



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 25, 2022

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	January 27 at 1 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	February 1 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	February 1 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	February 1 at 3:45 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	February 3 at 3 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	February 7 at 3:30 p.m.
April Dunn Act Office Hours	February 10 at 4:30 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Teaching and Learning Monthly Call	January 26 at 1 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	January 26 at 3 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	January 27 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	February 1 at 1 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	February 3 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	February 4 at 9 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	February 9 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	February 15 at 3:45 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	February 16 at 9:30 a.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call**	February 17 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	February 17 at 3 p.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	February 28 at 10 a.m.
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p>	

***Achieve! Incentive Round 2 and Super App application office hours and Q&A will take place during this call.*

Upcoming Deadlines

SPP/APR Target Setting Survey	January 28
Alternate Assessment Participation Review Request Due	January 31
New Teacher of the Year Application Due	February 18

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

PUBLIC NOTICE - ESEA CONSOLIDATED STATE PLAN ADDENDUM

Please share with Federal Program Directors.

Louisiana has opted to pursue this opportunity to amend its State Plan to convert the 21st Century Community Learning Center competitive process from a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to a competitive Request for Application (RFA) process.

Relevant personnel should review this addendum PDF request and submit questions or comments to Kenya Jenkins, Director of Federal Support via email at ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

All questions or comments must be received by January 28 and place "ESEA Addendum" in the subject line.

Healthy Communities

School Health Service Provider of the Year

Please share with all school and school system personnel.

Now more than ever, the Department recognizes that student health plays a vital role in education and that school health service providers are the critical link in ensuring health service delivery to students. Annually, the Department honors the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. These programs provide an opportunity to acknowledge educators who are achieving excellence.

This year, the Department is launching the [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#) program which will recognize and celebrate some of the state's most exceptional school health service providers. This program provides an opportunity to recognize school health providers who are demonstrating superior provision of health services in schools and supporting the expansion of health services in schools.

The Department is inviting nominations of any of the following school employees or contractors: occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses and behavioral health providers (LCSW/LMSW, LPC, psychologists). Nominees will be evaluated and interviewed based on a [rubric](#) and 4 finalists and one winner will be honored at the 16th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala. Nominate a school health service provider [here](#). The nomination window runs from January 31st- March 11th.

Please contact Michael.Comeaux@la.gov with questions.

School Health Survey

Please share with Physical Education/Health or Wellness staff and/or staff that oversee bullying and suicide prevention programs.

As required by state law, the Louisiana Department of Education 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.

Each school should complete the [survey](#) by or before **January 28**.

Although information may be collected from staff that oversee Physical Education/Health, Bullying and Suicide prevention, only one survey should be submitted per school.

Please contact Michael.Comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Connect

Please share with Test Coordinators.

- Available Now: LEAP Connect graphic files are now posted in DRC INSIGHT under LEAP Connect documents.
- January 27: Materials will be delivered to schools, including manuals
- January 28-March 4: Additional materials order available in DRC INSIGHT

ELPT

Please share with Test Coordinators.

- Send requests to transfer students from one school system to another to assessment@la.gov
- The ELPT Administration webinar PowerPoint that was shared on Tuesday, January 25 will be posted to the assessment library by Friday, January 28 under the ELPS, ELPT and LEAP Connect section heading.

LEAP Connect

Please share with test coordinators and special education directors.

The LEAP Connect Assessment District Test Coordinator's webinar PowerPoint that will be delivered on Wednesday, January 26 at 2 p.m. will be posted to the assessment library by Friday, January 28 under the ELPS, ELPT and LEAP Connect section heading.

ACT

Now-March 17: Create and assign students to test sessions for March 8-17, 2022 online testing.

LEAP 2025

Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.

[LEAP 2025 At a Glance Grade Bands](#) and [LEAP 2025 At a Glance Content Area](#) have been updated for spring 2022 and are posted to the assessment library. These documents provide a description of test sessions; time for sessions, materials needed and report dates.

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application

Please share with high school counselors.

The application window is now open for the [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program](#). This is a joint initiative of the Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF), Louisiana's Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE).

Up to forty one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded to students enrolling at an LCTCS program or an Associated Builders and Contractors training program. This scholarship will assist graduates in gaining the necessary training to earn industry employment in construction crafts fields aligned to four and five star jobs that may lead to management positions. Applications are due April 12.

For more information please email megan.thompson2@la.gov.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

The Department conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [Annotated Reviews](#) webpage.

Publisher	Title and Grade Levels	Core Subject	Tiered Rating
Lexia Learning Systems, LLC	Core5 Reading, Grades 3-5	ELA INT	Tier 1
Amplify Education, Inc.	Amplify Science Louisiana, Grade 8	Science	Tier 1

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Pilot Updates Evaluation Plan Webinar

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and 3-5 ELA teachers.

The Department is excited to announce we have partnered with [The Writing Revolution](#) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks. The following updated ELA Guidebook units for grades 3-5 have been added to the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#): Because of Winn-Dixie (3rd grade), The Whipping Boy (4th grade), and The Birchbark House (5th grade). These units include updated evaluation plans with a coherent system of curriculum-embedded assessments that guide instructional decisions throughout the units.

