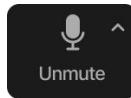


# LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call



November 12, 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
- Consideration of Application Recommendations
- Public Meeting Requirements
- 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
November 11, 2025	<p><b>2025-2026 High Cost Services Round 1 Application Due:</b> The High Cost Services grant allows school systems to seek reimbursement for high cost special education and related services. During Round 1, school systems could request reimbursement for current students who were also enrolled in the 2024-2025 school year. The <a href="#"><u>2025-2026 High Cost Services State Plan</u></a> is available online to provide additional information.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:ashley.augustine@la.gov"><u>ashley.augustine@la.gov</u></a>.</p>
November 13, 2025	<p><b>Assessment Development Educator Review Committee:</b> The Office of Assessments, Accountability and Analytics will convene assessment committees for the LEAP and LEAP Connect assessments in January and February to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• review newly developed LEAP Connect items for alignment and content-related criteria, and</li><li>• review Science and English language arts proposed stimuli/passages to ensure content alignment, the selections are clearly worded with grade-appropriate language, and the selections are appropriate for all Louisiana students.</li></ul> <p>Interested educators should access the Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:assessments@la.gov"><u>assessments@la.gov</u></a>.</p>



# LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
November 13, 2025	<p><b>VAM Reports Available</b>-VAM results were released October 30th in the Louisiana Educator Portal (LES). VAM reports will be available by November 13th. The deadline to finalize educator evaluations in LES is December 31st.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:leads@la.gov">leads@la.gov</a>.</p>
November 15, 2025	<p><b>Periodic Expenditure Reports and Reimbursement Requests Due:</b> PERs are used to record year-to-date expenses by program and year to support education requirements for federal grants.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:ldoe.federalclaims@la.gov">ldoe.federalclaims@la.gov</a>.</p>
November 15, 2025	<p><b>2024-2025 High Cost Services Round 2 Reimbursement Requests Due:</b> The High Cost Services Round 2 grant funding ended on September 30, 2025. Systems are required to submit reimbursement requests through eGMS to claim these funds by November 15th.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov">ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov</a>.</p>



# LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
November 18, 2025	<p><b>Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Applications Due:</b> The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is a federally assisted program providing free fresh fruits and vegetables to children at eligible elementary schools during the school day. The goal of the FFVP is to introduce children to fresh fruits and vegetables, to include new and different varieties, and to increase overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce among children.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov">childnutritionprograms@la.gov</a>.</p>
December 9, 2025	<p><b>School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Programs Due:</b> All school systems are encouraged to select candidates as their local-level honorees, and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process. The state-level applications must be submitted via online application portals. All application materials, timelines, and links to the online application portals, are available on the Awards page.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov">excellenteducators@la.gov</a> for school support employee candidates and <a href="mailto:healthyschools@la.gov">healthyschools@la.gov</a> for health provider and physical activity candidates.</p>

# LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
December 15, 2025	<p><b>Dyslexia Reporting Deadline:</b> Each public school governing authority shall submit a report to the State Department of Education by December 15 annually relative to the occurrence of dyslexia. To satisfy this legislation, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) should submit utilizing the jotform provided. LEAs should submit a report even if reporting zeros.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:specialeducation@la.gov">specialeducation@la.gov</a>.</p>



# 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: <a href="#">Jotform</a>
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: <a href="#">Jotform</a>
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.

