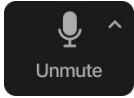


# LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call

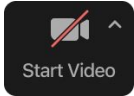


February 12, 2025

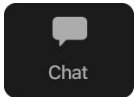
# Zoom Meeting Preparation



- 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 feature. A copy of the presentation will be sent to you after this meeting.

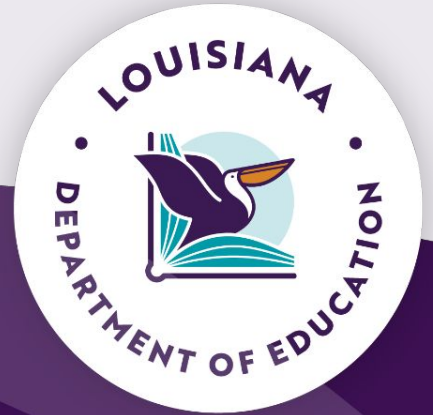


# Agenda

- Monthly Call Goals
- Key Dates
- Type 2 Appeal Process
- Pre-Opening Guidelines
- Educator Evaluation Updates
- Diverse Learner Updates
- CSP Grant 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 20, 2025	<p><b>Student with Disabilities and Gifted/Talented Enrollment Count:</b> 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 be receiving services as of the child count date.</p> <p>Refer to the Benchmark Calendar for reports to run and verify data. The official MFP Child Count will run on <b>February 20 (Count Date as of January 31st)</b>. If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:specialeducation@la.gov">specialeducation@la.gov</a>.</p>
February 28, 2025	<p><b>April Dunn Act Self-Assessment:</b> School systems are required to complete the April Dunn Act self-assessment to ensure effective implementation. The self-assessment must be completed by <b>February 28</b>. Resources to support effective implementation are available in the Students with Disabilities library.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact <a href="mailto:diverselearnersupport@la.gov">diverselearnersupport@la.gov</a>.</p>



# 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.



# Local Authorization Next Steps

- If the applicants were denied by your local board, the applicants have the choice to apply as a Type 2 charter school through the BESE appeal process.
- If the applicants were approved by your local board, authorizer will begin working with the newly approved operator on the pre-opening process.



# Type 2 Appeal Process



# Type 2 Appeal Process

## 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 1 or type 3 charter school must have submitted a proposal to the local school board 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.

# Type 2 Appeal Process

## 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.

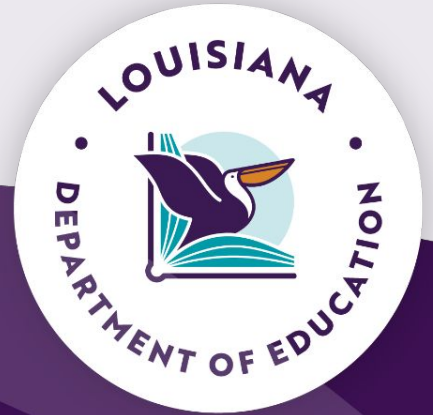


# Type 2 Appeal Process

- The Office of School Choice will conduct a review of applicants to ensure eligibility criteria are met and the application submitted contains the required components.
- Local superintendents will be notified of the submission of charter school applications within their district, with identification of appealing applications received.
- State legislators will also be notified of the submission of charter school application within their region.



# Pre-Opening Guidelines



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

- Authorizers provide an outline of all required tasks, including but not limited to:
  - General School Information;
  - Policy Requirements;
  - Financial Requirements;
  - Operations;
  - Facilities;
  - Governance; and
  - Instruction
- Authorizers may stipulate if the mandatory preparedness checkpoints outlined within the Pre-Opening Manual are not met, it will result in a delay of opening.
- Charters have 24 months from date of approval to open.



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

- Key Priorities
  - Student Enrollment
  - Securing Facilities
  - Establishing financial systems
  - Outlining governance of school performance, and
  - Staffing/recruiting



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

## Enrollment Requirements

- Each charter school authorizer shall develop policies and procedures for determining whether each charter school operating under its authority has complied with the application and enrollment transparency requirements of La. Bulletin §2707 and 2709 and for investigating allegations of discriminatory practices on the basis of disability status by a charter school under its authority.
- Pre-Opening Deliverables should include:
  - Process, timeline, and requirements for parents to apply;
  - Identification of potential barriers to access to the school and explain how the school will mitigate the barriers;
  - Methods by which the school will guarantee the equity of access for all students;
  - Description of the admission policy for the school, including any preferences; and
  - Explanation of lottery procedures
  - Link to review student application



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

## Enrollment Requirements

- Louisiana Revised Statute 17:3991.B.(1)(a) and (b) requires that, as charter school authorizers, both the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and local school boards monitor whether charter schools under their governance are enrolling Economically Disadvantaged (ED) students and Students with Disabilities (SWD) at a rate commensurate with the population of these student groups in the enrollment zone of the charter school.
- 70% Enrollment Quota Update: Reduces the percentage of student enrollment for economically disadvantaged and SPED students from 85% of the local district's average to 70%
- Aggregate Data to Determine Enrollment Quota Compliance: If the aggregate student enrollment data for all of the charter schools located within the boundaries of the city or parish school system in which a charter school is located meets the enrollment requirements, then every charter school located within the boundaries of the school system shall be in compliance.



