



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 25, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I've had the pleasure of visiting summer learning programs throughout the state over the last few years. During these visits, I have witnessed creativity, excitement, fun, and — most important — learning. As educators, we all know learning should continue throughout the summer. Unfortunately, we are also aware of what can occur when students are not exposed to learning opportunities during this extended break.

There are some amazing summer learning programs across the state, but we know not every family can take advantage of those opportunities. Learning can also take place in the home. There are countless activities families can engage in with their children. With this in mind, we wanted to help schools and school systems engage families. We're excited to bring to you our [Family Summer Support Toolkit](#).

This toolkit includes literacy and math resources schools can share directly with families. It also includes digital resources, such as family support for Zearn. I highly encourage everyone to consider incentivizing summer learning activities and removing barriers to technology at home. One example could include sending devices home with students over the summer months.

As the weather warms and we bring this school year to a close, I encourage you all to plan intentionally for summer learning, whether it takes place in a school or in the home.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [April 26 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: April 27 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [May 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 2 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [May 2 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [May 3 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [May 3 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Finance Support Office Hours: [May 9 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 10 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [May 11 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office hours: [May 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Business Manager Monthly Call: [May 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [May 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [May 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Finance Support Office Hours: [May 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 30 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Computer Science Education Advisory Commission [Listening Sessions for K-12 Educators: April 25 at 5:30 p.m.](#)
- April Dunn Act Training: Self-Assessment Guide Section Two: [April 26](#) at 4:30 p.m.
- [Deadline to indicate AP Exam fee reduction](#): April 30 at 10:59 p.m.
- High Cost Services Round 2 Application deadline: May 5
- [2023 Louisiana School Safety Summit](#): June 15

Governmental, Administrative, and Public Affairs

BESE Issues Resolutions Regarding School Resource Officers

Please share with school system leaders.

At the April 5 special meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the board unanimously approved [two resolutions](#) regarding the inclusion of and funding for school resource officers in every Louisiana public school. BESE School Safety Officer Resolution 1 urges and requests the governing authorities of the public elementary and secondary schools in the state of Louisiana to provide for a school resource officer for all schools under its jurisdiction. BESE School Safety Officer Resolution 2 urges and requests the Legislature of Louisiana to provide adequate funding to the governing authorities of the public elementary and secondary schools in the state of Louisiana in order to provide for a school resource officer in every public school.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

LEAP Connect Score Report Release

Please share with testing coordinators and school leaders.

Individual score reports and school rosters will be available in DRC INSIGHT this Wednesday, April 26, for students who participated in LEAP Connect this spring. District and school test coordinators can find the reports in the INSIGHT Report Delivery App by clicking on the Pre-generated (Summative) link and selecting the LEAP Connect Spring 2023 administration.

For students who are graduating through the **Jump Start Pathway for Students who Participate in Alternate Assessment**, an achievement level of *Near Goal, At Goal or Above Goal* satisfies the assessment requirement.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Interests and Opportunities Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts.

Data certification for the Interests and Opportunities data is now open in [LA Data Review](#). All document-based indicators must have documentation submitted by June 7. To assist school systems with this data certification, the following resources are available in the [Accountability Library](#):

- [Interests and Opportunities Documentation Cover Pages](#): Identifies acceptable documentation for each document-based indicator.
- [Interests and Opportunities Menu-based Approach Guidance](#): Describes indicator selection criteria, related policy, and the method used to calculate the Interests and Opportunities Index in 2023 school performance scores.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Open Educational Resources (OER) Virtual Symposium

Please share with librarians, dual enrollment instructors, and college faculty.

The Louisiana Library Network will host a Virtual Symposium, [OER for Student Success and Equity](#), May 25 at 9:45 a.m. [Registration](#) is free and open to all librarians, dual enrollment instructors, and college faculty. Attendees will receive certificates of attendance. Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Jump Start Training Catalog

Please share with school system leaders, CTE supervisors, school administrators, and teachers.

The [Jump Start training catalog](#) identifies professional development and training opportunities available during the summer and will be updated throughout the coming months. Be sure to examine the entire catalog as registration deadlines will vary. Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Make Your Wellness Policy Count And Put it into Action!

Please share with health and physical education supervisors, nursing/health service staff, school and district administrators, and teachers.

In collaboration with the LDOE, [Well-Ahead Louisiana](#) is hosting a free virtual training for school nutrition professionals and staff supporting school health and wellness. This training will feature strategies for evaluating and implementing local school wellness policies, identifying opportunities for local educational agencies (LEAs) to reach beyond the minimum requirements, and strengthening existing policies to address the unique needs of school districts in supporting the whole child.

Please [register](#) in advance for this training. Registrants will receive confirmation emails with directions on how to join the webinar. Contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Office of Career and College Readiness May Monthly Call Rescheduled

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, CTE supervisors, mental health providers, and school counselors.

The Office of Career and College Readiness monthly call has been rescheduled to **May 11** to accommodate end of year school system schedules.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, May 11 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91356229413>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 913 5622 9413
- **Passcode:** 768040

Please contact office@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

Significant Disproportionality

Please share with special education leaders.

Each year, the Department analyzes the likelihood that students from one race or ethnicity will be subject to certain outcomes (over identification, restrictive placement, or exclusionary discipline) relative to students from all other races and ethnicities in each school system. The 2021-2022 significant disproportionality results are now available. Significantly Disproportionate Notification letters are on the FTP for school systems identified as significantly disproportionate. School systems not identified as significantly disproportionate will not have a notification letter.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Mentor Waiver

Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, and school system leaders.

At April BESE, the Board approved a full waiver of the Mentor credential requirement for the 2023-2024 school year. Mentor teacher waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDOE and at no fee to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation

provider. The waiver will be issued by the LDOE for each educator highly recommended by the mentor's principal and who possess one or more of the following qualifications:

1. Two years of Highly Effective Compass ratings;
2. National Board Certification;
3. Statewide or national distinction for excellence in teaching;
4. Experience as a TAP mentor, master teacher, executive master teacher, or certified TAP evaluator;
5. Content leader experience, as evidenced by participation in Content Leader training or redelivery of professional development; or
6. Master's or doctorate in education and exemplary experience hosting student teachers.

The application portal for the 2023-2024 Mentor waiver will open in early July. Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

College Prep Workshop

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) is hosting a free College Prep Workshop for all high school juniors in Louisiana who are interested in pursuing a career in the arts (visual arts, music, theater, dance, creative writing, culinary, production, media arts) this **Wednesday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m.** This virtual workshop will feature the processes of finding college programs, preparing for auditions and portfolios, accessing financial aid, and more. [Registration](#) is free and open to students and families. Please contact outreach@nocca.com with questions.

Literacy

Free Summer Reading Books for CIR Schools

Please share with school leaders.

As part of the R.E.A.D. Program, all CIR schools with students in grades PK4 - 5 will receive a shipment of books from Scholastic on or around May 12. These pre-packaged sets of four books must be sent home with students to promote summer reading and family literacy engagement. Depending on the number of students at the schools, these books may arrive on pallets or as a large shipment.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.