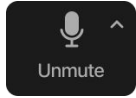


LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call

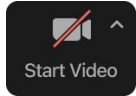


September 9, 2026

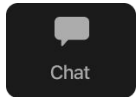
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- 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.

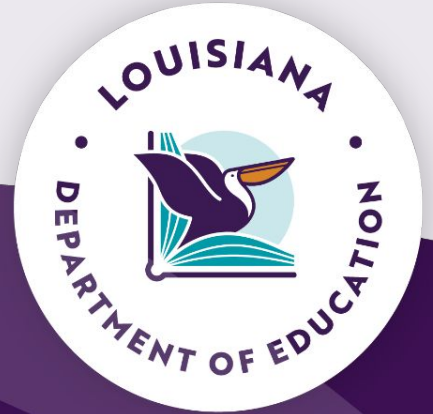


Agenda

- Monthly Call Goals
- Key Dates
- 2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers
- LEA Website Updates
- Authorization Best Practices
- Capacity Interview Best Practices
- Departmental Updates
- Charter School Program 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
September 8	2026-2027 Local Charter Request for Applications Cycle: Deadline to post application materials to district websites for the local charter application process. The Office of School Choice requests each district complete the Charter Authorizing Contact Information Survey by September 8 to ensure the most up-to-date information for point of contact for LEA Charter Authorization. Please contact charters@la.gov with any questions.
September 9-10	2026 Back to School Homeless Liaison Conference: Registration Link September 9, 2026- MV 101 New Homeless Liaisons (9:00am-2:00pm) Baton Rouge, Claiborne Bldg. September 10, 2026- All Homeless Liaisons (10:00am-12:00pm) Webinar
September 14-18	Celebrate Freedom Week: Louisiana schools will recognize Celebrate Freedom Week September 14-18. Celebrate Freedom Week is a statewide observance that promotes civic understanding and constitutional literacy among Louisiana students. To support instruction during Celebrate Freedom Week, the Louisiana Department of Education has made guidance and resources available. Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with any questions.



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
September 23, 24, 29, & 30	School Support Institutes 2026–2027: System leaders who support CIR schools and/or supervise principals of attending schools are encouraged to register and attend SSI with their school teams. Session dates: • Monroe Cohort: September 23, 2026 • Shreveport Cohort: September 24, 2026 • New Orleans Cohort: September 29, 2026 • Baton Rouge Cohort: September 30, 2026 • Lafayette Cohort: October 1, 2026 Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.
September 30	Mandated Reporter Compliance Collection: All mandated reporters must annually complete training as required by CHC 603.1 using the mandated reporter training from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS Mandated Reporter Training completion data must be submitted to EdLink 360 by 5 pm on September 30, 2026. Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with any questions.



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
October 15	Technology Readiness Tool Collection: The Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) collects information about technology infrastructure across Louisiana school systems. The information submitted through the TRT will help LDOE better understand each school system's digital footprint and inform future technology planning, support, and resource needs. The 2026-2027 TRT Collection Form is now open and will close on October 15. Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with any questions.



2026 Mid-Year Charter School Application Process Timeline

To begin operation in 2027-28

Date	Annual RFA Process
June 1, 2026	LDOE application opened for Type 2 and 4
June 8, 2026 (by 5 p.m.)	Letters of Intent were due to LDOE.
July 6, 2026 (by 5 p.m.)	Eligibility Determination Forms Due to LDOE.
July 20, 2026 (by 5 p.m.)	LDOE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2, 4, and 5 applicants.
→ Fall 2026	Capacity Interviews for Type 2 and 4 applicants conducted by Third Party Reviewer.
December 8, 2026	Types 2 and 4 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools.

2026 Mid-Year Charter School Application Process Updates

Applicant Name	Charter School Type	District
Community Roots Leadership Academy	Type 2	East Baton Rouge Parish
Louisiana Community and Technical College Charter School	Type 2	East Baton Rouge Parish



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

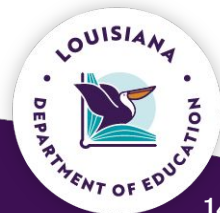


2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

BESE approved the **2026-2027 Charter Request for Applications (RFA)** timeline and **Common Charter Applications** for New and Experienced operators at the August 19, 2026 BESE SIT Committee meeting.

