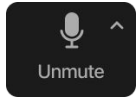


LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call

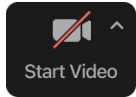


October 8, 2025

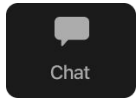
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- 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.



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.

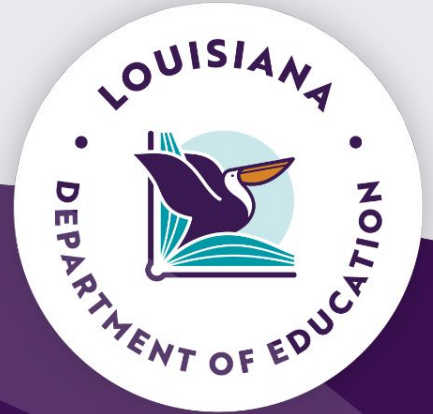


Agenda

- Monthly Call Goals
- Key Dates
- Capacity Interview Best Practices
- Consideration of Applications
- Authorizer Reporting Requirements
- Diverse Learner Updates
- Educator Evaluation Updates
- 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
October 15, 2025	APR Indicator Identification for Monitoring: Annually, risk ratios are calculated for Significant Discrepancy in Discipline (Indicator 4) and Disproportionate Representation in Identification (Indicators 9 & 10). Additionally, SER is monitored for Evaluation Compliance for Child Find (Indicator 11) and Early Childhood Transition (Indicator 12). If you have any questions or require further information, contact yolanda.oates@la.gov.
October 22, 2025	eSER IDEA Count Final Run (Count Date as of October 1): eSER snapshot will occur at 6 p.m. on October 22nd to align with EdLink snapshot on October 23rd. If you have any questions or require further information, contact Data System Support.
September-October 30, 2025	Alternate Assessment Participation Review: School Systems that exceed the 1.0 percent threshold must complete an alternate assessment justification and request a review of data and procedures related to alternate state assessments. If you have any questions or require further information, contact ashley.augustine@la.gov.



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
October 30, 2025	2026-2027 School System Planning and Budgeting Workbook released during live launch at LAFEPA: During the launch, the Next Level Vision for Success School System Planning & Budgeting Workbook, inclusive of 2026-2027 Super App questions, will be released. If you have any questions or require further information, contact LDOE.Grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions; include “School System Planning” in the subject line.
October 31, 2025	2025-2026 Pupil Progression Plan Template: The Pupil Progression template has been released and should be submitted as a PDF to ppp@la.gov by October 31st. The template assists school systems to develop PPP plans, as required by R.S. 17:24.4, with applicable laws and regulations, and to codify school system policies and procedures related to K-12 student placement, promotion, and retention. If you have any questions or require further information, contact ppp@la.gov.



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
October 31, 2025	Quarter 1 Financial Report: Submission includes budgeted data for the fiscal year, along with YTD actual data from July 1 through September 30. 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. All forms should be submitted via email to CharterFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov. If you have any questions or require further information, contact CharterFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov.



2025-2026 RFA Timeline

Proposed Timeline	Action	Details
August 25, 2025	LDOE releases common applications and toolboxes with application resources.	Available on LDOE website
September 8, 2025	Local school authorizers release Charter Requests for Applications, Timeline, Process, and Point of Contact.	Local Authorizers must provide application, process outline, and point of contact for submission of applications to the district on their website.
→ October 20, 2025	Local school boards submission deadline for the full application for Type 1 and Type 3 applicants.	Type 1 and 3 applications shall not be accepted after this date.
November 7, 2025	Local school boards notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district.	Submit notification: Jotform
January 29, 2026	Local school board deadline to consider Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications.	Local school board action required by this date.
January 30, 2026	Local school boards notify LDOE of board recommendations.	Submit notification: Jotform
February 2, 2026	LDOE application opens for Type 2 and 4 applicants.	Denied applicants may apply as a Type 2



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 and 4 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 and 4 applicants.
→ Fall 2025	Capacity Interviews for Type 2 and 4 applicants conducted by Third Party Reviewer.
January 13, 2026	Types 2 and 4 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools.

Capacity Interview Best Practices



Capacity Interview Best Practices

Registration Process

- Attendees should be required to complete a registration process prior to the interview for verification as an applicant team member.
- As part of the interview registration process, consider use of an attestation. The review team may use the form attestation to ensure the information presented during the interview is accurate and participant identity can be verified upon request.



