



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 8, 2022

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	February 10 at 1 p.m.
April Dunn Act Office Hours	February 10 at 4:30 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	February 15 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	February 15 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	February 15 at 3:45 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	February 21 at 4 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	March 3 at 3 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	February 9 at 11 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.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	February 16 at 3 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	February 17 at 3 p.m.
Teaching and Learning Monthly Call	February 23 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	February 24 at 9 a.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call**	February 24 at 10 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	February 28 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	March 3 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	March 4 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	March 8 at 1 p.m.

**Monthly call presentations are available in the [School Improvement Library](#). View the [School System Support Calendar](#) to access a complete schedule of events.*

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

Upcoming Deadlines

[New Teacher of the Year Application Due](#)

[February 18](#)

[Louisiana Exemplary Educator Recognition Program Recommendations Due](#)

[February 18](#)

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

FSGR February Monthly Call

Please share with Federal Program Directors, IDEA Supervisors, and Business Managers.

The Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call that is currently scheduled for February 17, 2022, is being moved to **February 24, 2022 at 10 a.m.** The change in date is being done to accommodate a majority of LEA participants that will be attending the 2022 National ESEA Conference in New Orleans on February 16-19, 2022.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [February 24 at 10 a.m.](#)

Please contact the Grants Management Helpdesk at LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ELPT

Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.

The ELPT Parent Guide has been updated and is posted in the [Family Support Toolbox Library](#).

LEAP Connect

Please share with test coordinators, special education directors, and school leaders..

The LEAP Connect Parent Guide has been updated and is posted in the [Family Support Toolbox Library](#).

ACT

Please share with test coordinators.

- ACT testing schedules are due to assessment@la.gov by February 28
- All schools are encouraged to complete the Mock Administration to ensure that technology is ready for testing.
 - A wireless (Bluetooth) mouse is acceptable
 - An external mouse is allowed
 - Touch screens are not allowed (see ACT Technical Guide for additional information)
- The [ACT Technical Guide for Online Testing](#) provides information for preparing for the ACT online test including minimal hardware requirements for TestNav.
- Now-February 25: Order non-college reportable materials for use in the ACT test window March 8-11.

GOLD (Birth to Age 5)

Please share with test coordinators and early childhood coordinators.

February 28: All children, ages birth-5, enrolled in public and nonpublic pre-K, Head Start, and child care centers that receive public funding and all children, ages 3-5, with an Individual Education Program (IEP), including children who receive speech services only, must be assessed with [TeachingStrategies GOLD®](#).

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.

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

Jump Start Summers Application

Please share with Career and Technical Education Supervisors and Secondary Supervisors.

The [Jump Start Summers](#) program will be available to launch summer training sessions for students to earn Carnegie credit aligned to [Fast Forward pathways](#), Jump start 2.0 coursework, statewide basic or advanced credentials, participate in work-based learning and earn a student stipend for participation.

The [application to submit](#) as a prospective or returning Jump Start Summers provider is now open. The application will close on March 3 at 5 p.m. The encumbered Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA dollars can be used for this opportunity.

We will hold an informational webinar about this opportunity.

- Webinar Date and Time: February 18 at 10 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93517111246>
- Meeting ID: 935 1711 1246
- Webinar Phone Number: 1-470-381-2552
- Passcode: 147653

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Louisiana Exemplary Educator Recognition Program

Please share with school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education is seeking recommendations for the [Louisiana Exemplary Educator Recognition Program](#). This program was created to acknowledge, honor, and spotlight exceptional teachers, teacher specialists, and school leaders who exemplify Louisiana's education profession. School systems may recommend up to three educators. Candidates should have at least 5 years of experience serving in teacher, specialist, principal and/or assistant principal roles. This is a confidential process. Candidates should not be aware of this recommendation. To recommend candidates for the 2022 Exemplary Educator Recognition Program, complete an online application and submit through the [Nomination Portal](#) by February 18.

For applications and information, visit the [resources library](#). For questions, email ExemplaryEducator@la.gov.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Core and Optional Activities Webinar

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

The Department is hosting webinars to support school systems with understanding the role of core and optional activities within ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) lessons. The Department will host one call for leaders and another call for teachers.

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Core and Optional Activities \(2022\) Webinar for Leaders](#) to learn about the instructional plan updates in ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) and how to best support teachers in implementation.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 18 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93370943514?pwd=eVZSRG85dXlZRDN4ZEM2VEg1SS8yZz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID #:** 933 7094 3514
- **Passcode:** 001518

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Core and Optional Activities \(2022\) Webinar for Teachers](#) to learn about the instructional plan updates in ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) and how to best make instructional decisions using core and optional activities.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 18 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95575299437?pwd=RDZGbGVzbVFINnFTTDU2Vmk3VERadz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID #:** 955 7529 9437
- **Passcode:** 829416

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.

Social Studies Standards Review Update

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-12 social studies teachers.

On December 14, 2021, BESE charged the Department with reviewing public comment in order to submit a refined set of standards to BESE in March. All stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on the refined standards using an [online form](#) in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#) from February 8 to February 22, 2022. The refined draft and public comment received will be presented to BESE at the Academic Goals and Instructional Improvement Committee on March 8.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners Supports

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

Please share with school system leaders.

This week, the department released its second issue of Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs: [Creating Compliant Systems for Student Success](#). School system leaders are encouraged to review the guidance document along with special education supervisors and attend the hour-long webinar to support implementation on [February 22 at 1 p.m.](#)

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

Educator Development

Strategies for Staffing Needs

Please share with system level leaders.

