

Educational Technology Monthly Call

December 14, 2023



<https://bit.ly/Ed-Tech-Dec2023>

Agenda

- Digital Learning Updates
- Cybersecurity
- Emergency Connectivity Fund, E-Rate, and ACP
- Important Reminders and Other Information



Digital Learning Updates



Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - Open Now

Our [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs) are highly motivated educators who work alongside the LDOE team to support the mission and vision of the Louisiana Department of Education by

- creating instructional tasks and resources in math, science, social studies, STEM, EdTech, and literacy;
- updating ELA resources and analyze texts;
- evaluating the quality of publisher-submitted curricular materials; and
- developing and facilitating professional learning sessions.

[Learn more](#) about our amazing TLAs and apply to become one! Applications close on **January 12, 2024**.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.



Teacher Leader Summit: Leading the Next Level

The [2024 Teacher Leader Summit](#) is an annual professional learning conference that brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2024-2025 school year.

This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on our ability to lead the next level of our Vision for Success.

- The Teacher Leader Summit will take place from May 28 - May 30, 2024, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC).
- Early Bird Registration will open January 5 and close February 2.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions



Kami Update

As mentioned in our previous call, the LDOE will be providing access to the digital tool Kami at no cost to school systems. [Kami](#) will be available for all K-12 teachers and students in the 2024-2025 school year. The great news is we are on track and rolling out licenses as school systems' educational technology departments register.

- Onboarding and early adopters can begin setting up their district-wide Kami account by filling out the [LDOE Kami Intake Form](#).
- Professional learning opportunities will be shared in future LDOE communications.
- Additional information about Kami and tutorials are now available on the [Kami website](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.



Cybersecurity



K-12 Report CIS MS-ISAC Cybersecurity Assessment of the 2022–2023 School Year

[CIS MS-ISAC 2023 K-12 Cybersecurity report](#) has been release. The report offers vital insights into the state of cybersecurity in the K-12 sector.

The report is based on data collected during 2022-23 school year. Sources include K-12 community responses to the 2022 [Nationwide Cybersecurity Review \(NCSR\)](#), MS-ISAC member feedback, the CIS Security Operations Center (SOC), and CIS Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) Team.



K-12 Report Highlights - Top Security Concerns

2022 [Nationwide Cybersecurity Review \(NCSR\)](#) data indicated the following top security concerns among K-12 respondents:

1. Lack of sufficient funding
2. Increasing sophistication of threats
3. Lack of documented processes
4. Lack of cybersecurity strategy
5. Inadequate availability of cybersecurity professionals



K-12 Report Highlights - Cybersecurity Maturity

Areas K-12 schools are generally performing well:

- Identity Management and Access Control
- Awareness and Training
- Maintenance

Areas needing improvement:

- Protection Technologies: Data protection, Audit log management, and malware defense
- Information Protection Processes and Procedures -Continuous Vulnerability Mgmt.



K-12 Report Highlights - Cybersecurity Maturity

Areas needing improvement (cont.):

- Supply Chain Risk Management -Data Recovery (testing backups), Service Provider Management (monitoring).
- Detection Processes -Incident Response Management



K-12 Report Highlights - Cyber Threats

- Report outlines top Malware and Non-Malware threats that impacted schools.
- Ransomware still remains top concern for K-12 organizations.
- Recommended actions to reduce the risk and impact of Ransomware:
 - Prioritize and remediate known exploited vulnerabilities
 - Train users to recognize and report phishing attempts
 - Enable and enforce multi-factor authentication
- The [#StopRansomware Guide](#) provides detailed recommendations to help school detect, prevent, respond, and recover from Ransomware.
- Additional resources at CISA's [Stop Ransomware page](#).

Please contact edtech@la.gov with any questions



Cyber Advisories and Alerts

There were 9 new advisories posted in November. Below are advisories that have come out since our last call that are currently being exploited in the wild. Please apply appropriate updates provided by the software and/or system vendor.

- MS-ISAC Advisory # 2023-141: [A Vulnerability in the Backup Migration Plugin for WordPress Could Allow for Remote Code Execution](#)
- MS-ISAC Advisory # 2023-139: [Multiple Vulnerabilities in Apple Products Could Allow for Arbitrary Code Execution](#)
- MS-ISAC Advisory # 2023-137: [Multiple Vulnerabilities in Apple Products Could Allow for Arbitrary Code Execution](#)

A complete list of all Advisories available [here](#).