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Evaluation Plan \(2022\) Webinar](#) to learn about the assessment updates in ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) and how to best support all learners using the updated units.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 11 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94175242532?pwd=WWWhEdStuTDRCNTJ1eVFwMEthVGZEUT09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID #:** 941 7524 2532
- **Passcode:** 512811

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with any questions.

Quality Science and Mathematics (QSM) Grant Opportunity Round 2

The [QSM Grant Program](#) was established for the purpose of providing Louisiana public school teachers with non-consumable classroom materials and equipment in math, science, and STEM.

- Full-time classroom teachers assigned to teach math, science, or STEM courses in PreK-12 public regular education programs including public charter schools are invited to apply.
- Applications may be submitted via the QSM [grant portal](#) as of January 24.
- The application deadline is March 7 at 11:59 p.m.
- \$1,000 grants are available for Pre-K-3 teachers and up to \$1,500 grants for 4-12 teachers.
- Applications must demonstrate that the grant materials will enhance the quality of instruction for regular education students enrolled in mathematics, science or STEM classes within the normal school day. After-school, Talented & Gifted, and Special Education programs are not eligible.

Please contact Spencer Roby at qsminfo@lsu.edu with questions.

Diverse Learners Supports

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

Please share with school system leaders.

School systems often face unique and complex challenges in improving outcomes for students with disabilities. Addressing these challenges is multifaceted and requires leaders who can effectively coordinate programming within and across departments and schools to increase access to inclusive learning opportunities for students with disabilities.

In 2022, the Department will release a series of Guidance for Leading Special Education Programs. Each guidance document will cover a critical topic of special education programming and be accompanied by a webinar that will support school system implementation. School system leaders are encouraged to review the guidance materials and attend webinars in partnership with special education leaders.

In January, the Department released guidance on the the topic [Leveraging Data to Align Budgets and Spending to Priorities](#). In February, the Department will release guidance on the topic Creating Compliant Systems for Student Success. School system leaders are encouraged to attend the hour long webinar on [February 22 at 1 p.m.](#)

Please contact rachel.brown@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit: First Come, First Served Early Bird Registration Now Open

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

The 2022 Teacher Leader Summit will be held **Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2** at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both “Making a Comeback” and the 10th year for this event.

Systems should prioritize sending teachers to the Summit; system and school leaders are also encouraged to attend.

The Summit [Overview document](#), [registration portal](#), and [presenter](#) and [vendor applications](#) can be found on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#). Early Bird registration is now open on a first come, first served basis until **March 2**.

Presenter [applications](#) are now open until **February 4**. Teachers and teacher leaders representing all content areas, librarians, counselors, early childhood directors, and school and system leaders are encouraged to apply.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher of the Year Award- Application Support Webinar

Please share with school system coordinators.

For years, the Department has been honoring outstanding educators across the state through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. The LDOE is excited to announce the addition of a new award program: [New Teacher of the Year](#).

This program will recognize the outstanding contributions of first year classroom teachers. To be eligible for this award, teachers must have less than one year of experience teaching full time at the time the application is due on **February 18**.

A webinar was held for applicants in January to assist with the application process. This [webinar](#) will be repeated on **February 10 at 4 p.m.**

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93874533969?pwd=cmZ0Sm5OeGV3UTc1UjhqSjBjBSL0VyZz09>

Meeting ID: 938 7453 3969

Passcode: 240876

Phone: 1-312-626-6799

For more information visit the [awards library](#) or contact laurie.carlton@la.gov.

Real-time Early Access to Literacy

Please share with school system REAL coordinators.

The Department hosted two webinars this month to kick off the spring cycle of the [Real-time Early Access to Literacy](#) tutoring program.

The Real-time Early Access to Literacy School Systems webinar provided eligible systems with an [overview](#) of the REAL program, student registration information, and guidance on how to access funding in eGMS.

The Real-time Early Access to Literacy Tutoring Service Provider webinar provided school systems and organizations with updated guidance on reporting, registration and session scheduling, timelines, and resources.

The powerpoint decks and recordings of each training will be posted on the [Real-time Early Access to Literacy](#) webpage.

Please contact April.Davis2@la.gov with any questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Please share with summer learning program coordinators.

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the months of January through April, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2022 program.

Last week, the Department hosted a webinar to provide systems with updated guidance on planning and implementing summer learning programs. A recording of the webinar and copy of the presentation will be available in the [School System Support Toolbox](#) later this month.

CIR and UIR-A schools must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students next summer.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with any questions.

Accelerate Professional Development

Please share with school system coordinators.

The Louisiana Acceleration Series trainings will resume later this month. These full day sessions are designed to help educators target their instruction and coaching on the most effective strategies. Educators interested in attending the training sessions at no cost may use this [link](#) to register.

There are two remaining sessions in the series:

Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Learning Recovery in Math	January 31-February 15
Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Learning Recovery in ELA	February 16-March 22

Please contact April.Davis2@la.gov with any questions.

