

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 11, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the state's legislative session ended last week, and all reports indicate positive outcomes for early education centers, elementary and secondary schools, and institutions of higher learning. The Department of Education itself did not fare as well, seeing continued cuts to its operating budget; I will provide details in future weeks as to services that will be reduced. Nevertheless, the [session](#) was a good one for education. Thanks to all of you who advocated forcefully and skillfully.

Today, the RAND Corporation released a [set of detailed reports](#) that describes and interprets improvement efforts undertaken in Louisiana schools since 2012. The reports highlight changes in the state's approach to early education, curriculum and professional development, educator preparation, and postsecondary pathways to college and work. It is a rare and valuable look at an unusually comprehensive and enduring statewide plan for improvement. I hope you'll take some time to review them.

In the reports, RAND researchers detail areas of initial success, areas of initial struggle, and areas in which there remain unknowns, and provide an unvarnished look at work that is important, difficult, imperfect, and noble.

Reading the reports, I am struck by just how many people it takes to move a state's education system in a new direction. They describe the work of teachers and principals, but also personnel directors, counselors, board members, mentor teachers, and countless other roles within our system, which, when pulling in the same direction, demonstrate awesome potential for change. Really, it is this that makes me most proud. We in Louisiana are trying. We are trying very hard for our children. We have our challenges. We have our disappointments and our frustrations. But we have much to be proud of, and our collective effort should be one source of that pride.

I hope you'll get a moment this summer to take a look at the reports, and to reflect on the important, noble work going on in our homes and schools every hour of every day – work we are each greatly blessed to be a part of.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Regional Summer Foster Care Meeting \(Harvey\)](#): June 17 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): June 18 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Regional Summer Foster Care Meeting \(Baton Rouge\)](#): June 19 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Teacher Leader Summit](#): June 26-28

Important Deadlines

- [DRC eDirect Student Corrections System Online Cleanup](#) closes: June 14
- [2019-2020 Child Nutrition Program Community Eligibility Provision Election](#) deadline: June 28
- Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds: June 30
- 2019-2020 Pupil Progression Plan submission deadline: July 1
- Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs: July 15

School System Support

New: Summit Reminders

Please forward to all Summit participants.

The **Teacher Leader Summit** is two weeks away, and **currently sold out** with the exception of Friday single-day tickets. Here are a few reminders before the big event:

1. Use the Summit app to reserve seats in sessions and build your schedule. Details are available in the [app overview](#).
2. All tickets are non-transferrable. View the [event overview](#) for details on how to request a refund.
3. Plan your travel logistics. View the [event overview](#) for details on event parking and lodging.
4. **T-shirt and tote bag orders must be placed by this Friday, June 14** to be received before the Summit. A limited number of t-shirts will also be available for purchase at the Summit, but these sell out quickly, so participants are encouraged to order online.

Email ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

New: Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2018-2019

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department is releasing the [consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2018-2019 school year](#). This schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

The assigned program monitoring team leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to superintendents and federal program directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule. The [fourth quarter monitoring schedule](#) is also available.

Please contact tasha.anthony@la.gov with questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and chauncey.mcelwee@la.gov with questions related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Assessment and Accountability

New: DRC eDirect Student Corrections System Online Cleanup

An important opportunity to review test data for students is available through the *DRC eDirect Student Corrections System Online Cleanup*, which opened yesterday, June 10 and closes this Friday, June 14. **This is the final opportunity that schools and systems will have to make corrections to data before the progress index is run in August.** This process allows users to update demographic information and to apply accountability codes for students who are flagged for impending zeroes.

Please note that **this cleanup cannot be extended after Friday, June 14.** All other corrections will have to be submitted during full data certification in August after the progress index has been calculated.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

For District Testing Coordinators

General:

- The [2018-2019 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) is located in the [Assessment Library](#).
- All changes to secure shipping addresses, DTCs, or Accountability Contacts must be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the [Assessment Library](#).
- The updated Central Office Testing Site Manager (TSM) is now available for download in [eDIRECT](#) under the Downloads tab. Central Office will replace the TSM for the 2019-2020 school year and must be installed prior to August. TSM 9.2 will no longer work on June 30.