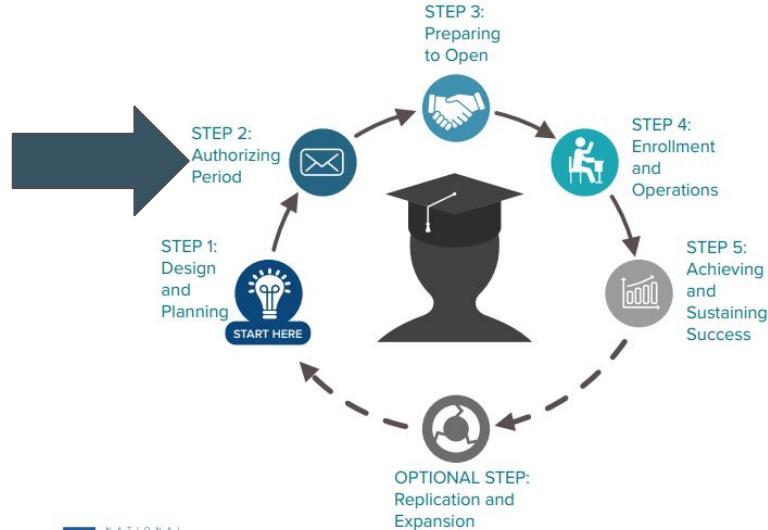


# Consideration of Application Recommendations



# Consideration of Application Recommendations

## The Life Cycle of a Charter School



# Consideration of Application Recommendations

- Quality authorizers grants charters only to applicants who demonstrate:
  - competence to succeed in all aspects of the approval criteria; and
  - strong capacity to establish and operate a quality charter school.
- Authorizers should provide denied applicants detailed feedback to:
  - Provide a public record of why the applicant was denied; and
  - Assist the applicant in reapplying in a future cycle.

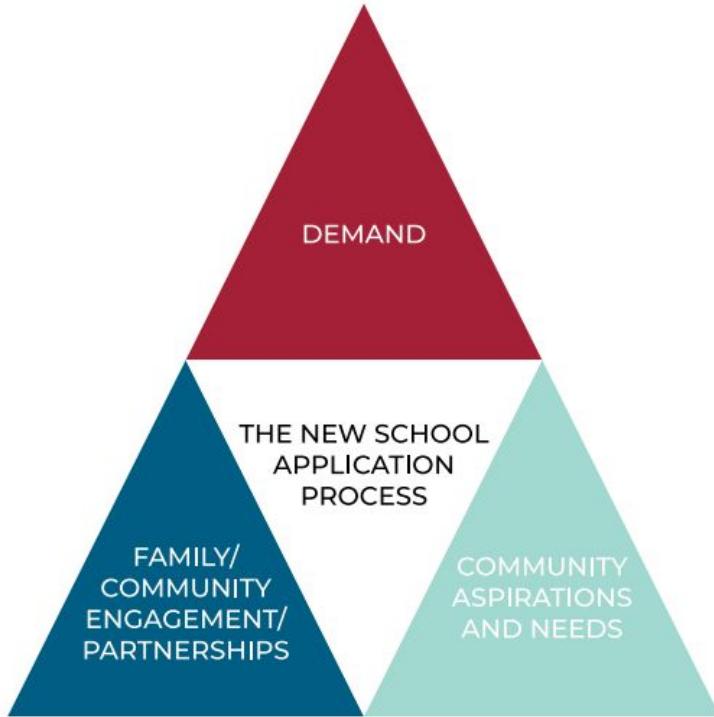


# Consideration of Application Recommendations

- Authorizers must determine a threshold for recommending approval or denial and define how these decisions will be communicated.
- A recommendation report for each applicant should be provided by the third-party evaluator that summarizes the proposed charter school's model, outlines all strengths and concerns, and includes ratings based on the evaluation criteria.
- Authorizers utilize the third-party report, along with performance during capacity interviews, and internal reviews to develop an evidence-based recommendation for denial, approval, or approval with conditions.



# Consideration of Application Recommendations



Resource: NACSA-[How to Supplement Your Application Evaluation Rubric](#)



# Public Meeting Requirements



# Public Meeting Requirements

The Open Meetings Law, found in [R.S. 42:12 – 42:28](#), regulates meetings of public bodies. The Open Meetings Law is meant to ensure that decisions by the government are made in an open forum.

- A meeting is a convening of a quorum of a public body to deliberate or act on a matter that the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power over.
- A quorum is a simple majority of the total membership of a public body.

Resource: [LLA Open Meetings Law Guidance](#)



# Public Meeting Requirements

- Provide notice of the meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting via placement of a copy of the notice at the place of the meeting or at the body's official office;
- Allow for some means of public comment;
- Allow for recording of the meeting by the audience;
- Record minutes of the proceedings;
- Have “open” meetings – that is, observable to the public with an opportunity for public participation.
- School boards are required to allow public comment before taking any vote. The comment period shall be for each agenda item and shall precede each agenda item. R.S. 42:15(A).



# Public Meeting Requirements

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.
- 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



# High Cost Services (HCS)

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](mailto: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.

