

System Leaders Call



September 4, 2026

Celebrate Freedom Week 2026

September 14-18

- Established by [Act 370](#) (2022)
- Louisiana schools provide instruction on topics related to freedom
 - People, events, ideas, and primary documents that shaped the U.S.A.
- [Guidance and resources](#) available online



Teacher Leader Summit 2027



*Celebrating 15 years
of Teacher Leader Summit*

**June 1-3 at the New Orleans
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center**

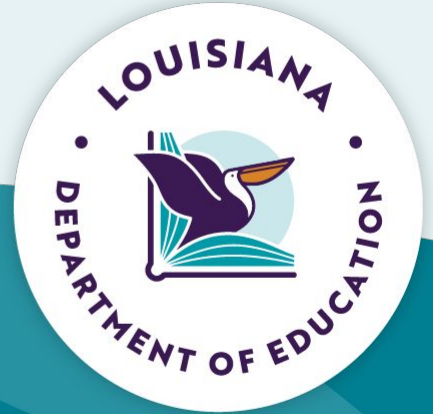
- [Call for presentations](#) closes
October 23
 - [Watch the webinar](#)
- [Early bird registration](#) opens
February 16
- More information on the
[TLS 2027 event page](#)

Please email ldoeevents@la.gov with questions



Office of the Chief of Staff

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff



September is Attendance Awareness Month

Success in school begins when students are present on time, every day.

The LDOE Attendance Team encourages system leaders to consider the following:

- Ensuring local attendance support planning aligns with the [Power of Presence](#) guidance
- Utilizing various platforms to highlight the importance of student attendance
- Celebrating exemplary and improved student attendance



2026 LAFEPA Save-the-Date

Louisiana Association of Federal Education Program Administrators
(LAFEPA)
2026 Fall Conference

Dates: October 28-30, 2026

Location: Crowne Plaza Center, Baton Rouge, LA



School System Planning

The 2027-2028 Super App in-person launch will take place on **October 29 at LAFEPA**. During the launch, the *Next Level Vision for Success School System Planning & Budgeting Workbook*, inclusive of the 2027-2028 Super App questions, will be released.

New Options for 2027-2028

- CTE dual enrollment
- Special Education certification
- English Learner certification



Child Nutrition Program Administrative Review

- [2026-2027 Administrative Review Schedule](#)
- School Systems that will be reviewed this year can be found in the “School Year 2026-2027” column

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.



Chief of Staff Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	<u>September 17 at 10 a.m.</u>
Attendance Monthly Call	<u>October 1 at 8 a.m.</u>
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	<u>October 6 at 1 p.m.</u>

Visit our website for a full list of calls, newsletters, and support:

- [School System Support Calendar](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Menu of Services](#)



Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs

Ashley Townsend, Assistant Superintendent



Mandated Reporter Training Collection

CHC 603.1 requires mandated reporter training completion to be annually reported to LDOE.

- Ensure that all who meet the “teaching or child care provider” definition complete the training between June 1 and August 31 annually.
- Submit completion status for each employee to EdLink 360 by 5:00 p.m. on September 30.
- Retain training certificates locally.

Additional information is available at the [DCFS mandated reporter website](#).

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions

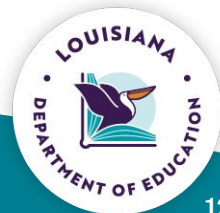


Lead Hazard Risk Assessments

[Act 893 \(2026\)](#) requires lead hazard risk assessments for certain schools and child care providers first placed in operation on or after August 1, 2026.

- [Guidance](#) developed with LDEQ has been developed and will be updated as additional information becomes available.
- For prospective licensed centers, the [initial inspection checklist](#) has been updated.
- For schools, consult your legal counsel for how the new law applies to new facilities.

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions



Office of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Deputy Superintendent



LEADS Updates

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](#)

2025-2026 evaluations should be finalized in [LES](#) by November 30. The [LES Timeline](#) outlines additional tasks and deadlines.

