

System Leaders Monthly Call



February 6, 2026

School Visits Earlier This Week



Office of Chief of Staff

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff



2026-2027 Super App

School systems that have met all applicable approval and funding criteria through the 2026-2027 Super App will receive an Approval, Funding, and Implementation (AFI) Summary document via email prior to April BESE.

The purpose of this AFI Summary document is to:

- Share the results of the LDOE review of the proposed CIR/UIR strategy and requests for competitive funds
- Identify eligible expenditures for any awarded funds
- Identify recommended steps for the implementation of an approved CIR/UIR strategy.

All award amounts are subject to BESE approval.

Please contact LDOEOperations@la.gov with questions.



School System Planning Key Dates

Date	Item
February - March	LDOE reviews competitive Super App submissions and provides feedback on plans and budgets
February - March	School systems conduct nonpublic school consultations
April	Super App competitive allocations sent to BESE for approval
May 1	BESE-Approved Competitive and Estimated Formula Allocations for 2026-2027 loaded in Super App
May 1	Deadline to submit <u>CSI/TSI</u> plan in eGMS
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



Summer Feeding Application Timelines

Sponsor Type	Summer Feeding Plan Survey	Non-Congregate Site Requests	Summer Feeding Applications
School Food Authorities	March 16, 2026  CNP website	April 13, 2026	May 18 and >14 days before operations

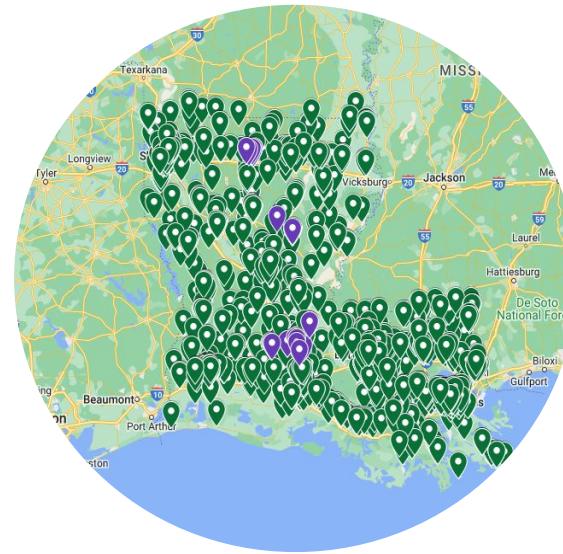
Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.



Non-Congregate Feeding Eligibility



[USDA Rural Designation Map](#)



2025 Summer Feeding Sites

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.



Office of Chief of Staff Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Attendance Office Hours	<u>February 19 at 8:30 a.m.</u>
Federal Support and Grantee Relations	<u>February 19 at 10 a.m.</u>
Nutrition Support	<u>March 3 at 1 p.m.</u>
Attendance	<u>March 5 at 8 a.m.</u>



Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff



Submission Reminders

Legislation	Topic	Due Date
<u>HR 346 (2025)</u>	Vacant School Property Plans	December 31, 2025, via <u>Jotform</u>
<u>Act 103 (2025)</u>	Instructional Materials Transparency	January 31, 2026, to <u>educationpolicy@la.gov</u>
<u>Act 479 (2025)</u>	Cameras in Special Education Classrooms	February 1, 2026, to <u>educationpolicy@la.gov</u>
<u>Act 479 (2025)</u>	Seclusion and Restraint for Students with Disabilities	May 31, 2026 (turn in with annual SEAC report)

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.



Office of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Deputy Superintendent



Dyslexia Core Assessment Program

Act 517 (2024) established a statewide pathway for identifying and supporting students flagged as “at risk” for dyslexia.

- The LDOE has launched 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.
- Please visit the Dyslexia Core Assessment Support Program webpage for more information.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



IEP Writing Workshop Series

The *Bringing the Special Education Playbook to Life: IEP Writing Workshop Series* helps school systems understand how the Playbook's best practices impact implementation and how to ensure IEPs support and strengthen these efforts, rather than unintentionally undermining them.

