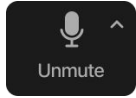


LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call

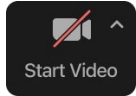


January 8, 2025

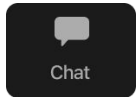
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- 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 [Jotform](#) that will be provided in the Chat. A copy of the presentation will be sent to you after this meeting.



Agenda

- Monthly Call Goals
- Key Dates
- Consideration of Applications and Recommendations
- Public Meeting Requirements
- 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
January 10, 2025	<p>LEAP Connect: Deadline to finalize IEPs for students assessed on LEAP Connect, including eligibility. If you have any questions or require further information, contact assessments@la.gov.</p>
January 15, 2025	<p>Periodic Expenditure Reports in eGMS for all grants are due: The Periodic Expense Report is used to record year-to-date expenses by program and year. The report for December 31st will be due January 15th.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact LDOE.FederalClaims@la.gov.</p>
January 15, 2025	<p>Teacher and Principal of the Year Application: School Systems/Coordinators are required to enter state-level honoree information in the Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator's Online Portal.</p> <p>State-Level Candidates are to submit applications in the Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidate's Online Application Portal.</p> <p>All applications and materials are posted on the resource page. Candidates submitting a state-level application and coordinators are encouraged to join an informational webinar PDF. If any issues are anticipated or encountered when submitting applications, candidates may complete the Online Portal Help Desk Form.</p> <p>For questions about the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs, email excellenteducators@la.gov.</p>



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
January 31, 2025	<p>Quarter 2 Financial Report: Charter Schools are required to annually submit the budgeted data for the fiscal year along with the YTD actual data from October 1-December 31. 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.</p> <p>The financial report should be submitted to charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov.</p>
February 7, 2025	<p>Diploma and Seal Orders: Each school system or charter management organization must submit one order for all diplomas and endorsement seals. The order should account for all schools with the specified system for the academic year. The form should be submitted online using the 2024-2025 Diploma and Seal Order Form.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact suzette.rabalais@la.gov.</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 January 31, 2025 through the Jotform 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.



Consideration of Applications and Recommendations



Consideration of Applications and Recommendations

- When deciding whether to approve or deny a charter school application, authorizers should consider 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 and Recommendations

- 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 and Recommendations

- 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 and Recommendations

- 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 and Recommendations

- 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 and Recommendations

- 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 and Recommendations

- 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 and Recommendations

- 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

- Key Considerations for Denial
 - Does the application lack a well-defined educational program or clear academic goals?
 - Is the financial plan insufficient or indicates potential for fiscal instability?
 - Will the proposed school have a negative impact on the existing local school district or community?
 - Has the operator failed to demonstrate student need?
 - Are there concerns regarding the proposed school's ability to meet state standards and/or accountability requirements?
 - Are there concerns regarding the qualification of the leadership team or governance structure?



Consideration of Applications and Recommendations

Resources:

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



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.
- The Open Meetings Law operates in conjunction with Louisiana's Public Records Law to insure compliance with Article XII, Section 3 of the Louisiana Constitution, which mandates that “No person shall be denied the right to observe the deliberations of public bodies and examine public documents, except in cases established by law.”



Public Meeting Requirements

- 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.
 - Quorum-a simple majority of the total membership of a public body. Vacant positions must be counted in determining a quorum and will not reduce the number of members required to be present to conduct business. No official action may be undertaken by the body in the absence of a quorum of the body.

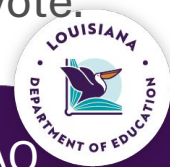


Public Meeting Requirements

Meetings of public bodies are required to:

- Notice of the meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting
- Allow for some means of public comment;
- Allow for recording of the meeting by the audience;
- Record minutes of the proceedings; and
- Have “open” meetings – that is, observable to the public with an opportunity for public participation.
- A copy of the Open Meetings Law must also be posted at the location of the meeting.
- School boards are required to allow public comment before taking any vote.

Source: Open Public Meetings Law FAQ



Public Meeting Requirements

Meeting Requirements in relation to Charter RFA Process

- Per La. Bulletin 126 (Section 306): Local school boards, as the authorizer of type 1 and type 3 charter schools, have the following authorizing responsibilities:
 4. Prior to approving a charter for a Type 1 or Type 3 school, to hold a public meeting for the purpose of considering the proposal and receiving public input. Such meeting shall be held after reasonable efforts have been made by the local school board to notify the public of the meeting and its content.

