

# LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call



April 9, 2025

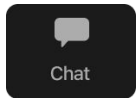
# Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
  - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”



- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact [LDOEcommunications@la.gov](mailto:LDOEcommunications@la.gov).



# Contact Information

Please provide your **name** and **email address** in the chat box. A copy of the presentation will be sent to you after this meeting.

To access slide decks from previous calls, you may visit the [LDOE Monthly Call](#) webpage.



# Agenda

- Monthly Call Goals
- Key Dates
- BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates
- Diverse Learner Updates
- Educator Evaluation Updates



# Monthly Call Goals



# WELCOME

## Goals for Local Authorizer Monthly Calls

To provide pertinent information and updates.

How will this be accomplished?

- Being **INTENTIONAL**
- Listening to your requests
- Each month provide reminders and upcoming key dates pertaining to the authorization process
- Each call will provide leaders with information tied to the Charter RFA process

\*\*\*REMINDER: Monthly calls are held every 2nd Wednesday @ 11:00 am\*\*\*



# Key Dates



# LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

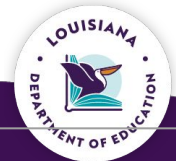
Date	Action
March 1-June 30, 2025	<p><b>Parental Involvement Survey Participation</b>-Annually LEAs and Charters are identified to participate in the Parent Involvement Survey. The data collected in this survey is reported in the annual SPP/APR to the Office of Special Education Programs.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:yolanda.oates3@la.gov">yolanda.oates3@la.gov</a>.</p>
April 15, 2025	<p><b>Periodic Expenditure Reports</b>- Periodic Expenditure reports in <a href="#">eGMS</a> for all grants due.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:grantshelpdesk@la.gov">grantshelpdesk@la.gov</a>.</p>
April 15, 2025	<p><b>Quarterly Waitlist Report</b>- BESE-Authorized schools will submit a quarterly report that identifies priorities toward students identified as economically disadvantaged and students with disabilities. The relevant reporting period should be completed and submitted to <a href="mailto:charters@la.gov">charters@la.gov</a>.</p>





# LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
Mid-April for Draft; Mid-May Final Issue	<b>LEA Determination Review:</b> LDOE utilizes a three-tiered process to gather data to annually determine if the state meets requirements for the purposes of IDEA. The department provides a period for review of the draft. LEAs are encouraged to carefully review and report any items of concern during the draft review period. If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:yolanda.oates3@la.gov">yolanda.oates3@la.gov</a> .
April 30, 2025	<b>Quarter 3 Financial Report:</b> Includes budgeted data for the fiscal year, along with the YTD actual data from January 1-March 31. Each quarterly and Annual Financial Report should include a statement from the Charter Operator's lead executive and Board President certifying the accuracy of the report and the adherence to the Operator's Internal Control Procedures. The Charter Operator must maintain records in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The forms should be submitted via email to <a href="mailto:CharterFinanceHelpdesk@la.gov">CharterFinanceHelpdesk@la.gov</a> .
May 1, 2025	<b>Act 108-</b> Act 108 was passed during the 2021 Regular Legislative Session. This law requires teachers and school administrators of students in grades K-3 shall complete one approved professional development course in the science of reading and provide documentation of successful completion of the course to the employing school.  <a href="#">Act 108 Reporting FAQ</a>



# 2024-2025 Annual Charter School Application Process Key Dates

*To begin operation in 2026-27*

Date	Annual RFA Process
January 17, 2025	Local school boards deadline to consider Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications
January 31, 2025	Local school boards notify LDOE of board recommendations regarding the approval or denial of received applications is <b>January 31, 2025</b> through the <a href="#">Jotform</a> process.
March 31, 2025	LDOE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2, 4, and 5 applicants
August 19, 2025	Types 2, 4, and 5 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools



# 2025-2026 Mid-Year Charter School Application Process Timeline

*To begin operation in 2026-27*

Date	Annual RFA Process
June 11, 2025	LDOE application opens for Type 2, 4, and 5 applicants.
June 30, 2025	Letters of Intent due to LDOE.
July 7, 2025	Eligibility Determination Forms Due to LDOE.
July 18, 2025	LDOE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2, 4, and 5 applicants.
September 2025	Capacity Interviews for Type 2, 4, and 5 applicants conducted by 3rd Party Reviewer.
December 9, 2025	Types 2, 4, and 5 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools.



