

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 1, 2015

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, as you know, the ACT released its annual report on results [nationwide](#) and in [Louisiana](#). I hope you'll review the results in depth, as they say a great deal about our state's successes and challenges.

As the Department's [news release](#) highlighted, Louisiana made greater gains than any other state this year and now ranks third among six southern states that provide the test to all juniors. This is remarkable progress by any measure.

Digging deeper into the Louisiana report, we find a complex story. Our state, for example, tops all six states in the South for its average performance by racial subgroups. Among white students, African-American students, and Latino students, Louisiana tops the southern states that provide the test to all students. You can find subgroups statistics on page 8 of this [report](#).

In one respect, this is heartening progress. We have made real gains. In another respect, these statistics point to a persistent achievement gap between whites and African-Americans that we must relentlessly combat.

Surely there are factors associated with socioeconomic conditions and historical injustices that a classroom teacher or a principal has little control over. But the fact that we have made progress in our state with historically disadvantaged populations of students should compel us that further gains are both possible and necessary. This will mean unifying our early childhood system and providing access to all who seek it. It will mean building strong math skills through challenging curricula that foster foundational skills. It will mean scheduling students for ambitious coursework in middle and high school, and it will mean showing students relevance through pathways leading to real economic opportunity after high school.

It will also mean motivating top college students to join the ranks of our profession and to teaching in subjects and neighborhoods too often left underserved. As one step toward closing the pernicious achievement gap, the Department has released an [application](#) for cohort 3 of [Believe and Prepare](#) grants, challenging applicants to design preparation experiences for pre-service teacher candidates that involve at least a full year of mentored classroom experience. This cohort will focus not just on the quality of the residency curriculum itself, but also on effectively identifying and training mentor teachers. If our state - particularly disenfranchised communities - can induct the next generation of teachers through apprenticeships under the tutelage of the finest teachers of today, then we surely will have taken a step toward attracting the finest talent in our state's colleges into the schools and communities in which they are so badly needed.

We have come so far, but we have so much further left to go. I hope you will consider taking this step as one way to keep Louisiana moving down the road of progress.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

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To view the current District Support Calendar, please click [here](#).

District Support

Superintendents' Conference Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Wednesday, September 2, at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the Superintendents' Conference Call on September 2, please see the webinar information below:

Webinar Login Information (**No pre-registration required*)

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: **(866) 847-7860**
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # **1662000**
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting

District Planning Call

This district planning call for September is scheduled for **September 2, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Please click [here](#) to view the presentation.

The following district supervisors should be in attendance:

- Assessment and Accountability
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Data
- Early Childhood
- High School
- Principal and Teacher Leader
- Special Education

Webinar Login Information: (**No pre-registration required*)

- Meeting Name: **September District Planning Call**
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Call-In Information: (800) 832-0736; meeting room #3423625

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Round Three of Believe and Prepare: Educator Preparation Grants - Cohort 3 RFA

Recruiting and training the next generation of teachers is a district's first step to ensure that new teachers are classroom ready, every classroom is staffed by an effective teacher and all students are on a successful path to college and career.

In order to better support districts in their preparation of new teachers, the Department has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the third cohort of Believe and Prepare Educator Preparation Grants. Through Believe and Prepare, schools, districts, and preparation programs have the opportunity to meet the challenges of teacher readiness and teacher shortages through grants of up to \$200,000 that support schools through partnerships or through district-based preparation programs.

Cohort 3 awards will focus on building strong mentor teacher cadres, growing the number of teachers participating in a yearlong residency, and increasing the number of special education teachers participating in teacher preparation programs.

Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18**. Grant winners will be announced shortly thereafter. The RFA can be accessed [here](#). Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Additional Principal Goal Setting Resources Released

Attention District Leaders and Principals (Compass)

To support educators in the process of setting ambitious and meaningful goals for student learning, the Department has released new resources for this school year including:

- [Teacher Goal Setting Resources](#) including newly released items
- Updated [School Performance Score Calculator](#) aligned to the [goal setting guidance](#) released this summer.
- Goal-Setting support for principals of schools and programs with special missions:
 - [K-2 Configuration](#)
 - [Alternative](#)
 - [Career Technical](#)

Additional principal support resources can be found [here](#).

Please email any questions you may have about Compass or the related resources to compass@la.gov.

Literacy Design Collaborative Training

Teachers and leaders can register [here](#) for the September [Literacy Design Collaborative](#) (LDC) sessions being held in:

- Bossier on September 9
- Lafayette on September 10

- Chalmette on September 11

These sessions support ELA, science, and social studies teachers in grades 3-12 in creating unit plans and daily instructional plans for students using resources in the [Teacher Support Toolbox](#).

Click [here](#) for participant expectations, training dates, and overview of the framework.

Contact jill.slack@la.gov for assistance.

