System Leaders Monthly Call



State Superintendent Teacher Letter

Please share the letter via email with all teachers in your system.

- Appreciation and recognition of their role in Louisiana's progress
- Key supports for teachers:
 - Pay updates
 - Let Teachers Teach changes (trainings, autonomy, discipline, instructional focus)
 - New LEADS evaluation system



Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff



Differentiated Compensation Allocation

State funds were provided by the Legislature to assist school systems and schools with their unique market needs in the recruitment and retention of teachers by providing different stipends for different jobs.

Allocation Methodology

- Number of teachers as reported in the latest available staffing data multiplied by \$290.07 plus retirement benefits at the FY 25-26 retirement contribution rates.
- Calculation uses the number of teacher positions reported in the Fall 2024 MFP staffing count.

Funding Release

Funding will be released on or about September 12, 2025.

Guidance and allocation documents are posted in the **Business Manager Library**.



Differentiated Compensation Allocation

Differentiated Compensation funding must be utilized for stipends in one or more of the four approved categories of uses. Stipends may be provided in any amount and are not required to be awarded in accordance with the allocated per teacher amount.

Approved Uses of Funds

- Stipends for teachers in critical shortage area as determined by BESE (secondary math, secondary science, or special education) and/or;
- Stipends for Highly Effective Teachers (as defined in R.S. 17:381 through 3095 Bulletin 130 Section 309), and/or;
- Stipends for teachers working in High Need schools defined as those with an Economically Disadvantaged rate of 85% or greater, and/or;
- Stipends for teacher leadership positions such as classroom teachers appointed to lead weekly teacher collaborations, or serve as coaches.

Certificated & Support Staff Stipend Allocation

State funds provided by the Legislature intended to support a stipend for Certificated and Support Staff. Funding will be allocated at a rate of \$2,000 for certificated staff and \$1,000 for Support Staff.

Allocation Methodology

- Calculation methodology and staff data mirror the MFP Level 4 pay raise allocations inclusive of retirement benefits at the FY 25-26 retirement contribution rates.
- The number of certificated and support staff positions utilized in the calculation were reported in the Fall 2024 MFP staffing count.

Funding Release

Funding will be released on or about September 5, 2025.

Distribution Deadline

Stipends must be distributed no later than December 15, 2025.

Guidance and allocation documents will be posted in the **Business Manager Support Library**.



Stipend Approval and Implementation

Approval and Implementation Requirements

- Both the Certificated and Support Staff and the Differentiated Compensation stipends must be presented to and adopted by school boards prior to releasing payments to employees (required by Act 1 of 2012).
- Both stipends must be reported in the school system salary schedule documents notated as stipends, and should not be added to the permanent salary pay scales.
- Louisiana Legislative Auditors will require independent CPA firms to include testing for proper approval during the Single Audit within the State Agreed Upon Procedures testing.



School System Planning

The 2026-2027 Super App in-person launch will take place on **October 30 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.

New for 2026-2027

- Louisiana will administer Direct Student Services (DSS) as a competitive grant opportunity to support local innovation aligned with state priorities. This application will be included in Super App for 2026-2027.
- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that schools implementing a schoolwide program develop a Title I Schoolwide Plan. This year, LDOE will include a template as an optional planning tool in Super App.
- LEAs will be required to identify ESSA-required comprehensive support and improvement strategies to improve student outcomes. New labeled sites and those that did not submit for 2025-2026 will be required to submit. All others can amend as needed.

School System Planning Key Dates

Date	Item
October 30	2026-2027 School System Planning and Budgeting Workbook released live during LAFEPA
December 31	Final 2025-2026 ESSA formula funds loaded in Super App
January	2026-2027 Super App (competitive portion) due
FebMarch	LDOE reviews competitive Super App submissions and provides feedback on plans and budgets
FebMay	School systems conduct nonpublic school consultations
April	Super App competitive allocations sent to BESE for approval
May 1	Allocations for 2026-2027 loaded in Super App
June 30	Deadline to submit 2026-2027 Super App Amendment 1
July 1	2026-2027 Super App grant period begins; Systems begin implementing 2026-2027 School System Plan

GAPA & Operations Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Attendance	September 18 at 8:30 a.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations	September 18 at 10 a.m.
Nutrition Support	October 7 at 1 p.m.