Literacy

Science of Reading Office Hours Update

Please share with ELA and literacy supervisors, administrators, and teachers.

To better accommodate teachers' schedules, the Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours are moving to bi-weekly Mondays at 4 p.m. beginning February 7. Teachers and school leaders are encouraged to join the conversation and ask questions about effective implementation and literacy best practices.

Next Office Hours: Monday, February 7 at 4 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96153652200>

Meeting ID: 961 5365 2200

Passcode: literacy

Call-in #: 312-626-6799

Reminders

- **Career and College Readiness**
- **School System Financial Services**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - **Academic Content**
 - **Diverse Learners Supports**

Career and College Readiness

2021-2022 Graduate Diploma to Include New BESE President's Signature

Please share with principals, counselors, and data coordinators.

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2021-2022 high school graduates. Diploma requests should be submitted by Friday, **February 4**. Diplomas ordered will include the signature of the new BESE President, Jim Garvey. Diplomas utilized from this point forward should include the new signature. All other diplomas should be shredded, as they are no longer valid.

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

New: 2022 - 2023 Alternative Education (AE) Site Application

Please share with Alternative Education Site Supervisors.

The 2022-2023 Alternative Education (AE) site [application window](#) is now open. As a reminder, all sites must apply annually to either:

- Open a new alternative education site
- Make changes to an existing site
- Verify an existing alternative education site (no intent to make changes to site)

Please complete the application by Friday, February 11.

Please contact terran.perry@la.gov with questions.

NCCER ICTP/Core Instructor Training

Share with CTE Supervisors, Principals, Counselors, and Secondary Supervisors.

NCCER ICTP/Core teacher certification will be held virtually from February 7-9 and continues February 21-25. The master trainer will work with craft instructors to complete performance profiles.

To receive the registration link, documentation of skill of the requested craft is required. The NCCER card number and any one or all of the following should be submitted to troy.borne@la.gov.

- Resume with industry experience including professional contacts to verify experience in requested craft area(s)
- Diploma with transcript from postsecondary institution in requested craft area(s)
- Registered apprenticeship in requested craft area(s)

The cost of the certification class for ICTP/Core is \$700.00. Instructors that only need ICTP or Core should reach out to troy.borne@la.gov. Perkins and/or CDF funds may be utilized for training costs.

For more information, please contact troy.borne@la.gov.

School System Financial Services

MFP Certificated and Support Personnel Pay Raise Monthly Payments

Please share with Business Managers.

Funding was provided to school systems for the Certificated and Support Personnel Pay Raises in the July to December monthly 2021-2022 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula payments. The same pay raise allocation amounts will continue in the January and February 2022 monthly MFP payments. The October 1, 2020 staffing data is the basis for the current allocation amounts. Eligible positions and counts from the October 1, 2021 staffing data submission will be compared to the October 1, 2020 staffing data and a final allocation calculated. Payment adjustments, increases or decreases, as applicable, resulting from the reconciliation will be reflected in the March 2022 MFP payments rather than in January 2022 as originally scheduled.

Please contact LDOEMFPHelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Pilot Updates

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These units include core and optional activities to support diverse learners and progressive writing strategies to strengthen students' writing skills. Teachers can provide feedback on the updated units using the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) [feedback form](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2018) Future Development

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and 6-8 ELA teachers.

The Department is excited to announce that we are planning to update [ELA Guidebooks for grades 6-8 \(2018\)](#). The first phase of development will occur during the 2022-2023 school year, and the units will be available for piloting in 2023-2024. Instructional leaders should encourage educators in grades 6-8 to submit feedback on the current units prior to March 4, 2022 through the [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 6-8 Feedback Form](#). More details about these updates and future release dates will be announced in future department communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Monthly Calls

Please share with Chief Academic Officers/Curriculum Supervisors, Literacy Coordinators, Special Education Directors, Early Childhood Supervisors, Content and Mentor Leader Coordinators, and Talent Supervisors.

In an effort to streamline communication and integrate content seamlessly, the Office of Teaching and Learning will shift from multiple calls to a comprehensive monthly call beginning January 2022. (Early Childhood Monthly Call will remain unchanged.)

The Teaching and Learning Monthly Call will focus on academic content, educator development, diverse learner supports (students with disabilities and English learners) and literacy supports. We hope that this will allow your system to streamline communication internally and coordinate efforts across your teams. The call will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month and details can be found on the [School System Support Calendar](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners Supports

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Please contact rachel.brown@la.gov with questions.

State Performance Plan (SSP) Target Setting Process

Please share with special education staff and other relevant stakeholders.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires states to have a plan that describes and evaluates its efforts to implement the requirements of IDEA and how the state will improve implementation. This plan is known as the State Performance Plan (SPP). Each year, states must report against targets set in its SPP in an annual performance report, or APR.

States have entered a new SPP/APR cycle and are required to set new annual targets for FFY 2020 through FFY 2025. Stakeholders can participate in the SPP/APR target setting process by reviewing the [SPP/APR Target Setting Overview](#) document and completing the [SPP/APR Target Setting survey](#) available on the SPP/APR Target Setting [webpage](#) by **January 28**.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.