

Important News for Nonpublic Schools: February 22, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Outside of a parent or guardian, nothing impacts student learning more than an effective teacher. One of the best ways we can value teaching professionals is by simply protecting their time to do the important work entrusted to them. I'm launching a new workgroup focused on improving conditions for teachers.

The Let Teachers Teach Workgroup will identify and develop possible solutions to classroom disruptions such as excessive training and paperwork, scripted lessons, and student discipline. These are common concerns I've heard from educators through our formal engagement channels such as my Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council and informal channels such as our school visits and faculty meetings.

The workgroup will include PK-12 teachers from across the state. We're working with our various teacher committees and Louisiana education organizations to identify teachers for the workgroup. Recommendations from organizations should be emailed to ldoecommunications@la.gov. Current Louisiana Teacher of the Year and East Baton Rouge Parish Schools teacher Kylie Altier will chair the workgroup.

I look forward to working alongside Louisiana teachers to improve this valued profession.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 28 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [March 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinars – Math and Literacy: [March 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [March 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [March 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [March 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [March 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 21 at 3 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [Spring 2024 Counselor Institutes](#): February 27-29; statewide locations
- SFA Summer Feeding Plan Deadline: March 15
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: March 15
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs and Operations

Summer Feeding Reminders

Please share with child nutrition directors and system leaders.

Pre-applications from prospective eligible organizations to serve as sponsors and program sites for the 2024 Summer Food Service Program are now being accepted. The online CNP application will launch in March. Please pay special attention to the SFA Summer Feeding Plan for School Food Authorities due by March 15 on the [CNP website](#). All congregate and non-congregate feeding plans must be submitted via survey by that time.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Monthly Webinar Call

The next Nonpublic Monthly Call will be held on [March 20 at 2 p.m.](#)

- You can access the webinar using this link:
<https://doe.zoom.us/j/97285741594?pwd=ekFUcHJxa1Ywcm5GdnN6V2Ira1VoQT09>

All presentations of each monthly call are currently available in the [School Systems Planning Library](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

Important Dates and Deadlines

[Click to access the full Nonpublic Programs Scholarship Annual Calendar for 2023-24](#)

Dates	Items	Participants
February 26	Last day to submit Payment Adjustment Forms for Q3	All LSP and SCP Schools
March 4	2024-2025 LSP Tuition and Fee Jotform released	All LSP Schools
March 8	Last day to submit Payment Adjustment Forms for Q3	All LSP and SCP Schools
March 8	2024-2025 School Choice Program Application closes	All SCP Schools and Families
March 18	2024-2025 LSP Tuition and Fee Jotforms are due	All LSP Schools
March 18	2023-2024 LSP Parent Survey is released	LSP Families
March 20	Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call	All LSP and SCP Schools
March 22	Last day for SCP schools to upload verified demand report to the FTP	SCP Schools

****All dates are tentative, please review future issues of the Nonpublic newsletter for all updates.***

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

General Nonpublic School Office Hours

The Office of School Choice-Nonpublic Programs Team currently offers a service called [Office Hours](#). We are offering office hours to provide one-on-one assistance regarding any questions you may have regarding our scholarship programs.

Office hours will be offered each week for **school administrators and other school system employees**. Office hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

You can book your Office Hours call using this [link: https://www.picktime.com/LDNonpublicschools](https://www.picktime.com/LDNonpublicschools)

In order to make sure that every school gets an opportunity to schedule a call, each call will be limited to 15 minutes. When booking your call, you must include a description of what you'd like to discuss during the call in the "booking notes" section of the form. This will ensure that our staff is prepared ahead of the call and can effectively use the time to address your concerns.

If you miss your scheduled time, you will need to book a new appointment time. If you have any questions about Office Hours, please reach out to us at studentscholarships@la.gov for assistance.

This service is not available to families. Families with questions should submit them to studentscholarships@la.gov.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 BESE Approved Nonpublic Schools

The list of nonpublic schools seeking BESE approval for 2024-2025 BESE Approved NPS Classification List can be found in the [Nonpublic Library](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

School Choice Program for Students with Certain Exceptionalities

2024-2025 School Choice Program Application

The 2024-2025 School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities application is now open and will close on March 8, 2024.

Both new and returning SCP students must submit an application for the 2024-2025 school year. Families must apply using the LDOE online application, which is currently available on the [LDOE website](#).

Families applying for NEW students must provide the following eligibility documents to your first choice scholarship school by March 15, 2024.

For the latest information on the application process, please visit our [website](#) for more information or contact our office at studentscholarships@la.gov.

2024-2025 School Choice Demand Reports

Demand reports will continue to be uploaded on the FTP at the beginning of each week until the application closes on March 8, 2024. The final date for nonpublic schools to upload demand reports to the FTP is March 22, 2024.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Preparation for Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share with school counselors and testing coordinators.

The LDOE will open cohort graduation data certification in late March. In advance of this opening, the LDOE will be downloading records from STS to confirm that all diplomas have graduation dates for the 2023 cohort. Credential credit applied in the Strength of Diploma Index will only be awarded based on the credentials that are posted to the transcript in STS. School systems and counselors will want to check the transcript in STS for all students who will be included in the 2023 cohort. Students will not be counted as graduates without a graduation date on the transcript.

Please contact Jennifer.Baird@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

AP Exam Order Deadline

Please share with counselors, teachers, and testing coordinators.

