System Leaders Monthly Call

December 5, 2025

Office of Chief of Staff

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff

School System Planning Process

The 2026-2027 Next Level Vision for Success School System Planning and Budgeting Workbook, including 2026-2027 Super App questions, was released on October 30. Access the launch deck for additional information.

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.

Please contact LDOEoperations@la.gov with questions.
Include "School System Planning" in the subject.

3

Attendance Communication Requirement

Third Unexcused Absence/Tardy Occurrence

Per *Bulletin 741* - *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, §1103. Compulsory Attendance*:

- The principal of a school, or their designee, notifies the parent or legal guardian in writing.
- The principal or designee holds a conference with the student's parent or legal guardian.
- This notification includes information about the parent or legal guardian's legal responsibility to enforce the student's attendance at school and the civil penalties that may be incurred if the student is determined to be habitually absent or habitually tardy.
- The student's parent or legal guardian signs a receipt for the notification. Document attempts (even if unsuccessful with capturing a signature).

Access LDOE's Power of Presence guidance for additional information.

Office of Chief of Staff Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Federal Support and Grantee Relations	December 18 at 10 a.m.
Super App Office Hours	January 8 at 10 a.m.
Attendance Office Hours	January 15 at 8:30 a.m.
Nutrition Support	February 3 at 1 p.m.
Attendance	February 5 at 8 a.m.

View our School System Support Calendar for full schedule.

Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs

Ashley Townsend, Assistant Superintendent

Policy Submission Reminders

Acts 103 and 479 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session require submission of updated local policies to LDOE.

Legislation	Topic	Due Date
Act 103 (2025)	Instructional Materials Transparency	January 31, 2026, to educationpolicy@la.gov
Act 479 (2025)	Cameras in Special Education Classrooms	February 1, 2026, to educationpolicy@la.gov
Act 479 (2025)	Seclusion and Restraint for Students with Disabilities	May 31, 2026 (turn in with annual SEAC report)

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

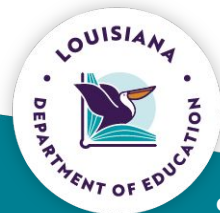Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Deputy Superintendent

2024-2025 LES Closeout Reminders

All 2024-2025 evaluation data for teachers, counselors, and other instructional staff should be finalized in LES by December 31.

The deadline to enter or edit leader evaluations is January 31.

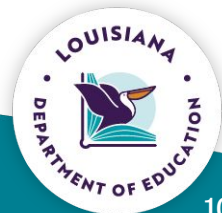Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Resources

Resources to support first-semester evaluation implementation are available in the [LEADS Library](#).

- [Other Personnel Guidance](#)
- [LEADS Evaluation Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Pre-Conference Template](#) and [Post-Conference Template](#)
- [PGP/Coaching Plan Template](#), [PGP/Coaching Plan Samples](#), and [Counselor PGP/Coaching Plan Template](#)
- [LLR Evidence Collection Sheet](#)
- [Student Learning Target Reflection Tool](#)

Materials to support rater reliability are also available in the [Professional Learning Platform: LEADS Public Collections](#).

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling

The LDOE is gathering input from school leaders and system-level academic leaders to better understand how schedules and staffing are organized across the state.

By completing a brief survey, you can directly influence the design of statewide supports that enhance scheduling and staffing effectiveness for all Louisiana schools.

- School Leader Survey
- School System Leader Survey

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with questions.

Dyslexia Core Assessment Program

- [Act 517](#) (2024) established a statewide pathway for identifying and supporting students flagged as "at risk" for dyslexia. LDOE is preparing for the launch of an online application portal, which will allow families to apply for up to $500 in reimbursement for a dyslexia core assessment conducted by an [approved provider](#).

- Applicants interested in becoming a certified Dyslexia Core Assessment [provider](#) should complete the [Dyslexia Core Assessment Vendor Application](#).

- Additional guidance and school communication tools will be shared ahead of the program's January 2026 launch.
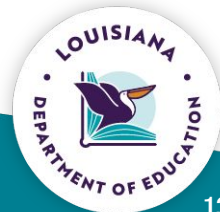
Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Literacy Supports

- K-2 tools to help strengthen teacher understanding of how foundational skills and knowledge develop across a unit.

  - Skills [Unit](#) and [Lesson](#) Preparation Protocols
  - Knowledge [Unit](#) and [Lesson](#) Preparation Protocols

- Grade 3 Professional Learning: Instructional Preparation and Tiered Support - The new course is available on the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#) to support Grade 3 literacy teachers.
  Course Code: **15E4719D**

- [3-12 Literacy Extension Guidance](#): A streamlined resource for planning Tier 1 extensions for students who have already met proficiency

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.
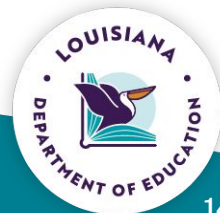
Community of Practice for Math Leaders

The LDOE is partnering with the Charles A. Dana Center to launch a Community of Practice for Math Leaders. Participants will engage in a collaborative space to strengthen math teaching and coaching across Louisiana.