CISA Cybersecurity Alert: [Threat Actors Exploit Adobe ColdFusion CVE-2023-26360 for Initial Access to Government Servers](#)

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.



E-Rate and Emergency Connectivity Fund



Louisiana Fall E-Rate Training

In case you were unable to attend the Fall Training we did record the applicant training day, you can access the recording [here](#) and you will need the passcode “4x6M9W.*”.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



EPC Administration Window

The EPC administrative window opened on October 24th. Applicants can now update their entity profiles (including student counts and NSLP percentages) in advance of the FY 2024 application window. USAC will close the administrative window shortly before the Form 471 application window opens in mid-January, at which point EPC entity profiles will be locked during the window.

All applicants should review their entity profiles to make sure that their EPC information is correct. Please note:

- Earlier updates they made to their entity profiles may have been overwritten by USAC as a result of the PIA reviews of their FY 2023 applications.
- Rural/urban status as of FY 2024 will now be determined based on the 2020 census. USAC is updating discount rates in EPC — up or down by 5-10% — for approximately 500 school and district applicants. Any such changes will also affect the discount rates of associated libraries and consortia.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



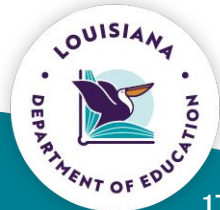
State Validation

In January, we will be sending out validation emails for preparing the State's Valid file for USAC. If you have not updated your District Contact Form, please do that now to ensure the correct E-Rate contact in your LEA receives this information. The Contact Form can be found [here](#).

This validation will include your student counts, Individual CEP percentages, group CEP percentages, NSLP numbers and ED numbers by school.

These number must match what you have entered in your Entity Profile in EPC, otherwise your E-Rate application will be delayed and require additional approvals while in PIA review.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Emergency Connectivity Fund Single Audits

USAC released updates to the FCC's [Emergency Connectivity Fund FAQs](#) dealing with the Single Audit Act. This Act, which can be triggered by ECF funding but not by E-rate funding, requires annual audits of non-Federal entities that expend \$750,000 or more in federal assistance in a year to undergo audits by independent auditors.

Key takeaways:

- If I receive funding through the Emergency Connectivity Fund, am I subject to the Single Audit Act requirements?
 - *Short Answer:* Yes, if \$750,000 or more of funding is received.
- Which ECF funds must be reported on our Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (“SEFA”) forms?
 - *Short Answer:* All funds reimbursed to the applicant or service provider.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Emergency Connectivity Fund Single Audits

- Once a Single Audit report is upload to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse, what will the FCC do?
 - *Short Answer:* If a finding is identified, the FCC will issue an acknowledgement letter outlining the steps necessary to resolve the issue.
- What is a management decision letter (“MDL”) ?
 - *Short Answer:* A summary of the FCC’s findings including any corrective action deemed appropriate.
- Will my school or library be required to pay back any funds?
 - *Short Answer:* “The FCC is committed to resolving Single Audit Act-related findings in a fair and equitable manner.”
- If an auditee demonstrates that an auditor's finding is inaccurate, how will the FCC treat that finding?
 - *Short Answer:* The FCC would issue a MDL that did not sustain the auditor’s findings and no auditee action would be necessary.
- What will school applicants need related to unmet need at the different stages of the ECF Program process (e.g., application, invoicing, or audits)?
 - *No short answer.*

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Upcoming E-Rate Deadlines

- Upcoming Form 486 Deadlines
 - Dec 15 - FY 2023 Wave 17
 - Dec 22 - FY 2023 Wave 18
 - Dec 29 - FY 2023 Wave 19
- Jan 8 - Due date for comments on the FCC's NPRM ([FCC 23-91](#)) on the eligibility of hotspot loans.
- Jan 24 - Reply due date for comments on the FCC's NPRM on the eligibility of hotspot loans.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Assessment Technology



DRC Technology Specifications for 2023-24

LDOE's assessment team has released the new technology specification for the LEAP testing on the DRC platform. The new specifications can be downloaded [here](#).