Source: LA Bulletin 126



Educator Evaluation Updates



2023-2024 Evaluation Close-Out

All 2023-2024 evaluations will be closed out in the [COMPASS Information System \(CIS\)](#).

- The deadline to [enter](#) or edit teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluation data was **November 29**.
- The deadline to [enter](#) or edit leader evaluation data is **January 31**.

Systems may contact leads@la.gov with questions.



2024-2025 Evaluation Data Reporting

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) is replacing the Compass Information System (CIS). [LES](#) is live and all 2024-2025 evaluation data can now be entered into LES. Even if using legacy systems (COMPASS or approved alternate observation tools) rather than transitioning to LEADS, data will be entered into LES. There will be no spreadsheet uploads, nor will Eepass roll into the new data system.

Some notes about LES:

- Rosters pre-populate from EdLink.
- Users will access [EdLink Security](#) for LES.
- Evaluators and evaluatees will enter data.
- Data will be entered throughout the school year.



LEADS Evaluation Support

- [LEADS Implementation on-Site Support Sessions](#) are being offered to build capacity of system and school leaders by providing relevant, professional learning opportunities.
 - Registration for January sessions is available on [EventBrite](#).
- [LEADS Implementation Monthly Calls](#) are focused on specific topics and are designed to deepen understanding of the evaluation process.
- Resources to support implementation are available in the [LEADS Library](#).
- Asynchronous training modules are available for teachers and counselors in the [LEADS Public Collection](#) in the Louisiana [Professional Learning Platform](#).
- Educators are encouraged to sign up for the [LEADS Teacher Newsletter](#).

LEADS evaluator training is being offered now for newly hired leaders or designated observers.

- [Three-Day LER Evaluator Training](#)
- [Two-Day LLR Evaluator Training](#)



Diverse Learner Updates



High Cost Services (HCS) Fund

The 2024-2025 HCS Round 2 application close on **January 10**.

HCS guidance is available in the [2024-2025 State Plan](#) and [webinar](#) materials in the [Special Education Reporting and Funding](#) library.

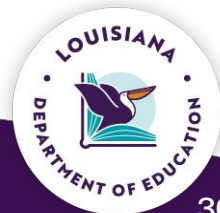
Contact ashley.augustine@la.gov with questions.



IEP Documentation: Alternate Assessment

- Ensure that alternate assessment decisions are documented on the student's IEP prior to the testing window
- Deadline for alternate assessment decisions: **January 10, 2025**

Contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



Virtual Office Hours: Bringing the Special Education Playbook to Life- IEP Writing Support

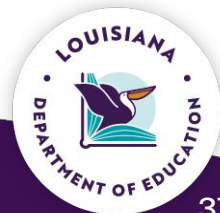
Join us for [Virtual Drop-In Office Hours](#) to get the support you need to implement the best practices for IEP writing! Following the IEP Writing Workshop, the New Solutions K12 team is here to help you put these strategies into action. During these open sessions, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Ask questions about integrating best practices into your IEPs.
- Get clarification on workshop content.
- Explore additional examples of effective IEP language.

When: [Beginning January 16, 2025 from 2:00 - 2:45 pm](#)

Drop in to connect with our team and ensure IEPs are supercharging best practice efforts in your school.

Contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



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 the child count date.

Refer to the [Benchmark Calendar](#) for reports to run and verify data. The official MFP Child Count will run on **February 20**.

Contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



April Dunn Act Monitoring

School systems are required to complete the April Dunn Act self-assessment to ensure effective implementation. The [self-assessment](#) must be completed by **February 28**.

Self-assessment results should be kept on file. The Department will audit self-assessment results to ensure they accurately represent best practices in the implementation of the April Dunn Act.

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

Contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.



Developing Strong Literacy Skills in 4th-8th Grade

The Louisiana Department of Education and Public Consulting Group (PCG) are pleased to offer [Professional Development Modules](#) focused on content that is teacher-friendly and provides the knowledge and skills necessary for intermediate and middle school classroom instruction by applying age-appropriate science of reading strategies.

Once [registered](#), participants will have access to five online modules, opportunities for professional learning, and easily accessible tools and resources.

Contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



Regional Collaboratives Update

Don't forget to [register](#) for the January sessions in the appropriate learning pathway based on their professional role. Special education directors will register for the Instructional Coherence Pathway.