- Elementary Sessions:
 - February 9, February 24, and March 3 from 2-2:45 p.m.
- Secondary Sessions:
 - February 11, February 25, and March 4 from 2-2:45 p.m.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



Bulletin 1508: Effective Date and Applicability

Evaluations initiated after the Bulletin's effective date:

- Final Rule for the updated Bulletin 1508 was December 20, 2025.
- All new initial evaluations and reevaluations for which parental consent is obtained on or after the bulletin's effective date must fully adhere to the updated procedures.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.



LEADS Principal Survey

The principal survey will open March 2 in the [Louisiana Evaluation System](#).

- This anonymous survey is a key component of LEADS, allowing educators to provide feedback that supports continuous improvement in school leadership.
- LES system contacts will receive the [Principal Survey Guide for Educators](#) and additional information.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.



Novice Principal Academy

The Novice Principal Academy (NPA) program is designed around the needs of early career principals and includes mentor support.

- Applications for new principal participants are open now and can be completed by the employing school/system. The deadline is July 7.
- Kick-off for the Academy will be July 16-17 at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge.
- The cost for participants is \$1,000.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.



Aspiring Educator Summer Academy

This one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience is open to high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework focused on developing future Louisiana educators.

- The Academy will take place July 13-17 and will be hosted by Louisiana State University.
- Student and Academy Staff [Interest Form](#) is now open.



Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.



Teacher Leader Summit 2026

Early bird registration opens **February 9** and closes **March 15**.



Dates	Pricing
February 9-March 15	\$249
March 16-April 12	\$299

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.



Teacher Leader Summit 2026

- The [Teacher Leader Summit event page](#) is now live. This will serve as the information hub for all things Summit, including registration, hotels, session details, speaker information, and much more.
- Two presenters per session will receive complimentary registration. Please wait for instructions via email from the LDOE Events team in early February.
- Systems paying registration by check must complete the [Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Registration Check Submission Request form](#) to obtain pre-approval by February 13. Full [guidance](#) can be found on the event page.

Please contact LDOEevents@la.gov with questions.



Teaching and Learning Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Diverse Learner Office Hours	<u>February 10 at 2 p.m.</u>
Numeracy Training Office Hours	<u>February 11 at 9 a.m.</u>
EdTech	<u>February 12 at 9 a.m.</u>
Certification	<u>February 16 at 10:30 a.m.</u>
Preparation Provider	<u>February 23 at 10 a.m.</u>
Teaching and Learning	<u>February 25 at 1 p.m.</u>

View our [School System Support Calendar](#) for full schedule.



Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics

Thomas Lambert, Assistant Superintendent



2026-2028 Community Network RFA Timeline

Date	Event or Task
January 13, 2026 3 p.m.	<p>CNLA Monthly Office Hours and release of application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meeting Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97220084131?pwd=v4WYSifBMab9IH93iXOyFKrbNqBX2● Meeting ID: 972 2008 4131● Passcode: 051391
January 30, 2026	<p>Due: <i>Intent to Apply</i> email to earlychildhood@la.gov by 5 p.m.</p>
February 13, 2026	<p>Due: Community Network Lead Agency applications must be submitted to earlychildhood@la.gov by 5 p.m.</p>
February 27, 2026	Notice of Recommendation sent to selected agencies.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.



LA 4, NSECD, and CNLA Allocations

Preliminary 2026-2027 LA 4, NSECD, and CNLA allocations are scheduled to be voted on during the April 15, 2026 BESE meeting:

- Networks and sites should receive a preliminary notice of award during the week of February 23, 2026.
- An additional notice of BESE approval will be sent after the BESE meeting on April 16, 2026.
- Final amounts will be subject to legislative appropriation.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.



LEAP Connect and ELPT Administrations

The administration windows for LEAP Connect, ELPT and ELPT Connect are below. District test coordinators were provided with a training webinar in January for redelivery to school systems. All students must have been identified for alternate assessment eligibility on IEPs in eSER no later than January 23, 2026 per BESE policy.

	Opening Date	Closing Date
LEAP Connect	February 23	March 27
ELPT/ELPT Connect	February 23	March 27

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.