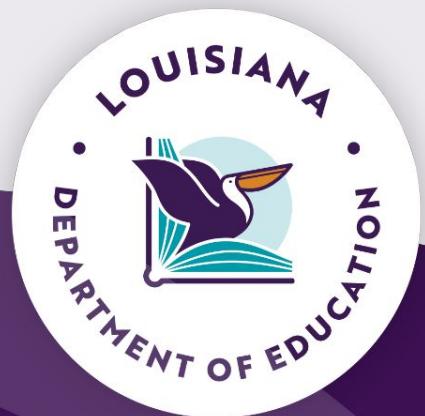
The [dyslexia reporting form](#) is open. All school systems must submit the dyslexia reporting form by **December 15**.

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

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



# Educator Evaluation Updates



# LES Updates

## Observations

- Round 1 observations should be underway at this time.
- The first observation for new teachers should be conducted preferably within the first 45 days of the school year or hire to allow coaching and support to begin.
- Ensure observation data is entered in LES.

## SLTs

- SLT meetings and goal setting should have occurred, with evaluators reviewing and accepting SLTs in LES.

Systems should continue to reference the [LES Timeline](#) for key tasks and deadlines.



# 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 2024-2025 evaluation data is December 31.



# 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 (coming soon).
- To request a spreadsheet upload, email [leads@la.gov](mailto:leads@la.gov).



# Safe and Healthy Schools Updates



# Louisiana Department of Education

## School Bus Transportation Overview



# Overview of Transportation Goals and Outcomes

RS 17:497.4 requires the LDOE, with the approval of BESE, to develop and implement a program for the training and certification of school bus operators, with the purpose of increasing the number of certified school bus operators in the state.

# School Bus Transportation Requirements

- Each operator of a BESE authorized charter school shall offer free daily transportation to and from school to any student.
- Transportation shall be in a vehicle approved for student transportation in accordance with BESE *Bulletin 119 – Louisiana School Student Transportation Regulations*.
- Transportation shall be provided by operators selected, trained and required to perform their duties in accordance with policy.
- Transportation officials should also comply with [Bulletin 119 Supplement, Volume 1](#) and [Bulletin 119 Supplement, Volume II](#).



# School Bus Transportation Requirements

- Bus inspections should ensure that all vehicles fully comply with Louisiana specifications.
- Transportation contracts should address compliance with Louisiana school bus specifications and with Bulletin 119 requirements for schools.
- Schools shall provide student safety instruction and school bus emergency evacuation drills in order to provide optimum protection for students, schools and transportation providers.



# Assessment Updates



# Numeracy Screening: District Administered Collection Update

All school systems should be following the [Interim Guidance for Math Numeracy Screeners](#) to administer their own system-level K-3 numeracy screener for all three windows.

UPDATE: Middle-of-year and end-of-year data from system-selected screeners will not be required submissions to EdLink 360. Schools are still required to follow the guidance linked above, but will not be required to submit their data to LDOE.



# 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 [NACSA CON 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](mailto:tammy.morgan3@la.gov) or [cspgrant@la.gov](mailto:cspgrant@la.gov)



# Charter School Program Grant Updates

The Office of School Choice anticipates Year 3 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 notified prior to the committee meeting and invited to attend.

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.



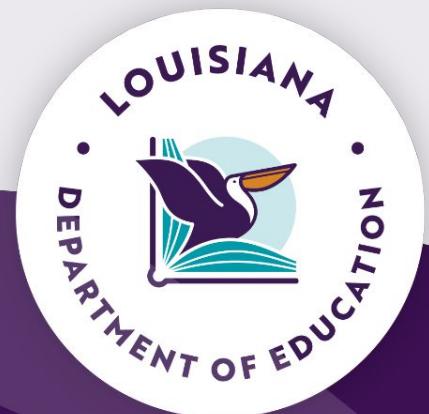
# Charter School Program Grant Updates

The LDOE and the Office of School Choice has secured an additional \$13.5 million in federal funding for charter schools to be applied to Louisiana's priority initiatives. The competitive application will open December 1 in eGMS.

- Applications from charter schools are due by **December 19**. (Type 1, 3, and 4 Charters may receive an early due date from their local authorizer to allow time for adequate submission into eGMS.)
- Informational sessions will be held every Friday at 10 a.m. starting on November 7. Please use the [scheduling link](#) to receive an invite.



# 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 opened **October 15** and will close **December 5**. All potential speakers will know they are presenters before registration opens.

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



# Helpful Links

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



# 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



January 14, 2026 at 11:00 am

Topics: Annual RFA Process for Type 2 and 4  
Charters

