

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



September 14, 2017

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Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublics	9/15/17	Submit a change form for any school updates	School leaders
LSP	9/19/17	Send service hour/fundraiser supporting documentation to studentscholarships@la.gov	School leaders or Scholarship contacts
All nonpublics	9/22/17	Upload required documents for BESE approval to FTP	School leaders
LSP, TDR	9/29/17	Submit ACT MOU	High school testing coordinators
TDR	10/2/17	Submit Q2 enrollment to FTP	STO administrators

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Q1 Not Enrolled Students to be Removed From Rosters

All students not marked as enrolled in Q1 will be removed from school rosters. If due to extenuating circumstances or absences, a student was not marked as enrolled but should remain on your school roster, please send an email to studentscholarships@la.gov.

New: Additional Supporting Documentation Needed for Fundraiser/Service Hour Approved Fees

In order to receive payment for any fundraiser or service hour fees, please submit a letter on your school letterhead that includes the following statements:

1. This fee is assessed to any family that does not perform the required service hour tasks and/or fundraising activity.
2. Scholarship families will not be required to participate in the service hour tasks and/or fundraising activity.

Please email this letter to studentscholarships@la.gov by **Tuesday, September 19th**.

New: Pre-K through Grade 3 Guidebook Released

The Department released the [Pre-K through Third Grade Guidebook](#) for site and system leaders to help them create strong plans for their schools and centers to ensure quality and continuity of proven practices across pre-K through third grade. The guide provides information, tools, and resources to support leaders in implementing:

- high-quality curriculum;
- meaningful assessment methods, including early identification processes;
- shared curriculum and content-specific professional development between pre-K and K-3 teachers;
- robust teacher observation systems; and
- positive support systems for children and families.

The Department will provide [sessions](#) on the guidebook at the September Collaborations.

New: Social Studies Sample Scope and Sequence Updates

The Department has updated several of the [Social Studies Scope and Sequence documents](#) and is in the process of updating others for the for the 2017-2018 school year. These updated documents provide instructional tasks which build content knowledge and skill with sources, a coherent yearlong frame which makes connections among content ideas, and assessments which measure how well students express informed opinions with evidence and outside knowledge. The complete scope and sequence for grade 7 will be available by the end of September 2017.

Please email classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov for more information.

New: Register for Fall 2017 Counselor Collaborations

Statewide Counselor Collaborations for professional school counselors will be held in October. The topics covered will include graduation requirements and pathways, financial aid, and information on special state programs. Counselors are encouraged to [register](#) for a meeting in their region but may attend out of region if needed.

Please email stephanie.marcum@la.gov with any questions.

New: Reminders for Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

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

Resources

The LEAP 360 Teacher Access link is available for high school Interim 2. The teacher access link, usernames, and passwords are located in the [Interim Quick Start Guide](#).

eDIRECT

On September 7, 2017, DRC pushed an update to eDIRECT to improve the process of transferring students using the multiple student upload (MSU). Currently the MSU requires a complete match on LASID, full first name, and full last name.

After the transition in mid-September, the MSU will match on the following criteria:

- Full LASID;
- First letter of first name;
- First three letters of last name.

- First three letters of last name.

Systems with data sharing agreements can still enter full PII into their MSU files and full PII will still populate in eDIRECT.

ACT and WorkKeys

- ACT MOU
 - September 29: Deadline to submit the [2017-2018 ACT MOU](#) and [Estimated Number of Testers Worksheet](#). Originals should be mailed to the following address.

Trish Gilbert
Office of Academic Policy and Analytics
Louisiana Department of Education
1201 North Third St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- Fall 2017 WorkKeys
 - Week of September 11: Materials arrive at system offices

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Accountability Commission Meeting, September 18, at 12:00 p.m.