Capacity Interview Best Practices

Agenda

- Determine format of the interview
 - In-Person or Virtual
- Logistics regarding the interview guidelines and agenda should be provided to the applicants prior to the scheduled interview date.



Capacity Interview Best Practices

Participants

- Determine maximum participant count.
- Determine participation of team members who are eligible to participate:

Examples include:

- Proposed school leader,
- Proposed school board members,
- Representative from the Educational Service Provider

Please note if a school leader and board chair are identified, they should be required to participate.



Capacity Interview Best Practices

Preparation

- Participants should be prepared to discuss all elements of their application in detail.
- This includes the educational, organizational, and financial plans outlined in the application.
- All applicant responses should be evaluated on the alignment with the overall mission/vision of the proposed charter, external validity of responses, capacity of the applicant team, and evidence of potential for success/or prior success.



Capacity Interview Best Practices

Guidelines

- The interview should serve as an opportunity for applicants to:
 - Clarify the plan
 - Address proposal gaps
 - Address evaluator questions and concerns
 - Demonstrate competency
- The interview should **not** serve as an opportunity for applicants to:
 - Formally present to the evaluation team
 - Present new, written information



Capacity Interview Best Practices

NACSA Resources

- [An Authorizer Quick Guide to Capacity Interviews](#)
- [Capacity Interview Training for Evaluators](#)
- [Interview Preparation Form](#)
- [Sample Interview Questions](#)
- [Opening Script Template](#)
- Sample Performance Tasks:
 - [Financial](#)
 - [Operational](#)
 - [Academic Leadership](#)

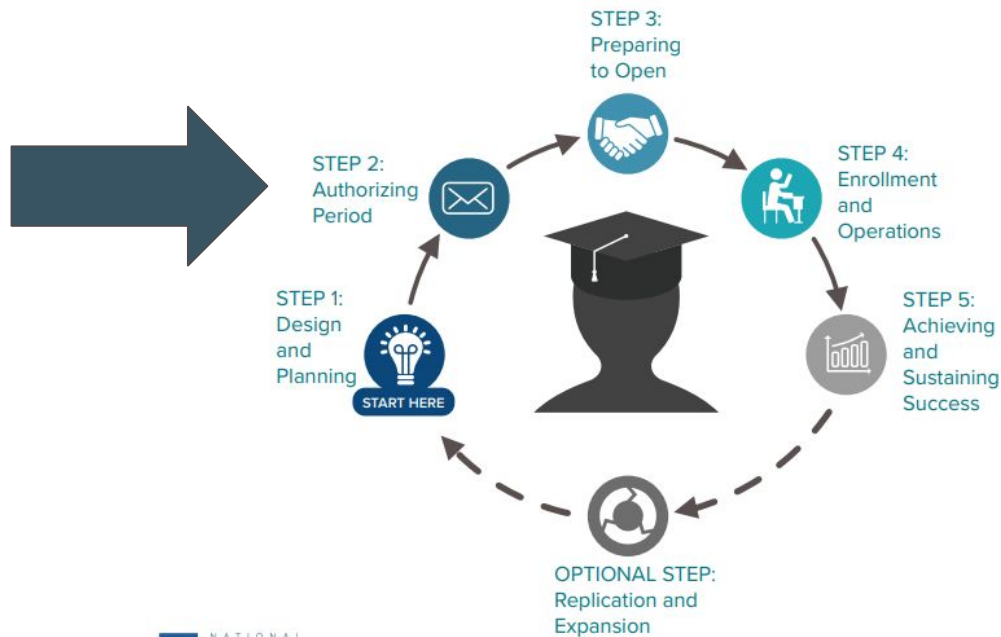


Consideration of Applications



Consideration of Applications

The Life Cycle of a Charter School



Consideration of Applications

- When considering a charter school application, authorizers should examine the following:
 - Proposed program's quality and innovation;
 - School ability to meet needs of targeted student population;
 - Financial sustainability;
 - Leadership team experience;
 - Impact on local district;
 - Community support; and
 - Plan for academic accountability and performance measurement



Consideration of Applications

- Academic Program
 - Is the curriculum in alignment with state standards?
 - Do the instructional methods include strategies for diverse learners?
 - What assessments will be utilized to analyze data and how will student progress be monitored?
 - What is the plan to address gaps in student achievement?