LEAP 2025

- **June 17-21**
 - June 7: Summer high school LEAP 2025/EOC test setup and additional materials window opens
 - DTCs should train STCs on test security and administration.

LEAP 360

- School systems that use LEAP 360 during the 2019-2020 school year will not be required to pay an annual fee; however, they will be required to sign a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) to protect the item and test content. Submit the signed MOU to assessment@la.gov.

ELPS

- Beginning August 1, ELPS will be Louisiana's required standardized entrance screener. All guidance and trainings are available in the [Assessment Library](#).
- ELPS will be unavailable from July 13-31.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next monthly Assessment and Accountability call will be June 18 at 1:00 p.m. There are not any Office Hours in June or July. Regularly scheduled Office Hours will resume in August.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

Reminder: Super Summer Institute - Late Registration

Please share with Career and Technical Education (CTE) Supervisors, administrators, and instructors.

Late registration for the 2019 Jump Start Super Summer Institutes (SSI) will open on July 1 and close on July 5. Late registration will be available for a limited number of July sites and sessions.

Late registration sites include [Baton Rouge](#), [Bossier](#), [Livingston](#), and [Operation Spark](#). Late registration seats in the following sessions are limited, and additional seating will not be made available after late registration closes on July 5.

- Adobe Visual Design Specialist
- FAA License/Drone Applications
- Quest for Success
- Operation Spark Instructor Intensive

No refunds will be provided for late registration. No onsite registration will be available at any SSI sites.

For more information, please contact jumpstart@la.gov.

Educator Preparation

Reminder: Teacher Certification Renewal Process

For many teaching certificates, it is time to renew. Most certificates are renewable for **calendar years**. However, the following certificates are issued for a **school session**:

- Practitioner Licenses (1, 2, and 3)
- Extended Endorsement Licenses
- Temporary Employment Permits
- Resident Teacher Certificates
- Out-of-Field Authority to Teach

These certificates are **not renewed** until **July 1** of each calendar year. For this reason, the Certification team will not begin processing issuance or renewal of these certificates until **July 1**.

Please note that any renewal applications for these certificate types submitted prior to July will be held until the July 1 date. Due to processing time, some certificates may show as lapsed or **expired** until they are processed by the Certification team. Once processed, they will show a retroactive **start date** of **July 1** and no lapse of certification.

Practitioner License (PL) Renewals:

- The **program provider** applies for PL renewal only if the teacher is enrolled in the Practitioner Teacher Program (PTP) on a PL1.
- The **employer** applies for the PL renewal when the teacher candidate is enrolled in the Certification-Only Program (PL2) or the Master's Alternative Program (PL3).

As mentioned previously, these certificates are renewed after **July 1** each school year.

Please email certification@la.gov with certification questions, or submit a question in our online portal at

[TeachLALive!](#).

Federal Programs

Reminder: Regional Summer Foster Care Meetings

The Department is hosting joint regional summer foster care meetings with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Topics to be covered include notification and communication protocols, transportation plan updates, new resources, and strengthening the relationship between DCFS and local school systems. For convenience, repeat meetings will be held at three locations around the state. All local Foster Care points of contact should register to attend one of the following meetings by clicking the link below.

Date	Location/Registration	Time
June 17	Jefferson Parish School Systems 601 Manhattan Harvey, LA	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
June 19	Department Of Children & Family Services 160 South Ardenwood Drive Baton Rouge, LA	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact melanie.mayeux@la.gov.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: 2019 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Please share with child nutrition program supervisors.

USDA has awarded Louisiana \$602,468, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6), to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and expand access to school meals. Priority will be given to schools where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals and have not received equipment grant funding in 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, or 2018.

Grant related information is [available](#). Online applications will be accessible this fall at the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) website.

Please note: A School Food Service Memo will be forthcoming to inform SFAs of dates for the open application period.

Please contact helen.folks@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Deadline for 2019-2020 Child Nutrition Program Community Eligibility Provision Election

Please share with child nutrition program supervisors.

Per program regulations, school systems that intend to elect Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2019-2020 school year must notify the Department, via the [Child Nutrition Program website](#), by June 30. However, since June 30 falls on a Sunday, **the election deadline is June 28.**

Please email childnutritionprograms@la.gov for more information.