High School Opportunities

Course Choice/SCA School Level Information

Course Choice funded through the Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) provides courses not currently available to their students, including:

- Career and technical preparation, supporting the Jump Start program
- Academic work required to achieve TOPS
- Advanced coursework not available at the school due to limited resources
- Dual Enrollment
- Intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation

The registration process is open and will close on **September 4, 2015**.

If you are unsure of the user account for your school please send an e-mail to SCA@la.gov requesting account information. Please include your school name and school district in the body of the message.

Course Choice/SCA Registration System: <http://lacourses.net/>

Information: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/supplemental-course-academy>

2015-16 SCA Allocation: LEAs/Independent Public Schools can determine their SCA allocation by reviewing [this document](#).

Community Service Diploma Endorsement

Beginning with freshmen entering school year 2013-14 and beyond, LEAs may award the [Community Service Diploma Endorsement](#) to graduates who have completed a minimum number of documented community service hours each year.

The Department is required to provide an annual report to the Legislature regarding the number of students pursuing this diploma endorsement statewide. By September 15, please provide the name and email for a designated Community Service Diploma Endorsement district contact to Jennifer.Falls@la.gov.

District contacts will be invited to participate in a Community Service Diploma Endorsement webinar and asked to respond to a brief survey about the status of [Community Service Diploma Endorsements](#) in your district.


Building and Sustaining an AP[◆] Program Webinar

To promote successful growth of AP[◆] Programs statewide, LDE will host a webinar to provide AP[◆] teachers, coordinators, and administrators with best practices for building and sustaining an AP[◆] program. Participants are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- **Wednesday, September 16 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**


Monday, September 21 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Webinar Login Information (**no pre-registration required*)

- **Meeting Name:** Building and Sustaining an AP  Program
- **Click [here](#)** to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/buildingap/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**
- Audio access: **(800) 832-0736**; room number: **2834406**

Please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov with any questions or for additional information.

Getting Started with CLEP

The College-Level Examination Program  (CLEP) helps students receive college credit for completion of advanced coursework.

District Test Coordinators, Administrators, Professional School Counselors, and Lead Teachers are encouraged to participate in one of the face-to-face trainings from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at one of the following locations:

- **Tuesday, September 22** at the Calcasieu Parish School Board Assessment Building in Lake Charles
- **Wednesday, September 23** at EBR Professional Development Center in Baton Rouge
- **Friday, September 25** at the Treen Technology Center in Mandeville

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov with any questions or for additional information.

Course Choice/SCA Funding Webinar

Course Choice funded through the Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers. LEAs and Independent Public Schools receive an allocation in the MFP and additional funding through HB1 Appropriations. This webinar will review how funds are to be allocated by LEAs/Independent Public Schools and the potential reallocation process.

The 2015-16 SCA/Course Choice Funding Document can be found [here](#).

The SCA Funding webinar will take place on **Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information: (**No pre-registration required*)

- Meeting Name: SCA Funding
- Web conference Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/r2bcjlnz8i4/>
- To connect by telephone only (no computer): **1.800.832.0736** Access code: **1053465**

Special Education Policy

Opportunity Grant: Building Pathways to High School Diplomas for Students with Disabilities

Next week, the Department will release an opportunity for LEAs to apply for funding to establish or enhance effective career education programs for students with disabilities that lead to high school diplomas. All LEAs serving students in grades T9-12th are eligible to apply for funds. The RFA and application will be posted on the students with disabilities home page and will be available in next week's newsletter.

Finance

FY2015-16 MFP Budget Letter

As revisions to FY2015-16 MFP Allocations occur they are posted to the Department's website [here](#). Business Managers should check the website for any applicable changes to monthly MFP payments.

If you have any questions or require additional information please email melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

Stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers and Escadrille Louisiane Graduates

Please forward to business managers and financial officials of public school districts and charter schools.

Funding of stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers and Escadrille Louisiane Graduates is provided in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) for FY2015-16. The following items are attached for your reference:

- [FY2014-15 Stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers - Memo](#)
- [FY2014-15 Stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers - Allocations](#)

For questions or more information please contact Melanie Ruiz Melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

New Requirement for Indirect Cost - Sub-award Data Collection

Please forward to Business Managers and Financial Officials of City/Parish School Districts, Type 2 and Type 5 Charter Schools:

LDOE currently calculates the Indirect Cost Rate for each LEA annually based on the expenditure data reported in the AFR. In order to maintain compliance with LDOE's current Indirect Cost agreement with USDOE for the 2016 - 2017 rate calculation, LEAs will be required to provide additional financial data to capture *sub-award* amounts during the FY 14-15 AFR submission. The financial data will be submitted via the LEADS portal. The portal to capture this data is anticipated to be available by **mid-October**, at which time additional details will be provided on how to complete and submit the required information. For information regarding sub-awards click [here](#).

If you have any questions concerning sub-awards and indirect costs, contact Monique Livious at Monique.Livious2@la.gov or Nakia Jason at Nakia.Jason@la.gov.