Consideration of Applications

- School Leadership and Governance
 - What are the qualifications and experience levels of the school leadership team? How does this inform the authorizer of their capabilities?
 - What is the governance structure and how are the accountability mechanisms assigned by the board?
 - What is the operator's capacity to manage operations and finances?



Consideration of Applications

- Student Population and Need
 - How will the proposed school address the specific needs of the community?
 - What is the potential impact on student diversity within the district?



Consideration of Applications

- Financial Sustainability
 - How does the budget projection align with the minimum foundation program for district?
 - What is the plan for managing operational costs?
 - What are the strategies for attracting and retaining students?



Consideration of Applications

- Community Support
 - In terms of engagement and outreach, what mechanisms for input from local community members did the operator utilize?
 - What is the level of support from the local district and community leaders?
 - What is the level of support from parents and community stakeholders?



Consideration of Applications

- Impact on Existing Schools
 - What level of impact will the proposed school have on local district enrollment?
 - What level of impact will the proposed school have on resource allocation to local district schools?
 - What are some strategies that could be implemented to avoid impacting the overall district performance?



Consideration of Applications

- Accountability and Oversight
 - Are there clear performance metrics and accountability measures outlined by the operator?
 - Is there a plan for scheduled monitoring and interventions when warranted?
 - What is the process for addressing any areas of concern and/or non-compliance?



Consideration of Applications and Recommendations

Resources:

- [NACSA- Application and School Opening](#)
- [School Pathways-6 Common Challenges Charter Schools Face](#)
- [California Charter Schools Association](#)



Reporting Requirements for RFA Process



Reporting Requirements for RFA Process

- Final Recommendation by Third-Party Reviewer-sent no later than five business days prior to the meeting at which the local board will take action on the charter proposal.
- Notice of Action Taken- Any board action taken on such applications as part of the local district timeline shall be reported to the LDOE by January 30, 2026.
 - State Legislators-Each state senator and state representative in whose district the charter school is to be located should receive notice whether the proposal was approved or denied in the form of postal and electronic mail.



Reporting Requirements for RFA Process

- If a proposal is not approved by the local school board, the applicant may appeal as a Type 2 Applicant to BESE.
- If the proposal is then also not approved by BESE within the same approval cycle, then the proposal shall be submitted to the local school board for its consideration during the next approval cycle prior to being submitted to BESE.



Diverse Learner Updates



Menu of Services

The Department now offers a “[Menu of Services!](#)” Professional supports are provided that are designed to reinforce instructional quality, coherence, and educator effectiveness. These services can also be tailored to meet diverse needs.



Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.



Bringing the Special Education Playbook to Life: Writing IEPs that Support the Best Practices

The Division of Diverse Learners is excited to release [guidance](#) on IEPs that align to the [Special Education Playbook](#)! The guidance includes:

- IDEA regulations supporting the best practices
- Using the IEP to supercharge the best practices
- Updating existing IEPs
- IEP screenshots and samples

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.



Gifted and Talented Work Group

We are excited to announce the launch of a Gifted and Talented work group! This group will begin meeting both in person and virtually to explore resources, share best practices, and identify clear next steps to support educators across the state who continue to support gifted and talented students.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



The CVI Range Proficiency

Pediatric VIEW is offering a Professional Development Program called the [CVI Range Proficiency](#). There are two tracks that professionals are able to choose from, giving professionals a chance to be the expert in their field learning based on the CVI Range Assessment protocol. This opportunity gives experienced teachers and therapists the opportunity to be recognized for their skills in assessing children with CVI and/or developing appropriate interventions.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



High Cost Services (HCS)

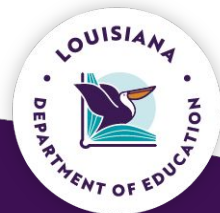
The High Cost Services fund supports school systems who serve students with disabilities with the most significant needs. School systems can request reimbursement for high cost special education and related services.

The 2025-2026 HCS Round 1 application is now open in eGMS. In Round 1, school systems can request reimbursement for current students who were enrolled in the 2024-2025 school year.

The application closes on **November 11**.

More information is available in the [2025-2026 High Cost Services State Plan](#).