- LDOE will continue to offer the Annual and Mid-Year application process for BESE-authorized charter applicants.
- Schools awarded charters during this process are slated to open August 2028.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

The LDOE has revised the common charter school application for the 2026-2027 application cycle. The revision includes all required components outlined in Bulletin 126, §515.

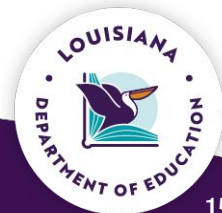
Application Types:

- New Operator
- Experienced Operator

Addendums to Application:

- High School
- Corporate Partnership
- Updated: Educational Service Provider/Charter Management Organization
- New: Network Operator
- Virtual Operator

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

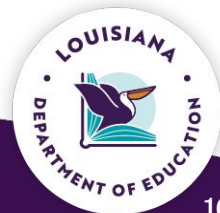


2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

Application Toolbox:

- Applicant Self-Assessment Completeness Checks ([New/Experienced](#) Operator)
- [Eligibility Determination](#)
- Common Charter Applications ([New/Experienced](#) Operator)
- Evaluation Rubric Standards ([New/Experienced](#) Operator)
- [District Website Template](#)
- [RFA Overview Template](#)

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

- Charter schools can be started by any interested party, including parents, community members, and teachers. Louisiana requires charter applicants be organized as a non-profit organization at the time of submission.
- It is common to see charter schools led by former teachers who wanted to take the lessons they learned in the classroom and scale them to an entire school community (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools).
- It is helpful to first identify a unique need in the community that the charter school would serve and connect with a local charter school authorizer (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools).



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

- The charter school law was enacted by the Louisiana Legislature to create a structure whereby city, parish, and other local public school boards and BESE can authorize the creation of innovative schools for students in Louisiana.
- In Louisiana, the purposes of charter schools include providing opportunities for educators and others interested in educating students to form, operate, or be employed within a charter school, working to meet one of the objectives cited in [Bulletin 126, Section 105](#).



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

Date	Action	Details
August 24, 2026	LDOE releases common applications and toolboxes with application resources.	Available on LDOE website .
September 8, 2026	Local district 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 19, 2026	Local school board 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 2, 2026	Local school board deadline to notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district.	Submit notification: Jotform
January 28, 2027	Local school board deadline to consider Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications.	Local school board action required by this date.
January 29, 2027	Local school board deadline to notify LDOE of board recommendations.	Submit notification: Jotform
February 1, 2027	LDOE Annual application opens for Type 2 and Type 4 applicants.	Denied applicants may apply as a Type 2 or Type 4



LEA Website Updates



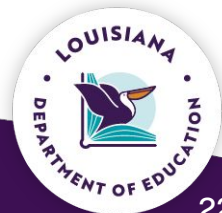
LEA Website Updates

- Districts are required to report to the LDOE the following information:
 - Charter Applicants:
 - Name of foundation and personnel submitting the application to LDOE by November 2, 2025 using the following [Jotform link](#).
 - Decisions regarding each applicant to LDOE by January 29, 2027 using the following [Jotform link](#).
 - Per August 2024 Bulletin 126 update, applicants are now required to report their submission to the local authorizer and may use the [Jotform link](#).
 - Charter Renewals:
 - Extensions by school and contract dates.
 - Closures by school and dates to begin the transition process in January.



LEA Website Updates

- District Charter Application Process Website Template- Districts may utilize the website template to comply with charter application process website requirements.
- Use of the template is optional. You may choose to use the website template as a foundation and add to it if you would like.
- To ensure compliance with the charter application process posting law articulated in RS 17:3982, all information pertaining to the application process must be posted no later than September 8, 2026.

