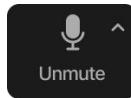


# Zoom Meeting Preparation



- 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).



# BESE-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call



January 8, 2026

# Contact Information

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



# Agenda

- Welcome
- Upcoming Submissions
- Charter Submission Shout Outs
- Diverse Learners Updates, Ms. Yolanda Oats
- Educator Evaluation Updates, Ms. Keisha Thomas
- Questions



# WELCOME

## Our Goals for BESE Authorized Monthly Calls

We will provide pertinent information and updates.

- Being **INTENTIONAL**
- Listening to your requests
- Each month provide reminders and upcoming required submissions from all departments in the LDOE
- Each call will provide leaders with information tied to the Charter School Performance Compact.

**\*\*\*REMINDER: Monthly calls are held every 2nd Thursday @ 9:00 am\*\*\***



# Department Accountability

- Office of School Choice
- Germain Gilson, Assistant Superintendent
- Kaleb Moore, Chief of Staff
- Samantha Carter, Executive Director of Charter Accountability
- Christina Woods, Director of Charter Accountability
- Shantel Reynard, Director of Charter Accountability
- Theresa Jackson, Operations Manager



# Charter Accountability Reporting

Utilize the [Reporting Calendar](#) as a tool for directions, links to forms, and submission due dates.

If you submit to [Charters@la.gov](#), also CC your school's Director.

- Christina Woods - [christina.woods@la.gov](#)
- Shantel Reynard- [shantel.reynard@la.gov](#)

The [Charter School Library](#) is a great resource!

Subscribe to the LDOE [Newsletter!](#)



# 2025 Upcoming Submissions

January	February	March
<a href="#"><u>3rd Quarterly Waitlist Report</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>International Associate Teacher Program</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Principal/Teacher of the Year Applications Due</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Outstanding School Support Employee Applications Due</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>CDF MOY</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Course Choice Spring Reporting</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>CIS Evaluation Deadline</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Quarter 2 Financial Report</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>PERs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Diploma &amp; Seal Orders</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Board Meeting Calendar</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>International Associate Teacher Program</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Course Choice Spring Reporting</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>International Associate Teacher Program</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Teacher Roster Verification for VAM</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Act 370 Report (New)</u></a>



# Material & Non-Material Amendment Submission Deadlines

Material Amendment Requests & Supporting Documentation Due to Charter Accountability Team	BESE SIT Committee Meeting
January 9, 2026	March 10, 2026
No Submissions	April 14, 2026
April 10, 2026	June 9, 2026



# Charter Submission Shout Out

Willow Charter Academy



# Submission Reminders

- Instructional Material Access - [Act 103 \(2025\)](#)
  - Due January 31, 2026
- Updated Camera Policy
  - Due 10 days after the revision - [Act 479 \(2025\)](#)

Submit by email to [educationpolicy@la.gov](mailto:educationpolicy@la.gov)

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



# Leadership Changes

- If any board members, CEO, or any other school leadership changes occur, please complete the [Charter Leadership Change Form](#) and return it to [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov) and your director.
- New Policy
  - All charter school board members are required to complete a background check in accordance with the new policy. This requirement applies to all current and incoming board members and must be completed prior to service and maintained in compliance with state regulations.

[Charter School Performance Compact](#)  
LA R.S. 17:15 & LA R.S. 15:587.1



# Background Check Process

Charter schools must comply with R.S.17:15 [law.justia.com] “Criminal History Review” and R.S.15:587.1 [legis.la.gov] “The Louisiana Child Protection Act.”

These statutes require school systems to request criminal history checks from the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. Background checks should be submitted any time there is a change in board membership.



In accordance with the above listed requirements, we have provided a step-by-step process your board and school leaders will need to complete to meet this pre-opening deliverable:

**Step 1:** The Office of School Choice (OSC) will email two forms to the charter school board and school leader(s):

- NCJ Applicants Privacy Rights-attached informational guide to be retained by board members and school leader(s).
- LAPS Authorization Form-attached to this email and to be returned via email by each board member and school leader(s).