Teaching and Learning

Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Deputy Superintendent



Menu of Services-Point of Contact

- The Menu of Services is a comprehensive catalogue of support services available to districts from the LDOE Office of Teaching and Learning.
- School systems should designate a single point of contact to request support from the LDOE Teaching and Learning team.
- The Point of Contact Google form should be completed by each system no later than Friday, September 26.



Direct Student Services (DSS)

The LDOE will administer Direct Student Services (DSS) as a competitive grant opportunity to support local innovation aligned with state priorities.

- The eGMS application for Fiscal Year 2026 opens at the beginning of September and is due **October 1, 2025**.
- Grant focus areas include:
 - Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Powered Academic Intervention
- For more information please refer to the <u>2025-2026 Direct Student</u>
 <u>Services</u> guidance document.

Teacher Leader Summit

- Hold the Date: Teacher Leader Summit 2026 will take place May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Early bird registration will open on 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. Please join the Presenter Information Webinar on <u>October 15</u> at 1 p.m. or 4 p.m.

LEADS and LES Updates

Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development (LEADS)

- The Other Personnel Guidance has updated guidance regarding librarian evaluation.
- The Counselor Handbook is in final review and will be released soon.
- System and school leaders are encouraged to register for <u>LEADS On-Site Support</u> Sessions.

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES)

- 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.
- Systems should utilize the <u>LES Timeline</u> for additional tasks and deadlines.



Educator Development

- The NTE: Professional Learning Modules are designed to support new teachers by developing skills and confidence on topics critical for new teacher success. Registration is open and is free of charge to the first 250 teachers.
- The Mentor Principal Corps is designed to elevate and enhance the experience of successful principals by providing professional learning and stipends for members that partner with aspiring and novice principal participants in multiple LDOE led cohorts.



Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) Portal

LEC has been integrated into the Louisiana Educator Portal (LEP).

- School system personnel already using LEP for evaluations should only need to request permissions for the application portions.
- Instructions to request permissions are currently linked on <u>TeachLALive!</u> if you have an authorized HR or Preparation account.
- User guides and training videos for each role have been posted to <u>TeachLALive!</u>, as well as <u>www.teachlouisiana.net</u>.
- Send a request through the <u>Teacher Certification Help Center</u> if you do not have an authorized TeachLALive! account.

Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring

Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring Plans are due in eGMS by **September 15** for LDOE approval. The Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring Workbook provides school systems with a structured framework to plan their implementation. The workbook will help ensure school systems are prepared for reporting to the LDOE in eGMS. All updated guidance documents to inform planning and decision-making for High-Dosage Tutoring are located on the tutoring landing page.

Next steps:

- Appoint an Accelerate: HDT point of contact.
- Convene a group of system and school leaders to develop the school system plan and champion the work for the system.
- Determine system-level expectations for identifying students, developing schedules, and planning for sessions.
- Communicate expectations with school leaders.



Zearn Math Platform

Monitoring is essential for successful Zearn programming. At the beginning of the year, refer to these metrics:

- Student and teacher sign-ins
- Time engaged
- Grade-level lesson completion

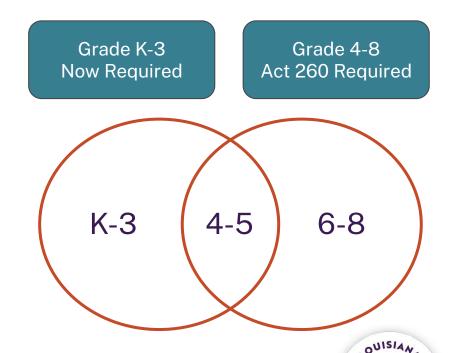
New this year:

The <u>Admin Snapshot</u> report provides a summary view of implementation.



