Educational Technology Monthly Call

March 13, 2025

https://bit.ly/EdTech_Mar25

Agenda

- Digital Learning Updates
- Cybersecurity
- E-Rate Updates
- Important Reminders and Other Information

Digital Learning Updates

TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT 2025

A *New Story* for LOUISIANA EDUCATION

June 10-12 | New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 celebrates Louisiana's historic education progress and sets the stage for the next chapter of success. Educators across the state are writing a new story for Louisiana education by accelerating academic achievement and fostering student growth. This year's Summit theme, "A New Story for Louisiana Education," highlights the collective effort of educators to continue moving our state forward.

Join us this summer as we celebrate the end of one school year, and prepare to make an even bigger impact for the academic year ahead.

Please contact LDOEevents@la.gov with questions.

TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT 2025

A *New Story* for LOUISIANA EDUCATION

Registration is now open!

Registration for this event will be on a first-come, first-served basis. As space is limited, early registration is encouraged. **There will be no on-site registration**.

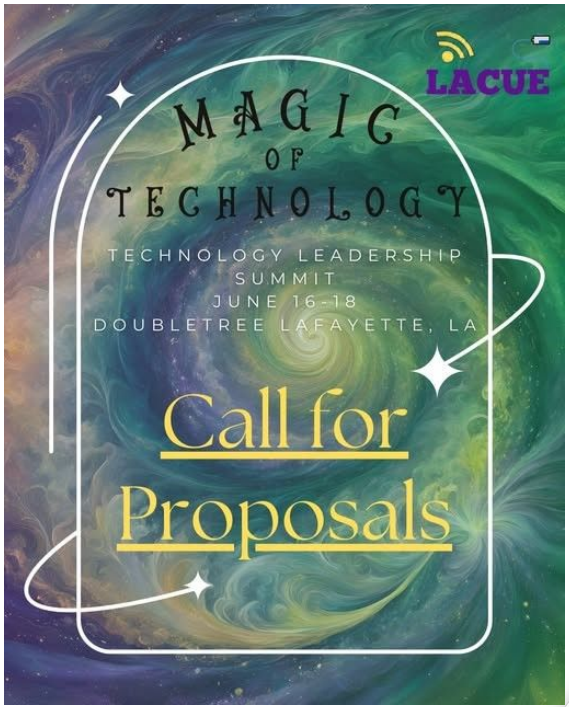
- **Early Bird Registration**: $249 (Feb. 10-March 14)
- **Regular Registration**: $299 (March 15-April 18)

REGISTER HERE!

Please contact LDOEevents@la.gov with questions.

LACUE Technology Leadership Summit

- This year's LACUE Technology Leadership Summit will be held June 16-18 in Lafayette, LA.
- LACUE is now accepting proposals for presentations. The proposal portal will close on April 16. Notification of accepted proposals will be sent by April 30.
- Early Bird Registration is also open and will be available until May 16.



Please contact lacue@lacue.org with questions.

Canvas LMS Pilot Program for K-12 Public Schools

LDOE is excited to invite public K-12 school systems and charter schools to join our statewide Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) Pilot Program. The goal of the Canvas LMS Pilot is to support Louisiana's Academic Plan to enhance K-12 educational outcomes by prepare students for a seamless transition to higher education where Canvas is used.

- Access to Canvas LMS for K-12 students and educators. Training, implementation, and support are **included** at **no cost** to school systems.
- Student access began on **January 1, 2025** and will end on **June 30, 2026**.
- Limited space is still available to join the pilot. Apply today.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science and STEM Team Updates

- Computer Science Technical Assistance Grant (CSTAG) applications are now being accepted via eGMS within the competitive funding tab for 2025-2026 until March 24
- Computer science implementation webinars continue March 18 at 9 a.m. and March 19 at 2 p.m.
- Computer Science School System Support Visits available for implementation support
- Computer science office hours every third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.

Questions contact STEM@la.gov

Special Education Camera Maintenance Fund

BESE approved allocations at its January meeting for additional funds to support maintenance costs related to cameras in certain special education settings as described in legislation.

Funds will be dispersed similar to the initial special education camera funds.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Whitelisting for Curriculums

The new Bayou Bridges and Foundations of Freedom Curriculum utilizes resources found on various websites. IT Directors & CTOs should work with their curriculum department to determine what resources are needed to support student learning while ensuring security and CIPA compliance. A current list of resource sites, as of March 2025, for each curriculum can be found here. As we become aware of new resource websites, we will update this list.

Cybersecurity

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Driven Phishing Attacks

Cybercriminals are leveraging generative AI tools to create highly convincing and personalized phishing campaigns. Their goal is to steal sensitive information — such as passwords, financial data, or confidential company records — deploy malware or ransomware, infiltrate corporate systems, or facilitate financial fraud.