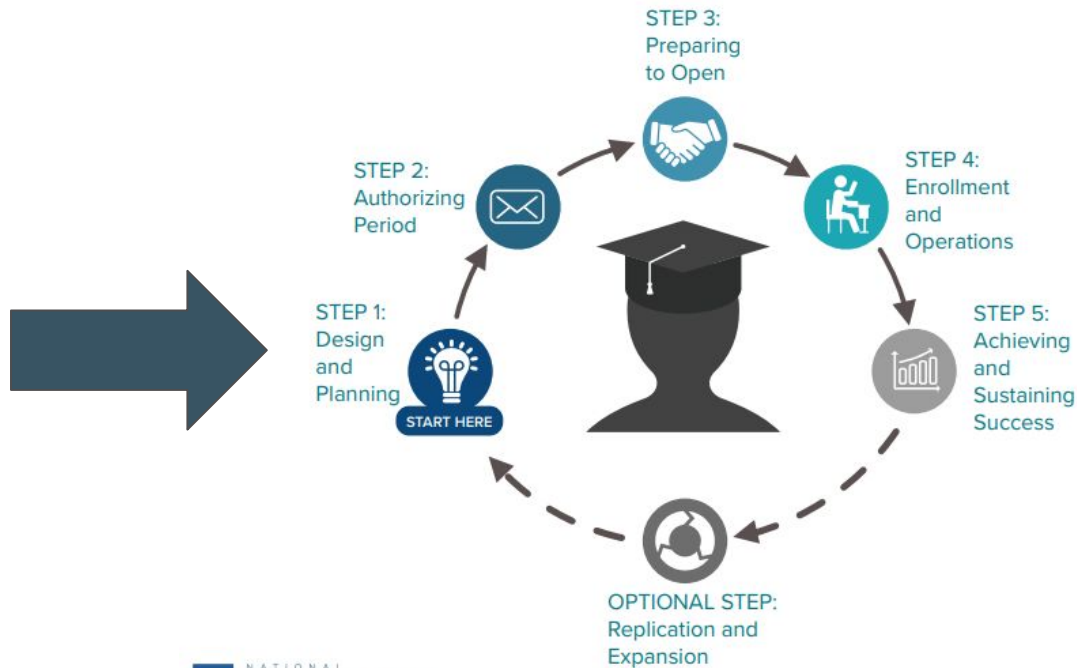


Authorization Best Practices

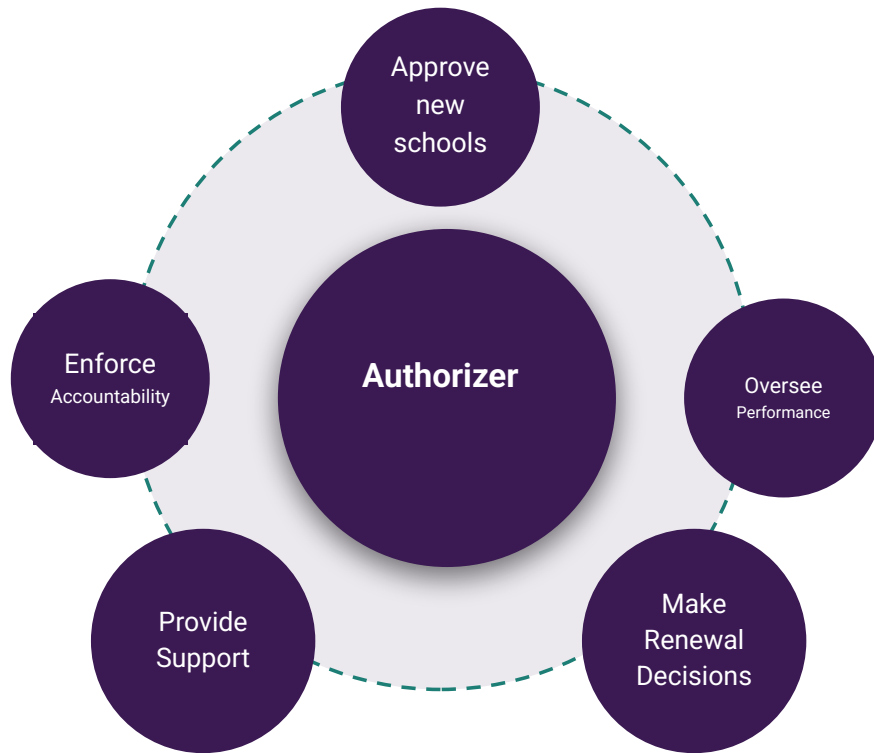


Authorization Best Practices

The Life Cycle of a Charter School



Authorization Best Practices



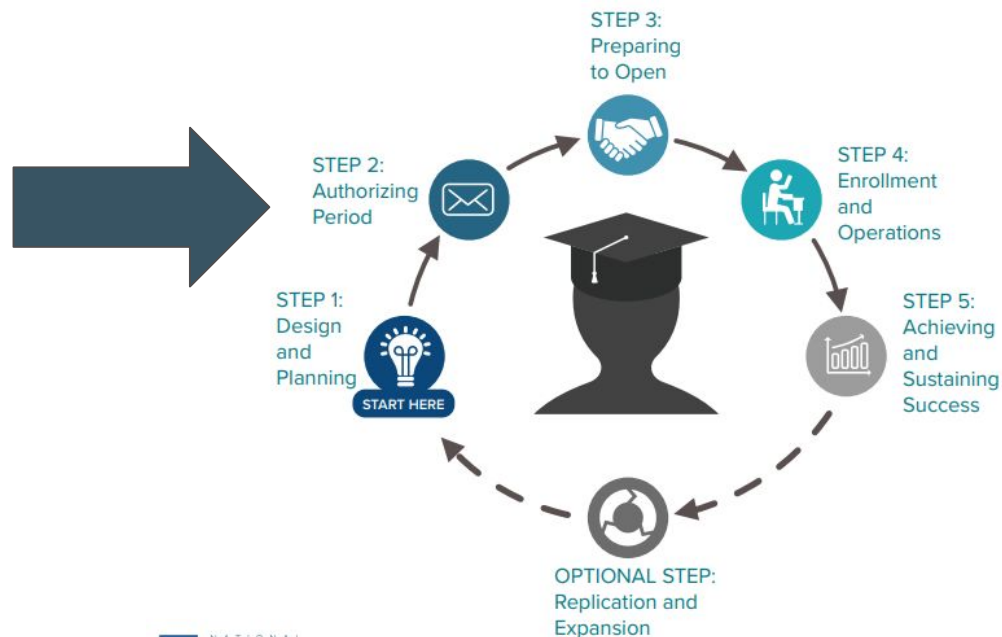
Authorization Best Practices

- Grant charter schools through the review of charter school applications
- Establish accountability metrics for the academic, financial, and operational success of approved charter operators
- Monitor school performance of authorized charter schools
- Determine whether a charter should remain open or close at the end of its contract



Authorizer Best Practices

The Life Cycle of a Charter School



Authorizer Best Practices

Role of the Local Authorizer-Application Phase:

- Review and formally act upon each charter proposal submitted;
- Engage in a transparent application review process;
- Notify each state senator and state representative in whose district the charter school is to be located that a proposal or application has been submitted;
- Make public through its website, and in printed form upon request, the guidelines for submitting a charter proposal; and
- Prior to approving a charter for a Type 1 or Type 3 school, hold a public meeting for the purpose of considering the proposal and receiving public input.



Authorizer Best Practices

Quality authorizers implement a comprehensive application process that includes:

- Clear application questions;
- Guidance on standards criteria;
- Implementation of fair and transparent procedures;
- Ensure equal information and communication to all applicants;
and
- Conducts independent third-party evaluation.



Authorizer Best Practices

- Determine whether applicant complies with the law and rules;
- Determine whether the applicant's proposal is valid, financially well-structured, and educationally sound;
- Determine whether the applicant provides for a plan that improves behavior and discipline in accordance with R.S. 17:252;
- Determine whether the applicant provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with R.S. 17:3911; and
- Determine whether the applicant demonstrates the potential for fulfilling the purposes of the law.



Authorizer Best Practices

- 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.



Authorizer Best Practices

Authorization Fees:

- A charter authority may annually charge each charter school it authorizes a fee in an amount equal to 2 percent of the per pupil allocation
 - Administrative overhead costs incurred by the chartering authority for considering the charter application and any amendment thereto;
 - Monitoring and oversight of the school, collecting and analyzing data of the school, and for reporting on school performance.