Louisiana Numeracy Excellence Act

- Teachers who completed the 4-8 course and are now teaching K-3 will receive credit for overlapping modules.
- An optional course for high school teachers is also available.
- <u>Join us</u> on September 17 at 9 a.m. for Numeracy Training Office Hours.



Technology Readiness Data Request

- Under R.S. 17:3921.2. Statewide Educational Technology Plan, school systems must submit required technology information, ensuring they meet the standards for devices, internet bandwidth, software applications, and local network capacity to provide a high-quality digital instructional environment.
- The Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) helps LDOE collect information about technology infrastructure across school systems and individual schools. TRT data will be used for the school system's digital footprint, supporting future technology planning.
- The 2025 TRT Collection Form is due on **November 1.** Please see the 2025 TRT Collection Instructions for a step-by-step submission guide and resources.



Teaching and Learning Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Diverse Learner Office Hours	September 9 at 2 p.m.
EdTech	September 11 at 9 a.m.
Certification	September 15 at 10:30 a.m.
Numeracy Training Office Hours	September 17 at 8 a.m.
Preparation Provider	September 24 at 10 a.m.
Teaching and Learning	September 25 at 1 p.m.



Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics

Thomas Lambert, Assistant Superintendent



DRDP-K Updates

The administration of the DRDP-K is no longer required by BESE. All kindergarten students must participate in the statewide administration of the K-3 Literacy Screener and the K-3 Numeracy Screener.

- Per state law, K-3 literacy screenings must be administered in the first 30 days of school and windows are customized per official district calendar.
- For the 2025-2026 learning year, the beginning-of-year administration of the K-3 numeracy screener is August 13 - October 3.



Early Childhood - October 1 Child Count

- Child count is intended to count every publicly-funded child birth through age four in the state. Child count is a snapshot of actual enrollment as of October 1, 2025.
- Per Bulletin 140 and Community Network Lead Agency (CNLA) assurances, child count must be submitted via the Child Count Portal by October 31, 2025.

K-3 Numeracy Screener

The LDOE is implementing the K-3 Numeracy Screener in alignment with Act 650 (2024) and Bulletin 118. The 2025-2026 school year administration of the screener will be a part of a learning year.

- Beginning-of-Year Screener Window (BOY): First 30 days of school
- Middle-of-Year Screener Window (MOY): December
- End-of-Year Screener Window (EOY): April



K-3 Numeracy Screener Training

- All staff who serve as school test coordinators or test administrators for the statewide K-3 numeracy screener in KITE must complete the K-3 Numeracy Test Administrator Training that is available in the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform.
- To administer the screener, test administrators must score at least 80% and provide their certificate to the school test coordinator. This training includes examples of screener items with scoring rules, test security requirements, and allowable accommodations.
- **Test Administrator Training Course Number:** F81C9F1F



Data Certification for ACT, DCAI, Assessment, and 2025 Cohort Graduation

- Data certification is now open for all accountability contacts to verify data that will be used to calculate the DCAI, ACT, assessment, and 2025 cohort graduation indices.
 - As part of assessment data certification, systems will also receive two additional downloadable roster files for LEAP and ELPT progress data.
- This is the final opportunity for school systems to request changes to data. Data that is not corrected during a data certification review cannot be used to appeal the school performance score once it is released.

Interests and Opportunities (I&O)

Starting in 2025-2026, only approved alternative schools will use the I&O Index as part of school performance score calculation. All other schools will follow the revised accountability system, Grow. Achieve. Thrive., which does not include the I&O Index.

For Alternative schools only, the 2025-2026 I&O Jotform Survey is now open.

- Surveys are due by Friday, October 10.
- Superintendent validations are due by Friday, October 17.

The Menu and Guidance are available in the Accountability Library.