EdLink 360 Data Collections

- **February 1 MFP** - Data must be submitted to EdLink 360 by **Wednesday, February 11**, no later than 5 p.m.
 - Primary data used for funding
 - Data quality and on-time submissions are vital to receiving the appropriate funds.
- **February 1 Staff Vacancy** - Data must be submitted to EdLink 360 by **Wednesday, February 25**, no later than 5 p.m.
 - This vacancy data is vital to ensure that state and system leaders have “real-time” data to inform their decision-making process.
- **VAM Roster Verification (View Only)** is now available for teachers and school leaders in the **Louisiana Educator Portal (LEP)**.
 - Ensures teachers are assigned to the correct courses and rosters of students for value-added model (VAM) analysis.
 - The verification window opens on April 20.

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
eScholar Office Hours	<u>February 6 and 19 at 10 a.m.</u>
EdLink 360 Weekly Office Hour	<u>February 10 and 24 at 11 a.m.</u>
Assessment and Accountability	<u>February 24 at 3 p.m.</u>
Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar	<u>March 5 at 1 p.m.</u>

View our [School System Support Calendar](#) for full schedule.



Career and College Readiness

Ken Bradford, Chief of Staff



2025-2026 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders

The [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) is now open to request diplomas and seals for 2026 high school graduates.

- The electronic form should be submitted by Friday, February 13.
- Only one form should be submitted for each school system. The Department of Education will cover the cost of the initial order and distribution.
- Each school system should order 10% over the number of diplomas needed. This overage will take care of misprints, late enrolled students, etc.

If you find an error after submitting, contact jenny.moran2@la.gov.

Please contact jenny.moran2@la.gov with questions.



AE Site Authorization Timeline - Extension

- **December 11:** [2026-2027 AE Submission Portal](#) opened
- **February 13:** 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.



2025-2026 CDF Mid-Year Report

The 2025-2026 Mid-Year Career Development Fund (CDF) Mid-Year Expenditure Report is available for school systems to complete.

- The deadline to report mid-year CDF expenditures is February 20.
- School systems should reference the 2025-2026 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation when completing the form.
- CDF funds support increased student access to high-value Career and Technical Education courses and training.
- CDF funds are 6% of the MFP State and Local Base Cost Per Pupil (\$241) provided for each qualifying student course enrollment in grades 9-12.

Please contact bonnie.lefort@la.gov with questions.



Internship Funding

Funding is available at \$1,000 per eligible student internship enrollment for the spring semester.

- Funding may be used to support all costs associated with providing internship programming to eligible students.
- Must be enrolled in [Course Choice Portal](#) (send enrollment spreadsheets to coursechoice@la.gov).
- Must have the [attestation](#) for 2025-2026 school year on file.
- Eligible enrollments will be funded in the order in which they are submitted.

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



Registered Apprenticeship Funding

Funding is available for approved Registered Apprenticeships in the spring semester.

- \$2,500 per non-rural, \$3,500 for rural enrollments as defined by the United States Census Bureau.
- Funding may be used to support all costs associated with providing apprenticeship programming to eligible students.
- Must be enrolled in [Course Choice Portal](#) by March 7 (send enrollment spreadsheets to coursechoice@la.gov).
- Eligible enrollments will be funded in the order in which they are submitted.

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



Course Choice Spring Reporting

The [Course Choice Portal](#) is open for spring 2026 reporting.

- Reporting for Private Providers was due by January 30.
- Reporting for Public Higher Education (dual enrollment) courses is due by 5 p.m. on March 6.

Please contact coursechoice@la.gov with questions.



Career and College Readiness Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Alternative Education	<u>February 12 at 3 p.m.</u>
Office of Career and College Readiness	<u>February 19 at 2 p.m.</u>
Safe and Healthy Schools	<u>February 26 at 10 a.m.</u>

Please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov with questions.



School Choice

Germain Gilson, Assistant Superintendent



Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice

The 2026 Excellence in Authorizing Community of Practice will convene in the coming months.

- Cohort members will gain resources, participate in professional development, and benefit from collaboration opportunities targeting charter school authorization, accountability, and autonomy.
- Participating districts will be eligible to apply for CSP Microgrants.
- Sessions will begin in early spring and will include a hybrid schedule.
- More information will be included in upcoming [LDOE Weekly newsletters](#).

Please contact CSPGrant@la.gov with questions.



