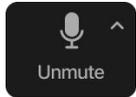


LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call



February 11, 2026

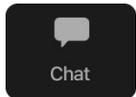
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- 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.



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
- Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters
-
- Departmental Updates
 - Diverse Learner Updates
 - Educator Evaluation Updates
 - Safe and Healthy Schools
 - Assessments
- CSP 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
February 13, 2026	<p>Science Leader Community of Practice Webinar: The Science Leader Community of Practice will host its next virtual meeting on February 13. The topic of this interactive session is leading purposeful planning and providing actionable feedback in science. Registration using the link provided.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact STEM@la.gov,</p>
February 13, 2026	<p>Public Notice-ESA Waiver: Louisiana has opted to pursue a waiver of provisions in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act related to a consolidated funding allocation for the administration of federal programs. Relevant personnel should review this draft waiver request and submit questions or comments to educationpolicy@la.gov, placing “ESEA Waiver” in the subject line, by February 13.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact educationpolicy@la.gov.</p>
February 13, 2026	<p>Education Innovation & Research (EIR) Tutoring Grant: In December 2025, the LDOE was awarded an Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant from the U.S. Department of Education to improve early literacy outcomes. School systems interested in participating should complete the EIR Grant Partnership Opportunity Interest Form by February 13.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact tutoring@la.gov.</p>



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
February 13, 2026	<p>Alternative Education Submission Portal- The 2026-2027 AE Submission Portal opened on December 11, 2025. All school systems are required to verify the existence of AE sites using the submission portal. The portal will close February 13th and interviews for 2026-2027 new site authorization will be conducted February 9-13.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact terran.perry@la.gov.</p>
February 20, 2026	<p>Summer Food Service Trainings: The Nutrition Support team is hosting an in-person training on February 20 for SFAs interested in participating in the USDA Summer Food Service Program and for returning sponsors on March 3.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact STEM@la.gov.</p>
February 24, 2026	<p>Limited Seating Available: Computer Science Implementation Regional Tour: The LDOE is hosting Computer Science Implementation regional tour sessions to support school system leaders in developing a comprehensive K-12 computer science implementation plan. An in-person session is scheduled for February 24 from 8:30 a.m-11:30 a.m. in Bossier Parish (Register here).</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov.</p>



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters



2025-2026 Annual Charter School Application Process Timeline

To begin operation in 2027-2028

Date	Annual RFA Process
August 25, 2025	LDOE releases common application and toolbox with application resources
September 8, 2025	Local school authorizers release Charter Request for Applications, Timeline, Process, and Point of Contact
October 20, 2025	Local school boards submission deadline for the full application for Type 1 and Type 3 applicants
November 7, 2025	Local school boards notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district
January 29, 2026	Local school boards deadline to consider Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications
January 30, 2026	Local school boards notify LDOE of board recommendations
February 9, 2026 (5 p.m. CST)	Letters of Intent Due
March 9, 2026 (5 p.m. CST)	Eligibility Determination Forms Due
March 30, 2026 (5 p.m. CST)	LDOE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2, 4, and 5 applicants
August 18, 2026	Types 2, 4, and 5 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

LA Bulletin 126 states that:

- BESE shall approve at least one charter cycle per year.
- A framework of all BESE requests for applications must be submitted to BESE by the department prior to the release of the request.
- The application questions shall consist of questions in the following areas: executive summary, education program design and capacity, organizational plan and capacity, and financial plan and capacity.



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Letter of Intent:

- Any organization or individual interested in applying for the Charter Request for Application 2025-2026 cycle as a Type 2 or 4 charter shall submit a Letter of Intent to charters@la.gov by February 9, 2026 (5 p.m.).
- The Letter of Intent shall contain the following information:
 - Vision Statement
 - Mission of the Intended School
 - Intended Instructional Model
 - Proposed Opening Year
 - Intended Grades to be Served
 - Projected and Target Enrollment
 - Interested Location



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Eligibility Determination:

- Any organization or individual interested in applying for the Charter Request for Application 2025-2026 cycle as a Type 2 or 4 charter shall submit the Eligibility Determination form to charters@la.gov by March 9, 2026 (5 p.m.).
- At the time of submission of the Eligibility Determination form, background checks must also be submitted for the board members and school leader, if identified.
 - LA R.S. 15:587.1 - requires all background checks to be conducted through the Louisiana State Police (LSP) Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Type 2 Charter Application Eligibility, per Bulletin 126 §503 A(5):

- Applicants applying to operate a charter school which is to be located in a local school system in academic crisis as defined in Bulletin 111 §4901.
- If the local school system in which a charter group intends to apply to operate a type 1 or type 3 charter school has received a letter grade designated as a D or F.
- Unless otherwise specified, the entity seeking to establish a type 2 charter school must have submitted a proposal to the local school board for a type 1 or type 3 in whose jurisdiction the charter school is proposed to be located which:
 - has been denied in the most recent application cycle; or
 - has conditions that have been placed on it that are unacceptable; or
 - the local school board has not complied with the requirements of a local authorizer; or
 - the local school board has made no final decision in accordance with the timelines established by BESE.



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Type 2 Charter Application Eligibility, as an existing Public School converting to a Charter School, per Bulletin 126 §507:

- Applicants required to receive approval from the existing professional faculty, staff, and parents/guardians of children enrolled in the pre-existing school prior to applying for charter.
 - Approval requires a favorable vote of the majority of the faculty and staff who are certified by BESE and were employed at the pre-existing school
 - Count of majority determined by number of professional faculty and staff on October 1 preceding the election
 - Elections must be held by secret ballot and each eligible employee may only cast one vote.
 - Approval requires a favorable vote of the majority of the voting parents or guardians of pupils enrolled in the school.
 - Number of votes must equal at least 50% of the number of students enrolled in the school at the time of election.
 - Elections must be held by secret ballot and each eligible employee may only cast one vote.
 - Elections may not occur more than once in any school year.



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Type 4 Charter Application Eligibility, per Bulletin 126 §503 A(5):

- Applicants applying to operate a type 4 charter school proposal, a group must:
 - be a local school board;
 - include three or more persons holding valid and current Louisiana teaching certificates in the development of the charter application; and
 - have met the requirement set forth in §507, if proposing to convert from a pre-existing school to a charter school.



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Application Types:

- New Operator
- Experienced Operator

Addendums to Application:

- High School
- Corporate Partnership
- Educational Service Provider
- Virtual Operator

Any organization or individual interested in applying for the Charter Request for Application 2025-2026 cycle as a Type 2 or 4 charter shall submit the application to charters@la.gov by March 30, 2026 (5 p.m.).



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Public Presentation to BESE (June 9, 2026):

- During the Public Presentation, applicant groups are offered up to 5 minutes to present their school proposal.
- There will be opportunity for public comment regarding the applicant presentation.



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Applicant Response to Third-Party Review:

- Applicant groups are afforded three formal opportunities to respond during the application evaluation process.
 - Applicant 7-Page Written Response to the Initial Memo
 - Capacity Interview / Performance Task
 - Applicant 7-Page Written Response



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

How to Utilize Standards Rubric:

- Evaluators are looking for a clear, cohesive, aligned plan for all aspects of 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.



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Capacity Interview:

- The interview is an opportunity for applicants to:
 - Clarify the plan;
 - Address proposal gaps;
 - Address evaluator questions and concerns; and
 - Demonstrate competency through performance tasks.



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Applicant 7-Page Response:

- Opportunity to correct *factual errors* in the Independent Recommendation Report
- No new information or attachments will be considered at this stage
 - The independent evaluation team will be afforded the opportunity to respond to any substantive issues raised.



Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4 Charters

Final Recommendations Presented to BESE:

- Timing: **August 18, 2026**
- Only applicants that meet 100% of the standards upon the issuance of the final recommendation from the third party will receive a recommendation for approval by the third-party evaluation team.
- The Department recommends to BESE whether to approve or deny each charter application.
 - BESE has final authority.