Systems are to begin setting 2026-2027 SLTs and conducting observations. In accordance with [Bulletin 130](#), evaluators and evaluatees must meet to discuss SLTs.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.



Mentor Teacher Updates

Mentor Teacher Expansion Grant

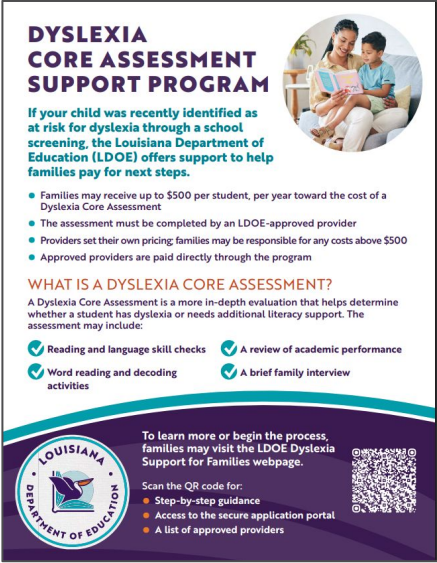
- Option 1 allows systems funds to reimburse educators who have an approved pathway and are eligible add the Mentor Teacher endorsement on their teaching certificates.
- Option 2 provides systems up to \$500 toward enrollment in a BESE approved Mentor Teacher training program, as well as up to \$175 to cover the cost of the portfolio assessment for eligible participants.

Mentor and New Teacher Scope and Sequence of Responsibilities

- This guidance is designed to strengthen mentor support for new teachers throughout their first year. Join the course using the course code, **51018F65**, in the [Professional Learning Platform](#).

Dyslexia Core Assessment Support Program

- The [Dyslexia Core Assessment Support Program](#) application is open, allowing families of students identified as “at risk” for dyslexia to apply for up to \$500 in reimbursement for a dyslexia core assessment completed by an LDOE-approved provider.
- The [program webpage](#) includes key details, the application portal link, and parent-facing communication materials outlining eligibility, the application process, and next steps.



**DYSLEXIA
CORE ASSESSMENT
SUPPORT PROGRAM**

If your child was recently identified as at risk for dyslexia through a school screening, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) offers support to help families pay for next steps.

- Families may receive up to \$500 per student, per year toward the cost of a Dyslexia Core Assessment
- The assessment must be completed by an LDOE-approved provider
- Providers set their own pricing; families may be responsible for any costs above \$500
- Approved providers are paid directly through the program

WHAT IS A DYSLEXIA CORE ASSESSMENT?

A Dyslexia Core Assessment is a more in-depth evaluation that helps determine whether a student has dyslexia or needs additional literacy support. The assessment may include:

- ✓ Reading and language skill checks
- ✓ A review of academic performance
- ✓ Word reading and decoding activities
- ✓ A brief family interview

To learn more or begin the process, families may visit the LDOE Dyslexia Support for Families webpage.

Scan the QR code for:

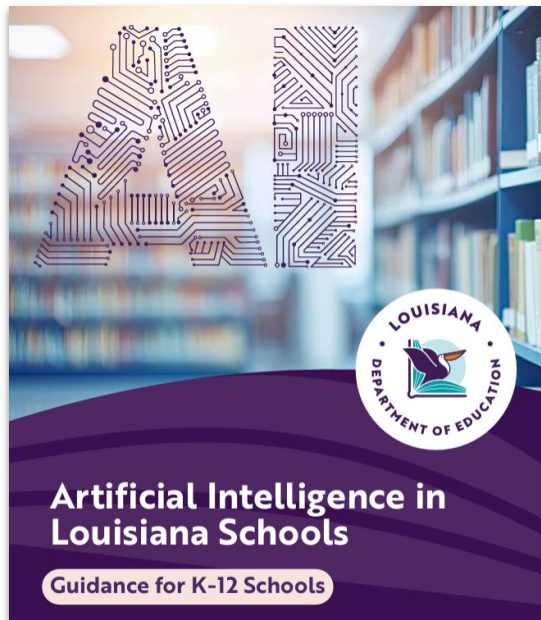
- Step-by-step guidance
- Access to the secure application portal
- A list of approved providers



Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.