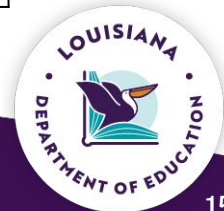
# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates



# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

The Office of School Choice reviewed eligibility determination submissions in accordance with eligibility requirements listed in LA Bulletin 126, §503 and the following applicants were determined to have met eligibility criteria:

Name	Charter Type	Region
Destiny Academy Charter School	Type 2	Madison Parish
Louisiana Key Academy Jefferson	Type 2	Jefferson Parish
Pine Prairie Charter School	Type 2	Evangeline Parish



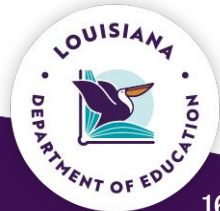
# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

## Application Deadline

The application deadline for the **2024-2025 Annual RFA Application Cycle** was **March 31, 2025**. Applicants were required to submit the full application and completed overview template.

Note: Applications were reviewed only if a Letter of Intent and Eligibility Determination form were received by the due date and the applicant received confirmation from the department of meeting eligibility criteria. Any applications submitted without adherence to the Letter of Intent and Eligibility Determination due date requirements were not reviewed.

Once applications are received, state legislators and district superintendents were notified of any application submissions to BESE within their district.



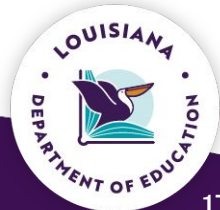
# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

All applications for the RFA will undergo two reviews. The first by an independent third-party review team and the second by the Internal Review Committee.

- Both review panels will utilize the application review rubrics for determining standards being met or unmet.

## Rubrics:

- [New Operator Rubric](#)
- [Experienced Operator Rubric](#)



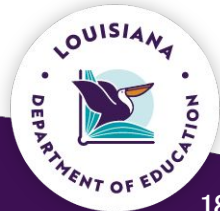
# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

## Initial Memo

The third-party reviewer will review the application and provide the applicant with an initial memo regarding the evaluator rubric. Evaluators are looking for:

- A clear, cohesive, aligned plan for all aspects of the school operation;
- Team capacity to execute the plan and deliver results and potential to produce high-quality outcomes for all students; and
- Responsiveness to the evaluation criteria.

Upon receipt of the initial memo findings by the third-party, the applicant is afforded the opportunity to respond to any unmet standards in a 7-page response.

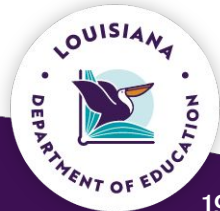




# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

## 7 Page Response Memo

Upon receipt of the 7-page response by the applicant, the third-party will review response against rubric standards and provide a response memo of findings. The response by the third-party provides the applicant with an opportunity to review remaining unmet standards in preparation for the capacity interview.

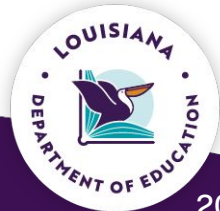


# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

## Capacity Interview

The capacity interview is structured by the third-party reviewer and provides for an opportunity for applicants to:

- Clarify plan;
- Address proposal gaps;
- Address evaluator questions and concerns; and
- Demonstrate competency through performance tasks.
- LDOE Offers a Technical Assistance Session to prepare applicants for the Capacity Interview



# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

## Third-Party Final Recommendation

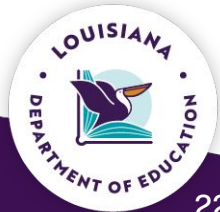
Post-Capacity Interview, the third-party application reviewer will issue a Final Recommendation to the LDOE. This recommendation is shared with the applicant. Upon receipt of the final recommendation by the third-party, the applicant is afforded the opportunity to respond to correct any factual errors in the recommendation report. The applicants may not present new information or attachments for consideration at this stage of the process.



# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

## Internal Review Committee

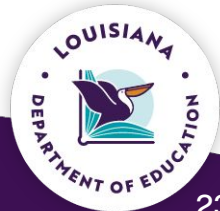
- The Internal Review Committee will review each application, provide feedback to each section, and determine if the applicant response overall meets or does not meet the standards for each section. The application standards will serve as the basis for their determinations.



# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

## SIT Committee- Public Presentation

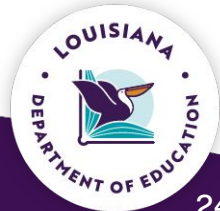
- A public presentation is made at the BESE SIT Committee Meeting prior to the meeting on which the application will be voted on by BESE.
- During the public presentation, each applicant will be offered up to 5 minutes to present their school proposal. There will be an opportunity for public comment regarding the application presentation.
- BESE Public Presentation for Annual RFA Applicants: **June 2, 2025**



# BESE-Authorized RFA Cycle Updates

## SIT Committee Recommendation- Final Recommendation Presented to BESE

- The Department recommends to BESE whether to approve or deny each charter application.
- BESE has final authority.
- BESE Final Recommendation for Annual RFA Applicants: **August 19, 2025**



# Diverse Learner Updates



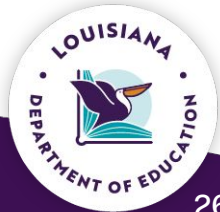
# High Cost Services

## Round 1:

- The amendment cycle is currently open.
- School systems should submit amendments prior to **June 30**.
- The Department will monitor and conduct outreach to ensure amendments are submitted by the June 30 deadline.

## Round 2:

- Currently in the allocation development process.





# Alternate Assessment Participation Review

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any school system with **more than 1.0 percent of students participating** in the ELA, math or science alternate assessment must take certain actions.

2023-2024 LEAP Connect data and corresponding documents are available in the data management FTP. School systems should review their data and take any required actions by **April 11**.

Contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.



# English Learner Institute

The Louisiana Department of Education is excited to announce our upcoming **English Learner Institute**. This event will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners.

The institute will focus on best practices for supporting English Learners, and also feature speakers who are experts in the field. We encourage all **EL Directors/Coordinators** to attend and participate in this opportunity to learn and collaborate with colleagues from across the state.

Please mark your calendars for:

→ [May 14, 2025](#) (Registration closes May 9, 2025)

Please contact [diverselearnersupport@la.gov](mailto:diverselearnersupport@la.gov) with questions.



# Fast Track ESL Add-on

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an [ESL Add-On credential](#).

Please complete the 2024 -2026 [Early Interest Survey](#) to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

[Professional Development Courses](#) are also included with Project Endorsement Plus.

- Looking at Student Academic Language Foundations (LASAL) Professional Development
- Parents as Partners in Literacy (PaPiL) Professional Development

Please visit [www.ASPDgroup.com](http://www.ASPDgroup.com) or email [registration@aspdgroup.com](mailto:registration@aspdgroup.com) for more information.

Please contact [diverselearnersupport@la.gov](mailto:diverselearnersupport@la.gov) with questions.



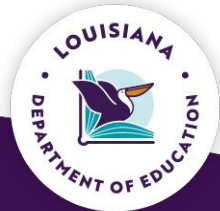
# Diverse Learners Office Hours



April Office Hours

April 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.



# Educator Evaluation Updates



# LEADS Evaluation and Training

- All school systems will participate in the **LEADS 2025-2026 Implementation Year**.
- Training for all system and school-level leaders and observers is being offered this spring and summer.
- Training is required for all first-time LEADS evaluators and designated observers. Register on [Eventbrite](#) for selected training.