AI-Enhanced Phishing Attacks:

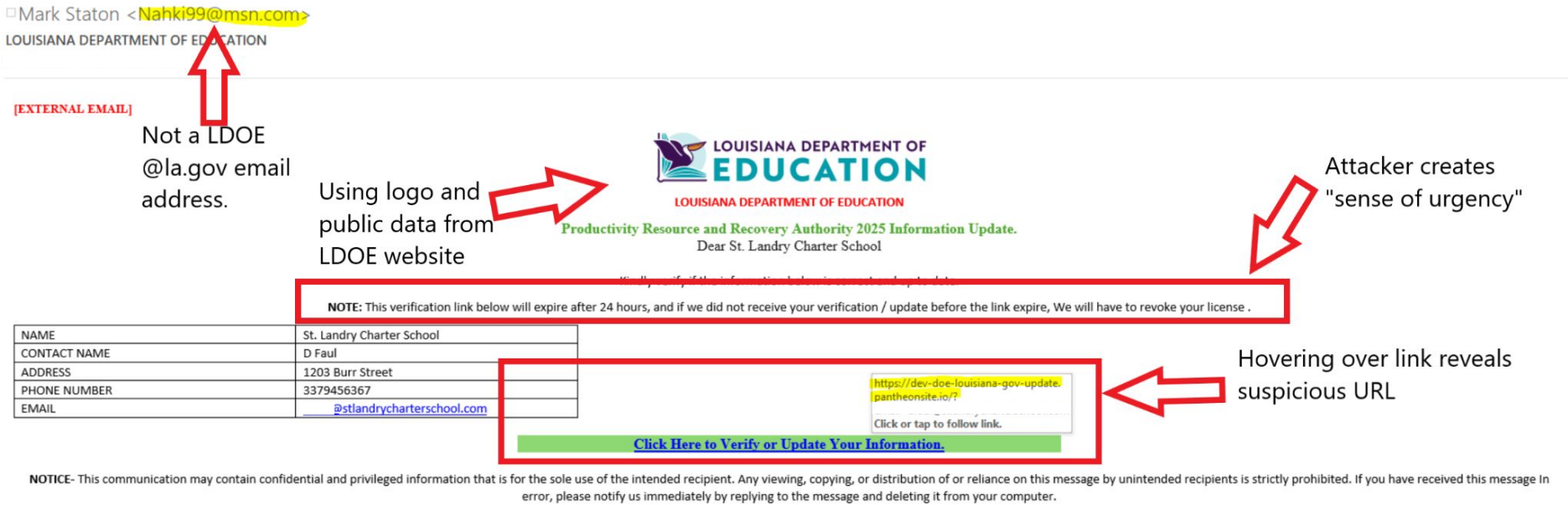
- **Hyper-Personalized** – AI analyzes social media, emails, and online activity to craft highly convincing messages.
- **Automated** – AI can generate and distribute thousands of phishing emails and texts with minimal effort.
- **Deepfake Technology** – AI-created voices and videos can impersonate trusted individuals within an organization.
- **Adaptive** – AI continuously learns from failed attempts, refining its tactics for higher success rates.
- **Evasion of Security Filters** – AI-generated phishing emails can bypass traditional spam and security detection systems.

AI-Based Phishing: Why is it harder to detect?

Phishing attacks are growing more sophisticated as AI makes detection increasingly difficult. Here's how these attacks bypass traditional security filters:

1. **Dynamic Content Generation** – AI creates unique phishing emails every time, avoiding detection by filters that flag duplicate content.
2. **Contextually Relevant Language** – AI mimics human writing styles, reducing grammar errors and unnatural phrasing that traditional filters often detect.
3. **Smart URL Manipulation** – AI can generate URLs that look legitimate but redirect users to malicious sites only after they pass security scans.
4. **Image-Based Phishing** – Instead of text, attackers use AI to embed phishing messages in images, bypassing keyword-based detection.
5. **AI-Powered Chatbots** – Malicious chatbots can engage victims in real-time, adapting to responses and avoiding scripted language that triggers security alerts.
6. **Adaptive Attacks** – AI learns from past failures, adjusting wording, sender details, and tactics to improve success rates against evolving security defenses.
7. **Email Header Manipulation** – AI alters email metadata (e.g., sender address, SPF/DKIM records) to make emails appear legitimate and pass authentication checks.

Phishing Examples



Contact EdTech@la.gov with questions.

