System Leaders Monthly Call



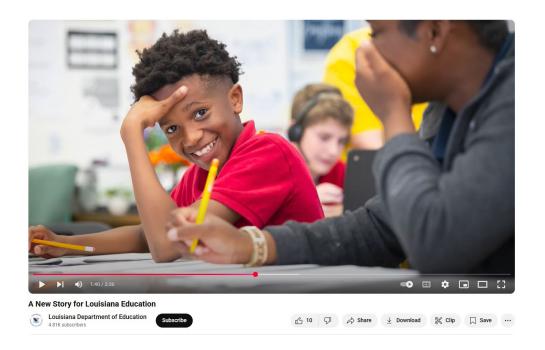
Celebrate Freedom Week 2025: Ronald Reagan Oratory Competition

In partnership with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute, the LDOE invites students to participate in the **Louisiana Division** of the Ronald Reagan Oratory Competition in honor of Freedom Week 2025.

- Students will recite a pre-selected speech by President Ronald Reagan.
- Finalists will be celebrated at a Statewide Showcase in Covington.
- Winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to California to represent Louisiana at the national competition held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.
- Application Window: August 4 September 1
- To learn more, register, and access support materials, please visit the <u>LDOE</u>
 <u>Celebrate Freedom Week landing page</u>.

A New Story for Louisiana Education

- Louisiana education video from opening session of Teacher Leader Summit.
- Includes news and images from schools across state.
- Available on LDOE YouTube.
- Email <u>ted.beasley@la.gov</u> if you would like the video file.





Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff



2025 Legislative Session Review

The 2025 Regular Legislative Session adjourned on June 12. Please review acts passed to assess next steps needed for your district. To support implementation, LDOE has provided the following resources:

- 2025 Acts of Note for System Leaders
- 2025 Legislative Update Highlights Recording



Policy Waiver Requests

The <u>BESE Policy Waiver Request Form</u> is now located on the <u>School Policies</u> page of the LDOE website.

- Valid for one school year.
- Must include a completed form.
- Must include a signed letter from the system superintendent justifying the request.
- Submit requests to the policy office for processing.



2025 Legislative Session Review

- Act 409 (2025)
 - Requires new school staff to pass a DCFS registry check prior to hire.
 Permission to access the "DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Clearance System" may be requested through EdLink security.
 - Will require reporting of mandated reporter training completion rates starting with the 2026-2027 school year.
- Act 479 (2025)
 - Requires installation of cameras in certain classrooms by February 1.
 - Requires updates to local policy.
- Act 103 (2025)
 - Requires updates to local policy.



FY25 Federal Funding Update

The U.S. Department of Education began issuing the remaining FY25 ESEA formula Grant Award Notifications (GAN) this week.

Additional details regarding GAN award amounts for each funding source will be shared during the Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Office Hours on **Thursday, August 7 at 10:30 a.m.**

- Webinar Date and Time: August 7 at 10:30 a.m.
- Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93657555692
- Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799
- Meeting ID#: 936 5755 5692

Please note: Acceptance of grant funds constitutes acceptance of all GAN conditions, including the above provision. Additionally, ED will conduct reviews of grantees' use of funds to ensure ongoing compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.



During the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit, the LDOE launched <u>The Power of Presence</u>, a research-based plan to help schools boost attendance and remove the barriers that keep kids from showing up.

This strategy includes clear guidance, best practices, and a Three-Tiered Support System:

- Universal support for all school systems.
- Targeted collaboration for systems with attendance challenges.
- Intensive, hands-on support for those most in need, including help from dedicated Attendance Improvement Specialists.

Super App Overview

The Super App is a comprehensive application that allows LEAs to plan for their needs, access their formula funds, and apply for competitive funds on one timeline.

Phase	Action	Review Step
Original Application Launches in October Deadline to submit: 1/23	Approval of CIR/UIR-A Strategy	The LDOE will review answers to designated questions within the Super App to approve the school system's CIR and UIR strategies and grant competitive funds. Please note: Only school systems with CIR/UIR-A sites (with the exception of Strong School Systems and Computer Science) will be considered for competitive funds to meet the <u>federal requirement for each school system's ESSA plan</u> (20 USC §6312).
Amendment 1 Opens late April Deadline to submit: 6/30	Approval of Super App	The LDOE will review school system budgets for formula and competitive funds to ensure that each expenditure is allowable under the specific grant.