The deadline for submitting any changes to existing [AP exam orders](#) or to submit new exam orders in AP Registration and Ordering is March 15 at 10:59 p.m. This includes courses that started during the spring semester.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

\$5 ACT Test Registration Voucher

Please share with counselors.

ACT is offering a [\\$5 test registration voucher](#), valid for an April, June, or July 2024 national ACT test. This special gift is designed to enhance the vital connections that counselors have with students. The voucher will be available until March 24, 2024.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Foundations of Open Educational Resources (OER) Cohort: Summer Professional Development Call for Applications

Please share with administrators, counselors, librarians, system leaders and teachers.

LOUIS: The Louisiana Network, a program of the Board of Regents, is accepting applications through March 31 to participate in a summer professional development cohort. Up to 20 school librarians and dual enrollment teachers from Louisiana public secondary schools will be selected and offered a payment of \$1,500 for successful participation in and completion of professional development activities. This summer 2024 (mid-May through June) professional development will occur virtually and largely asynchronously and will enable participants to gain fluency in Open Educational Resources (OER). [Details and the application](#) are now available.

Please contact timberly.deville2@la.gov with questions.

Financial Aid Planning

Please share with high school counselors.

Most Louisiana high school graduates are eligible for some form of merit-or-need based financial aid. All 2024 graduating seniors must take one of the following steps:

- Submit the [2024-2025 FAFSA](#) application (if you want to apply for the federal Pell grant, federal student loans, the Louisiana GO Grant, and TOPS); OR
- Apply for [TOPS](#) (if you only want to apply for TOPS); OR
- Submit opt out [non participation form](#) or [letter](#) (if you don't want to apply for TOPS or any other financial aid); OR
- Complete and have a [hardship waiver](#) on file.

Please contact ldfinancialaid@la.gov with any questions.

LELA Financial Aid

Please share with high school counselors.

The [Louisiana Education Loan Authority](#) (LELA) is Louisiana's nonprofit resource for free FAFSA completion assistance. The [FAFSA Completion Guide for the Class of 2024](#) is currently available for those requesting virtual assistance. The [\\$1000 CHOOSE Louisiana Scholarship](#) is available to students who are currently enrolled or who plan to enroll in a Louisiana college.

Please contact Ann Carmichael carmichael@lpfa.com or ldfinancialaid@la.gov with any questions.

Vape-Free School Toolkit

Please share with health teachers, physical education teachers and principals.

Well-Ahead Louisiana and the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (TFL) have recently launched a comprehensive online toolkit for schools titled the School Vape-Free Toolkit. The toolkit will also provide schools with the education and resources needed to comply with the Vaping Education in Schools policy and law. The toolkit can be accessed at [Vape-Free Schools Toolkit | Well-Ahead Louisiana](#).

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Save the Date: 2024 School Safety Summit

Please share with emergency preparedness partners, school principals, school safety/security personnel, school healthcare professionals, and school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with the Louisiana State Police, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Planning (GOHSEP), and the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools will host the Louisiana School Safety Summit virtually on July 10 and 11. Registration information will be available in the coming weeks.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Professional Improvement Program (PIP) Webinar

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 27 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91086644019>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 910 8664 4019

Please contact PIPfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with any questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Math Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - Open Now

Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and teachers.

The LDOE is excited to announce that applications for math [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) have reopened. TLAs are paid for the work they complete, and the experience allows educators to expand their positive impact beyond the classroom by influencing students and educators across the state. [Math Teacher Leader Advisor applications](#) will close on March 1.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials include Kendall Hunt Publishing- OpenSciEd, Grade 7-8 (©2022). All tiered reviews can be found on the [annotated reviews](#) web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#).

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes Session 4

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

[The School Support Institutes](#) build the instructional capacity of school-based instructional leadership teams. Registered participants will receive an email with the zoom links for their session. Attendees are reminded to have the information from their session #3 deliverables on hand for this session.

SSI Session #4 (Virtual) cohort dates:

- Lafayette Cohort: February 22
- Baton Rouge Cohort: February 23

Virtual sessions are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm. Registered participants will receive an email with the zoom links for their session. Please see the [SSI logistics page](#) for zoom links and pre-work information.

Please contact ldoessisupportteam@tntp.org with questions.

Diverse Learners

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priorities Survey

Please share with administrators, community members, educators, and parents.

Each year, the LDOE submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the LDOE is seeking feedback on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete the [survey](#) by March 6.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov for more information.

Dyslexia Training Opportunity

Please share with principals, special education directors, and system leaders.

Through a partnership between the LDOE and the Dyslexia Resource Center, a cohort of 25 educators will be selected to participate in a dyslexia practitioner training program. Certified teachers who are interested should apply to the program by completing the [Training Application 2](#) before April 15 and attend one of the following informational webinars.

Webinar Date and Time: February 29 at 5 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register>

Phone: 646 931 3860

Meeting ID: 862 9151 4793

Passcode: 534682

Webinar Date and Time: March 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register>

Phone: 309 205 3325

Meeting ID: 861 5999 5540

Passcode: 919998

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year Training

Please share with all system and school leaders.

[Registration](#) is now live for the summer training on the [Louisiana Educator Rubric and the Louisiana Leader Rubric](#) which will be used during the 2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year will take place this summer for system and school leaders and designated observers. [Registration](#) opened on January 31. This training is required for all evaluators and designated observers utilizing these rubrics.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.