Authorizer Best Practices

Authorization Fees:

- Such fee amount shall be withheld from the per pupil amount in monthly increments and shall not be applicable to any federal money or grants received by the school.
- Administrative overhead costs shall not include any cost incurred by the charter authority to provide purchased services to the charter school.



Authorizer Best Practices

Authorization Fee Reporting:

- At least 30 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, each charter school shall be provided by its chartering authority with a projected budget detailing anticipated administrative overhead costs and planned uses for fees charged for such costs.
- By no later than 90 days following the end of each fiscal year, each charter school shall be provided by its chartering authority or the Recovery School District, if applicable, an itemized accounting of the actual cost of each purchased service provided to the charter school.



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



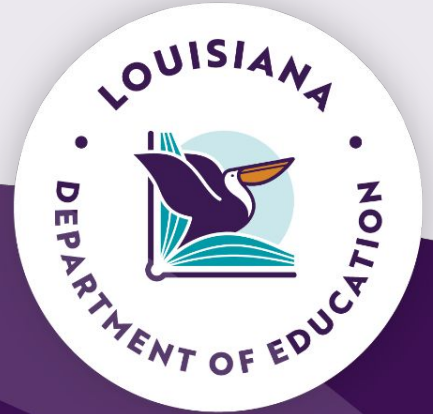
Capacity Interview Best Practices

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](#)



Assessment Updates



Assessment Updates

K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Screening

- State law and BESE policy require that all students in grades K-3 participate in statewide literacy and numeracy screening three times per year.
 - First 30 days of school (customized windows)
 - Month of December
 - Month of April
- To participate in alternative screening (LAAR for literacy and NAAR for numeracy) students must meet alternate assessment criteria on a current IEP,
- All school systems must submit testing schedules to assessment@la.gov. It is very important to send updates if schedules change. The department is sending monitors to sites throughout the window.

Contact leads@la.gov with questions.

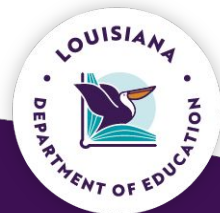


LEAP October Enrollment Verification

LEAP enrollment for spring testing will open in DRC INSIGHT on September 21 and will close on October 16 . Schools who plan to use paper testing for grade 3 must indicate their selection during this enrollment verification period. The department will not approve late requests to test grade 3 on paper.

District test coordinators will be provided with detailed instructions for completing enrollment in LEAP through AAA Office Hours calls on Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.



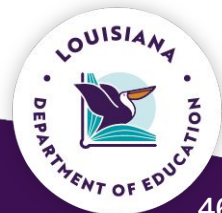
Diverse Learner Updates



Special Education Camera Policy Updates – Act 237 (2026)

Act 237 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session requires school systems to review and, as necessary, update their local policies regarding cameras in special education classrooms to ensure alignment with the requirements of the new law. Pursuant to R.S. 17:1948, school systems must submit a copy of their local policy to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) within 10 days of any revision to the policy. Updated Special Education Camera policies should be submitted to educationpolicy@la.gov.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

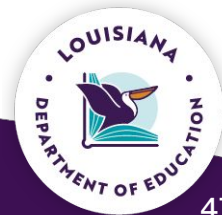


October 1 IDEA Collection - Child Count

LDOE 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



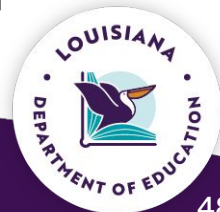
October 1 Collection - Child Count

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 28th**. Any update to data after this date, will not be reported or used in funding or reporting.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



October 1 Collection - SPED Personnel

LDOE 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.

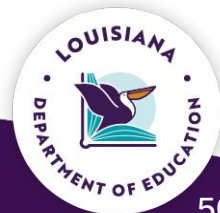


26-27 Collection and Reporting Calendar

- Created to provide LEAs with Special Education timelines
- Includes timelines for Data Collections, Report Releases, Accommodation timeline prior to test.
- General dates in the calendar will be updated with specific dates as the dates are set.
- Date will continue to be published in the newsletter and the Diverse Learner call.