School System Planning Key Dates

Date	Item
October	2026-2027 School System Planning and Budgeting Workbook released
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
Federal Nutrition Support	August 5 at 1 p.m.
Attendance	August 7 at 8 a.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations	August 21 at 10 a.m.



Teaching and Learning

Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Deputy Superintendent



Menu of Services

A <u>comprehensive catalogue</u> of support services available to districts from the LDOE Office of Teaching and Learning.

- Designed to enhance instructional quality
- Promote continuous improvement through high quality instructional materials and professional learning structures of Instructional Leadership Teams and Teacher Collaboration

School systems should designate a single point of contact to request support from the LDOE Teaching and Learning Team.





Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring

Act 771 (2024) requires that all students in grades K-5 who did not achieve mastery on any statewide assessment in reading or math to be eligible for expanded academic support. School systems shall submit their Accelerate: HDT Plans through eGMS by September 15 to LDOE for approval.

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.



LEADS

- Evaluator training and certification is required prior to conducting formal observations. LEADS evaluator <u>training sessions</u> are available this fall.
- A webinar will be held on <u>August 20 at 1 p.m.</u> for systems transitioning to LEADS.

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES)

- Principal Survey results are available in LES for systems that participated in the Louisiana Leader Rubric (LLR) Learning Year.
- To begin evaluations for the 2025-2026 school year, data managers can begin uploading the EdLink360 Staff Extract File on August 11.

Louisiana Educator Certification (LEC) Portal

- TeachLALive! will be retired on August 12 and replaced with LEC
- LEC launch date was July 28.
- Training sessions for authorized users were held and recorded sessions will be posted.
- Reference documents available on <u>TeachLouisiana.net</u> and TeachLALive!
- The window to submit any remaining PDF applications through TeachLALive! will be approximately two weeks-until August 11.
 - Plan to submit any PDF applications quickly as we approach the end date for TeachLALive!
- HR or Preparation Provider authorization will require an eScholar Staff ID.



Act 409 Focus Areas Related to Certification

Signed into law as <u>Act 409 (2025)</u>, this legislation strengthens child welfare and safety standards in education. While much of it applies to early learning centers, several key changes impact all school systems, including:

- <u>LA R.S. 15:587.1(C)</u> -changes to the list of prohibited convictions to include human trafficking and sexual battery of persons with infirmities,
- LA R.S. 17:8.7 BESE appeal/records review, and
- <u>LA R.S. 17:15</u> hiring and dismissal practices related to criminal background check (CBC) and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) state central registry.

System Leader Regional Collaborations

Please visit the <u>overview document</u> and <u>registration form</u> for dates and locations.

Pathway	Intended Audience
Instructional Coherence	Supervisors of Instruction, PD Directors, SPED Directors
Leadership Capacity Building	Principal Supervisors/Evaluators
System Coherence	Superintendents, CAOs, Assistant Superintendents
Attendance	Child Welfare & Attendance Supervisors, Student Services Leaders
High School Opportunities	Career and Technical Education Supervisors
Business Managers	System-level/Charter business managers

School Support Institutes

- Attendance is required for 3-member ILT from each CIR school.
- This year's focus will be on strengthening literacy and math instruction.
- See <u>overview document</u> for <u>registration</u>, cohort assignments, and venue locations.

In-person Session 1 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.		Session 2 Asynchronous	In-person Session 3 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.		In-person Session 4
Monroe	Sept 23, 2025		New Orleans	Jan 21, 2026	
Shreveport	Sept 24, 2025	Participants will complete a self-paced asynchronous session online.	Baton Rouge	Jan 22, 2026	Teacher
Lafayette	Sept 30, 2025		Lafayette	Jan 23, 2026	Leader Summit
New Orleans	Oct 1, 2025		Monroe	Jan 27, 2026	2026
Baton Rouge	Oct 2, 2025		Shreveport	Jan 28, 2026	

Louisiana Numeracy Excellence Training (LANE)

Act 353 of 2025 requires K-3 teachers of mathematics to complete the Louisiana Numeracy Excellence Training (LANE).

- Expands legislation passed in Act 260 (2023).
- System numeracy contacts have course code information.
- Systems should establish a plan to support teachers in meeting this requirement.