Systems may apply annually to use an [alternate rubric](#) for the observation component of evaluation; however, all other components are required.

- The waiver should be submitted by the end of August each year.
- The rubric must align and follow a rating scale of 1-5.
- Evaluators will still be required to take an annual assessment.

Please contact [LEADS@la.gov](mailto:LEADS@la.gov) with questions.



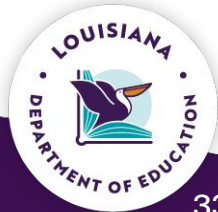
# LEADS Implementation Support & Resources

The [LEADS Library](#) contains many resources to support planning LEADS implementation.

- [Evaluation Implementation Guidance for System Leaders](#)
- [LA Educator Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#)
- [LA Leader and Counselor Process: Sequence and Timeline](#)
- [Evaluation FAQ](#)
- [2025 Evaluation Training](#)

The [LEADS Public Collections](#) contains video clips to support developing a common understanding and build rater-reliability.

Please contact [LEADS@la.gov](mailto:LEADS@la.gov) with questions.



# 2024-2025 Evaluation Data Reporting

[LES](#) is being used for all evaluation data. Even if using legacy systems (COMPASS or approved alternate observation tools) rather than transitioning to LEADS, data must still be entered into LES.

Some notes about LES:

- Rosters pre-populate from EdLink.
- Staff information related to eScholar and EdLink 360 data should be up to date.
- Users will access [EdLink Security](#) for LES.

Resources are available to review the operations and functions of LES.

[LES for System Leaders](#)

[LES for System Leaders \(recording\)](#)

[LES for School Leaders](#)

[LES for School Leaders \(recording\)](#)





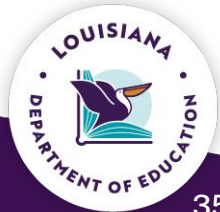
# Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) Reminders

Please use the [LES 2024-2025 Timeline](#) to monitor data entry into the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES). The following tasks should be placed in LES at this time:

- SLTs
- At least one observation
- Coaching Plan/PGP link

As LES features are updated and/or enhanced, LES system contacts will receive notification via email.

Please contact [leads@la.gov](mailto:leads@la.gov) with questions.



# Helpful Links

Resource	Description
<a href="#">Charter School Library</a>	This webpage includes links to charter school finance, guidance, reviews, and pre-opening information.
<a href="#">Newsletter</a>	This webpage offers a links to all newsletters offered by the LDOE.
<a href="#">Charter Inbox</a>	Please reach out to us through the Charter Inbox with your questions.



# Teacher Leader Summit



**Teacher Leader Summit**  
June 10-12  
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center  
New Orleans

Registration Now Open!

The regular Teacher Leader Summit 2025 registration period is open through April 18 or at sell-out. The regular registration cost is \$299. The registration link is now live on the Teacher Leader Summit webpage. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

- 3-day, in-person event
- Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.



# Excellence in Authorizing - Community of Practice

- School system leaders are invited to participate in the 2025 Excellence in Authorizing -Community of Practice. LDOE has invited NACSA to lead the Community of Practice in developing authorizing tools.
- Participating districts can share experience, gain knowledge, and develop best practices to improve charter school authorizing across the state. Participating districts will also earn CSP microgrant opportunities.
- Invitations to [register](#) for and participate in the Excellence in Authorizing -Community of Practice have been sent to charter contacts and Superintendents. Please see the [Charter Schools Program Grant](#) page for more information.
- Contact [megan.thompson2@la.gov](mailto:megan.thompson2@la.gov) with questions.



# Questions

For further inquiries, please reach out to:

Charter Authorization

[charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov)

Ex. Director of Charter Authorization

[Jade.Gambino@la.gov](mailto:Jade.Gambino@la.gov)



# Upcoming LEA-Authorized Charter Monthly Call



May 14, 2025 at 11:00 am

Topics: Board Governance