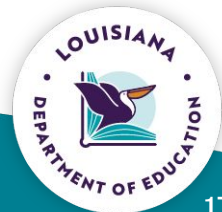
Updated Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance



This [guidance](#) includes new and updated supports for schools and systems.

- Leader, teacher, and student AI Competencies
- AI Evaluation Tool
- Teacher Toolkit created by the AI Teacher Collaborative
- Suggested professional development

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.



ELA Guidebooks: Grade 3 Foundational Skills

Words in Practice Activities: Opportunities for students to build skills in decoding, spelling, and understanding complex, multisyllabic words

- Now available in the units [The Stories Julian Tells](#) and [Cajun Folktales](#)
- Activities for remaining grade 3 units coming this fall

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.



Academic Content Opportunities

- BESE adopted the [revised physical education standards](#) in August, and full implementation begins in 2027–2028. LDOE is providing [professional learning](#) to support preparation.
- The [United States Senate Youth Program](#) (USSYP) 2026-2027 [application](#) is open now through **October 9**. See the [2026-27 Louisiana USSYP Logistics Memo](#) for details.
- The [2026-2027 Technology Readiness Tool](#) (TRT) collection is open now through **October 15**. See the [Instructions for Completing the TRT Submission Form](#) for more information.

Zearn Implementation

A new [Leader Guide for Implementing Zearn Math](#) gives leaders a practical roadmap for incorporating Zearn Math into the district's math vision. It outlines three actions that reinforce high-quality, teacher-led instruction and expand access to grade-level math, which include:

- Designing coherent Tier 1 instruction
- Building consistent systems and schedules
- Using data to monitor progress

This guide reinforces the importance of consistent access to grade-level math as part of a strong instructional system.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.



Math and ELA Standards Resources

Math

- [Standards Institutes -Leader Training](#) Asynchronous Training is now available. Access Code : **A72E57U7**
- Resources on the [Louisiana Math web page](#)
 - Standards Resource Guides - Standards Resource Guides section
 - The [Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics](#) and [Crosswalk document](#) - Standards section

ELA Resources

- [Louisiana Student Standards for English Language Arts](#) and [Crosswalk document](#)
- [ELA Standards Reference Guide](#) available for grades K-2

Please contact math@la.gov or elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.



Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring (HDT)

Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring Plans are due in eGMS by **September 15** for LDOE approval. Planning resources 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.

Please contact tutoring@la.gov with questions.



School Support Institutes 2026-2027

Session 1		Session 2	
Monroe	Sept 23, 2026	New Orleans	Jan 20, 2027
Shreveport	Sept 24, 2026	Baton Rouge	Jan 21, 2027
New Orleans	Sept 29, 2026	Monroe	Jan 26, 2027
Baton Rouge	Sept 30, 2026	Shreveport	Jan 27, 2027
Lafayette	Oct 1, 2026	Lafayette	Feb 2, 2027

- Principals of CIR schools should [register](#) their 3-member team.
- Principal supervisors of CIR schools should register and attend.
- The New Orleans cohort location has been moved to the ***Hilton New Orleans Airport***.
- Please see the [overview document](#) for session locations and cohort assignments.

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.



System Leader Regional Collaborations 2026-2027

Session 1		Session 2	
Monroe	Sept 23, 2026	Baton Rouge	Jan 21, 2027
Shreveport	Sept 24, 2026	Monroe	Jan 26, 2027
Baton Rouge	Sept 30, 2026	Shreveport	Jan 27, 2027
Lafayette	Oct 1, 2026	Lafayette	Feb 2, 2027

Pathways include: System Instructional Alignment, Attendance, High School Opportunities, and Business Leaders Collaboration.

