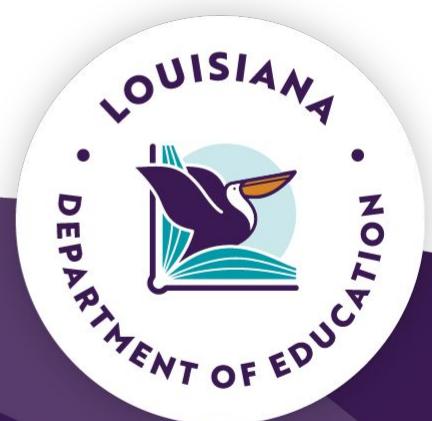


Educational Technology Monthly Call

January 8, 2026



https://bit.ly/EdTech_Jan26

Agenda

- Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Digital Learning Updates
- ADA Compliance Check-In
- E-Rate FY2026 Cycle
- Important Reminders & Calendar



Cybersecurity: Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)



GOHSEP Information

- Under Louisiana Act 117 (R.S. 51:2114), all public bodies (including school systems) and their providers are legally required to report cyber incidents.
 - **Who:** Louisiana State Fusion Center (La-SAFE)
 - **When:** Within 24 hours of discovery of the incident.
 - **Ransomware Note:** If a ransom is paid, it must be reported within 10 days.
- Contact Methods:
 - **Phone:** (800) 434-8007 (24/7 Hotline)
 - **Local:** (225) 925-4192
 - **Email:** lafusion.center@dps.la.gov

Please contact lafusion.center@dps.la.gov or securitydoe@la.gov with questions.



Louisiana Fusion Center

- The Louisiana Fusion Center serves as the central hub. They will coordinate with the Louisiana State Police (LSP) and the Office of Technology Services (OTS) on your behalf or instruct you on specific next steps.
- Once you report the incident to the Louisiana Fusion Center, state officials (including the Governor and GOHSEP) assess the severity. If they determine your district needs physical reinforcement, they activate the Guard.
- This falls under ESF-2 (Cybersecurity), a specific emergency support function that treats cyber attacks similarly to hurricanes or floods.

Please contact lafusion.center@dps.la.gov or securitydoe@la.gov with questions.



Louisiana National Guard

- Once deployed, the Louisiana National Guard's Cyber Defense Incident Response Team (CDIRT) acts as technical cavalry, performing technical labor to restore school operations.
 - Forensic Triage:** Assists State Police and FBI in preserving evidence and determining the breach method.
 - Manpower for Recovery:** Their most critical value. They deploy personnel to physically re-image infected machines (e.g., 5,000 laptops), drastically cutting recovery time from months to weeks.
 - Network Restoration:** Helps rebuild secure network infrastructure (Active Directory, backups) before systems go back online.

Please contact lafusion.center@dps.la.gov or securitydoe@la.gov with questions.



Digital Learning



Presidential AI Challenge Deadline

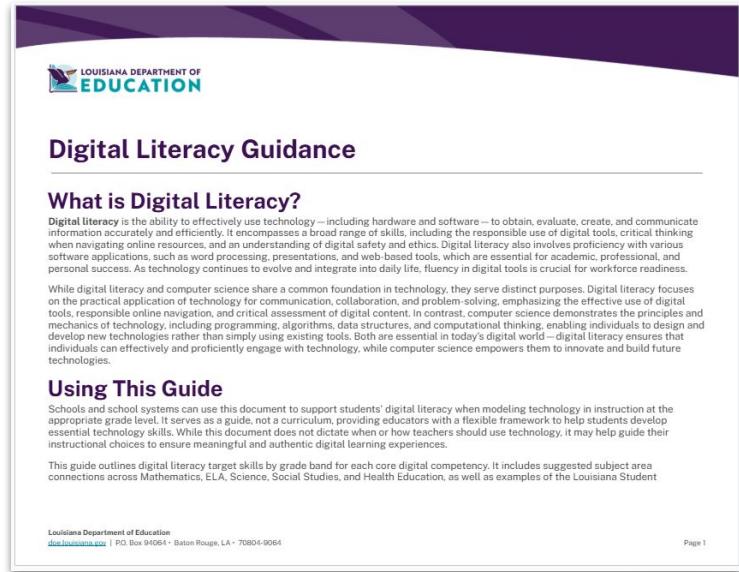
- Submission Deadline Approaching
 - All student and educator projects must be submitted by **January 20, 2026**.
- Categories:
 - Elementary (K-5): Classrooms or groups.
 - Middle & High School (6-12): Teams of 1-4 students.
 - Educators: Teams of 1-3 focusing on creative AI teaching approaches.
- Action: Ensure all entries are finalized and uploaded before the deadline.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.