Important Documents

- [Eligibility Determination Form](#)
- [New](#) and [Experienced](#) Operator Application
- [New](#) and [Experienced](#) Operator Standards Rubric
- [Overview Template](#)- to be utilized for both application types
- [New](#) and [Experienced](#) Operator Self-Assessment Completeness Check
- Applicants are required to report to the LDOE the following information:
 - Per August 2024 Bulletin 126 update, applicants are now required to report their submission to the local authorizer and may use the [Jotform link](#).



2025-2026 Mid-Year Charter School Application Process Timeline

To begin operation in 2027-2028

Date	Annual RFA Process
June 1, 2026	LDOE application opens for Type 2, 4, and 5 applicants.
June 8, 2026 (5 p.m.)	Letters of Intent due to LDOE.
July 6, 2026 (5 p.m.)	Eligibility Determination Forms Due to LDOE.
July 20, 2026 (5 p.m.)	LDOE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2, 4, and 5 applicants.
September/October 2026	Capacity Interviews for Type 2, 4, and 5 applicants conducted by 3rd Party Reviewer.
December 8, 2026	Types 2, 4, and 5 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools.



Diverse Learner Updates



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**.

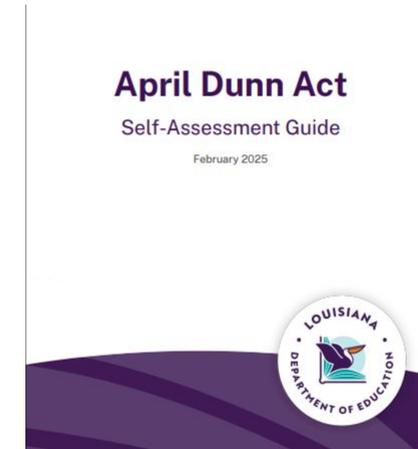


April Dunn Act Implementation Monitoring

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 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



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 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.



LEADS Evaluator Training and Resources

All first-time observers and evaluators 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](#).

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.



Safe and Healthy Schools Updates





Assessment Updates



LEAP Connect/ELPT and ELPT Connect

The administration window for LEAP Connect, ELPT and ELPT Connect will open on February 23 and close on March 27. All key dates are found in the test coordinators manuals that are posted on the testing platforms.

Materials Delivery to Systems

- LEAP Connect: February 5
- ELPT/ELPT Connect: February 6

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions



Charter School Program Grant Updates



Charter School Program Grant Updates

The 2026 Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice will convene in the coming months. Cohort members will gain resources, participate in professional development, and benefit from collaboration opportunities targeting charter school authorization, accountability, and autonomy. Participating districts will be eligible to apply for CSP Microgrants.

Sessions will begin in early spring and will include a hybrid schedule.

More information will be included in upcoming newsletters.

Please reach out to CSP staff at CSPGrant@la.gov with any questions.



Teacher Leader Summit 2026



Teacher Leader Summit

- **Hold the Date:** Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.
- [Registration](#) for Teacher Leader Summit 2026 opens February 16th. Early-bird pricing will remain available through March 15th.
 - Early Bird Pricing \$249
 - General Pricing \$299
- The [Teacher Leader Summit event page](#) is now live. This will serve as the information hub for all things Summit, including registration, hotels, session details, speaker information, and much more.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.



Helpful Links

Resource	Description
Charter School Library	This webpage includes links to charter school finance, guidance, reviews, and pre-opening information.
Newsletter	This webpage offers a links to all newsletters offered by the LDOE.
Charter Inbox	Please reach out to us through the Charter Inbox with your questions.
Monthly Calls	Local Authorizer Monthly Call -held second Wednesday of the month BESE Authorized Monthly Call -held second Thursday of the month Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar - August 14th Edlink Weekly Q & A Sessions - Tuesdays at 11 a.m. eScholar Office Hours - August 21st



Questions

For further inquiries, please reach out to:

Charter Authorization

charters@la.gov

Ex. Director of Charter Authorization

Jade.Gambino@la.gov



Upcoming LEA-Authorized Charter Monthly Call



March 11, 2026 at 11:00 am

Topics: Annual Review Process and Site Visits