Suite of Support for English Learners

- English Learner Institute for EL Directors/Coordinators
 - August 25, January 26, March 16, and May 14 Claiborne Building, 9 a.m. 3 p.m.
- EL Impact Calls for School Systems
 - Tier 1 (1-100 ELs), October 16, 1-2 p.m.
 - Tier 2 (101-999 ELs), October 23, 1-2 p.m.
 - Tier 3 (1000+ ELs), October 30, 1-2 p.m.
- Free Professional Learning Platform Courses to Strengthen Best Instructional Practice
 - 7 courses will be available this month on Canopy to support classroom teachers,
 EL educators, interventionists, and instructional leaders.
- Fast Track EL Add On Certification
 - <u>Tuition-free courses</u> for EL add on certification and professional learning courses are available. Email registration@aspdgroup.com.

Teaching and Learning Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Diverse Learner Office Hours	August 12 at 2 p.m.
EdTech	August 14 at 9 a.m.
Certification	August 18 at 10:30 a.m.
LEADS Webinar	August 20 at 1 p.m.
Preparation Provider	August 27 at 10 a.m.
Teaching and Learning	August 27 at 1 p.m.



Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics

Thomas Lambert, Assistant Superintendent



Interests and Opportunities

- **2024-2025:** Preliminary I&O scoring files will be dropped in FTP next week. Please review and email <u>accountability@la.gov</u> with any questions by August 27.
- **2025-2026:** Starting in 2025-2026, only Alternative Sites will use the Interests and Opportunities Index. All other sites will follow the revised accountability system, *Grow. Achieve. Thrive.*, which does not include the I&O Index.
- For Alternative Sites, the 2025-2026 I&O Menu and Guidance are in the <u>Accountability Library</u> under I&O Resources. The Jotform opens August 26.

Early Childhood Accountability

Early Childhood Community Networks will begin creating CLASS Observation Plans for Fall 2025.

- Per Bulletin 140, all publicly-funded pre-K classrooms in schools must be observed once in Fall 2025 and once in Spring 2026, through the local Community Network.
- Local observations for Fall 2025 may begin as early as August 15.
- Third-party observations may begin as early as September 1.



Updated Data System Support Ticketing System

LDOE's Data System Support Team is excited to announce the transition to a new Data System Support Ticketing System on August 1.

System Support New System (Zendesk) Training Webinar:

- Webinar Date and Time: Thursday, July 31 at 1 p.m.
- Webinar Link: https://meet.google.com/oua-akxq-vdm
- Webinar Phone Number: (US) +1 321-529-9098 PIN: 467 673 495#



Updated Data System Support Ticketing System

The new support system is for:

- K–12 Data Managers
- **EdLink Security Coordinators**
- SIS Coordinators
- Staff responsible for submitting data to EdLink360
- Users managing eScholar, CVR, TSDL, Staff, Assessment, STS, and other LDOE data systems
- District personnel seeking technical guidance or data submission support



Updated Data System Support Ticketing System

The new support system will streamline the process of submitting and tracking support requests. Additionally, it will provide a more efficient, organized, and transparent experience for both LDOE agents and external stakeholders.

External users with MyLa credentials can:

- Sign in to submit tickets
- View ticket history and status updates

External users without MyLa credentials can:

- Submit requests using the public web-based submission form
- Receive responses via email but *cannot* track ticket history in the portal.



2025-2026 Data Collection

The 2024-2025 staff end-of-year data collection final snapshot is August 8. Files are due by August 7 at 5 p.m. in order to be included in the EOY collection.

The 2025-2026 students and staff data collection will open on August 11. Data Managers are encouraged to submit data daily so that EdLink 360's live dashboards are current and useful for Data Managers and for System & School Leaders.

- October 1 MFP/IDEA
 - August 11: Collection opens
 - October 22 by 5 p.m.: Deadline for files to be submitted
 - October 23: Collection closed; snapshot taken



Student Data Collection & Consent (Grades 8-12)

Per LA R.S. 17:3914 (K):

- Public schools must collect student name, DOB, SSN, transcript, race/ethnicity with parental consent.
- Data may only be shared with Louisiana colleges, the Board of Regents, and LOFSA for admissions, financial aid, and reporting/evaluation purposes.
- Each year, public schools must collect parental consent for students in grades 8-12.
 Parents may deny consent for the data collection and sharing.
- Public schools must annually notify parents or guardian with their right and the process used to withdraw consent.