**Step 2:** Applicant board members and school leader(s) complete the LAPS Authorization form and return via email to OSC contact-jade.gambino@la.gov and charters@la.gov. (may also include email of applicable Director of Accountability).



**Step 3:** Upon receipt of the LAPS Authorization form, OSC will email two forms to each board member and school leader(s):

- LDOE Office of School Choice Service Code Form-attached form to be completed using instructions provided by each board member and school leader(s).
- Disqualifying Offenses-attached informational guide to be retained by board members and school leader(s).



**Step 4:** Board members and school leader(s) will use Service Code Form instructions to schedule an appointment with IdentoGo and have fingerprinting completed. The Criminal History Record Information will be sent directly to OSC through a secure portal.



# DCFS (ACT 409) Check:

There is no fee for the ACT 409 associated clearance requests submitted via CANS.

Step 1: The Office of School Choice (OSC) will email one form to the charter school board and school leader(s): Form-B.

Step 2: Each individual will need to email a copy of that individual's photo ID and the completed Form B to [jade.gambino@la.gov](mailto:jade.gambino@la.gov) and [charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov).

Step 3: OSC Staff will upload the individual's photo ID and Form B and submit to the CANS system.

Step 4: DCFS Clearance Unit will complete the clearance. Results will be emailed to individual by OSC Staff.



# Diverse Learner Updates

Ms. Yolanda Oates



# Bulletin 1508

- Updated [Bulletin 1508](#)



# Bulletin 1508: Effective Date and Applicability

Evaluations initiated *after* the Bulletin's effective date:

- Final Rule for the updated [Bulletin 1508](#) was December 20, 2025.
- All new initial evaluations and reevaluations for which parental consent is obtained *on or after* the bulletin's effective date must fully adhere to the *updated* procedures.

# Bulletin 1508: Applicability

Evaluations already in progress at the time of release (final rule)

For evaluations that were initiated before the bulletin's effective date:

- LEAs may complete the evaluation using policy in effect at the time consent was obtained, provided that:
  - The evaluation remains compliant with IDEA requirements; and
  - No DOE procedural violations are created by continuing under prior policy.

# Bulletin 1508: Capacity Building

We are pleased to announce informational trainings coming soon, dedicated to the recent revisions of [Bulletin 1508](#).

As these updates introduce significant changes to the evaluation and eligibility criteria for special education services, trainings will be designed to ensure all practitioners, administrators, and stakeholders are fully aligned with the new regulatory standards.

Details will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

# Data Updates



# MFP Child Count

The Department annually collects the number of students receiving special education and related services for state reporting and funding. These counts include students with disabilities and gifted and talented students. Students must have a current evaluation, IEP, and receiving services as of February 2.

Refer to the [Benchmark Calendar](#) for reports to run and verify data. The official MFP Child Count will run on **February 11**.



# April Dunn Act Implementation Monitoring

To support effective implementation of the April Dunn Act, school systems are required to complete a self-assessment using the [April Dunn Act Self-Assessment Guide](#) (SAG).

This guide is a comprehensive analysis of the implementation process, including the review of procedures and data to determine valid and systemic conclusions.

Self-assessments must be conducted annually.

## April Dunn Act

Self-Assessment Guide

February 2025



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



# April Dunn Act Monitoring

Self-assessment results should be kept on file.

The LDOE will audit self-assessment results to ensure they accurately represent best practices in the implementation of the April Dunn Act.

The deadline to complete the self-assessment is **February 27**.

# April Dunn Act Resources

Resources to support effective implementation are available in the [Students with Disabilities library](#).

