

# NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

*A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools*



November 9, 2017

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP	12/1/17	Complete <a href="#">survey</a> of student fees	School leaders and/or Diocesan personnel
LSP	12/1/17	Submit SCI Appeals	Superintendents or school leaders
All nonpublics	1/12/18	<a href="#">Register</a> for JumpStart convention	School leaders
All nonpublics	1/31/18	Apply for <a href="#">Louisiana Team Nutrition Training Grant</a>	School leaders

## Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

### New: Survey on Student Fee Policies

As communicated in several previous weekly newsletters, [House Resolution 183 of 2017](#) urges and requests all non-public schools that are participating in the Louisiana Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence program, to enact and publish policies relative to student fees. Please refer to the [Guidance on Student Fees](#) if your governing board has not yet enacted and published these policies.

The Louisiana Legislature has tasked the LDE with administering a formal survey on fee policies to all Scholarship schools in order to collect information and report back to the Legislature by January 1, 2018. That report will identify the schools and school systems that have and have not adopted such policies, whether the policies contain the information requested in the resolution, and whether

that not all have not adopted such policies, and not all policies contain the information requested in the resolution, and whether the policies have been published on the school/LEA website as requested by the Legislature.

Please note that legislation is being considered for this issue for the 2018 Regular Session, so it is extremely important that a response is received from every independent Scholarship school and Diocesan office. Survey responses are due no later than **Friday, December 1st**.

You can access the survey by clicking or pasting the following link into your browser: <http://bit.ly/2hnEul6>.

Please email [erin.bendily@la.gov](mailto:erin.bendily@la.gov) for more information.

## **New: Release of Louisiana School Finder, School Performance Scores and Early Childhood Performance Profiles**

Tuesday, the Department [released](#) the 2016-2017 Scholarship Cohort Index scores and the first-ever early childhood performance profiles in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). School systems and Lead Agencies received their individual school system-level files in October, but state, school system and school-level summaries can be found in the [School and Center Performance library](#).

**School Finder Data:** In advance of the release of the Louisiana School Finder, the Department created a [data guide](#) for schools and school systems. The guide provides a description of all data in the system, instructions for how to correct the data, and who to contact for more information.

**Communicating Results with Families:** To support school and center leaders with parent conversations around school results, the Department has released the following resources:

- Animated school performance score and performance profile videos will explain each metric in the Louisiana School Finder related to [K-12 school](#) and [Early Childhood](#) performance
- [School Finder Promotional Flyer](#) directing families to the Louisiana School Finder and how to find information on their school

## **New: Reminders for Accountability Contacts**

**School Scholarship Cohort Index Appeals:** The Fall 2017 Scholarship Cohort Index Appeal-Waiver Form is available in the Accountability library. The form must be completed and received by the Department no later than **December 1, 2017**. An appeal will not be considered based on data that could have been corrected during one of the regular data certification periods: Cohort Graduation, ACT, DCAI, Assessment.

**SPS/SCI Calculator:** The [2017-2018 SPS Calculator](#) is available in the accountability library. This calculator applies BESE-approved policies for the new accountability system as defined in the Louisiana ESSA plan. Please send questions to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

### **2016-2017 Subgroup CSV Files**

On Friday, October 27, the Department provided school systems and schools with LEAP spring 2017 results by subgroup in the DRC eDIRECT portal.

### **2016-2017 Progress Points for Fall 2017 SCI**

The 2016-2017 K8 progress point rosters were posted to the secure FTP. The rosters include:

- a list of all schools and the total number of K8 progress points awarded to them for the 2016-2017 SPS
- a list of students eligible for consideration of progress points with their expected scale score and their actual scale score

The progress point calculation in 2016-2017 is based on previous policy, which did not include student background characteristics. The expected scores reported for students are not necessarily the same as the expected scores calculated for teacher VAM. The [K-8 Progress Points FAQ](#) can be found in the accountability library. Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) if you have any questions.

### **2016-2017 Post Data Certification Files**

Post data certification files for ACT, DCAI and assessment were posted to the secure FTP on Friday, November 3. These files are for information only as all data certification is closed. Post-data certification graduation rosters were posted on June 22.

## **New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators**

**Practice Tests:** The [Practice Test Quick Start Guide](#) has been updated to reflect the usernames and passwords for teacher access to the updated grades 3-8 practice tests.

### **ACT and WorkKeys**

- A Summary of the ACT and WorkKeys Updates is available in the [Assessment Library](#).
- The ACT Schedule of Events is posted on the ACT State Testing website.