Data

Update on Vendor Data Sharing Agreements

Pursuant to R.S. 17:3914, LEAs must have a contract or data sharing agreement in place with private vendors that deliver services under state contracts in order to share personally identifiable student data. Based on feedback from LEAs, the Department is in the process of amending existing data sharing agreements and reposting them on the LDOE website.

The Department currently has the following data sharing agreements for viewing [here](#):

- eScholar
- CAI (SER)
- RedeSet Grow
- iSTEEP
- Pacific Metrics-EAGLE
- Teaching Strategies Gold

The following data sharing agreements will be available as soon as possible:

- DIBELS
- Pacific Metrics-EOC
- ACT
- Brookes (AEPSi)

Districts should download the addendums from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to LDEData@la.gov in order to ensure that they will be able to share student information with these vendors for testing and reporting purposes.

Please email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

MFP Allocations for RSD Orleans available via FTP August 27

The August 2015 MFP Allocations for RSD Orleans have been placed in your data management FTP (username ending in @datamgmt) on August 27. This file is named, "LEA Code_LEA_August 2015 MFP" and will be available on FTP until October 1st. Data Coordinators are to supply this file to your Business and Financial Managers.

For assistance with accessing FTP, email LDEData@la.gov.

FY2015-2016 Audit Assurances and Class Size Reports

FY2015-2016 Audit Assurances and Class Size Reports: The Audit Assurances packet is now available on INSIGHT and [here](#). Please note in schedule 6 of the packet that Class Size reports will be available on the FTP site beginning July 14, 2015 through December 2015. The file names are "LEACode_LEAName_2014_Class Size Site Level Report" and "LEACode_LEAName_2014_Class Size for Auditors."

Please email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

Accountability Data Certification Period

Please forward to District Accountability Contacts

The final data certification window for 2014-2015 School Performance Scores (SPS) results will run as follows:

Aug 31-Sept 14: Data certification period for assessments including LEAP, iLEAP, grades 3-8 ELA and math (tests taken indicator only), LAA 1, and EOC Tests

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on **Thursday, September 3 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices.

Webinar Login Information: (**No pre-registration required*)

- Meeting Name: **System Data Coordinator Webinar**
- Click [here](#) or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- *Select Listen only mode.*

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT Coordinator's Portal under [Monthly DC Webinars](#) by August 4.

Student Programs

FY15 - Serving Homeless Children and Youth through Title I Part A

The United States Department of Education has issued information regarding the use of funds under Title I, Part A of ESEA to provide services to homeless children and youth.

The LDOE - Federal Reporting Division encourages LEAs to review this [Title I and EHCY letter](#) and use it in conjunction with existing guidance, and to circulate this guidance to your schools.

[Title I Use of Funds Guidance](#)

[Serving Homeless Students](#)

[Needs Assessment for homeless reservation](#)

We appreciate your incredible work to enhance the achievement of all your students. If you have any concerns, feel free to reach out to your Point of Contact (POC).

Registration Now Open: Methods of Administration Civil Rights Review Training

Please forward to District and Postsecondary CTE Coordinators and Facility Managers.

The Louisiana Community & Technical College System and the Louisiana Department of Education are planning a one-day event to be held at the West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2750 North Westport Drive, Port Allen, LA 70767, on November 17, 2015, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., on the subject of Methods of Administration Civil Rights Reviews. Mr. Michael Brustein, of Brustein & Manasevit, Attorneys at Law, will present on the major civil rights laws that inform Methods of Administration Civil Rights Reviews. The target audience will be LEA/LEA Charter CTE Coordinators and Facility Managers and postsecondary Perkins Representatives and Facility Managers. Please click [here](#) to register. For more information at this time, please contact Terry Simoneaux, LDOE, at Terry.Simoneaux@la.gov or Patricia Felder, LCTCS, at patriciafelder@lctcs.edu.

Other

Application for U.S. Senate Youth Program

The Department and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation encourage students in your districts to submit an application for the [2016 United States Senate Youth Program](#). Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to spend a week in Washington, D.C. in March of 2016, and will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship from the Hearst Foundation.

Please distribute the [national program brochure](#) and the [logistics memo](#), which includes the application and selection procedures. High school personnel should contact marian.johnson@la.gov for the essay topics, which will not be publicly posted.

Applications are due to the Department by October 9, 2015. Finalists will be notified by October 22.

Please email marian.johnson@la.gov for additional submission information or general questions about the program.

Education in the News

[Pointe Coupee School Board starts process of turning Central High into STEM campus by 2016](#)

[New Program Will Serve Students With Mental And Behavioral Health Needs](#)

[Louisiana leads 13 states in ACT exam score growth](#)

[New Orleans charter school thriving 10 years after Katrina](#)

[Oct. 24 elections seen as key for Common Core, education reforms](#)

[New Orleans schools move forward after Katrina](#)

LDOE Contacts

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