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

## Securing Facilities

- Per La. Bulletin 126, §307. local school boards are to make available to chartering groups any vacant school facilities or any facility slated to be vacant for lease or purchase at up to fair market value.
- In the case of a type 2 charter school created as a result of a conversion, the facility and all property within the existing school shall also be made available to the chartering group.
  - In return for the use of the facility and its contents, the chartering group shall pay a proportionate share of the local school board's bonded indebtedness to be calculated in the same manner as set for in R.S. 17:1990(C)(2)(a)(i).
  - If such facilities were constructed at no cost to the local school board, then such facilities, including all equipment, books, instructional materials, and furniture within such facilities, shall be provided to the charter school at no cost.



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

## Securing Facilities

- The authorizer may require the operator submit an act of sale if a building has been purchased, or an executed lease agreement, which identifies:
  - Location of the facility
  - Specification of any unique features necessary to implement the school design and programming (i.e. number of classrooms, additional spaces needed to support academic programming, and space requirements for administrative and operational functions)
  - Provision of floor plans
- All school buildings must pass inspection by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals before occupancy.



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

## Financial Systems

- Charter operators are required to retain a qualified and competent business professional who meets or exceeds the minimum requirements and qualifications specified by state law and regulations, including but not limited to [Bulletin 1929: Louisiana Accounting and Uniform Governmental Handbook](#), to produce all financial and accounting information and reporting required by this agreement, state law, and BESE policy and regulation, except the required annual audit, which shall be performed by a Louisiana-licensed Certified Public Accountant.
- Charter operators are required to maintain an inventory of all assets, including records of any assets acquired with any private funds. Inventories of assets must be audited annually.
- Charters are responsible for compliance with the Bulletin 1929, LAUGH and federal regulations on inventory purchased with federal funds (GEPA and EDGAR), therefore inventories must detail the funding source for purchases.



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

## Governance

- Charter Law requires that the board of directors of each charter operator shall operate under its duly adopted bylaws. These bylaws shall include a Conflicts of Interest policy that is consistent with applicable law including but not limited to, the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, and acknowledge public records requests.
- All board members are required to submit financial disclosure forms annually to the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
  - [Tier 3 Financial Disclosure Form](#)
- Charter Policy requires that the school's charter board have a process and tools in place for the evaluation of school leaders. The evaluation process should include the identification of specific performance criteria that should align with the vision and mission of the school.



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

## Staffing and Recruitment

- Authorizers may request organizational charts for reporting structures between the CEO, school leader(s), charter board, and all staff including instructional, operational, and financial staff.
  - If the charter board intends to contract or partner with an entity for management or educational services (ESP) provider, the organizational charts should reflect that relationship.
- Charter Boards are required to adopt a staff handbook that aligns with state policies regarding background checks as found in [Bulletin 126 Chapter 29 §2905](#) and Staff grievances as found in [RS:17:100.4](#).
- Mandatory Reporter Process updates, required training, and responsibilities per [LA. Children's Code Art. 603\(17\)](#) should be included in the handbook.



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

## Authorizer Support Opportunities for Newly Authorized Schools

- Pre-Opening Contact
- Webinars and Support Calls
- Pre-Opening Site Visit



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

Upon the completion of the Pre-Opening tasks and execution of the contract, the authorizer will shift focus to accountability.

- [Charter Performance Compact-Accountability Framework](#)
- [Alternative Accountability Framework](#)
- [Material and Non-Material Amendments](#)



# Pre-Opening Guidelines

Resources for authorizers:

- [Ready To Open](#): Charter School Resources-NACSA
  - [RTO Playbook](#)
  - [RTO Criteria](#)
- Louisiana Department of Education Charter School [Pre-Opening library](#)



# Educator Evaluation Updates



# LEADS Implementation Support & Resources

- February [LEADS Implementation On-Site Support Sessions](#) focus on the observation and post-conference process. Registration is open on [Eventbrite](#).
- New and improved [LEADS Implementation Monthly Webinars](#) provide an opportunity to deepen understanding of the evaluation components and processes.
- Resources to support professional learning are available in the [LEADS Public Collections](#) section of the Professional Learning Platform. The Video Clip Collection is now available under the [LEADS Training Materials](#) section.

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



# Evaluation Data

- All 2023-2024 teacher, counselor, and other instructional personnel evaluations should now be finalized in the [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#).
- All 2024-2025 evaluation data must be manually entered into [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 \(recording\)](#)

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



# Diverse Learner Updates



# Special Education Collaborative

**Who:** Special Education Directors, System Leaders

**Where:** Claiborne Building-1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 7082

**When:** February 18, 2025 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

[Register](#) today

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



# Diverse Learner Contacts

For questions about...	Contact...
<b>English Learners</b>	
English Learner compliance, federal funding, programming	<a href="mailto:melanie.mayeux@la.gov">melanie.mayeux@la.gov</a>
English Learner instructional support and content	<a href="mailto:Alexandra.Chenevert@la.gov">Alexandra.Chenevert@la.gov</a>
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	
Special education policy, data, reporting	<a href="mailto:specialeducation@la.gov">specialeducation@la.gov</a>
Special education instructional support and programming	<a href="mailto:diverselearnersupport@la.gov">diverselearnersupport@la.gov</a>

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



# CSP Grant Updates



# Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant Updates

The Year 2 Winter/Spring CSP grant application cycle is well underway. Subgrant applications are due March 12, 2025.

The Year 3 application cycle will open in June. The Year 3 application cycle is open to those charter groups that have already been authorized to open, replicate or expand, either by BESE or their local district.

More information available at the [LDOE's CSP Grant page](#).

Contact: [CSPGrant@la.gov](mailto:CSPGrant@la.gov) or [Tammy.Morgan3@la.gov](mailto:Tammy.Morgan3@la.gov)



# 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.



# 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



March 12, 2025 at 11:00 am

Topics: Annual Review Best Practices