Please contact ashley.augustine@la.gov with questions.



Annual Dyslexia Reporting

School systems are required to annually report the number of students with dyslexia currently enrolled and the number of students newly identified with dyslexia in the prior school year.

The dyslexia reporting form will open in October. All school systems must submit the dyslexia reporting form by **December 15**.

[Dyslexia reporting guidance](#) is available in the [Students with Disabilities library](#).

Please email specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



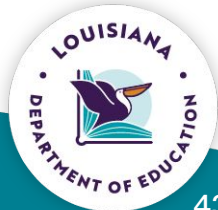
October 1 IDEA Collection - Child Count

The Department is required to annually report the number of students with disabilities receiving special education and related services on the state's child count date (October 1).

To be included in the official child count, a student must have the following:

- Current evaluation as of October 1
- Current IEP as of October 1
- Receiving services as of October 1

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



October 1 Collection - Child Count

Reports to run to verify data:

- Counted and Not Counted
- IDEA Child Count Summary
- Federal Evaluation Listing and Summary
- FAPE Placement
- SIS/SER Cross Check and Cross Check IDEA Count

The official child count will run on **October 22**.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



October 1 Collection - SPED Personnel

The Department is also required to annually report the number of special education and related services personnel on the state's child count date (October 1).

Reports to run to verify data:

- Personnel Detail and Summary
- Service Listing

SPED Personnel data must be accurate for official IDEA child count.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



SPED Reporting - Annual SPP/APR Monitoring

The 2024-2025 SPP/APR data review for the Indicators below is currently in progress. Upon completion of identification of Significant Discrepancy, Disproportionate Representation, Child Find and Early Childhood Transition compliance notification will be uploaded to the FTP

- Indicator 4 Suspensions and Expulsions
- Indicators 9 & 10 Identification
- Indicator 11 Child Find
- Indicator 12 Early Childhood Transition

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



New English Learner Resources

We are excited to announce a new suite of resources designed to strengthen support for English Learners. These tools provide practical strategies, clear guidance, and classroom-ready supports for educators:

- **[Louisiana EL Framework](#)** – A statewide roadmap organized around five strategic pillars with tiered guidance for systems, schools, and classrooms.
- **[Special Education Referral Guide for ELs](#)** – Guidance to ensure timely, accurate referrals and collaboration between EL and special education teams.
- **[Secondary EL Toolkit](#)** – Strategies and tools for supporting newcomers, long-term ELs, and students with interrupted formal education in middle and high school.
- **Strategies for Novice Teachers** – Classroom-ready approaches for scaffolding, vocabulary development, and engaging instruction in early learning and elementary settings.
- **[Supporting ELs Through the Writing Process](#)** – Step-by-step guidance to scaffold writing instruction at every grade level.

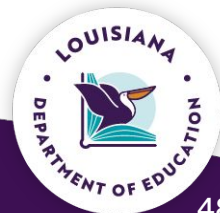
Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.



Numeracy Alternate Assessment Rubric (NAAR) Resources

- [K-3 Numeracy Screener Diverse Learners Guidance](#)
- [Kindergarten-Numeracy Alternate Assessment Rubric \(NAAR\)](#)
- [1st Grade-Numeracy Alternate Assessment Rubric \(NAAR\)](#)
- [2nd Grade-Numeracy Alternate Assessment Rubric \(NAAR\)](#)
- [3rd Grade-Numeracy Alternate Assessment Rubric \(NAAR\)](#)
- [Individual Academic Support Plan: Numeracy Alternate Assessment Rubric \(NAAR\)](#)
- [NAAR Overview](#)

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.



Statewide Access to LRP Modules for Special Education

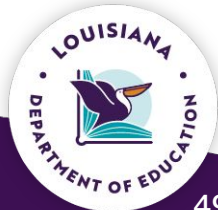
LDOE is partnering with LRP to bring professionals statewide access to 17 professional learning modules on a variety of topics:

- IEP compliance
- Evaluations and reevaluations
- Measurable annual goals
- Legal requirements and practical considerations for the use of seclusion and restraint
- FBAs and BIPs
- ESY
- Behavior and students with autism
- Dispute resolution

Get started today!

Visit
<http://ladoe-ds.lrp.com>
and self-register for your
eCourses.

Please contact directstep@lrp.com with questions.