Updated Digital Literacy Guidance

- To help schools implement and integrate instructional technology, please review the LDOE's updated [Digital Literacy Guidance](#).
- It includes **digital literacy target skills** by grade band (K-2, 3-5, 6-8 9-12) and includes **example connections** across multiple content areas (Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, Health Ed) and Louisiana Student Standards (LSS) alignment examples.



The image shows a screenshot of the Louisiana Department of Education's Digital Literacy Guidance document. The header features the LDOE logo and the title 'Digital Literacy Guidance'. The main content is divided into sections: 'What is Digital Literacy?' and 'Using This Guide'. The 'What is Digital Literacy?' section provides a definition and details about its components. The 'Using This Guide' section explains the purpose and how it can be used. The footer includes the LDOE address and a 'Page 1' indicator.

DIGITAL LITERACY GUIDANCE

What is Digital Literacy?

Digital literacy is the ability to effectively use technology—including hardware and software—to obtain, evaluate, create, and communicate information accurately and efficiently. It encompasses a broad range of skills, including the responsible use of digital tools, critical thinking when navigating online resources, and an understanding of digital safety and ethics. Digital literacy also involves proficiency with various software applications, such as word processing, presentations, and web-based tools, which are essential for academic, professional, and personal success. As technology continues to evolve and integrate into daily life, fluency in digital tools is crucial for workforce readiness.

While digital literacy and computer science share a common foundation in technology, they serve distinct purposes. Digital literacy focuses on the practical application of technology for communication, collaboration, and problem-solving, emphasizing the effective use of digital tools, responsible online navigation, and critical assessment of digital content. In contrast, computer science demonstrates the principles and mechanics of technology, including programming, algorithms, data structures, and computational thinking, enabling individuals to design and develop new technologies rather than simply using existing tools. Both are essential in today's digital world—digital literacy ensures that individuals can effectively and proficiently engage with technology, while computer science empowers them to innovate and build future technologies.

Using This Guide

Schools and school systems can use this document to support students' digital literacy when modeling technology in instruction at the appropriate grade level. It serves as a guide, not a curriculum, providing educators with a flexible framework to help students develop essential technology skills. While this document does not dictate when or how teachers should use technology, it may help guide their instructional choices to ensure meaningful and authentic digital learning experiences.

This guide outlines digital literacy target skills by grade band for each core digital competency. It includes suggested subject area connections across Mathematics, ELA, Science, Social Studies, and Health Education, as well as examples of the Louisiana Student

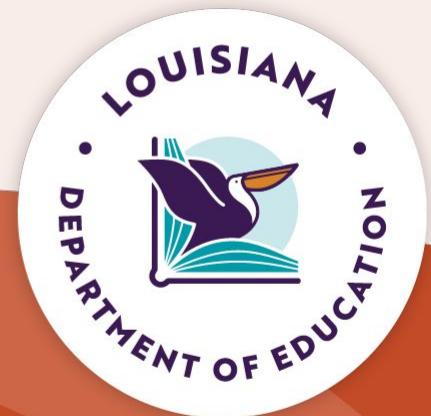
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Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.