Sessions will be held from 1 - 4:30 p.m. Please see the [overview document](#) for more information.

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions.



Teaching and Learning Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Education Technology Monthly Call	<u>September 10 at 9 a.m.</u>
Numeracy Screener Response Office Hours	<u>September 17 at 10 a.m.</u>
Certification Monthly Call	<u>September 21 at 10:30 a.m.</u>
Teaching and Learning Monthly Call	<u>September 22 at 1 p.m.</u>
Preparation Provider Monthly Call	<u>September 30 at 10 a.m.</u>
Social Studies Office Hours	<u>October 7 at 3:15 p.m.</u>

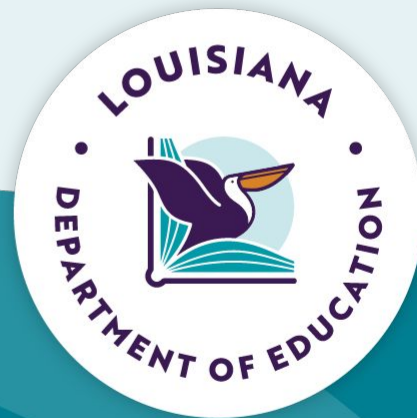
Visit our website for a full list of calls, newsletters, and support:

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Office of Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics

Dr. Thomas Lambert, Assistant Superintendent

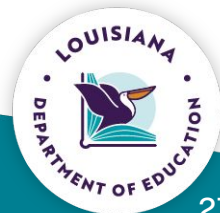


Data System Collections

EdLink 360

- EdLink 360 opened **August 10** for the 2026–2027 collection year.
- The last day to submit all extracts to the EdLink 360 SFTP for the Fall LEAP High School Rostering collection is **September 16 by 5 p.m.**
 - This collection of data is used for precoding the Fall LEAP high school assessment.
- The last day to submit DCFS Mandated Reporter Training data to the EdLink 360 SFTP is **September 30 by 5 p.m.** (more details in policy portion of this call)

Please submit a ticket to the [Data Systems Support portal](#) for questions or additional information.



Data System Collections

- The last day to submit extracts to EdLink 360 SFTP for October 1 MFP/IDEA and Mentor & Resident Teacher Funding collections is **October 28 by 5 p.m.**
 - October 1 MFP/IDEA data are used to allocate MFP and IDEA funding and in Economically Disadvantaged (ED) calculations.
 - Mentor & Resident Teacher data are used to allocate Mentor and Resident stipends.
- The last day to submit Dropout Correction data to the EdLink 360 Dropout Correction module is **November 11 by 5 p.m.**
- The Student Transcript System (STS) is now closed for the 2025–2026 school year. The system will reopen for 2026–2027 submissions on **December 7.**

Please submit a ticket to the [Data Systems Support portal](#) for questions or additional information.



Data Collection Support Structure

- **Throughout** - Data coordinators can submit **tickets**, attend weekly **office hours**/monthly **webinars**, and request **1:1 meetings**
- **6 weeks prior** - Dedicated EIC will conduct missing data **phone calls**
- **6 weeks prior** - EdLink 360 **Data Quality email outreach**
- **4 weeks prior** - **Superintendent** email collection update
- **4 weeks prior** - **Geocoding outreach** (MFP Collections Only)
- **3 weeks prior** - Book a **critical support 1:1 meeting**
- **2 weeks prior** - **Superintendent** email collection update
- **1-2 weeks post** - **Accountability** outreach
- **2 weeks post** - Statement of **Attestation Due**

Please submit a ticket to the [Data Systems Support portal](#) for questions or additional information.