Educator Evaluation Updates



LES 2024-2025 Closeout Reminders

- Systems should continue finalizing educator evaluations for the 2024-2025 school year. Evaluations (including VAM teachers) may be finalized if all required components are complete.
- Evaluations should be marked incomplete for any employee that did not receive an evaluation. Refer to [Bulletin 130](#) for the conditions that allow an evaluation to be marked incomplete.
- The deadline for entering educator evaluation data will be announced after VAM results are available this fall.

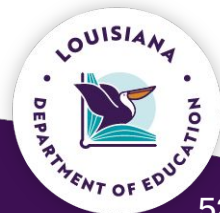
Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.



LES Updates for 2025-2026

- Systems are encouraged to begin setting SLTs and conducting observations.
- In accordance with [Bulletin 130](#), evaluators and evaluatees must meet to discuss SLTs.
- The [LES Timeline](#) and the [LES Technical Guide](#) are resources available for this process.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

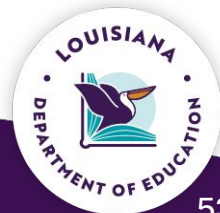


LEADS Implementation On-Site Sessions

LEADS Implementation On-Site Sessions are being offered across the state.

- Upcoming sessions are being offered in Jackson, Grant, Winn, St. Landry, Concordia, Evangeline, Iberia, Pointe Coupee, St. John the Baptist, Terrebonne, and St. James.
- Sessions focus on the formal observation process and cycle of support.
- System and school leaders are encouraged to register.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.



Charter School Program Grant Updates



Charter School Program Grant Updates

The 2025 Cohort of the Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice has concluded. Districts that met participation requirements in the 2025 cohort are eligible to receive reimbursement for the following:

- Travel to attend [NACSACON 2025](#)
- Cost of third-party review of charter applications (2025-2026 cycle)

Please see the [Microgrants Overview](#) for more details.

The 2026 Cohort will begin meeting in January 2026, with convenings tentative scheduled to be held the 2nd Wednesday every other month.

Please reach out to Tammy Morgan if you have any questions.

tammy.morgan3@la.gov or cspgrant@la.gov



Charter School Program Grant Updates

CSP Subgrant applications were received on September 9th. The LDOE is conducting capacity interviews that will conclude on October 10th.

The Office of School Choice anticipates award recommendations to be brought for approval to the December 9, Administration and Finance Committee meeting.

Applicants for which a recommendation will be brought will be invited to attend the committee meeting.

A second Year 3 cycle timeline will be announced in early December. Updates will be added to the newsletter and found at the CSP Grant page.



Charter School Program Grant Updates

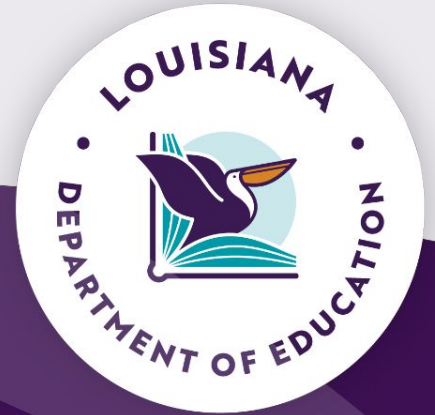
The U.S. Department of Education recently dedicated \$500 million to its Charter School Program Grant funding. As a 2023 CSP recipient, the LDOE was given the opportunity to apply for supplemental funding beyond that which was awarded in 2023. We are pleased to share that our proposal was approved and the LDOE has been awarded an additional \$13.5 million to support and expand Louisiana's education priorities in charter schools across the state.

Informational sessions and application information will be announced in upcoming newsletters and monthly Office of School Choice calls.

Please reach out to 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. Early bird registration opens **February 16, 2026**.
- To better serve all educators, the College and Career Readiness team has joined forces with Teacher Leader Summit to bring you an even more comprehensive experience. Sessions that would normally be part of our Fast Forward Convention are now integrated into Summit, giving you access to all the great content from both events — now in one convenient location!
- The call for presentations opens **October 15 and closes December 5**. All potential speakers will know they are presenters before registration opens. Attend the presenter information webinar on [October 15](#) at 1 p.m. or 4 p.m.

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



November 12, 2025 at 11:00 am

Topics: Consideration of Application
Recommendations & Public Meeting Requirements