- Meeting: Accountability Commission
- When: Monday, September 18, 2017, at 12:00 p.m.
- Where: Thomas Jefferson Room A-B, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge or watch the meeting live at <https://livestream.com/LouisianaBelieves/Accountability917>

New: LEAP 2025 Updates

- [LEAP 2025 High School Assessments Webinars](#) from August have been posted to the [Assessment Guidance Library](#).
- [LEAP 2025 Assessment Guides](#) for grades 3-8 math, ELA, social studies, Algebra I, Geometry, English I, and English II have been updated and reposted to the Assessment Guidance library. Primary updates include
 - ELA: minor test design changes for all grades/courses
 - ELA and math: session times updated for all grades/courses
 - Social studies: achievement level descriptors for all grades

Please email assessment@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Register for the September Supervisor Collaborations

Registration for the remaining September Supervisor Collaboration and Teacher Leader Collaboration events is still open. Sessions at the Supervisor Collaboration event will focus on topics relevant to school system supervisors 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 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 was originally set to close on Wednesday, September 6, but has been extended so that additional nonpublic schools can attend. 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: Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka

The Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka on [October 11 in Baton Rouge](#) 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.

Please email classroomsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Device Toolkit Dashboard

Please share this information with technology coordinators and testing coordinators.

On August 29 DRC completed an update to the Device Tool Kit. This update now allows you to use the Device Toolkit Dashboard to visually monitor and manage your configurations and their devices. Any ORG Units previously created will appear in the new Device Toolkit Dashboard as configurations. Each configuration contains the same testing devices and TSM as the ORG Units from which it was created.

For more information, please refer to the [Device Toolkit Update Guide](#).

Reminder: Guidance on Student Fees

As first communicated in the June 20, 2017, weekly newsletter, [House Resolution 183](#) of 2017 urges and requests all schools that participate in the Louisiana Scholarship Program to enact and publish policies relative to student fees. Please refer to the Department [guidance document](#) if your 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.

Please email erin.bendily@la.gov for more information.

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

New: Q1 Enrollment Due to FTP on 10/2

The Q1 enrollment file should be uploaded by School Tuition Organizations to the FTP by 10/2. LDOE staff will set up individual meetings with each STO next week to answer any questions related to the submission of student enrollment data.

If you have any questions, please contact Lindsey.Bush@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)

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

New: Nonpublic School Annual Report and School Approval Process

Nonpublic school leaders were sent an email regarding two important action items related to the Nonpublic Annual School Report and the Nonpublic School Approval process. Completing these processes is required for all nonpublic schools in order to receive state and federal funding. The text of the email can be found [here](#).

Please note--schools do not need to enter information into NPS at this time, they simply need to review their school's information and submit a change form if necessary. All nonpublic schools will receive additional guidance on submitting information to the NPS system via email and this newsletter in the next two weeks.

Please direct any questions and all necessary change forms to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

New: Applications Now Open for Louisiana Green Ribbon Schools

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, working together with the Louisiana Department of Education, will nominate up to five pre-K-12 schools for the 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award. Selected schools demonstrate achievement reducing resource consumption and costs, supporting student and staff health and wellness, and providing innovative environmental, sustainability, and STEM learning opportunities.

More information and applications can be found on the Green Ribbon Schools [web page](#). Please email BGautreau@wlf.la.gov with any questions.

New: Louisiana Environmental Education Commission Grants Now Available

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Environmental Education Commission (LEEC) is now accepting proposals for their 2017 grants program. The submission deadline for each of these grants is September 25, 2017.

- Educator Grants should be based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, and be designed to directly impact Louisiana students. Accredited K-12 Louisiana schools are eligible. The maximum award is \$1,000 for one teacher or \$2,000 for a team.
- Green Schools Grants support projects designed to reduce a school's environmental impact, reduce health disparities that can aggravate achievement gaps, and engage students in hands-on learning. Proposals to be considered are those that align with pillars found in the U.S. Department of Education's [Green Ribbon Schools Program](#). Accredited K-12 Louisiana schools are eligible. The maximum award is \$5,000.
- Professional Development Grants should be based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, and be designed to directly impact preservice and/or in-service educators in Louisiana. Louisiana education organizations are eligible. The maximum award is \$2,500.

For more information and applications, visit the LEEC Grants Opportunities [web page](#). Please email vortego@wlf.la.gov with questions.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **September 12th District Newsletter** or the **September 7th 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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