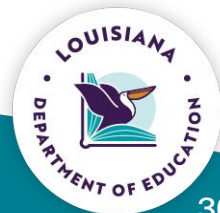


Student Transfer Data Collection

Act 420 ([R.S. 17:4035.1](#)) requires that public school districts report data around student transfer requests, including the number of interdistrict and intradistrict transfer requests received, accepted, appealed, and denied.

- Submit data by **Friday, October 2** through the [Act 420 Annual Reporting Jotform](#).
- Report qualifying requests submitted during the transfer period established in the school system's local policy.
- Charter LEAs are exempt from this data collection.

Please contact [Data System Support](#) with questions.



Early Childhood Accountability

Early Childhood Community Networks will begin creating CLASS Observation Plans for Fall 2026.

- Per *Bulletin 140*, all publicly-funded pre-K classrooms in schools must be observed once in Fall 2026 and once in Spring 2027, through the local Community Network.
- Local observations must be scheduled in the [Early Childhood Observation System \(ECOS\)](#) by **October 1**.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.



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, 2026.

- Per *Bulletin 140* and Community Network Lead Agency (CNLA) assurances, child count must be submitted via the [Child Count Portal](#) by **October 31**.

Please contact alicia.franklin@la.gov with questions.



Data Certification for SPS Indicators

- Louisiana Data Review is open through **September 11** for school systems with a grade 12 and graduation cohort for reviewing all data included in the *Thrive* indicator. Official accountability contacts and their backups received login credentials for their accounts and are responsible for managing the requests for changes to data that are documented.
- On **September 3**, assessment rosters will also be available in LA Data Review through **September 18**.
- This is the final opportunity that school systems have to request changes to some data used to calculate the SPS. Appeals will not be granted based on data that can be changed during this review.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions



Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
EdLink 360 Weekly Office Hours	<u>September 15 and 19 at 11 a.m.</u>
EdLink Ops-SPS Weekly Office Hours	<u>September 10, 17, 24 and October 1 at 9 a.m.</u>
eScholar Office Hours	<u>September 17 and October 1 at 10 a.m.</u>
Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar	<u>October 1 at 1 p.m.</u>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<u>September 11 at 3 p.m.</u>

Visit our website for a full list of calls, newsletters, and support:

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- [Newsletters](#)
- [Menu of Services](#)



Office of Career and College Readiness

Dr. Ernise Singleton, Assistant Superintendent



Jump Start 2.0 Enhancements

- The window to request enhancements for Jump Start 2.0 is open and will close on October 1 at 11:59 p.m.
- Jump Start enhancements are based on recommendations made by CTE supervisors and approved by the Jump Start 2.0 Review Committee and BESE.
- Requests can be submitted through the [Jump Start 2.0 Enhancement Request Form](#).

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions.

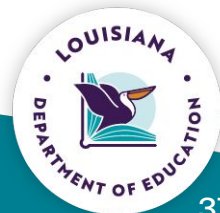


Course Choice School/System Webinar

The 2026-2027 Course Choice School/System Webinar is scheduled for **September 8 at 1 p.m.**

- Navigating and reporting in the Course Choice Portal
- [Course Choice Webinar](#)

Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.



Pupil Progression Plans

Louisiana state law ([RS 17:24.4](#)) requires local education agencies (LEAs) to establish a comprehensive [Pupil Progression Plan \(PPP\)](#) that addresses student placement and promotion.

Pupil Progression Plans should be submitted as a PDF to ppp@la.gov by October 31.

Please contact PPP@la.gov with questions.



Save the Date: Fall 2026 Counselor Institute

Fall 2026 Counselor Institute sessions have been scheduled. Registration will be available later this month.

- **Rapides Parish:** October 8
- **Bossier Parish:** October 13
- **EBR Parish:** October 23
- **Jefferson Parish:** October 30

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.



