

# NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

*A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools*



December 7, 2017

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP	12/8/17	Q2 enrollment count closes in <a href="#">SEE</a>	School leaders or Scholarship contacts
LSP	12/13/17	<a href="#">Confirm</a> grade openings	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 and quarterly enrollment	STOs
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 Closes December 8th

The Quarter 2 (Q2) enrollment verification process for the Louisiana Scholarship Program opened on Wednesday, 12/6 and will 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: Confirm Grades for New Seats**

All Scholarship schools that originally indicated a willingness to accept new students and are able to receive new students have received an email to confirm grades for new seats. The link for the verification is <http://bit.ly/2AZZAEo>. Please confirm grade openings by **December 13th**.

If you originally noted that you would not like to accept new students but now wish to do so, you may also complete the form at <http://bit.ly/2AZZAEo>. Input available grade openings in column C by **December 13th**.

Please note that schools are not being asked to submit seats count yet.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov).

### **New: Save-the-Date for February Counselor Collaborations**

#### **Please share with counselors.**

The spring Counselor Collaborations will be held on various dates from February 14-22, 2018. The meetings are for middle and high school counselors focusing on developing appropriate pathways and guiding students to resources that provide post-secondary training opportunities. Counselors are encouraged to attend a collaborative in their area; however, they may attend a collaborative in another region if necessary. Events are free of charge, and registration is open [here](#).

February 14, 2018	8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Bossier Instructional Center
February 14, 2018	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Monroe City School Board
February 15, 2018	8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Alexandria Senior High School
February 15, 2018	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	St. Landry Parish Media Center
February 20, 2018	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Acadia Parish Education Center
February 21, 2018	9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Louisiana School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired
February 22, 2018	9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Treen Technology Center
February 22, 2018	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	St. Charles Parish Learning Center

For more information contact [stephanie.marcum@la.gov](mailto:stephanie.marcum@la.gov).

### **New: Nonpublic Testing Coordinator Call**

The Monthly Nonpublic Testing Coordinator Call will take place on Tuesday, December 19th at 2:00pm. All testing coordinators for Scholarship schools are encouraged to attend.

In order to access the call:

- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Toll access number (Toll): 1-646-307-1380
- Toll free access number (Toll Free): 1-855-240-2575
  
- Participant pin code: 89147656

If you have any questions, please reach out to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

### **Reminder: 2018 Jump Start Convention Registration 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 now open and will close January 12, 2018. The convention will be held at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge January 23, 2018.

Sessions at the convention will provide school systems with important information related to Jump Start planning and implementation. View the [convention invite](#) for more information.

For more information, please e-mail [Martha.Moore@la.gov](mailto:Martha.Moore@la.gov)

## **Reminder: 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](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

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

### **Test Security**

- School system test security reports will be available on the FTP this week. DTCs should use this information in planning local monitoring required by Bulletin 118.

### **LEAP 360**

- Teacher Access for grades 3-8 Math Interim 2 is now available. The [Interim Quick Start Guide](#) has been updated with usernames and passwords.

### **ACT**

- Through February 2
  - STCs request ACT-approved accommodations in the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA).
  - STCs verify and upload student data in PearsonAccessnext (PANext) for ACT
  - STCs order ACT WorkKeys accommodation materials in PANext
- New high schools who have not received an ACT school code should submit requests using this link: [ACT/SAT Common High School Code Request](#)
- Requests should be submitted by the school and will take approximately three weeks to process.

### **ACT Online**

- Through February 2
  - Install ProctorCache software and setup proctor caching in PANext (ACT online only) Note: the administration will be switched from online to paper if ProctorCache software is not installed by this deadline.
  - Complete a mock administration (ACT online only)

### **WorkKeys**

- The [Score Reporting Schedule](#) document contains complete information about the score reports ACT will produce and when test coordinators can expect to receive them.
- Additional resources can be found in the Score Reporting section of the Louisiana State Testing website at: [www.act.org/stateanddistrict/louisiana](http://www.act.org/stateanddistrict/louisiana)
- The following link has resources for training and professional learning related to the ACT

WorkKeys [www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workforce-solutions/act-workkeys/scores-and-reports.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workforce-solutions/act-workkeys/scores-and-reports.html)

- Questions may be directed to the following resources:
  - Visit the Contact Us web page at [act.org/stateanddistrict/contactus](http://act.org/stateanddistrict/contactus)
  - Call 800.553.6244.
    - Standard time, ext. 2800
    - Accommodations, ext. 1788
  - Email accommodations questions to [ACTStateAccoms@act.org](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org).

### **Fall High School Testing**

- LEAP 2025 and EOC High School testing window is open now through December 15.
- Test administrators and proctors should be familiar with the [technical troubleshooting tips](#) if an issue arises.
- The only students who are eligible to take the four-level U.S. History EOC are students who are graduating in 2017-2018

and retesters will be 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. Non-pre identified 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.

#### 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](#).
- The Department will host a webinar for special education teachers and specialists on the LEAP Connect on December 19 from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 pm. See details in [Special Education](#) section.

#### Assessment Administration Support and Training

- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours
  - Tuesday, December 12, 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](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.

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## Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News

### **New: Q2 Count Due 1/1**

The quarter two enrollment file is due by **January 1st**. Please upload to your STO FTP. This action item is only for the STO's, not individual schools.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [lindsey.bush@la.gov](mailto:lindsey.bush@la.gov).

### **New: Save-the-Date for February Counselor Collaborations**

Please share with counselors.

The spring Counselor Collaborations will be held on various dates from February 14-22, 2018. The meetings are for middle and high school counselors focusing on developing appropriate pathways and guiding students to resources that provide post-secondary training opportunities. Counselors are encouraged to attend a collaborative in their area; however, they may attend a collaborative in another region if necessary. Events are free of charge, and registration is open [here](#).

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If you have any questions, please reach out to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

### **Reminder: 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](mailto:lindsey.bush@la.gov).

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

### **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

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)

### **New: Strategies for Success: A Guidebook for Supporting Students with Disabilities**

The Department released [Strategies for Success: A Guidebook for Supporting Students with Disabilities](#), to provide site and school system leaders with resources to create strong support plans for students with disabilities. It can also be used to assist in applications for Round Two of School Redesign Grants. The guidebook is organized around four proven strategies for improving the academic achievement of students with disabilities:

- Identify disabilities early and accurately;
- Provide high-quality instruction to ensure the achievement of ambitious IEP goals;
- Strengthen instruction with specialized supports and related services; and,
- Coordinate effective transition planning and implementation

For additional guidance, the presentation from the November Collaboratives can be accessed [here](#).

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

### **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

### **Reminder: 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.

For more information, visit the USDOE's Office of Safe and Healthy Students' [website](#).

## Other Department Newsletters

To view the **December 5th District Newsletter** or the **November 30th 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).*



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