ADA Compliance



ADA Title II: Compliance Deadlines

- In April 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) finalized a new rule under ADA Title II.
- All public school systems fall under this rule and must ensure web content and mobile apps meet WCAG 2.1, Level AA standards.
- Deadlines are based on the parish population where the school system is located based on the 2020 census.
 - **April 24, 2026:** Deadline for Large Systems (Population > 50,000):
 - **April 26, 2027:** Deadline for Small Systems (Population < 50,000):

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions



Scope

- This rule applies to all school system's services, programs, and activities delivered online. This includes:
 - All websites (public-facing and internal, including password-protected portals).
 - Mobile apps.
 - Digital documents (e.g., PDFs, Word docs, slide decks, spreadsheets).
 - Educational content and course materials.
 - New social media posts.
 - Third-party tools you provide or make available to the public (e.g., online payment portals, scheduling tools, or learning platforms).

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions



ADA Compliance Resources

- The following provides official guidelines, technical standards, and training materials to support your school system's ADA compliance efforts:
 - [U.S. Department of Justice ADA Website](#)
 - [U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights](#)
 - [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#)
 - [National Center on Accessible Educational Materials \(AEM Center\)](#)
 - [OTS Accessibility How To Guides](#)

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions



E-Rate Program Updates



Funding Year 2026 E-Rate

- The Funding Year 2026 E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) administrative window closes January 16. All applicants should have their profiles and enrollment data up to date before the window closes and profiles are locked.
- The Funding Year 2026 filing window will open on January 21 and will close on April 1.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Upcoming E-Rate Deadlines

The FCC Form 471 application filing window for Funding Year (FY) 2025 is approaching. This is the application for requesting E-Rate discounts.

- E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) Administrative Window Closes: **January 9, 2026**
 - All school system entity profiles, student counts, and CEP percentages must be updated in the EPC by this date.
- Form 471 Window Opens: **January 15, 2026**
- Form 471 Window Closes: **March 26, 2026**
- FCC Form 470 must be posted for at least 28 days before you can select a vendor and certify your Form 471. The last possible date to post a Form 470 for this window is **February 26, 2026**.

Contact ERate@la.gov with questions.



E-Rate FY2026 Planning

- The FCC has announced a 20.7% inflation-adjusted increase for **Category 2 (C2) budgets** for the new five-year cycle (FY2026-2030).
 - **New School Multiplier:** \$201.57 per student (up from \$167)
 - **New Funding Floor:** \$30,175 per school (up from \$25,000)
- **Critical Action Item:** A school system's C2 budget for the **entire five-year cycle** will be set by the student enrollment data you validate in the **first year** you apply for C2 funding.
- The EPC Administrative Window is open now. Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) strongly recommends that school systems update their student counts in EPC this year to lock in the highest possible budget for the next five years.

Contact ERate@la.gov with questions.



Education Technology Monthly Webinar & Meeting Dates



2025-2026 Education Technology Monthly Webinars

Slides from each meeting will be posted on the [Educational Technology Leaders website](#). Recordings are available on request. A [complete calendar](#) of LDOE events can be found on the Louisiana Believes website.

Future Monthly Call Dates

- February 12
- March 12
- April 9
- May 14

Time:	9:00 AM -10:00 AM
Webinar Link	https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/575223228?pwd=NDNlN01SS3c0Rk4wV25aNkZhTEc2Zz09
Phone Number	1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID	Meeting ID: 575 223 228 Password: 2020-202!

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.



Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Assessment and Accountability	<u>January 20 at 3 p.m.</u>
Teaching and Learning	<u>January 29 at 1 p.m.</u>
School System Leader Call	<u>January at 9 a.m.</u>
Data Coordinator Webinar	<u>January 15 at 1 p.m.</u>

View our [School System Support Calendar](#) for full schedule.



Technology and Security Contacts

Please ensure that OTS has the correct information for all school system security contacts. This includes:

- Name
- Title
- Work Phone
- Work Email
- Cell Phone Number

Please update your LEA's contact information [here](#) if you have not already done so.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.