2025-2026 Collections Support

Funding is directly impacted by timely and accurate data reporting. The Data Systems Support team is formalizing its support & communication structures leading up to each collection snapshot.

- **6 weeks prior:** EdLink 360 missing data targeted phone calls and data quality emails sent to Data Managers.
- 4 weeks prior: Superintendent email outreach.
- 2 weeks prior: Superintendent email outreach, including collection comparisons with possible red flags and critical 1:1 appointments.

2025-2026 Collections Support

- System leaders are able to check the validity of their data at any time through EdLink 360's <u>Data Validation dashboard</u> by checking the data compared to recent collections.
- Large discrepancies between collections may prompt a discussion with Data Managers to ensure data is being reported accurately.

Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
eScholar Office Hours	September 4 and 8 at 10 a.m
EdLink Weekly Q&A Session	September 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 11 a.m.
Data Coordinator Webinar	September 11 at 1 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability	September 16 at 3 p.m.



Career and College Readiness

Dr. Ernise Singleton, Assistant Superintendent



LDOE Course Code Request Form

The LDOE Course Code Request Form is available for submissions.

- Requests are due by October 1 for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Reviewed monthly by Data Governance Work Group.
- Requestors will receive status updates approximately a month after Work Group meets and the request is vetted.
- New and updated codes will be announced in May in System **Enhancements Updates.**



2025-2026 High School Planning Guidebook

The <u>2025-2026 Louisiana High School Planning Guidebook</u> is designed to consolidate policies and programs that are relevant to educators as they plan for the upcoming academic year and prepare students for career and college success. This guidebook is designed to help administrators, school counselors, and educators use key policies, programs, and resources to aid students and schools achieve their goals. This guide has a focus on:

- Developing strong system-level foundations.
- Building foundations in middle school.
- Building foundations in high schools.
- Building a strong foundation for after high school success.



Elementary School Counselor Report

- Per R.S. 17:3005, school counselors shall provide preventive and developmental counseling services to all public elementary school students in grades K-6.
- School counselors or administrators serving grades K-6 are asked to complete the <u>Elementary School Counselor Report Survey</u> to provide feedback on your school counseling programs. The survey should be submitted by October 1.



Work-Based Learning

As systems schedule students in work-based learning courses, be sure to reference the Work-Based Learning Guidelines to determine the appropriate course code to utilize, as internships, cooperative education, and Registered Apprenticeships meet the requirements for accountability but aren't **interchangeable courses.** They are distinctly different types of work-based learning experiences with different requirements that are listed in policy.



Certificates of Technical Studies

MJ Foster-eligible Certificates of Technical Studies provide students with high-value, workforce-aligned credentials. These credentials are fully integrated into the Thrive Career Accelerator, ensuring students gain industry-recognized training in a model that supports financial aid post-high school, while also allowing schools to prioritize accountability-driven student success.



Pupil Progression Plans

- Louisiana **Bulletin 1566** requires school systems to establish a comprehensive <u>Pupil Progression Plan (PPP)</u> that addresses student placement and promotion.
- Pupil Progression Plans should be submitted as a PDF to ppp@la.gov by October 31.



Course Choice Page Update

The Course Choice webpage has been refreshed to better support schools, counselors, and families. Updates include new Family Communications Tools including:

- Sample Parent Letter
- Parent Flyer
- Social Media Graphics

In addition, the page now features the new Course Choice Road Map for School Leaders, designed to guide systems through key steps and considerations.

You can view all updates on the Course Choice webpage.

Career and College Readiness Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Alternative Education	September 11 at 10 a.m.
Office of Career and College Readiness	September 18 at 3 p.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools	September 25 at 2 p.m.



School Choice

Germain Gilson, Assistant Superintendent



Local Authorizer Charter RFA Process

- September 8, 2025 begins the local Charter Request for Applications (RFA) process for the 2025-2026 cycle.
- Districts are required to provide application process outline and point of contact for applicant submission for interest applicants on district websites.