School districts must: submit student data (name, DOB, SSN) to eScholar and the LOSFA parental permission flag in the Student Transcript System.

With whom will these data be shared? The BOR/LOSFA receives a secure file transfer of these data directly from the Student Transcript System.

LA FIRST Data Collection

La. R.S. 17:3138.12:

- Authorizes the Board of Regents to establish LA FIRST at UL Lafayette's Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center.
- This law requires school systems to submit student to LA FIRST and the LDOE. Parental permission is not required.
- LA FIRST may access all data outlined in the <u>data-sharing agreement</u>; including LASID data from LDOE and PII (name, DOB, SSN) form LEAs via eScholar.

School districts must: submit student data (names, DOB, SSN) to eScholar and either opt into the LA FIRST agreement to allow LDOE to share data <u>or</u> share the data directly to LA FIRST.

With whom will these data be shared? LA FIRST receives student PII and LASID via secure transfer from eScholar. LDOE also securely shares LASID-linked enrollment, assessment, and demographic data as required by law.

LWC Data Reporting Requirements for ROI Analysis

Previously, <u>LA R.S. 17:3914 (N)</u> required parental consent to collect and share SSNs with LWC via eScholar for evaluating state and federal programs that prepare students for postsecondary education, workforce training, and employment.

Act 187 (2025) repealed LA R.S. 17:3914 (C)(1)(j) and (N)(1)(c) and amended N(1)(a) to:

- Add a return on investment analysis by LWC.
- Remove the parental consent requirement. Public secondary school governing authorities must now collect SSNs for all diploma-seeking seniors by the start of senior year and report them (matched to student names and IDs) to LDOE, which will then share the data with LWC.

School districts must: submit these student SSNs to eScholar.

With whom will these data be shared? LDOE will securely transfer SSN and LASID connected data to LWC via eScholar.

Annual Student Privacy Notification to Parents

- Per the USDOE, school systems are to annually notify parents and eligible students (over age 18) about their rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).
- Such notification must include but is not limited to:
 - Procedure to inspect and review educational records
 - Procedure to request amendment of education records
 - A specification of criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate 0 educational interest if the educational agency or institution discloses or intends to disclose PII from education records to school officials without consent; and
 - Right to file a complaint with the USDOE concerning alleged violations of FERPA or PPRA

School districts must: Annually notify parents of FERPA and PPRA rights **Helpful Resources:**

- A Parent Guide to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) General Guidance
- FERPA Model Notification of Rights for Elementary & Secondary Schools
- PPRA Model General Notice of Rights
- Model Form for Disclosure to Parents of Dependent Students
- Model Form for Disclosure to Parents of Dependent Students and Consent Form for Disclosure to Parents



Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
EdLink Weekly Q&A Session	August 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 11 a.m.
eScholar Office Hours	August 7 and 21 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Webinar	August 14 Bootcamp at 1 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability	August 19 at 3 p.m.



Career and College Readiness

Dr. Ernise Singleton, Assistant Superintendent



Community Service Diploma Seal

Students can work towards earning the <u>Community Service Endorsement</u> by completing and documenting 80 service hours prior to graduation.

Please refer students to the Community Service Opportunities Document for ways they can volunteer in their community.

United States Senate Youth

In partnership with the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the LDOE will select two students to represent Louisiana at the 64th annual Washington Week, March 7-14, 2026.

- The application and national brochure are available on our website.
- Only juniors or seniors holding a qualifying office are eligible to apply.
- Essay topics will only be released to a staff member via the application.
- **Application deadline:** October 3
- Finalists notified: October 17
- State competition concludes: November 6
- Winner announced: December



Financial Aid Planning

The 2026-2027 FAFSA application will open on or before October 1, 2025.

- Interested students and families may begin creating and/or resetting username and passwords (<u>FSA IDs</u>) well in advance of the opening date.
- Fill out the FAFSA application (if you want to apply for the federal Pell grant, federal student loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and TOPS).
- The **TOPS** application is available on the LOSFA website (if you want TOPS only).



