

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: June 18, 2024

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### Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) [approved a revised accountability system for K-12 public schools](#). This new system will go into effect for the 2025-26 school year. This [one-pager](#) gives a quick overview of the new plan. You can also download the [presentation slides](#). We will soon have additional resources available to support educators through this transition.

Louisiana's revised accountability system will raise the bar for academic success, enhance the value of career education, and make it easier for the public to understand how schools are performing. It's named Grow. Achieve. Thrive. after its three core student expectations. Louisiana expects all students to grow academically year-over year, achieve proficiency on key content, and thrive beyond high school. It has already earned national praise for ["providing a clear, fair, and rigorous framework that prioritizes student academic achievement, growth, and readiness for life after high school."](#)

Schools will be graded using a [simple scorecard](#) that includes elements foundational to student success. Each of the scorecard's foundational elements will be evenly averaged to determine a score for schools and systems. These are clear measures of what we know matter most to academic success.

We had to replace our current system because it has become outdated. It no longer measures what it means to graduate from high school ready for a career or college. Schools are not recognized for growing students from one year to the next. And, frankly, it's confusing and not easy for parents — or anyone else — to understand.

We are confident this revised accountability system will drive academic outcomes and ensure more students are prepared for life after graduation. Together, we can help all students grow, achieve, and thrive.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [June 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Summer EBT Call: [June 20 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinar: [June 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [June 25 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [June 26 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [June 26 at 2 p.m.](#)

- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [July 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: [July 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: [July 10 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [July 15 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

## **Upcoming Events and Deadlines**

- [See The Sound Visual Phonics Training](#): June 18-19 **POSTPONED**
- Kami for Secondary ELA and Social Studies: [June 20 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Kami for Secondary Math and Science: [June 20 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [School Support Institutes 2024-2025](#) Registration Ends: June 21
- [Louisiana Literacy Regional Summer Tour](#): June 21, Baton Rouge
- Math Leader ToolKit-Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series: [June 24 at 9 a.m.](#)
- [Homeless Liaison of the Year Nomination](#) Deadline: June 24
- High School Numeracy Summer Webinar Series: [June 26 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds: June 30
- Summer EBT Application Portal Opens: July 1
- [Louisiana Literacy Regional Summer Tour](#): July 8, West Monroe
- [Louisiana Literacy Regional Summer Tour](#): July 9, Bossier City
- [Louisiana Literacy Regional Summer Tour](#): July 11, Alexandria
- [2024 Louisiana School Safety Summit](#): July 10-11, **VIRTUAL EVENT**
- [System Leader Regional Collaborations](#): Registration Ends July 12
- Deadline for EEF recipients to submit Final 6/30 PERs: July 15
- [New International Associate Teacher Orientation](#): July 22-25, Baton Rouge

## **Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations**

### **Public Notice – ESEA Waiver Request**

**Please share with human resource directors, school leaders and system leaders.**

Act 499 of the 2024 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session requires that the Louisiana Department of Education request authorization from the U.S. Department of Education to waive the requirement that all students participate in the same assessments by grade level and subject specific to the requirement of R.S. 17:24.10 that students in kindergarten through third grade participate in a universal literacy screener three times during the school year. As an alternative, students with dyslexia as defined in R.S. 17:392.11 would take a nationally norm-referenced assessment to measure oral reading fluency and phonological skills. Interested personnel and members of the public may submit questions or comments to Ashley Townsend, Deputy Chief of Policy, via email at [EducationPolicy@la.gov](mailto:EducationPolicy@la.gov), placing “ESEA Waiver” in the subject line, by July 5.

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

### **Act No. 216 2024 Legislative Session**

**Please share with superintendents, school leaders, and system leaders.**

Please be advised to immediately review Act No. 216 of the 2024 Legislative Session with your legal counsel. This act became effective on May 25th, 2024 and amends and reenacts provisions of the Children's Code relative to mandatory reporting procedures and expands the definition of Teaching and Child Care Provider to include school resource officers. The Act also contains a new provision applicable to employment policies or manuals prohibiting mandatory reporters from immediate filing of a report of child abuse or neglect as required by law and provides for sanctions of the employer for violation.