To access the live version of the calendar, use this [link](#).

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.



Educator Evaluation Updates

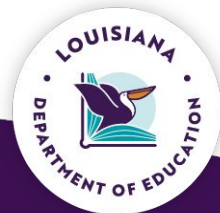


Educator Evaluation Reminders

LEADS evaluations are required for all teachers, counselors, and school leaders.

- Systems selecting to use an [alternate rubric](#) for the observation component of evaluation must apply **annually**.
- Educator evaluations for 2025-2026 including VAM teachers should be finalized. The deadline is November 30.
- For the 2026-2027 evaluation period, staff extract data must be uploaded to EdLink 360 before evaluations can begin. This includes updated position codes and locations.
- The [LES 2026-2027 Timeline](#) can be used for suggested evaluation deadlines.

Contact leads@la.gov with questions.



LEADS Implementation

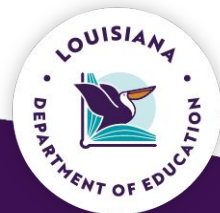
The [LEADS Library](#) has new and updated resources to assist in effective evaluation implementation.

- [The ILT and LEADS: Bridging Leadership and Instruction](#)
- [Other Personnel Guidance](#)
- [Evaluation Implementation Guidance for System Leaders](#)

Systems are encouraged to complete a [LEADS On-Site Extension Request](#) by September 23 to secure local sessions.

The deadline for currently certified LEADS observers and evaluators to pass the 2026-2027 evaluator assessment is September 30.

Contact leads@la.gov with questions.



Safe and Healthy Schools Updates



National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

- September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
 - Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people ([NAMI](#); [Youth.gov](#); [SAMHSA](#))
 - Everyone has a role to play in prevention
 - Every community is impacted
 - Schools are key spaces for awareness, connection, and support
- Resources
 - [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#)
 - [SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Awareness Digital Toolkit](#)
 - [A Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention CDC](#)

Louisiana 988 Day

Nationwide, September 8th is known as 988 Day. The Louisiana State Capitol will bring communities together to raise awareness of the 988 Lifeline, promote mental health and strengthen suicide prevention across Louisiana.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs), local school systems and educators are encouraged to participate in this event by helping spread awareness of 988.

- When: Tuesday September 8, 2026
- Time: 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- Where: Louisiana State Capitol Garden, Baton Rouge

Children's Hospital School Support

Ventilator Assisted Care Program (VACP)

- **Support and Training:** Provides training and technical assistance to LEA personnel for students with chronic health conditions.
- **Statewide Resources:** Offers comprehensive statewide support for students with complex medical needs.
- **Inclusive Education:** Deploys staff to train school personnel, enabling students to remain in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).
- **Expert Guidance:** Advises LEAs and stakeholders on medical, academic, and social factors for successful classroom integration.

Vape-Free School Resources

The Louisiana Department of Health-[WellAhead](#) provides the following resources to support youth vaping prevention:

- **[Vape-Free Schools Administrators Training:](#)** An online module designed to assist school leadership in establishing vape-free environments by implementing clear policies, maintaining high educational standards, and providing accessible cessation support.
- **[Vape-Free Schools Toolkit:](#)** A comprehensive digital resource library created to help K-12 educators across Louisiana incorporate tobacco prevention and education into their classroom curriculum.

Naloxone Shelf-Life Extended

[ACT 183](#) grants civil and criminal immunity to those who distribute, prescribe, or administer expired naloxone or opioid antagonists in good faith during a suspected overdose.

- Protection excludes instances of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- Shields licensed practitioners from disciplinary action.
- Protections do not supersede federal regulations for federally certified entities.

Charter School Program Grant Updates



Charter School Program Grant Updates

Applications for the Y4 Cycle were due September 6th.

- Audubon Baton Rouge
- Collegiate Baton Rouge
- Harvest Commons
- Kenilworth Science & Technology
- The Willow School
- University View Academy

Award recommendations anticipated at December BESE.

For more information

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



October 14, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Topics: Consideration of Applications & Authorizer
Reporting Requirements