From: **Admin@doe.louisiana.gov** <cmccarthy@holyfamilyaston.org>
Date: Fri, Jan 3, 2025 at 6:24 AM
Subject: 2024-2025 Annual Public School information verification

<image001.png>

Mismatched Display Name vs. Email Address

Louisiana Department of Education

2024-2025 Annual Public School information verification

Dear COMEAUX DIANE

Final Notice: Immediate Action Required for Information Verification

This is a final notice regarding the verification of your organization's information. Please confirm that the details provided below are correct and up to date:

Important: Failure to verify your information within the next 24 hours will result in the revocation of your license.

Click the secure verification link below to complete the process. This link will expire in 24 hours.

Your prompt attention to this matter is crucial. We urge you to act immediately to avoid any disruption in your services.

Urgency and pressure tactics

BegSchSessYr	2023
Sponsor Cd	057
Sponsor Name	Vermilion Parish
Site Cd	057023
Report Site Cd	
Site Name	J.H. Williams Middle School
Email Address	@vpsb.net
FirstName	DIANE
	COMEAUX
Grade Config Desc	6-8
Physical State Address	1105 Prairie Avenue
Physical City Address	Abbeville
Physical Zip Address	705100000
Parish Cd	57
Latitude	29.974848999999999
Longitude	-92.125288999999995
Mailing State Address	1105 Prairie Ave
Mailing City Address	Abbeville
Mailing Zip Address	705100000
Phone Number	3378933943
Phone ExtNum	
Phone Fax Num	3378935190
NcesSchoolIdCd	01569

https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/
dev-doe-louisiana-gov.pantheonsite.io/?
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vkgmayjfcfpk_dyjkbsem5wbl5szqxkeyskjb
wwyetts_ca$
Click or tap to follow link.

Suspicious link

CLICK HERE TO VERIFY YOUR INFORMATION.

Contact EdTech@la.gov with questions.

How to Protect Against Phishing Attacks

- ★ **Verify Before You Click** – Always check email addresses, links, and sender details.
- ★ **Use Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)** – Adds an extra layer of security.
- ★ **Beware of Urgent Requests** – Cyber criminals create a sense of urgency to trick you.
- ★ **Educate & Train Employees** – Regular security awareness training helps detect phishing attempts.
- ★ **Use AI-Powered Security Tools** – AI can also detect and prevent phishing attacks.
- ★ **Monitor & Report Suspicious Activity** – Report phishing attempts to IT or security teams.

Contact EdTech@la.gov with questions.

Upcoming MS-ISAC Cybersecurity Webinar

Webinar: State of K-12 Cybersecurity - Key Findings and What to Expect Next

Agenda: Join MS-ISAC for an in-depth look at the 2025 State of K-12 Cybersecurity Report. A panel of K-12 practitioners will share key findings from the report, highlighting emerging threats, and discuss areas of concern for K-12 organizations.

Date: Monday, March 17
Time: 1PM CST

Registration: https://cisevents.webex.com/weblink/register/r571dfe7fd8a06e99acfd483ad84ce6ce

Contact info@cisecurity.org with questions.

E-Rate Program Updates

Form 470 and 471 Deadlines for FY 2025

Under FCC rules, Wednesday, February 26, 2025 is the last date that you can submit and certify an FY2025 FCC Form 470 and still wait the required minimum 28-day period. However in the State of Louisiana, procurement code dictates a minimum of 30 days. So **for Louisiana the last day to submit and certify an FY2025 FCC is Monday, February 24**

The last day to submit and certify your FY2025 FCC Form 471 is **March 26, 2025 10:59 p.m. CST**.

DO NOT wait until the last minute to file. The system is always slow and over 60% of applicants seem to be filing in the last week of the window. If you can't get complete and certify your application by the deadline, finish it as quickly as possible. In the past, the FCC has approved waivers for applications that were submitted 1-2 days late. However this is a new FCC board, so no one should count on a waiver being approved.

Contact ERate@la.gov with questions.

Cybersecurity Pilot Program

Application Window:

The CBR Form 471 application window for the Cybersecurity Pilot Program **opens on March 18th** and will **close on September 15th, 2025**. Total pilot funding is capped at $200 million for 707 applicants.

Resources:

- **Emails:** Sign up for Pilot Program participant emails here
- **User Guides:** You can access and download the Pilot FCC Form 470 and FCC Form 484 Part 2 User Guides
- **Website Resources:** FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Website
  USAC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Website

Contact ERate@la.gov with questions.

Supreme Court Hearing on Constitutionality of USF

The Supreme Court agreed to review a decision by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that held that the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) was unconstitutional. This decision was at odds with earlier decisions by 6th and 11th Circuit Courts of Appeal who upheld the USF funding mechanism. The split between the Courts of Appeal on this issue formed the basis of the Supreme Court’s decision to hear the case.

In a 9-7 split decision, the 5th Circuit found that USF fees were a “misbegotten tax” originally delegated to the FCC by Congress but then improperly sub-delegated to USAC, a private corporation. The seven dissenting judges argue that USF charges are administrative fees, not “taxes” and that, in any event, USF fees are set and collected under the direct control of the FCC.