- [Developing Procedures for Effective Implementation](#)
- [Checklist for Creating April Dunn Act Procedures](#)
- [Self-Assessment Guide](#)
- Understanding the Self-Assessment Guide, Sections [One](#), [Two](#), and [Three](#)

# 2026 Parental Involvement Survey

## Participating School Systems:

Bienville Parish	Bossier Parish	Claiborne Parish	Jackson Parish
Jefferson Davis Parish	Madison Parish	Morehouse Parish	St. Tammany Parish
Terrebonne Parish	Vermillion Parish	West Baton Rouge Parish	Crescent City Schools
Dr. Martin Luther King Charter School for Sci Tech	Dwight D. Eisenhower Charter School	Einstein Charter Middle School at Sarah Towles Reed	Knowledge is Power (KIPP)
La Key Academy	Lake Charles Charter Academy Foundation, Inc.	Lake Charles College Prep	Lake Forest Elementary
Willow Charter Academy	Willow Charter School	Benjamin Franklin Charter High School	Special School District

Special education leaders at participating school systems will receive detailed communication from the Diverse Learners team by March 1, 2026. The survey is scheduled to close July 1, 2026.



# 2026 Parental Involvement Survey

Special education leaders at selected school systems will receive detailed communication from the Diverse Learners team by March 2, 2026.

The survey is scheduled to open April 1, 2026 and close July 1, 2026.

# Policy, Data, and Reporting Deadlines

- IEPs Submitted for Students Taking LEAP Connect: **January 23**
- Updated SPED Camera Policy Submitted: **February 1**
- MFP Child Count Final Run: **February 11**
- April Dunn Act Self-Assessment Deadline: **February 27**
- Updated Seclusion and Restraint Policy Submitted: **May 31**
- 2025-2026 Local SEAC Report Deadline: **May 31**



# Educator Evaluation Updates

Ms. Keisha Thomas



# 2024-2025 Educator Evaluation Data

All 2024-2025 teacher, counselor, and leader evaluations should now be finalized in the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES).

The final date for entering 2024-2025 evaluation data is **February 13**. No evaluations can be edited after this date.

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



# LEADS Principal Survey

The principal survey will open March 2 in the [Louisiana Evaluation System](#).

- This anonymous survey is a key component of LEADS, allowing educators to provide feedback that supports continuous improvement in school leadership.
- LES system contacts will receive the [Principal Survey Guide for Educators](#) and additional information.

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



# 2025-2026 Charter Spreadsheet Upload

**Direct entry into LES is the preferred method for entering data.**

- Prior to uploads
  - Review rosters in LES to ensure all staff appear, are assigned an evaluator, and have the correct evaluation type.
  - Download and use the LES provided spreadsheet.
- To request a 2025-2026 spreadsheet upload, complete the [charter upload](#) form by March 15.

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



# LEADS Evaluator Training and Resources

All first time observers and evaluators utilizing LEADS observation rubrics are required to attend training and pass an annual assessment prior to observing or evaluating. [Registration](#) for summer training is now available.

- Observers must take and pass the assessment annually to remain in “good standing.”

Resources to support evaluation implementation are available in the [LEADS Library](#). Additional training modules and videos are available in the [LDOE Professional Learning Platform](#).



# Teacher Leader Summit 2026





## Teacher Leader Summit 2026

*Big Ideas Start Here*

Teacher Leader Summit 2026 will take place May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. TLS 2026 celebrates the dedication and leadership of Louisiana educators. Together, we will spark new thinking, share what works, and shape what's next.

### Registration Details

#### Early Bird Registration

- February 9 to March 15
- Rate: \$249

#### Regular Registration

- March 16 to April 12 (or when capacity is reached)
- Rate: \$299

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



# Questions

For further inquiries, please reach out to  
[charters@la.gov](mailto:charters@la.gov)

Charter Accountability

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

Directors of Charter Accountability

[Shantel.Reynard@la.gov](mailto:Shantel.Reynard@la.gov)

[Christina.Woods@la.gov](mailto:Christina.Woods@la.gov)



# Upcoming BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call

March 12, at 9:00 am