2025-2026 Annual RFA Application Cycle

The application cycle opened on February 2, 2026 for Type 2 and 4 charter schools slated to begin operations in August of 2027.

Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements listed in LA Bulletin 126, §503 and must meet each of the below deadlines to be permitted to move to the next component of the application cycle.

- **February 9 (5 p.m.):** Letter of Intent due
- **March 9 (5 p.m.):** Eligibility Determination Form due
- **March 30 (5 p.m.):** Full Application and Overview Template due
- **August 18:** BESE considers applications for new Type 2 & 4 charters

Criminal Background Checks for Employment

- LA R.S. 17:15 requires employers to direct employees to obtain a state and federal criminal background check (CBC) and defines “employees”.
- LA R.S. 15:587.1 requires all background checks for **school employment** to be conducted through the Louisiana State Police (LSP) Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.
- Third-party background check businesses do not provide fingerprint-based CBCs run through LSP’s Bureau.
- Charter schools may rely on certificated employees’ “Clear Credentials” for employment CBC, but nonpublic schools and non-certificated employees are required to obtain the CBC for employment.

Please contact LSP’s Bureau of Criminal Identification & Information with questions.



School Choice Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Date/Time
Local Authorizer	<u>February 11 at 11 a.m.</u>
BESE-Authorized Charter	<u>February 12 at 9 a.m.</u>

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



School System Relations

Trey Folse, Assistant Superintendent



National RISE Honoree

- Donella Wagner
 - Head Custodian
 - Raintree Elementary School
 - St. Mary Parish
- For more information, please visit the [LDOE press release](#).



Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.



America's Field Trip

- 125 first-place winners (plus a chaperone) will receive a three-day, two-night trip to a historical or cultural site (July–August 2026).
- 125 second-place winners will each receive \$500, and three educators will earn \$1,000 each.
- Winners will be notified in late April 2026.

(Note: Previous first- or second-place winners from the last two contests are ineligible.)

- Visit America250.org/FieldTrip or scan the QR code to learn more. Link to [flyer](#).



Deadline: Monday, March 30, 2026 at 5 p.m. PT/8 p.m. ET.



Early Childhood Care and Education

Barry Carter, Assistant Superintendent



Early Childhood Care and Education

- The Spring 2025 CLASS® observation period has begun for early childhood classrooms at publicly funded sites.
- Community Network Lead Agencies have started the Child Count process by working with sites to count all publicly funded children served at each publicly funded site as of February 1.

Please contact earlychildhood@la.gov with questions.



Early Childhood Care and Education

LDOE is currently conducting new Early Childhood curriculum reviews designed to evaluate the alignment of instructional materials with the revised *2024 Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS)* to ensure that materials support high-quality teaching and learning.

- By mid-February, a new Tier I Curriculum List for ECE will be published as reviews are completed.
 - This updated list will only include instructional materials that are aligned with the 2024 ELDS and meet the criteria of the 2025-2026 Instructional Materials Review (IMR) rubric.
- Current Tier I materials were reviewed using previous standards and do not fully align with the 2024 ELDS.
 - As a result, these materials will be archived and will no longer appear on the active Tier I list.
 - *Note: The use of an archived curriculum will not count against site Performance Profiles*

Early Childhood Care and Education

To strengthen early literacy instruction, support early identification, and improve kindergarten readiness statewide, the LDOE is providing funding to support high-quality curriculum implementation and targeted teacher professional learning in publicly funded pre-K classrooms. Funding will be available February 1, in eGMS and will support the following:

- **Tier I Curriculum Implementation:** CNLAs will receive funding to purchase newly-rated Tier I pre-K curriculum, covering up to 100% of costs.
- **Science of Reading Training Educator Stipends:** Pre-K teachers, including those who teach young children with disabilities, who complete the LDOE-developed Science of Reading (SOR) training in Canopy will receive a stipend of \$250.
 - The stipend will be issued by school districts directly to teachers who complete 3 of 6 modules by June 30, 2026.

Office of Early Childhood Care and Education Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Early Childhood Community Network Office Hours <i>(occurs the second Tuesday of each month from 3:00-4:00 p.m.)</i>	<u>February 10 at 3 p.m.</u>

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, March 6 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](#)