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- Nov 6-Dec 1: Manage participation and shipping dates in PearsonAccessnext for ACT and WorkKeys.
- Nov 6-Feb 2: Request ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT in the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA).
- New high schools who have not received an ACT school code should submit requests using the [ACT/SAT Common High School Code Request](#). Requests should be submitted by the school and will take approximately three weeks to process. If you have questions, you may
  - use the [Contact Us web page](#)
  - call 800-553-6244
    - Standard time, ext. 2800
    - Accommodations, ext. 1788
  - email accommodations questions to [ACTStateAccoms@act.org](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org)

## Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

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

The November Assessment and Accountability Monthly call presentation and recording are located in the [Assessment Library](#).

**Fall High School Assessments:** School test coordinators should be preparing for fall high school LEAP 2025 and EOC assessments by setting up test sessions, scheduling assessments, and assigning test administrator numbers in eDIRECT. Test coordinators should ensure that TAs, proctors, and monitors are assigned to testing groups.

- November 10: Materials delivered to school systems
- November 13: Window for ordering additional braille materials and communications assistance scripts

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) or call (504) 304-5467.

# Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News

## 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	<a href="http://www.acescholarships.org">www.acescholarships.org</a>	<a href="mailto:TDR@acescholarships.org">TDR@acescholarships.org</a>	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.aretescholars.org">www.aretescholars.org</a>	<a href="mailto:maryhw@aretescholars.org">maryhw@aretescholars.org</a>	225-245-3610
New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund	Baton Rouge	<a href="http://newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund">newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund</a>	<a href="mailto:esf@newschoolsbr.org">esf@newschoolsbr.org</a>	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](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).

## All Nonpublic Schools

### **New: 2018 Jump Start Convention Registration Now Open**

Please share with CTE Supervisors, school system administrators, high school principals, teachers, professional counselors and Jump Start regional team members.

[Registration](#) for the 2018 Jump Start Convention is open until January 12, 2018. The convention will be held at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge on January 23, 2018.

Sessions at the convention will provide school systems with important information related to Jump Start planning and implementation. Sessions include:

- CTE Leadership Academy
- Micro-Enterprise Start to Finish
- K-16 Pathways
- Industry-Based Credentials (Emergency Medical Services, Crafts, and Louisiana Agriculture Tech)
- Assisting Students with Disabilities with Job Readiness Skills and Intern Placement
- Building Relationships with Industries
- Jump Start Summer Grants and Implementing Jump Start in Rural School Systems
- Scheduling Start to Finish

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

### **New: Louisiana Team Nutrition Training Grant**

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) have teamed up to support healthier schools with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Team Nutrition Training Grant](#). The three-year grant will allow the LDOE and LDH to support environments that are conducive to healthy eating and physical activity through resources, funding, and professional development to schools.

We encourage all schools that meet the grant requirements to apply for the grant. The LDOE and LDH will select 15 schools that will be awarded \$5,000 (\$2,500 in 2018-2019 and \$2,500 in 2019-2020) to implement the following strategies: incorporating nutrition education into the classroom; communicating health messaging across multiple channels; implementing Smarter Lunchrooms strategies and other changes that will help create a healthier school environment.

For more information on the grant or to apply please visit [www.louisianafitkids.com](http://www.louisianafitkids.com) or use the following links:

- [Louisiana Team Nutrition Overview](#)
- [Grant Guidelines](#)
- [Grant Application](#)

The grant application will be open from November 9, 2017, until **January 31, 2018**.

Please email [stephen.guccione@la.gov](mailto:stephen.guccione@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application**

LDOE is currently processing FY2017-2018 [Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) applications. The submission deadline was Friday, Nov. 3. Recipients that did not submit their applications by the deadline should submit them as soon as possible.

Eligible EEF recipients that need assistance with creating, completing, revising or submitting their applications should email [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov). Additional support is available in the Training section of the [eGMS Logon page](#).

### **Reminder: 2017-2018 BESE Accountability Changes**

At its October meeting, BESE approved changes to Bulletin 111 to reflect changes to Louisiana's school accountability system for 2017-2018 and beyond. School and school system leaders can review a [summary of these changes](#) and contact [Jessica.Baghian@la.gov](mailto:Jessica.Baghian@la.gov) with questions.

## Other Department Newsletters

To view the **November 7th District Newsletter** or the **November 2nd 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](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov).

## LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)  
State Superintendent of Education  
877.453.2721 (toll-free)  
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

## LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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