	Baton Rouge	newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund	esf@newschoolsbr.org	225-395-1686

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

New: Q1 Enrollment Opens on 9/6

The Quarter 1 enrollment verification window for the School Choice Program will be September 6th-8th. Please be prepared to complete the enrollment verification process on time to ensure prompt payment.

Please remember that LEADs passwords expire every 30 days and must be reset at <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>. Additionally, pop-up blockers must be turned off.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Maximum Per Pupil Amounts by Parish

Awards for the School Choice Program are worth either 50% of the state per-pupil allocation of funds to the student's local school district, or the school's tuition and fees, whichever is less. The 2017-18 per pupil state MFP amounts have been released by the Department. Schools wishing to view the maximum reimbursement amount for the School Choice Program by Parish can review this [spreadsheet](#).

Reminder: Submitting Transfers for the 2017-18 SY

If a student wishes to transfer a School Choice Award for Students with Exceptionalities, [transfer forms](#) must be completed and signed by the receiving school and sent to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

Other

Reminder: Update Contact Information

Every year, BESE requires that all Category I, II, and III nonpublic schools submit contact information to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). This annual process allows the Department streamline communication throughout the year.

Please complete the [2017-18 Communications Survey](#) by Friday, August 18th to ensure that communication from the LDOE reaches the right person at your school every time. If you are not familiar with shared Google spreadsheets, please read the "READ ME" tab after clicking on the link. There is no need to notify the LDOE after you have entered your school's information--the information saves automatically.

It is critical that your school complete this action item by the deadline of Friday, August 18th as the LDOE will be communicating important information regarding the Nonpublic School Annual Report and BESE approval beginning the week of August 21.

If you have any questions, please reach out to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

Reminder: August 2017 BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on August 16 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. The [2017 BESE Summary](#) details the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies.

Please email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: 2018 U.S. Senate Youth Application Released

Please share this information with principals and school counselors.

As part of the [United States Senate Youth Program](#), two outstanding Louisiana students will be selected to spend a week in Washington, D.C. in March of 2018, and both students will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. Please distribute the [national program brochure](#) and [logistics memo](#) to high school juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups and stress the rules and regulations governing this competition. High school personnel should email marian.johnson@la.gov for the essay topics.

The names of the selected students and their application portfolios must be received no later October 4, 2017. Finalists will be notified by October 23, 2017.

Please email marian.johnson@la.gov for assistance.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **August 29th District Newsletter** or the **August 24th Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to studentscholarships@la.gov.

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

877.453.2721 (toll-free)

Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

LDOE Links

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