- Connect and collaborate with math leaders statewide
- Share best practices and coaching strategies
- Focus on effective use of High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)
- Monthly virtual meetings (2 hours) beginning in January
- Culminating session at the 2026 Teacher Leader Summit
- Submit interest form by January 12, 2026

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Progress

Louisiana students are outpacing last year's Zearn engagement.

- 14.2% more students are reaching 90 minutes per week
- 26.2% more students are on track to reach three grade level lessons per week.

Leaders should:

- Ensure all students are engaging with Zearn weekly;
- Dedicate consistent time for students to use Zearn; and
- Develop routines to monitor Zearn data.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Public Comment on Revised Standards

The K-12 Math and ELA Standards Review Committee met throughout the spring and summer 2025 to revise the Louisiana Student Standards for Math and ELA.

- Public comment on the revised standards is now open through January 30, 2026.

Additional information:
- Standards Review Process
- Standards Review Committee Resources

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Educators interested in presenting at Teacher Leader Summit 2026 can visit the TLS 2026 landing page for submission guidelines and a webinar overview. The application window is now open and closes today, **December 5**.

Teaching and Learning Monthly Calls

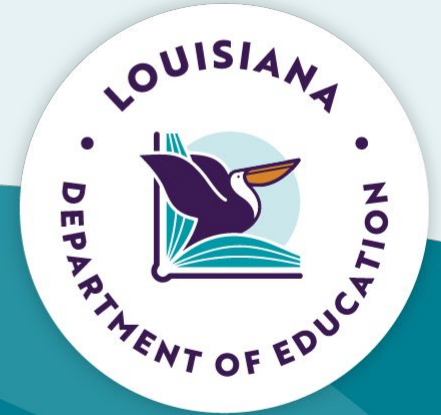| Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Diverse Learner Office Hours	December 9 at 2 p.m.
Certification	December 15 at 10:30 a.m.
Numeracy Training Office Hours	December 17 at 9 a.m.
Preparation Provider	December 17 at 10 a.m.
EdTech	January 8 at 9 a.m.
Teaching and Learning	January 29 at 1 p.m.

View our School System Support Calendar for full schedule.

Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics

Thomas Lambert, Assistant Superintendent

2024-2025 School & Center Performance Scores

- School & Center Performance Scores and Profiles for the 2024-2025 academic year were released on November 20.

- To request an appeal/waiver, the SPS appeal/waiver form must be completed and received by Monday, December 15.

- The Louisiana School and Center Finder will be updated at the beginning of 2026.

Please contact accountability@la.gov for questions.

Middle-of-Year K-3 Screenings

K-3 Literacy and Numeracy Screening platforms are now open for the middle-of-year administrations. Please see windows below and administer within the legislative guidance.

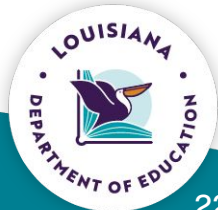| Screening	Opening Date	Closing Date
K-3 Numeracy Screening (Louisiana statewide, Learning Year)	December 1	December 31
K-3 Interim Numeracy Screener (district selected)	December 1	December 31
K-3 Literacy Screening	December 1	December 31

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

EdLink 360 Data Collections

Upcoming Deadlines:

- The Dropout Corrections Module in EdLink 360 will close for modifications to 2024-2025 enrollment records on **Thursday, December 18.** These data are used on the School Performance Profile and reported nationally.

- The last day to submit all extracts to the EdLink 360 sFTP for the October 1 CLASS collection is **January 14 by 5 p.m.**

  - This collection of data is used for calculating Value Added Model (VAM), Interest and Opportunities (I&O), budgeted salary reporting, teacher pay raises, and CTE and CDF Funding.

Please submit a ticket to the Data Systems Support portal for questions or additional information.

EdLink Ops - SPS Portal Launch

- The new EdLink Ops – SPS Portal launched for school system users on November 3. All requests to open, close, or update school information will now be submitted directly through the portal - no JotForm required.

- **LDOE Training Session** ([Zoom](#))

  - November 10, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
  - Please [register](#) prior to attending.

- **LDOE Support Office Hours** ([Zoom](#)) in November:

  - Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
  - Thursdays at 9 a.m.