Career and College Readiness Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
School Safety Monthly Call	<u>September 9 at 10 a.m.</u>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<u>September 17 at 3 p.m.</u>

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Office of School Choice

Germain Gilson, Assistant Superintendent



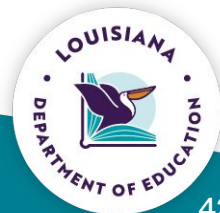
Charter Authorization Updates

Key Dates for Local Authorizers

- **September 8, 2026:** Deadline to post application materials to website
- **October 19, 2026:** Charter Applications are due to districts
- **November 2, 2026:** Local boards [notify](#) LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district
- **January 28, 2027:** Deadline to consider charter applications
- **January 29, 2027:** Deadline to [notify](#) LDOE of local board recommendations

Note: If the district has not made a decision by January 28, 2027, the applicant is eligible to appeal to BESE.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



Charter Authorization Updates

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

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

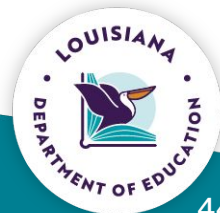


Charter Authorization Updates

Local Authorizer Contacts- Please complete the [Charter Authorizing Contact Information Survey](#) by September 8, 2026 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 8, 2026.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



Charter Accountability Updates

Save the Date:

[Register](#) for the annual Charter Refresher being held on **September 15th** at the East Baton Rouge Professional Development Center.

Session topics will include:

- Assessment & Accountability Overview
- Data Management
- EGMS
- Diverse Learners

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



School Choice Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Local Authorizer Monthly Call	<u>September 9 at 11 a.m.</u>
BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call	<u>September 10 at 9 a.m.</u>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<u>September 16 at 2 p.m.</u>

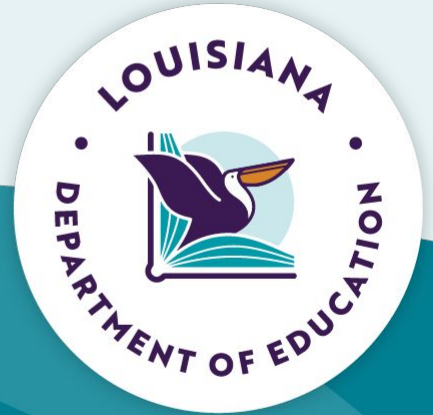
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Office of School System Relations

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff



Award Nomination Portals Now Open

- School Support Employee & School Health Service Provider
 - [Nominations Portal](#) - Closes September 11
- Teacher, Principal, New Teacher & Early Childhood
 - [Nominations Portal](#) - Closes on September 30
- Nominations Process:
 - Stakeholders submit nominations.
 - Nomination information is shared with school systems.
 - School systems consider nominations in their selection process.
- For more information visit the [Staff and Educator Awards](#)

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.



Applications Open September 22

- School Support Employee & School Health Service Provider:
 - [Outstanding School Support Employee Online Application](#)
 - [School Health Service Provider Online Application](#)
 - Application deadline: December 10
- Informational Calls:
 - [September 23 at 9 a.m.](#)
 - [September 30 at 11:30 a.m.](#)

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.



Students of the Year Application Process

- Students of the Year Information and Materials
 - [Student Awards](#)
- [School System Information and Participation Level Survey](#)
 - Due September 9



Please contact exemplaryeducator@la.gov with questions.



Office of Early Childhood Care and Education

Barry Carter, Assistant Superintendent

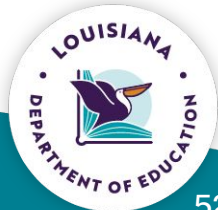


Act 587: Program Monitoring

Act 587 (2026) requires that all prekindergarten programs comply with Louisiana's revised Child Safety and Welfare Standards and that the LDOE shall conduct monitoring activities for compliance with those standards:

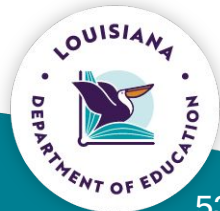
- Monitoring activities shall include an annual unannounced site visit and prompt response to reports of noncompliance with the child safety and welfare standards.
- In addition to what is observed on the site visit, monitoring specialists will also review the site's written procedures regarding the Act 587 child safety and welfare items.

