

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



November 30, 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	Manage participation and shipping dates in PearsonAccessnext for ACT and WorkKeys	High school testing coordinators
LSP	12/1/17	Complete survey 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 SEE	School leaders or Scholarship contacts
LSP, TDR	12/15/17	LEAP 2025 and EOC High School Testing Window closes	High school testing coordinators
TDR	1/1/18	Submit annual report	STOs
All nonpublics	1/12/18	Register for JumpStart convention	School leaders
All nonpublics	1/31/18	Apply for Louisiana Team Nutrition Training Grant	School leaders

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Louisiana Scholarship Program Quarterly Call

The Office of Portfolio will hold a quarterly call next week for Scholarship school leaders and program contacts. The call will take place on Tuesday, December 5th at 12:00pm. Topics covered in the call will include accountability updates, changes to assessments, academic and assessment resources, and the 2018-19 LSP student application. Details for the call are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 12/5

Time: 12:00pm

Conference Line: 1-855-240-2575

Access Code: 80736353

Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/lspquarterlycall/>

You are encouraged to share this call-in information with anyone on your team who should attend.

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. It is recommended that you attempt to log in to LEADS prior to the enrollment window opening on 12/6 to ensure that you have access

Please contact StudentScholarships@LA.gov with any questions.

New: Principal Webinar on the Louisiana School Finder

Please share with principals.

The Department, in partnership with the Louisiana Association of Principals, is hosting a webinar for principals on the Louisiana School Finder. The webinar will walk principals through the School Finder, provide them with information on how the data in the system is collected and can be corrected, and preview the upcoming release of the Principal Profiles system.

The webinar will be offered on the following dates.

- December 6 from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- December 7 from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

To join the webinar:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/communications/>
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575
- Enter participant pin code: 60265090

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: December Superintendents' Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by Superintendent John White on Thursday, December 7, at 10:30 a.m. You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below:

To join the Superintendents' December 7 meeting:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #34167465
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

New: LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Resources

Please share with science teachers.

LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Guides are now available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library. These guides provide information about the shifts in science instruction and assessments, field test design, sample items and sets, and additional resources.

Also, please save-the-date for a series of teacher webinars hosted by the Department in January 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

Additional details will be released in early January. Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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. 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 for more information.

Reminder: Important Information for District Testing Coordinators

eDIRECT

- DTCs and STCs can access the eDIRECT Refresher presentation in the [Assessment Library](#). This presentation outlines the features and tools in eDIRECT to help test coordinators with the functions of the administrative portal.

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 Diagnostic assessment csv files are now available in [eDIRECT](#).

ACT

- By Friday, December 1: Manage participation and shipping dates in [PearsonAccessnext](#) for ACT and WorkKeys. This is a mandatory function for 2017-2018 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.

Fall High School Testing

- LEAP 2025 and EOC High School Testing Window: November 29 - December 15, 2017
- Test administrators and proctors should be familiar with the [technical troubleshooting tips](#) in case an issue arises.
- The only students who are eligible to take the 4-level U.S. History EOC are students who are graduating in 2017-2018 and retesters who are not repeating the course. EOC tests taken for courses earned prior to 2017-2018 will be accepted. For more information, consult the [2017-2018 High School Assessment Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Students with accommodations in SER and SIS will be uploaded by DRC. Nonpreidentified students must be added to eDIRECT manually. Test coordinators need to manually enter Read Aloud accommodations for students with accommodations in SIS. Students with Read Aloud accommodations in SER will be populated in eDIRECT. STCs will manually select accommodations or accessibility features in eDIRECT for students that have PNP or LEP accommodations. STCs should review and verify student accommodations in eDIRECT prior to creating test sessions.
- STCs should be finalizing testing schedules, creating test sessions, and ensuring all testing personnel are trained in test security and administration.

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](#).

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours
 - Tuesday, December 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

Please email 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. Families in Orleans parish should be directed toward the receiving school, not the Family

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: Annual Report Due 1/1

As per [Bulletin 134](#), each school tuition organization shall annually provide a public report to the LDE that contains information regarding all scholarships awarded or granted in the previous fiscal year. The report shall be prepared by a certified public accountant and shall be submitted to the department no later than the first day of January each year.

For more information on the contents of the report, please reference Chapter 7 of [Bulletin 134](#) or contact lindsey.bush@la.gov.

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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	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.

All Nonpublic Schools

New: USDOE Releases New Emergency Management Tool

The U.S. Department of Education's Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center has released [SITE ASSESS](#), an interactive tool designed to support school systems with emergency management and emergency operations plan (EOP) development.

SITE ASSESS is a mobile tool that allows school and school system personnel to walk around school buildings and grounds and examine their safety, security, accessibility, and emergency preparedness. It generates a customized to-do list that may be used to address facility improvements, prompts teams to share pertinent information with first responders, and contains relevant resources on several education facility and safety topics.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **November 28th District Newsletter** or the **November 16th 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 @LouisianaSup

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
[Contact Us](#)

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