

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**January 14, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

During the last legislative session, the Legislature commissioned two critical studies of the education system, the results of which will shortly be submitted to the Legislature and to BESE. A much-discussed report involves access to dual enrollment courses among the state's high school students. This report will hopefully guide the development of pilots and policies that will be considered as the Legislature reconvenes. A second report, less discussed, addresses the state of primary grade reading in Louisiana, seeking to evaluate how reading is taught to young children and how such teaching might be improved.

The report makes a series of recommendations related to non-negotiable supports every elementary school must offer its teachers and students. Every teacher should use a high-quality curriculum to teach students the foundations of reading and language and literacy, the report recommends. Every student who struggles to read should receive timely, research-based literacy interventions. And every school leader should maximize the use of time and personnel through scheduling and collaborative planning that support intervention efforts.

The report then goes further to make specific recommendations for needed improvements. It recommends, for example, that the Department of Education work with local school systems to identify literacy coaches in every K-2 school, supporting teachers in teaching the foundations of reading. It also recommends that the Department train literacy coordinators to provide support, such as additional training for literacy coaches, in K-2 schools. These coaches and coordinators would form a network of support for all primary grade reading teachers so that no teacher is without proper training and development in the foundations of reading.

As with dual enrollment, the report is just the start of a conversation. Nevertheless, the researchers, practitioners, and policymakers who developed the report have developed an impressive body of knowledge and a potentially influential set of recommendations. I look forward to reviewing the final report and to its consideration among lawmakers, board members, parents, and teachers.

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

John

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## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): January 21 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Super App Office Hours](#): January 27 at 11:00 a.m.
- [February Collaborations \(Ruston\)](#): February 4
- [February Collaborations \(Baton Rouge\)](#): February 6
- [February Collaborations \(Baton Rouge\)](#): February 7

### Important Deadlines

- [State Teacher/Principal of the Year Application](#) deadline: January 15
- [SY 18-19 CSPR for Title I, Part A & D Data Collection](#) deadline: January 22
- [School Health Survey](#) deadline: January 24
- [Compass 2012-2018 Evaluation Upload](#) deadline: January 31
- [Needs Assessment Guide](#) deadline: January 31
- [Super App Submission](#) deadline: February 7
- [2020 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Submission](#) deadline: February 7

## School System Support

### New: School System Planning

**February 7:** Super App submissions are due in [eGMS](#).

As school systems begin to finalize their [Super App](#), leadership teams should be preparing for an approved and funded plan by:

- completing Contacts and Assurances in Central Data (eGMS); and
- entering data, including the Professional Development Plan and Early Childhood Coordinated Funding Request uploads, in Super App (eGMS).

Super App Office Hours will be held on **January 27 at 11:00 a.m.** for planning team members to review actions needed to complete plans and questions from teams. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 27 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/405281497>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Webinar ID#:** 405 281 497

Presentations from past Super App Office Hours can be found in the [School Improvement Library](#).

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

## **New: Streamlined State Instructional Materials Review Process**

The Department is working to streamline the state instructional materials review (IMR) process, making better use of technology to carry out the process more efficiently.

The following IMR materials and resources are now available:

- Updated [Comprehensive Tiered Reviews Report](#)
- Updated [Weekly Report](#)
- Updated IMR submission timelines in the [Publisher's Guide for IMR Submission](#)

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

## **New: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirt Design Contest**

**Please share with teacher leaders.**

The Department is seeking inspiration for the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit t-shirt design! Educators with an artistic flair are encouraged to submit their design for consideration by **February 7** to [ldoecommunications@la.gov](mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov). The winning school will receive \$1 per shirt sold. Last year's school, Montegut Middle, was awarded \$968 from The Inkwell Press.

The winning design will be announced in the March edition of the Teacher Leader newsletter. Reference the [contest rules](#) for details or contact [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: 2020 Environmental Education State Symposium**

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the Louisiana Environmental Education Association invite educators to attend the **Environmental Education State Symposium on March 6–7**. The event will be held at Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville and will focus on outdoor learning.

