

# Educational Technology Monthly Call

October 9, 2025



[https://bit.ly/EdTech\\_Oct25](https://bit.ly/EdTech_Oct25)

# Agenda

- Digital Learning Updates
- ADA Compliance
- EdLink Security
- E-Rate Updates
- Cybersecurity
- Important Reminders and Other Information




# Digital Learning Updates




# Spotlight: AI Roll Out

- This month's [LDOE Teacher Leader Newsletter](#) featured Laurie Duhon from Jefferson Davis Parish and highlighted the importance of strategically implementing AI tools for teachers.



## Teacher Leader Newsletter

October 2025



Hello! I'm Laurie Duhon, the Technology Supervisor for Jefferson Davis Parish Schools. It's an exciting time in education as we build the future of digital learning and lay the foundation for innovation powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In Jefferson Davis Parish, we are embracing AI not merely as a new technology but as a powerful tool that demands a strategic and deliberate approach. Currently, our focus is on supporting our remarkable educators with essential AI integration training, which will enable them to harness AI to design dynamic, personalized learning experiences for our students.

With the great potential of AI comes the critical responsibility of teaching its safe and ethical use. In our school system, we launched our AI professional learning initiative at the Level Up Technology Conference and continue to support teachers throughout the school year. I'm pleased that the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is providing resources to guide us, as these tools help bridge the gap between potential and practice. This ensures AI is used responsibly to support the implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).

I encourage you to explore these key resources as we work together to unlock the potential of AI:

- The [Strategic AI Integration: A Pre-Work Checklist for Educators](#) provides essential steps to prepare for using AI effectively in your classroom.
- The [C.R.E.A.T.E. Framework for Effective AI Prompting](#) supports educators in crafting precise prompts to leverage AI with their HQIM.
- The [Digital Citizenship and Artificial Intelligence](#) guide is a crucial resource for teaching students how to use AI safely and ethically.

Thoughtful integration of these tools is how we will prepare our students for the future of technology and digital literacy.

Please contact [lacue@lacue.org](mailto:lacue@lacue.org) with questions.



# 2025 LACUE Annual Conference

- The [2025 Annual LACUE Conference](#) will be held December 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, LA.
- [Hotel booking](#) at the conference rate is now available through November 1.
- Lock in your discounted registration rate before [Early Bird registration](#) closes on November 7.



Please contact [lacue@lacue.org](mailto:lacue@lacue.org) with questions.



# Presidential AI Challenge

- The [Presidential AI Challenge](#) is open to students and educators across all grade levels, with four distinct categories for participation:
  - Elementary (Grades K-5): Open to classrooms or groups
  - Middle School (Grades 6-8): Open to teams of 1-4 students
  - High School (Grades 9-12): Open to teams of 1-4 students
- Educators (K-12): Open to teams of 1-3 educators.
  - Educators will focus on creative approaches to teaching or using AI technologies in K-12 learning.
- Registration is open. All projects must be submitted by **January 20, 2026**.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.



# Google Read Along Advisory Group

- Google for Education is organizing a Louisiana Google Advisory Group for [Read Along](#).
- Open to any school system that is a Google for Education Workspace Plus or Teaching and Learning Upgrade customer.
- Participating school systems will receive
  - direct support from Google and the Read Along team;
  - no cost professional development and resources directly from Google;
  - and opportunities to showcase your school system.
- Interested participants can reach out to [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov).

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.



# Canvas LMS Pilot Upcoming Trainings

Instructure is continuing the Louisiana-Specific Canvas Training Series.

- Remaining weekly sessions:
  - Advanced Canvas Features: October 13-16
    - Mastery Paths, AI in Canvas, Intelligent Insights, Collaboration
  - Open Q&A: October 20-23
    - Basics, Activities, Admin, Advanced Canvas
- Training sessions are being recorded and will be available in November.
- Share with anyone who is interested.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions.





# Teacher Leader Summit

- **Hold the Date:** Teacher Leader Summit 2026 is May 26-28 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Early bird registration opens **February 16, 2026**.
- To better serve all educators, the College and Career Readiness team has joined forces with Teacher Leader Summit to bring you an even more comprehensive experience. Sessions that would normally be part of our Fast Forward Convention are now integrated into Summit, giving you access to all the great content from both events — now in one convenient location!
- The call for presentations opens **October 15 and closes December 5**. All potential speakers will know they are presenters before registration opens. Educators interested in presenting should attend the webinar on [October 15](#) at 1 p.m. or 4 p.m.