Work-Based Learning

System leaders are encouraged to leverage the robust resources available to build and expand their work-based learning programs. State-developed guidance, expansion guides, employer guides, funding support, and counselor support is designed to simplify planning, build strong industry partnerships, and align pathways with workforce needs.

Access all resources on the Work-Based Learning landing page.



Digital Device Guidelines

The <u>Digital Devices Guidelines</u>, developed in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health and other stakeholders, provide school systems with health and safety resources for the effective integration of digital devices in schools.

The resources are intended to provide school systems with age-appropriate time and usage guidelines regarding various digital devices.



Crisis Management and Response Plans

Act 334 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session requires the following:

- The local school superintendent must make an annual report to the public school governing authority on the status of the crisis management and response plan of each school under its jurisdiction.
- A copy of the report must be submitted to both the LDOE and The Center for Safe Schools.

All documents should be submitted electronically via the <u>Data Management</u> <u>FTP</u> site. Please email <u>healthyschools@la.gov</u> once the files have been uploaded by your FTP Coordinator.

Career and College Readiness Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Alternative Education	August 14 at 10 a.m.
Office of Career and College Readiness	August 21 at 3 p.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools	August 28 at 2 p.m.



School Choice

Germain Gilson, Assistant Superintendent



2025-2026 Application Process

- The LDOE will be proposing the 2025-2026 charter request for applications (RFA) timeline and common charter application for new and experienced operators at the August 2025 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 2027.
- All local school boards are required to make public, through website
 posting and in printed form, the guidelines for submitting a charter
 proposal, forms, and timelines for accepting and reviewing each charter
 proposal.

Proposed 2025-2026 Charter RFA Timeline

Proposed Timeline	Action	Details
August 25, 2025	LDOE releases common applications and toolboxes with application resources.	Available on LDOE website.
September 8, 2025	Local school 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 20, 2025	Local school boards 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 7, 2025	Local school boards notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district.	Submit notification: <u>Jotform</u>
January 29, 2026	Local school board deadline to consider Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications.	Local school board action required by this date.
January 30, 2026	Local school boards notify LDOE of board recommendations.	Submit notification: <u>Jotform</u>
February 2, 2026	LDOE application opens for Type 2 and 4 applicants.	Denied applicants may apply as a Type 2

Reminder: Home Study for School Districts

- Home study reports are provided in district FTPs monthly. These documents are purged after 2 months.
- The updated Home Study Monthly Reporting Schedule will be available in the July Home Study folder.
- Districts should not submit home study applications on behalf of families, nor should they give a home study application to families when students exit or drop out of your school.



BESE-Authorized Charter Board Training

- A virtual training session for BESE-Authorized Charter Board members has been scheduled for August 5 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Board members from all charter types are welcome to attend.



New Exit Code - LA GATOR

A new exit code has been added to track students who exit to the Louisiana. Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program.

- WITHDRAW REASON CODE-47 = Exit to GATOR
- School leaders, particularly those dealing with student withdrawals, should communicate to Data Managers when to use the 47 exit code
- Possible Question for Family: "Are you leaving because you've been awarded a scholarship through the LA GATOR Scholarship Program?"

Implementation: August 11, 2025



Office of School Choice Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Local Authorizer	August 13 at 11 a.m.
BESE-Authorized Charter	August 14 at 9 a.m.



School System Relations

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff



Department Names Award Honorees

- Over 70 honorees were celebrated at the 19th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala presented by the LDOE and Dream Teachers.
- On this exciting evening, the division-level and overall honorees were also named.
- **Award Program Honorees:**
 - Teacher and Principal of the Year
 - New Teacher of the Year
 - Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year
 - Milken Educator Award Recipients
 - Louisiana Public Interest Fellow



Early Childhood Care and Education

Barry Carter, Assistant Superintendent



Act 409(2025): Compliance Requirements

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

The LDOE is responsible for developing 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

Beginning in August 2025, the LDOE will provide the required informational document annually to all public pre-K programs and early learning centers.

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.



Office of Early Childhood Care and Education Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Early Childhood Community Network Office Hours	August 12 at 3 p.m.



Questions



Thank you for joining today's call!

Our next System Leaders Monthly Call is Friday, September 5 at 9 a.m.

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

Helpful Links

- LDOE Website
- School Improvement Library

Support Toolboxes

- Teacher
- System
- Principal
- Counselor