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

## **Summer EBT**

**Please share with system leaders, school leaders, and federal nutrition directors.**

Louisiana SUN Bucks, also called Summer EBT, will provide families \$120 for each eligible school aged child to buy groceries during the summer break when school meals are not available. Beginning this week, most eligible families will receive SUN Bucks automatically, but some parents must apply. The application portal will open on July 1.

Updated [SUN Bucks Family Flyers](#) are available for distribution at this time.

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

## **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**

### **LEAP State Placement Test**

**Please share with school leaders and test coordinators.**

Bulletin 1566 policy requires all students who are transferring from out-of-state, nonpublic or home study schools to take the LEAP ELA and Math State Placement Test for enrollment into grades 5 or 9 if they do not have current LEAP scores for grades 4 or 8. The placement test will not be available for administration from July 1-15 due to administration year rollover. School systems should consider this availability as they are scheduling their tests, and they should provide their state placement test schedules to the [DRC Helpdesk](#) in advance of their administration.

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

### **LEAP Diagnostic, Interim and Practice Tests**

**Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.**

LEAP diagnostic, interim and practice tests will not be available from July 1-15 due to administration year rollover.

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

### **K-3 Literacy Screening**

**Please share with literacy supervisors and testing coordinators.**

The K-3 Literacy beginning-of-year (BOY) screener must be given within the first 30 days of school. Because this timeline varies based on each school system's starting date, the literacy screener windows will be customized in mCLASS based on the school system's first day of school. All school systems must send their first and last days of school from their school board approved calendar to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) no later than Friday, June 28. School systems will not be granted access to the system until the dates are set. All screening must be entered into mCLASS.

The mCLASS system will be unavailable from July 15 to the opening of the BOY window.

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

### **Changes to District Test and Accountability Coordinators**

**Please share with accountability coordinators, testing coordinators, and system leaders.**

In order to provide important communication and access to secure systems for testing and data certification, it is extremely important to notify the LDOE Assessment and Accountability team of any changes to district test or accountability coordinators for public schools and nonpublic schools who test students. The [DTC and Accountability Contact Update Form](#) is available in the assessment library and should be sent by the superintendent to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

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

## School Choice

### Charter Schools

#### **Charter School Program Grant**

**Please share with charter operators, non-profit organizations seeking charter authorization, and system leaders.**

The Year 2 CSP Application Cycle is open and set to follow the timeline below:

- [CSP Letter of Intent](#) due June 1
- [CSP Eligibility Determination Form](#) due October 15
- [CSP Application](#) due October 30

The RFA has been updated with minor changes. All changes to the CSP RFA are documented in the [CSP RFA Version History PDF](#).

Applicants submitting a Letter of Intent will be invited to participate in Technical Assistance and Q&A webinars beginning at the end of June.

More information is available on the [CSP Grant page](#).

Please contact [cspgrant@la.gov](mailto:cspgrant@la.gov) or [Tammy.Morgan3@la.gov](mailto:Tammy.Morgan3@la.gov) with questions.

## Teaching and Learning

### Academic Content

#### **Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Updates**

**Please share with content supervisors, social studies teachers, and school leaders.**

The LDOE is excited to announce that the final grade 2 Bayou Bridges units are now available. Please navigate to the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#) to access. Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All 51 units for grades K-8 are now complete and published for teacher and student use.

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

### Educator Talent and Workforce Development

#### **LEADS Implementation**

**Please share with human resource directors, school leaders, systems leaders, and teachers.**

Systems opting to transition to the LEADS Educator and/or Leader Evaluations should ensure that evaluators and designated observers are [registered](#) for a summer training. Resources, including the [Evaluation Frequently Asked Questions List](#), are available in the [Compass Library](#).

A LEADS teacher newsletter will be launched this fall, which will include information on educator evaluation policy, resources and impact. Please [sign up](#) to receive these email updates.

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

#### **Applications Open for Tutoring Providers**

**Please share with school leaders, system leaders and tutoring providers.**

Tutoring providers are encouraged to participate in the newly funded Steve Carter Tutoring Program and Accelerate High-Dosage Tutoring Initiative, both of which received substantial investment by lawmakers during the regular session. The LDOE has launched a [request for applications](#) for tutors in literacy and/or math. More information about both programs can be found in the [July 17 LDOE Press Release](#).

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