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

Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
EdLink 360 Weekly Office Hour	December 9 and 16 at 11 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability	December 16 at 3 p.m.
eScholar Office Hours	January 8 and 22 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar	January 15 at 1 p.m.

View our School System Support Calendar for full schedule.

Career and College Readiness

Dr. Ernise Singleton, Assistant Superintendent

AI Powered: Python Pilot Update

This pilot strengthens educator capacity to teach Computer Science and Python using AI in CTE programs. Fifteen parishes will be selected to participate and will receive ongoing mentorship and access to an AI Toolkit.

- [Application period](#) has been extended to December 15
- Phase 1: Teacher fluency (Spring 2026)
- Phase 2: Classroom implementation (Fall 2026)
- Applications can be submitted [here](#).

Please contact fastforward@la.gov with questions

Fall 2025 Counselor Institute

Thank you to all who attended the Fall 2025 Counselor Institute sessions!

We hope you benefited from the Attendance, Vertical Alignment and Post Secondary presentations. All slide decks and materials are available on the Counselor Support page.

Dates for the Spring 2026 Counselor Institutes will be released at a later date.

2026-2027 AE Site Authorization Timeline

- **December 11:**   [2026-2027 AE Submission Portal](#) opens
- **February 2:**   Submission portal closes
- **February 9-13:**   Interviews for 2026-2027 new site authorization
- **April 14-15:**   AE Site Recommendations presented to BESE

Please contact terran.perry@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Alternative Education	January 8 at 10 a.m.
Office of Career and College Readiness	January 15 at 3 p.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools	January 22 at 2 p.m.

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Germain Gilson, Assistant Superintendent

Charter Authorization Updates

Key Dates for Local Authorizing:

- January 29: Deadline to consider charter applications
- January 30: 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.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Charter Authorization Updates

2025-2026 Annual RFA Informational Sessions

The Office of School Choice will host informational sessions for interested applicants. Sessions will be held twice monthly and are designed for those interested in applying as a Type 2 or 4 charter.

Available date are listed below and interested parties may utilize the Jotform for registration:

- December 8 or 15 at 10 a.m.
- January 5 or 12 at 10 a.m.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

CSP Supplemental Funding

The LDOE and the Office of School Choice has secured an additional $13.5 million in federal funding for charter schools to be applied to Louisiana's priority initiatives. The competitive application is now available in eGMS

- Applications from charter schools are due by **December 19**. (Type 1, 3, and 4 Charters may receive an early due date from their local authorizer to allow time for adequate submission into eGMS.)

- Informational sessions will be held every Friday at 10 a.m. until the submission deadline. Please use the scheduling link to receive an invite.

Please contact cspgrant@la.gov with questions.

School Choice Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Date/Time
BESE-Authorized Charter	January 8 at 9 a.m.
Local Authorizer	January 14 at 11 a.m.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff

Milken Educator Award

- In November, Sarah Watkins was named Louisiana's newest Milken Educator Award recipient, earning a national $25,000 prize for her outstanding impact.

- Sarah teaches 8th grade ELA at Stella Worley Middle School in Jefferson Parish.

State-Level Award Program Application Due

Award(s)	Due Dates
• Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year • School Health Service Provider of the Year • School Physical Activity Award	December 9
• Teacher/Principal of the Year • Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year	January 14
• New Teacher of the Year	January 21

Please refer to the Awards page for additional information.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Early Childhood Care and Education

Barry Carter, Assistant Superintendent

2024-2025 Early Childhood Performance Profile Data

- Performance Profiles for the 2024-2025 academic year were released in alignment with K-12 school performance scores on November 20.

- Performance Profiles are anticipated to be available on Louisiana School and Center Finder at the beginning of 2026.

Please contact earlychildhood@la.gov with any questions.

2026-2027 Early Childhood Coordinated Funding Request

- All Early Childhood Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) must submit an annual Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) through Super App to request funding for LA 4 and NSECD seats.

- CNLAs are required to provide opportunities for each publicly funded program in the network to participate in the development of, and comment on, the proposed CFR.

- Networks who are not LEAs must submit their CFR via e-mail to accountability@la.gov.

Please contact kishia.grayson@la.gov for questions.

Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

- Applications are now open and will close January 14, 2026.

- Application support calls will be held December 18 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

- Please encourage early childhood teachers and leaders from Type III centers CCAP-certified Family Child Care, and Early Head Start/Head Start programs in your parish to apply!

Please contact earlychildhood@la.gov with any questions.

Office of Early Childhood Care and Education Monthly Calls

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

View our School System Support Calendar for full schedule.

Questions

Thank you for joining today's call!

Our next System Leaders Monthly Call is Friday, January 9 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