

# NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

*A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools*



November 16, 2017

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

| School Choice Program | Date     | Action, Event, or Deadline  | Owners                                   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|--|
| All nonpublics        | 11/17/17 | Submit EEF application in eGMS  | School leaders or finance directors      |
| LSP                   | 12/1/17  | Manage participation and shipping dates in <a href="#">PearsonAccessnext</a> for ACT and WorkKeys | High school testing coordinators         |
| 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        |
| LSP                   | 12/8/17  | Q2 enrollment count closes in <a href="#">SEE</a>   | School leaders or Scholarship contacts   |
| LSP, TDR              | 12/15/17 | LEAP 2025 and EOC High School Testing Window closes   | High school testing coordinators         |
| 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: Q2 Enrollment Count December 6-8th**

The Quarter 2 (Q2) enrollment verification process for the Louisiana Scholarship Program will open on Wednesday, 12/6 and close on Friday, 12/8. 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.

Please contact [StudentScholarships@LA.gov](mailto:StudentScholarships@LA.gov) with any questions.

## **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.

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: [www.tinyurl.com/y774fv7x](http://www.tinyurl.com/y774fv7x). Some schools have indicated that the previous survey link was not working for them, so please complete the survey using the link provided here.

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

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

### **LEAP 360**

- District Item Response File reports will now be available every other Monday starting on November 13, 2017 in [eDIRECT](#).
- LEAP 360 interim assessment teacher access information can be found in the [LEAP 360 Interim Assessment Quick Start Guide](#). Teacher access and student use are currently available for high school Forms 1, 2, and 3 (English I, English II, Algebra I, and Geometry). Teacher access for Form 1 for grades 3-8 is currently available, and teacher access for Form 2 for grades 3-8 will be available in the next couple of weeks.

### **LEAP 2025 Science Field Tests**

Please have teachers save-the-date for a series of webinars January 9-11 concerning the new science field tests. Participants will learn information about the new science assessment vision, field test design, and item types.

- January 9, 2018: LEAP 2025 Grades 3-5 Science Field Test Webinar for Teachers
- January 10, 2018: LEAP 2025 Grades 6-8 Science Field Test Webinar for Teachers
- January 11, 2018: Biology Field Test Development for LEAP 2025 Webinar for Teachers

### **ACT and WorkKeys**

#### *ACT Updates*

- November 6-December 1: Manage participation and shipping dates in [PearsonAccessnext](#) for ACT and WorkKeys. This is a mandatory function for 2017-18 for ACT and WorkKeys testing. Schools must choose the testing and delivery dates. If no dates are chosen, materials will not be shipped. If a school is not participating in ACT, choose the "Not Participating" option and select the reason for non-participation.
- 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 3 weeks to process.

#### *WorkKeys Resources*

- Access the [Score Reporting Schedule](#) for complete information about the score reports ACT will produce and when you can expect to receive them. Additional resources can be found in the [Score Reporting section](#) of your program website.
- For additional support or questions go to [act.org/stateanddistrict/contactus](http://act.org/stateanddistrict/contactus), call ACT at 800-553-6244, or email accommodations questions to [ACTStateAccoms@act.org](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org).

### **Fall High School Testing**

- LEAP 2025 and EOC High School Testing Window: November 29 - December 15, 2017
- All staff involved in the administration of the fall EOC/LEAP 2025 HS assessments must be trained in test security and administration prior to testing. Resources can be found in the [Assessment Library](#). Test administrators and proctors should also be familiar with the [technical troubleshooting tips](#) in case an issue arises.

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### LEAP Connect

- Teachers and students can access the LEAP Connect Online Tools Training (OTT) in INSIGHT or using the [link](#) in Google Chrome. Directions for test administrators for the OTT are posted in [eDIRECT](#).

### English Language Performance Test

- Additional information regarding the administration of ELPT will be provided during Office Hours on November 28, 2017 at 1:00 PM.
- The AIR Secure Browser must be installed on any computers used for secure student testing. Click on the Secure Browsers link on the Portal to access the Secure Browser download page. The [ELPT Technical Specifications](#) can be found in the [Assessment Library](#).

### eDIRECT

- DRC released an update in eDIRECT to provide all school systems with a training account. Each school system was given a sample school (777) to use for training purposes only. The training school will only be placed in the Practice Test 2018 Administration. Ten sample students have been added to each 777 site and should be used to practice creating test sessions.

### Assessment Administration Support and Training

- There will not be an Office Hours call on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.
- The [recording](#) and [presentation](#) of the November Assessment and Accountability Monthly call from November 2, 2017 is located in the Assessment Library.

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

### Reminder: Reminders for Accountability Contacts

- **Release of Scholarship Cohort Index Scores:** Last week, the Department [released](#) the 2016-2017 Scholarship Cohort Index Scores in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). In advance of the release of the Louisiana School Finder, the Department created a [data guide](#) for schools and school systems, that provides a description of all data in the system, instructions for how to correct the data, and who to contact for more information. Additional information regarding teacher workforce data can be found [here](#). Please email [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions regarding the School Finder, or email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions on Scholarship Cohort Index.
- **Scholarship Cohort Index Appeals:** The Fall 2017 School Performance Score 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 Progress Points for Fall 2017 SPS:** The 2016-2017 K8 progress point rosters were posted to the secure FTP. The progress point calculation in 2016-2017 is based on previous policy, which did not include student background characteristics. The [K-8 Progress Points FAQ](#) can be found in the accountability library.
- **2016-2017 Post Data Certification Files:** Post data certification files for ACT, DCAI and assessment were posted to the secure FTP on November 3. These files are for information only as all data certification is closed. Post-data certification graduation rosters were posted on June 22.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) if you have any 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.

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## Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News

### New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

#### LEAP 360

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Algebra I, and Geometry). Teacher access for Form 1A, grades 9-10 is currently available, and teacher access for Form 2 for grades 3-8 will be available in the next couple of weeks.

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### 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: Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application

The Department is currently processing FY2017-2018 [Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) applications which were due on November 3. Recipients that did not submit their applications by the deadline should submit them by **November 17th**.

[Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) recipients that decide not to use their EEF funds this year should take the following actions to

[Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) recipients that decide not to use their EEF funds this year, should take the following actions to avoid delays in getting future EEF funds:

- Create an EEF application (for help with creating an application, see the Training section of the [eGMS Logon page](#))
- Go to the Allocations tab
- Check the box on the line that says "District chooses not to submit an expenditure plan at the current time" and save the page.

No further action is needed. The unbudgeted EEF allocations will roll over to the following year.

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

## **Reminder: 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

## **Reminder: 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.

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## **Orleans Parish**

### **New: NSECD Seats for 2018-19**

The New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) will post its recommendations for NSECD (pre-K) seats in New Orleans for the 2018-19 school year on Friday, November 17th. The recommendations will be posted to Agenda for Children's [Coordinated Funding Request webpage](#), along with other important information. If your school applied for NSECD seats, you will also receive an email from Agenda for Children with the recommendations.

Please contact Holly Reid at [holly.reid@rsdla.net](mailto:holly.reid@rsdla.net) if you have any questions.

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## **Other Department Newsletters**

To view the **November 14th District Newsletter** or the **November 9th 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](#)

STAY CONNECTED