Please contact [ldoeevents@la.gov](mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov) with questions.



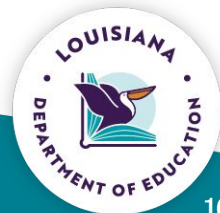
# Technology Readiness Data Request

Under [\*\*§3921.2. Statewide Educational Technology Plan\*\*](#), school systems must 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 school systems and individual schools. TRT data will be used for the school system's digital footprint, supporting future technology planning.

The [\*\*2025 TRT Collection Form\*\*](#) is due on **November 1**. Please see the [\*\*2025 TRT Collection Instructions\*\*](#) for a step-by-step submission guide and resources.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions



# TRT Deep Dive: Common Questions

As you prepare for the November 1 TRT submission deadline, here are some tips:

- Who should complete the form? Typically the school system's IT Director, Technology Coordinator, or a designated EdTech Leader.
- Where do I find my bandwidth information? This can often be found on E-Rate documentation or by contacting your internet service provider.
- Need Help? A step-by-step guide is available in the 2025 TRT Collection Instructions.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions



# ADA Compliance



# Understanding the ADA and Schools

What is the ADA and Why Does It Matter for Schools?

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life.
- For schools, this means ensuring that all students, parents, staff, and community members with disabilities have equal access and opportunity to participate in educational programs, services, and activities.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions



# The Three Pillars of ADA Compliance in Schools

## Key Areas of ADA Compliance

1. **Physical Accessibility:** Ensuring that school buildings, classrooms, and grounds are physically accessible to people with disabilities.
2. **Digital Accessibility:** Making sure that all websites, online learning platforms, and digital communications are usable by everyone, including those who use assistive technology.
3. **Effective Communication:** Providing necessary aids and services to ensure that communication with students, parents, and staff with disabilities is as effective as communication with others.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions



# Ensuring Access to Digital Resources

## Website Accessibility:

- Alt Text for Images: Provide text descriptions for all images so that screen readers can describe them to users with visual impairments.
- Keyboard Navigation: Ensure your website can be fully navigated using only a keyboard.
- High Contrast: Use color combinations that are easy to read.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions



# Ensuring Access to Digital Resources

## Instructional Materials:

- Captions and Transcripts: All videos must have accurate closed captions, and audio content should have a transcript.
- Accessible Documents: Ensure that PDFs and other documents are properly formatted to be read by screen readers.

## Online Learning Platforms:

- Choose and use learning management systems (LMS) and other educational software that are ADA compliant.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions





# Where to Learn More

- U.S. Department of Justice ADA Website: [ADA.gov](https://www.ada.gov)
- U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: [ed.gov/ocr](https://ed.gov/ocr)
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG):  
[w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/](https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/)
- National Center on Accessible Educational Materials (AEM Center):  
[aem.cast.org](https://aem.cast.org)
- OTS Accessibility How To Guides:  
<https://accessibility.ots.la.gov/how-to-guides/>

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions



# Microsoft Accessibility Resources

- Word Documents:
  - [Make your Word documents accessible to people with disabilities - Microsoft Support](#)
- PowerPoint Presentations:
  - [Make your PowerPoint presentations accessible to people with disabilities - Microsoft Support](#)
- Video Closed Captions:
  - [Create closed captions for a video - Microsoft Support](#)

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions



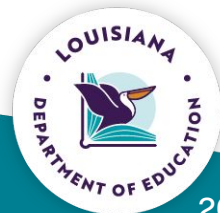
# E-Rate Program Updates



# Cybersecurity Pilot Program

- E-Rate Upcoming Dates
  - **October 15** - Administrative window opens for applicants to make updates to their profile information.
  - **October 29** - First Form 486 deadline for FY 2025 for applicants funded in Waves 1-10. The Wave 11 deadline will be **October 31** with subsequent Form 486 waved deadlines following weekly.

Contact [ERate@la.gov](mailto:ERate@la.gov) with questions.