Key Dates for Local Authorizers

- September 8, 2025: Deadline to post application materials to website.
- October 20, 2025: Charter applications are due to districts.
- November 7, 2025: Local boards notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district.
- January 29, 2026: Deadline to consider charter applications.
- January 30, 2026: Deadline to notify LDOE of local board recommendations.

Note: If the district has not made a decision by January 29, 2026, the applicant is eligible to appeal to BESE.

Authorization Tools

Local Authorizers may access the following application tools online:

- **Eligibility Determination Form**
- Common Charter Applications (New/Experienced Operator)
- Evaluation Rubric Standards (New/Experienced Operator)
- Application Completeness Check (New/Experienced Operator)
- District Website Template



- Local Authorizer Contacts Please complete the Charter Authorizing <u>Contact Information Survey</u> to ensure the Office of School Choice has the most up to date information for point of contact for LEA Charter Authorization.
- In accordance with the requirements to make public the guidelines for submitting a charter proposal, district websites will be reviewed for compliance beginning September 9, 2025.

Charter Accountability Updates

Save the Date:

The annual Charter Refresher will be held on **October 7** at the East Baton Rouge Professional Development Center. System leaders should expect a formal registration link.

Session topics will include:

- Technology Readiness for Testing
- Data Management
- System Overview
- **CSP Subgrant Opportunity**
- Q & A



Office of School Choice Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Local Authorizer	September 10 at 11 a.m.
BESE-Authorized Charter	September 11 at 9 a.m.



School System Relations

Trey Folse, Assistant Superintendent



Seeking Nominations for Awards Programs

- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and School Physical Activity Award.
 - Nominations Portal
 - Open until September 12
- Teacher/Principal of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.
 - Nominations Portal
 - Open until September 30
- Nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.



Students of the Year Application Process Open

- Students of the Year Information and Materials
 - Awards
 - Resources Page
- School System Information and Participation Level Survey
 - Due September 30



Early Childhood Care and Education

Barry Carter, Assistant Superintendent



Act 409 (2025): Compliance Requirements

By October 1, 2025, all early learning centers and public and nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs must comply with the child safety and welfare minimum standards provided for in R.S. 17:407.41.

The LDOE has developed an <u>informational document</u> that includes:

- A summary of child safety and welfare minimum standards in the legislation.
- A phone number for reporting violations to LDOE.
- A statement notifying parents and guardians that the document is distributed pursuant to "Charlie's Law."



Act 409: Distribution Timeline and Program Responsibilities

As a reminder, beginning in August 2025, the LDOE will provide the required <u>informational document</u> annually to all public pre-K programs and early learning centers. **Please ensure the information has been provided.**

Each program must:

- Distribute the document to the parents and legal guardians of all enrolled pre-K children at the start of each school year.
- Distribute the document either in print or electronically.
- The LDOE will notify the district superintendent in writing if a complaint is received about a prekindergarten program in the district.

CCCBC Requirements

<u>Bulletin 137–Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations</u> establishes statewide regulations for child care sites and ensures that these standards are maintained:

- Early interventionists employed or contracted by the school system must, per Bulletin 137 §1811.A. and prior to performing services at an early learning site, obtain a Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC)-based determination of eligibility from the LDOE.
- Please review guidance on "Obtaining the Child Care Criminal Background
 Check (CCCBC)" including the order in which the steps should be taken and
 the correct code to use for the fingerprinting to ensure that the fingerprints are
 linked to the CCCBC.

Office of Early Childhood Care and Education Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Early Childhood Community Network Office Hours	September 9 at 3 p.m.



Questions



Thank you for joining today's call!

Our next System Leaders Monthly Call is Friday, October 3 at 9 a.m.

Schedules, access links, and information on webinars can be found in the LDOE Weekly Newsletter and the School System Support Calendar.

Helpful Links

- LDOE Website
- School Improvement Library

Support Toolboxes

- Teacher
- System
- Principal
- Counselor