The Supreme Court’s decision will impact all USF programs. The Supreme Court will begin hearing initial oral arguments on March 26.

Upcoming Dates

March 14 - FY 2024 Form 486 deadline for Wave 30. The Form 486 deadline is 120 days after the FCDL date, or the service start date (typically July 1st), whichever is later. The next Form 486 deadlines for FY 2024 are:

- -- **March 21** - Wave 31
- -- **March 27 -** Wave 32

March 18 - Opening of the Cybersecurity Pilot Form 471 application window.

March 18 - USAC Cybersecurity Pilot Program Form 471 webinar: 3:00-4:00 PM EST. To attend, register here.

March 26 - Close of the Form 471 application window for FY 2025 (10:59 p.m. CST).

Contact ERate@la.gov with questions.

Upcoming Dates

March 26 - Oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of the Universal Service Fund.

May 28 - Extended invoice deadline for FY 2023 non-recurring service FRNs with approved extensions beyond the original January 28, 2025, deadline.

July 1 - Withdrawal deadline for selected Cybersecurity Pilot participants opting not to continue in the Program.

September 15 - Close of the Cybersecurity Pilot Form 471 application window and deadline for filing the Form 484 Part 2.

Contact ERate@la.gov with questions.

Education Technology
Monthly Webinar & Meeting Dates

2024-2025 Education Technology Monthly Webinars

Slides from each meeting will be posted on the Educational Technology Leaders website. Recordings are available on request. A complete calendar of LDOE events can be found on the Louisiana Believes website.

Future Monthly Call Dates

- April 10
- May 8

Time:	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Webinar Link	https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/575223228?pwd=NDNlN01SS3c0Rk4wV25aNkZhTEc2Zz09
Phone Number	1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID	Meeting ID: 575 223 228 Password: 2020-202!

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

FTC Updates to COPPA

The FTC finalized changes to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule (COPPA), strengthening protections for children's personal information online.

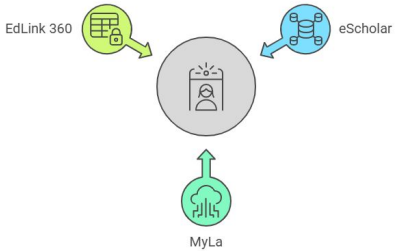
Key updates include:

- **Parental opt-in required** for targeted ads and data sharing with third parties.
- **Limits on data retention** to prevent indefinite storage of children's personal information.
- **Increased transparency** for Safe Harbor programs with public reporting requirements.
- **Expanded definition of personal information** to include biometric and government-issued identifiers.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

EdLink Security: LEP and Canopy Access

All PK-12 Public School Staff must have an **EdLink Security** account to access the new **Louisiana Education Portal (LEP)** and **Canopy**, the state's professional learning platform. **New Users** should follow the steps in the **EdLink Security New User Guide** to create their account.



LEP and Canopy Access User Requirements:

- Must have **MyLa user credentials**.
- Must have a 2025 **eScholar record** with current MyLa user ID.
- Must be included in the **2024-25 EdLink 360 staff file extract**.
-

Important Account Information:

- **Names must match exactly** across MyLa, eScholar, and EdLink 360 records.
- Users must sign in to **EdLink Security** with the same MyLa user ID listed in the **eScholar staff record**.
- Districts should submit staff's **district email address** through **eScholar** or the **EdLink 360 staff file extract.**
- Users must sign in to **EdLink Security** to sync updates to MyLa and eScholar.
- **eScholar syncs overnight** with EdLink Security — allow **24 hours** for updates to reflect in user accounts.

EdLink Security Guide

Access Issues?: Contact **systemsupport@la.gov**

Technology and Security Contacts

Based on recent events it is even more important that OTS has the correct information for all security contacts at **all** school systems. This includes:

- Name
- Title
- Work Phone
- Work Email
- Cell Phone Number

Please update your LEA's contact information here if you have not already done so.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.

Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) Data Request

- In accordance with Revised Statutes §3921.2. Statewide Educational Technology Plan, school systems should submit required technology information, ensuring they meet the standards for devices, Internet bandwidth, software applications, and local network capacity to provide a high-quality digital instructional environment.
- The Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) helps LDOE collect information about technology infrastructure across districts and individual schools. TRT data will be used for the school system's digital footprint, which will be published on the LDOE website and will support future technology planning.
- Please see the 2024 TRT Collection Instructions for a step-by-step submission guide and resources.
- Data should be submitted via the 2024 TRT Collection Form and was due by **November 1**. If you have not submitted, please do so as soon as possible.

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.