# USAC Webinar Opportunities

USAC is offering fall training webinars to support program participants. Registration and more information can be found on the [USAC website](#).

- **October 16** - [Category Two Budgets Webinar](#)
- **October 21** - [Fall Training: Administrative Window Webinar](#)
- **October 23** - [E-Rate Post Commitment Process Webinar](#)
- **October 30** - [Fall Training: Invoicing Webinar](#)
- **November 6** - [Fall Training: Eligible Services 101 Webinar](#)

Contact [ERate@la.gov](mailto:ERate@la.gov) with questions.



# Cybersecurity



# Technology and Security Contacts

Please ensure that OTS has the correct information for all school system security contacts. This includes:

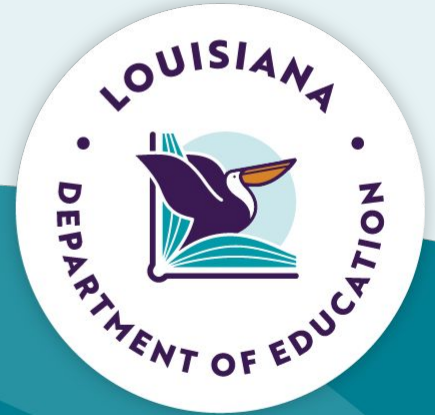
- Name
- Title
- Work Phone
- Work Email
- Cell Phone Number

Please update your LEA's contact information [here](#) if you have not already done so.

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions.



# Education Technology Monthly Webinar & Meeting Dates





# 2025-2026 Education Technology Monthly Webinars

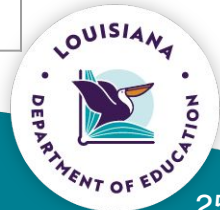
Slides from each meeting will be posted on the [Educational Technology Leaders website](#). Recordings are available on request. A [complete calendar](#) of LDOE events can be found on the Louisiana Believes website.

## Future Monthly Call Dates

- November 13
- December - LACUE
- January 8
- February 12
- March 12
- April 9
- May 14

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

Please contact [edtech@la.gov](mailto:edtech@la.gov) with questions.



# Monthly Calls

Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
EdLink Weekly Q&A Session	<a href="#"><u>October 15, 22, and 29 at 11 a.m.</u></a>
Assessment and Accountability	<a href="#"><u>October 21 at 3 p.m.</u></a>
Teaching and Learning	<a href="#"><u>October 22 at 1 p.m.</u></a>
School System Leader Call	<a href="#"><u>November 7 at 9 a.m.</u></a>
Data Coordinator Webinar	<a href="#"><u>November 7 at 1 p.m.</u></a>

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

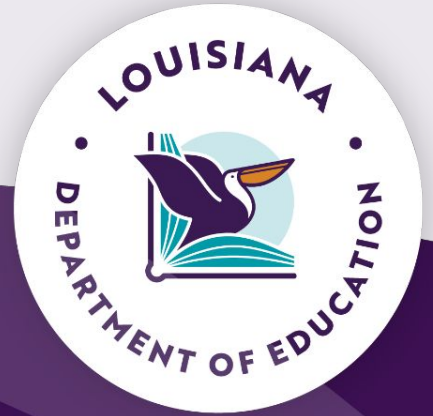


# Key Deadlines & Upcoming Webinars

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• October 15, 1p.m or 4 p.m. : <a href="#">Teacher Leader Summit 2026 Call for Presenters</a></li><li>• <b>October 29: First Form 486 deadline for FY 2025 funded in Waves 1-10</b></li><li>• <b>October 31: Wave 11 deadline with subsequent Form 486</b></li></ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• November 7: LACUE Early Bird <a href="#">registration</a> closes</li></ul>



# Reminders and Repeats



# Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, an annual global effort to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. Gear Up for Cybersecurity Awareness Month with these resources:

- [LDOE Digital Citizenship -Cybersecurity for Students](#): Tailored content to teach students best practices.
- [LDOE Digital Citizenship and AI \(Secondary Students\)](#): Focuses on the unique security challenges presented by artificial intelligence.
- [Cisa Cybersecurity Awareness Month Resources](#): A comprehensive toolkit from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.
- [KnowBe4 Cybersecurity Awareness Toolkit](#): Provides free tools and content to help you build a security culture.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