Please contact ldelicensing@la.gov with any questions.



Act 587: Program Monitoring

- Monitoring will be conducted by the LDOE Early Childhood Licensing Division.
- Documentation of visits will be listed on the [LDOE School Finder Website](#) under the Early Childhood tab on each school page.
- Any violation of the standards shall be documented by the LDOE on the School Finder website.
 - The system Superintendent will also be notified by the LDOE of any non-compliance.



Act 587: Program Monitoring

- At the monitoring visit, LDOE Licensing staff will arrive with visible identification, sign in at the front desk, and request to meet with the Principal or designated representative to state the visit purpose.
- The LDOE Licensing staff member will enter all pre-K classrooms, playgrounds used by pre-K children, and cafeteria areas (if children are present in these areas at the time of the visit) to assess compliance with the health and safety standards.



Act 587: Information for Parents

R.S. 17:407.41 still requires schools to distribute, at the beginning of each school year, an LDOE-provided informational document to the parents and legal guardians of all children enrolled in the prekindergarten program.

- The document may be distributed electronically.
- This document, which includes information about where parents can report complaints, should also be posted at the site in a location visible to parents.

Please contact ldelicensing@la.gov with any questions.



Act 587: Information for Parents

Act 587 further requires that any parent who chooses to enroll his/her child in a school prekindergarten program shall be provided the following information:

- The prekindergarten program is operated by a school.
- The prekindergarten program is not either of the following:
 - Subject to federal daycare regulations or
 - Licensed by the LDOE as an early learning center
- The monitoring and complaint processes regarding compliance with the child safety and welfare standards

Please contact ldelicensing@la.gov with any questions.



Licensure of Programs Serving Pre-Kindergarten

Louisiana [R.S. 17:24.8](#) states that “Each city, parish, or other local public school board may develop and offer pre-kindergarten instruction. The youngest age at which a child may enter pre-kindergarten provided for by this Paragraph shall be four years old 4 by September thirtieth of the year in which the child enrolls in prekindergarten.”

In conjunction, [Bulletin 137–Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations](#) states that “A pre-kindergarten program operated by a public school serving children in grades kindergarten and above, and in which all children have not reached age 4 by September 30 of the current school year, shall be licensed.”

Early Childhood Funding Spenddown

The LDOE is conducting individual calls with Early Childhood Community Network Lead Agencies and Ready Start Networks to support the timely spend down of Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funds.

- The LDOE will review current spending and remaining grant balances with each recipient.
- Calls will focus on identifying plans for the timely and allowable use of remaining funds.
- Network Lead Agencies should be prepared to discuss anticipated expenditures and any barriers that may impact full spend down.

Please prioritize PDG spending and ensure plans are in place to fully expend remaining funds by or before December 30, 2026.

Early Childhood Calls and Support

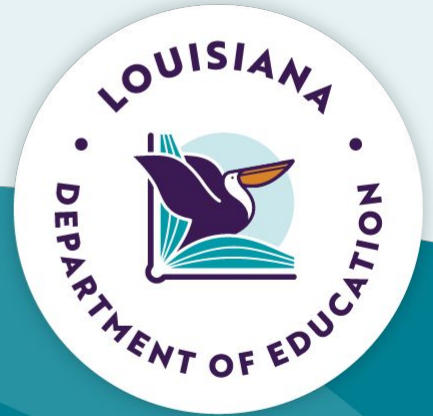
Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Early Childhood Community Network Office Hours	Tuesday, September 8, 3-4 p.m.

Visit our website for a full list of calls, newsletters, and support:

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Questions



Thank you for joining today's call!

Our next System Leaders Call is October 2 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](#)