Please review the [attendee](#) and [exhibitor](#) information documents to register and contact [stem@la.gov](mailto:stem@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: Updated School System Planning Calendar**

The [2019-2020 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar.

- Updated Assessment and Accountability Office Hours and Monthly Call dates
- Accountability Commission dates
- Louisiana Environmental Education State Symposium dates

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

## **Reminder: February Collaborations**

School system collaborations in February will target a limited, specific audience including chief academic officers, talent officers, and content directors for ELA, science, and PK-2. [Session](#) and [registration](#) information is now available.

Dates and Locations:

- February 4 in Ruston
- February 6 in Baton Rouge
- February 7 in Baton Rouge

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

## **Assessment and Accountability**

### **New: LEAP 360 Updates**

Given school systems' continued work to reduce unnecessary testing through the increased use of high-quality curriculum with embedded assessments, the LEAP 360 program is evolving to support school systems' efforts and will continue to be a Department-funded resource for school systems in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. This means **educators will have continued, free access to K-2 formative tasks, diagnostics, and interims (ELA/math).**

	2019-2020	2020-2021
<b>Cost</b>	Free	Free
<b>K-2 Formative Tasks</b>	<a href="#">Available from DRC INSIGHT portal</a>	<a href="#">Available from DRC INSIGHT portal</a>
<b>Diagnostics</b>	<a href="#">Available from DRC INSIGHT portal</a>	<a href="#">Available from DRC INSIGHT portal</a>
<b>Interims</b>	One ELA form (Grades 3-HS) Two Math forms (Grades 3-8) Three Math forms (HS)  <a href="#">Available from DRC INSIGHT portal</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One ELA form (Grades 3-HS)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>New Content</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Two Math forms (Grades 3-HS)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ (1) <b>New Content</b> (aligned to mid-year administration)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <a href="#">Available from DRC INSIGHT portal</a>
<b>EAGLE Item Bank</b>	<a href="#">Available from DRC INSIGHT portal</a>	Available from the <a href="#">Department's website</a> . View a <a href="#">sample file</a> . <b>Note:</b> Teachers should download self-made tests.

**Action Item:** The items from the EAGLE Item bank are being exported from the DRC INSIGHT portal and made available on the Department's website. Please click on the link in the table to see a sample file. The EAGLE platform will no longer be available beginning July 1. Teacher-created tests **will not** be exported and teachers are encouraged to download any self-made tests prior to June 30.

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

## **For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts**

### **Important: ELPT Exemptions**

- The ELPT testing window is February 3–March 13. **All** students who are identified as English Learners in SIS must test and be included in accountability calculations in 2020.
- Requests for exemptions from the ELPT listening and/or speaking domains are now due to the Department. Please send completed requests to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- Printed materials will arrive in school systems on January 21. The additional materials window will open on January 22. Reminder: There is no K-1 writing supplement used in ELPT this year.
- Please review the [ELPT Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) as plans are made for students with accommodations.
- Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) with questions.

### **English III EOC School System Administration Materials**

- An English III test materials folder is available on the secure FTP, which includes all materials needed to administer and score English III assessments provided three times yearly through a process determined by the school system. Included in the folder are manuals that include specific directions.
- Requests for braille forms of the test are provided as needed by the Department and should be addressed to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) with questions.

### **LEAP Connect**

- The LEAP Connect testing window is February 3–March 13. All students who are eligible to take alternate assessment should now be identified with documentation in SER.

### **ACT and WorkKeys**

- Now–January 31: Request accommodations and/or supports for eligible **ACT** examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations Systems](#) (TAA).
- The schedule of events for both ACT and WorkKeys spring 2020 are now posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site. Please refer to these documents for all important dates and deadlines for both ACT and WorkKeys.
- The [ACT State Testing](#) site has an [Orientation](#) tutorial for ACT and [Configuration](#) tutorial for WorkKeys available.
- Resources can be found on the [ACT State Testing](#) site or by contacting the WorkKeys helpdesk at 800-967-5539 (800-WorkKey).