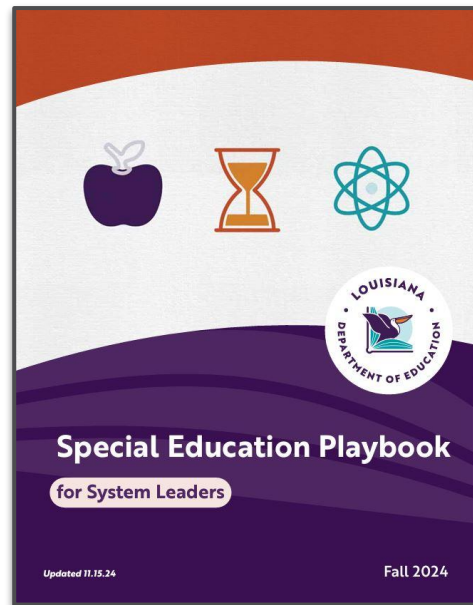
Follow-up to October sessions -complete the self-assessment around instructional coherence in your school system and shadow a student for a day to look for instructional coherence.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



Special Education Playbook Update Launch

- The latest update to the Department's [Special Education Playbook for System Leaders](#) is now available. While the best practices did not change, the updates add implementation supports.
- Special Education Leaders will preview the new supports at the Special Education Leader Collaborative on February 18 in Baton Rouge.



Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



Special Education Collaborative

The Division of Diverse Learners is excited to announce our [Special Education Collaborative](#)!

Who: Special Education Directors, System Leaders

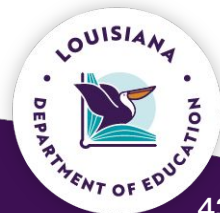
What: Special Education Collaborative

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

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

[Register](#) today

Contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



Fast Track ESL Add-on

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an [ESL Add-On credential](#).

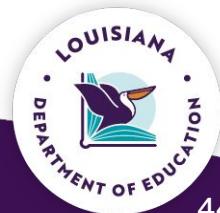
Please complete the 2024 -2026 [Early Interest Survey](#) to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

[Professional Development Courses](#) are also included with Project Endorsement Plus.

- Looking at Student Academic Language Foundations (LASAL) Professional Development
- Parents as Partners in Literacy (PaPiL) Professional Development

Please visit www.ASPDgroup.com or email registration@aspdgroup.com for more information.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



English Learner Institute

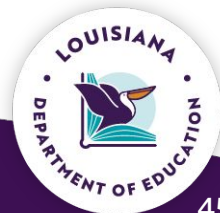
The Louisiana Department of Education is excited to announce our upcoming **English Learner Institute**. This event will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners.

The institute will focus on best practices for supporting English Learners, and also feature speakers who are experts in the field. We encourage all **EL Directors/Coordinators** to attend and participate in this opportunity to learn and collaborate with colleagues from across the state.

Please mark your calendars for the English Learner Institute for the following days:

- [February 4, 2025](#) (Registration closes January 31, 2025)
- [May 14, 2025](#) (Registration closes May 9, 2025)

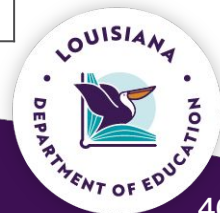
Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



Diverse Learner Contacts

For questions about...	Contact...
English Learners	
English Learner compliance, federal funding, programming	melanie.mayeux@la.gov
English Learner instructional support and content	Alexandra.Chenevert@la.gov
Students with Disabilities	
Special education policy, data, reporting	specialeducation@la.gov
Special education instructional support and programming	diverselearnersupport@la.gov

Contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



CSP Grant Updates



Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant Updates

The Office of School Choice is pleased to announce a Winter/Spring CSP grant application cycle with the following timeline. This application cycle is open to those charter groups that have already been authorized either by BESE or their local district and those seeking local authorization with anticipated approval in January 2025.

- Letter of Intent due January 14, 2025
- **NEW!** Informational Session [January 21, 2025 at 10:00 AM](#)
- Eligibility Determination Form due February 3, 2025
- CSP Subgrant Application due March 12, 2025
- Organizations submitting a Letter of Intent will be invited to Technical Assistance Webinars before the Eligibility Determination Form due date.

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

Contact: CSPGrant@la.gov or Tammy.Morgan3@la.gov



Helpful Links

Resource	Description
<u>Charter School Library</u>	This webpage includes links to charter school finance, guidance, reviews, and pre-opening information.
<u>Newsletter</u>	This webpage offers a links to all newsletters offered by the LDOE.
<u>Charter Inbox</u>	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

Ex. Director of Charter Authorization

Jade.Gambino@la.gov



Upcoming LEA-Authorized Charter Monthly Call



February 8, 2025 at 11:00 am

Topics: Pre-Opening Guidelines and Type 2 Appeal
Process