Reminders and Repeats



Digital Learning



LDOE World Language Tech Passport

- Explore these LDOE EdTech resources for integrating technology into **world language instruction**:
 - [AI Translation for World Languages](#)
 - [Interpretive Reading Tools in World Language Instruction](#)
 - [Video Creation Support and Tools for World Language Instruction](#)
- Each guide provides implementation strategies, best practices, and relevant tools.
- Continue to visit our [Digital Learning website](#) for updates and resources.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.



Presidential AI Challenge

- The Presidential AI Challenge is open to students and educators across all grade levels, with four distinct categories for participation:
 - Elementary (Grades K-5): Open to classrooms or groups
 - Middle School (Grades 6-8): Open to teams of 1-4 students
 - High School (Grades 9-12): Open to teams of 1-4 students
- Educators (K-12): Open to teams of 1-3 educators.
 - Educators will focus on creative approaches to teaching or using AI technologies in K-12 learning.
- Registration is open. All projects must be submitted by **January 20, 2026**.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.





Computer Science Technical Assistance Grant (CSTAG)

All public school and public charter K-12 school systems may apply for up to \$40,000 for computer science teacher training and technology support.

The [application process](#) for the 2026-2027 school year is available through Super App.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions



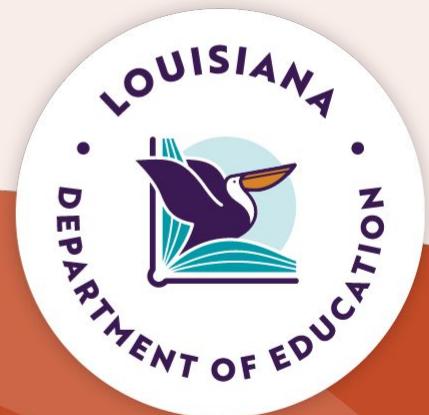
Google Read Along Advisory Group

- Google for Education is organizing a Louisiana Google Advisory Group for Read Along.
- Open to any school system that is a Google for Education Workspace Plus or Teaching and Learning Upgrade customer.
- Participating school systems will receive
 - direct support from Google and the Read Along team;
 - no cost professional development and resources directly from Google;
 - and opportunities to showcase your school system.
- Interested participants can reach out to digitallearning@la.gov.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.



ADA Compliance



Understanding the ADA and Schools

What is the ADA and Why Does It Matter for Schools?

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life.
- For schools, this means ensuring that all students, parents, staff, and community members with disabilities have equal access and opportunity to participate in educational programs, services, and activities.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions



The Three Pillars of ADA Compliance in Schools

Key Areas of ADA Compliance

1. Physical Accessibility: Ensuring that school buildings, classrooms, and grounds are physically accessible to people with disabilities.
2. Digital Accessibility: Making sure that all websites, online learning platforms, and digital communications are usable by everyone, including those who use assistive technology.
3. Effective Communication: Providing necessary aids and services to ensure that communication with students, parents, and staff with disabilities is as effective as communication with others.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions



Ensuring Access to Digital Resources

Website Accessibility:

- Alt Text for Images: Provide text descriptions for all images so that screen readers can describe them to users with visual impairments.
- Keyboard Navigation: Ensure your website can be fully navigated using only a keyboard.
- High Contrast: Use color combinations that are easy to read.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions



Microsoft Accessibility Resources

- Word Documents:
 - [Make your Word documents accessible to people with disabilities - Microsoft Support](#)
- PowerPower Presentations:
 - [Make your PowerPoint presentations accessible to people with disabilities - Microsoft Support](#)
- Video Closed Captions:
 - [Create closed captions for a video - Microsoft Support](#)

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions



Stay Informed: Sign Up for CISA Alerts

- CISA provides free email updates provide essential cybersecurity information for EdTech leaders.
 - Cybersecurity Alerts & Advisories:
 - Receive immediate information on new, high-impact threats, vulnerabilities, and exploits that could affect your systems.
 - CISA Community Bulletin:
 - Receive broader updates on new resources, free services, toolkits, and publications, including those specific to K-12 schools.
- Please visit the [CISA website](#) to subscribe to these updates.

Contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