### **NAEP 2019-2020**

- Thirty-one Louisiana schools are participating in the NAEP 2019-2020 Long-Term Trend Study. Each principal will designate a school coordinator (SC) to support the administration of the NAEP test. The SC will need to complete tasks during the pre-assessment period, collect student information, and enter it online. The deadlines for completing the Provide School Information (PSI) and E-filing are as follows:
  - **Completed:** Schools with age 13 students
  - **Completed:** Schools with age 9 students
  - **January 31 (Extended):** Schools with age 17 students

## Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be on **January 21 at 1:00 p.m.** Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 21 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

## High School Pathways

### **Reminder: 2019-2020 Graduate Diploma Orders**

**Please share with principals, counselors, and data coordinators.**

Please use the [Diploma Order form](#) to submit an order for the 2019-2020 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the [Diploma Order form](#) by **March 6**. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) for more information.

### **Reminder: 2018-2019 Perkins Core Indicator Reports**

**Please share with CTE supervisors and counselors.**

2018-2019 Perkins Core Indicators reports are now available in the [C.A.T.E. portal](#). These reports can be found under the *Reports* tab by selecting *Published Reports*.

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

## Educator Preparation

### **New: Updating 2012-2018 Evaluation Uploads for the Compass Information System (CIS)**

The Department will offer a **one-time** opportunity to submit backlogged evaluation scores from 2012-2018 to the Compass team. Submissions will be accepted **January 6–31** following these guidelines:

- All submitted scores must be received via password protecting the [2012-2018 Evaluation Score Report Spreadsheet](#) available under training materials in the [Compass Library](#) at [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) no later than **January 31**.
- CIS can only accept scores from the years **2012-2018**.
- Updating scores for prior years in CIS requires CIS to shut down the current 2019-2020 school year. **The 2019-2020 CIS system will be shut down for the month of February** to allow the Department to upload the submitted scores.
- For the upload to work, all certified personnel need to be at the site for the year being reported. If they are not listed, please add them to the spreadsheet and notate they should be added.

A [video](#) explaining the upload procedures can be found in the [Compass Library](#). Office hours will be held **January 21–31** from **9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.** To schedule a time, contact [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov).

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

## **Reminder: State Teacher/Principal of the Year Applications**

State-level Teacher and Principal of the Year applications are due **tomorrow, January 15**.

- Candidates are to submit applications in the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidate's Online Application Portal](#).
- School systems are to enter state-level honoree information in the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator's Online Portal](#).

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state-level process.

All applications and materials are posted in the [Resources Library](#). For more information on the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs, visit the [Award's page](#) or contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov).

## **Federal Programs**

### **New: Data Collection of CSPR for Title I, Part A & D**

The Department must report in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR) its progress and compliance with the areas and initiatives set forth under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In order for the Department to comply with the reporting requirements for Title I, Part A and Title I, Part D, data on student participation and staff information is required.

The Department is requesting that all Title I Directors/Security Coordinators enter the data for this reporting period in the [electronic system](#) for SY 18-19. The deadline for entering data is **January 22**.

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

### **Reminder: Homeless Subgroup Population Performance Data Available**

Last week, the Department provided school system and state level data for each LEA's homeless subgroup population on the datamgmt FTP site. Generally, this data is beneficial for any LEA that would like to review a comprehensive data analysis of their homeless subgroup population. More specifically, this data can be used to help competing LEAs complete the [Needs Assessment Guide](#) for the 2020-2023 Homeless Competitive Grant, which is due **January 31**.

Please note: This information only includes the performance data which are numbers 1, 2, and 3 in the guide. All other LEA specific information should be gathered at the LEA level.

For those LEAs that will be submitting the Request for Applications (RFA), please review data with your application committee and select high priority areas to design your McKinney Vento program. All data managers should access the word document entitled: *LEA Code\_LEA Name\_2019 Homeless Subgroup Data* on the datamgmt FTP site and share with their homeless liaisons.

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

## Safe and Healthy Schools

### **New: School Health Survey**

As required by state law, the Department monitors and evaluates health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature. Participation is critical to providing accurate, high-quality data to the Senate and House Committees on health and welfare.

Please have one person per school complete the [School Health Survey](#) by **January 24**. Each school should complete the survey.

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