The main changes include support for the latest versions of Windows 10, Windows 11, MacOS and iPad iOS.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Dibels K-3 Literacy Screener Technology Specifications and Setup

LDOE's assessment team has released the new technology specification for the Dibels K-3 Literacy Screener. Below are the specifications for SY 23-24:

Device Setup

In order to access the DIBELS 8th Edition K-3 Literacy Screener, the student will need:

- Computer (desktop or laptop), iPad or Chromebook with the Safe Exam Browser Installed
- The latest version [Google Chrome Browser](#) (required for remote testing).
- The latest version of one of the following web conferencing platforms: Zoom Video Communications, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet (with recording capabilities)
- 2GB of RAM memory
- External mouse, trackpad, or touch screen device
- Microphone, either external or built in.
- Screen size of at least 9.5 inches, touch screen devices are acceptable
- Screen resolution of 1024x768

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Dibels K-3 Literacy Screener - continued

How To: Install the Safe Exam Browser

Below are instructions for installing the Safe Exam Browser (SEB) needed to assess students with mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition.

Windows

- Download the **Safe Exam Browser** for Windows installer [here](#)
- Once the file has been downloaded, double-click it to start the installation process.
- Follow the instructions on the screen to install the SEB.
- Once the SEB has been installed, launch it from the Windows Start menu by locating the **Safe Exam Browser** icon and clicking it.
- The first time you launch the SEB, you will be prompted to agree to the terms and conditions of the app. Click **I agree** to continue.
- The main screen of the app displays. From here, you can start assessing students.
- To close the SEB, click **Exit** at the bottom of the screen.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Dibels K-3 Literacy Screener - continued

iPadOS & iOS

- Open the App Store on your iPad or iPhone.
- Search for “Safe Exam Browser”.
- Tap the **Safe Exam Browser** app icon to open the app page.
- Tap **Get** to download and install the app.
- Once the app has been installed, tap **Open** to launch it.
- The first time you launch the SEB, you will be prompted to agree to the terms and conditions of the app. Tap **Agree** to continue.
- The SEB will check for updates. If there is an update available, you will be prompted to install it. Tap **Download and Install** to install the update.
- Once the SEB is up to date, the main screen of the app displays. From here, you can start assessing students.
- To close the SEB, click **Exit** at the bottom of the screen.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.

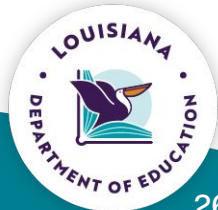


Dibels K-3 Literacy Screener - continued

MacOS

- Download the Safe Exam Browser for macOS installer [here](#)
- Depending on your browser, a download page may open in a new tab, displaying the download progress. When the download is complete, close the tab.
- Once the DMG file has been downloaded, double-click it to mount it.
- Open the mounted DMG file and double-click the **Safe Exam Browser.dmg** installer package.
- Follow the instructions on the screen to install the SEB.
- Once the SEB has been installed, you can launch it from the Applications folder.
- You may be prompted to Open the application by MacOS, you can click **Open**.
- The first time you launch the SEB, you will be prompted to agree to the terms and conditions of the app. Click **Agree** to continue.
- The main screen of the app displays. From here, you can start assessing students.
- To close the SEB, click **Exit** at the bottom of the screen.

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Dibels K-3 Literacy Screener - continued

Chromebook and ChromeOS

In order to access mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition for Louisiana on a Chromebook using ChromeOS, Chromebooks must be in “**Kiosk Mode**” with specific ChromeOS apps installed. These include:

- Students: [mCLASS Student Assessment app](#)
- Teachers: [mCLASS Teacher Administered Assessment](#) and [mCLASS Assessment Forms apps](#)

Please contact erate@la.gov with questions.



Education Technology Monthly Webinar & Meeting Dates



2023-2024 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.

Upcoming Monthly Call Dates

- January 11
- February 8
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9

Time:	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Webinar Link	https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/575223228?pwd=NDNIN01SS3c0Rk4wV25aNkZhTEc2Zz09
Phone Number	1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID	Meeting ID: 575 223 228 Password: 2020-202!

Please contact edtech@la.gov with questions.



Reminders



Technology and Security Contacts

Based on recent events it is even more important that we at the State have 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.



Student Privacy Laws for Staff

- In the digital age, protecting student information is crucial for educators and leaders. The LDOE has released a support resource covering key privacy laws (FERPA, COPPA, CIPA), vital terms (PII, AUP, LEA), and practical steps.
- The [Student Privacy Laws for Staff](#) resource can be conveniently located on both the [Educational Technology Leaders](#) and the [Educational Technology Teachers](#) website.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with any questions.