LDOE released a document on [strategies for staffing needs](#) that provides system leaders with short- and long-term strategies at no cost and that can be funded with ESSER funds. These strategies include those that the US Department of Education is urging school systems across the country to take. Some of those strategies include:

- Hiring and retention stipends
- Increasing pay for critical shortage areas and struggling schools
- Reassuring teachers that they should be using lesson plans from their high quality curriculum and not be creating lesson plans from scratch
- Removing burdensome paperwork
- Removing unnecessary faculty meetings or share information through email
- Completing less or only required observations
- Having substitutes or volunteers do duty or other tasks to give teachers more time to plan or take breaks
- Removing focus of site-specific look fors like agendas on boards, rotating student work displays, etc.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

February Principal Webinar Series: Accelerated Learning

Please share with principal supervisors and school leaders.

This month's webinar for practicing principals is on February 24 at 2 p.m. Student Achievement Partners will present on accelerated learning. The webinar information is below.

Date and Time: February 24 from 2 - 4 p.m.

Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>

Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379

Passcode: 216254

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher of the Year Award- Final 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=cmZ0Sm5OeGV3UTc1UjhhcSjBLS0VyZz09>

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.

Literacy

Middle and High School Professional Development Series

Please share with middle and high school teachers, leaders, and support staff.

The [first session](#) of a new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy was released today! This session provides an overview and introduction to the science of reading and how it connects to middle and high school instruction. Additional sessions will be released weekly on Tuesdays in the [Literacy Library](#). Pre-recorded sessions will include topics designed to build knowledge around implementing literacy strategies and best practices across all content areas in the middle and high school grades. Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a listing of session titles, session descriptions, and release dates.

Session 1 Links:

[Recording](#)

[Slide deck](#)

Please contact natalie.klibert@la.gov with questions.

New Phonological Awareness Activities Released

Please share with teachers and support staff.

The [Literacy Library](#) now has three sets of phonological awareness activity cards in the Instruction, Intervention, and Extension section. These activity card sets increase in challenge level and provide a bank of activities that can be done anywhere in five minutes or less. They include engaging, multi-sensory activities to build phonological awareness skills in students. Sets 1 and 2 include mostly single syllable words with some blends and vowel teams while Set 3 adds in additional blends and multi-syllable words. These activities are suitable for students at any grade level that may be learning new skills or need additional support.

[Phonological Awareness Activity Card Set 1](#)

[Phonological Awareness Activity Card Set 2](#)

[Phonological Awareness Activity Card Set 3](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Celebrate Louisiana Literacy Week

Please share with teachers, school leaders, and support staff.

Governor John Bel Edwards proclaimed February 13-19, 2022 as Louisiana Literacy Week. His proclamation states that, "Literacy Week is an opportunity to promote and recognize the importance of literacy in Louisiana and participate in programs, ceremonies and activities targeted at giving our children and young adults the gift, joy, and promise of reading." Check out the [Literacy Library](#), especially the Instruction, Intervention, and Extension and Family Literacy Engagement sections for some ready-made literacy activities. Something as simple as inviting a community member to read a story or discuss how literacy impacts their life can also promote literacy during this special week.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Career and College Readiness**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - **Academic Content**
 - **Diverse Learners Supports**
 - **Educator Development**
 - **Literacy**

Career and College Readiness

Spring 2022 LDOE Counselor Institute Updates

Please share with school counselors and school counseling supervisors.

Space is still available for the Spring 2022 Counselor Institutes, which take place during [National School Counseling Week](#). Please encourage school counselors to register for the desired location or use the [waiting list request form](#) for the locations that have reached capacity.

	8 - 11 a.m.	1 - 4 p.m.
February 8	Ouachita Parish	Bossier Parish
February 9	Rapides Parish	Lafayette Parish FULL
February 10	New Orleans	Livingston Parish

Although these events are best suited for middle and high school counselors, all are welcome to attend. A list of meeting topics follows.

- National School Counseling Week
- IGP Process
- Dual Enrollment Portal
- FAFSA Updates
- Fast Forward
- Jump Start Updates
- Louisiana Seal of Biliteracy
- Purple Star Award
- National Guard

Please visit the [Counselor Support Library](#) to download Louisiana-specific School Counseling Week resources; contact leslie.gilliland@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Evaluation Plan Webinar

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

The Department is hosting webinars to support school systems in understanding the curriculum-embedded assessments in the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) unit updates. These revised units include evaluation plans with a coherent system of curriculum-embedded assessments to guide instructional decisions throughout the units.

Join the [ELA Guidebooks Evaluation Plan \(2022\) Webinar](#) for an in-depth look at 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 questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Core and Optional Activities Webinar

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

The Department is hosting webinars to support school systems with understanding the role of Core and Optional Activities within ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) lessons. The Department will host one call for leaders and another call for teachers.

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- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID #:** 955 7529 9437
- **Passcode:** 829416

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners Supports

Extended Deadline: ESSA Alternate Assessment Participation Data Review

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any school system with more than 1.0 percent of students participating in the ELA, math or science alternate assessment must take certain actions. The Department provided school systems with the following alternate assessment documents via FTP:

- Alternate Assessment Participation Data (SY 2020-2021)
- Alternate Assessment Participation Review Letter (SY 2020-2021)
- Alternate Assessment Participation Justification Form (SY 2020-2021)
- Alternate Assessment Participation Review Request and Assurances Form (SY 2020-2021)

School systems should review their alternate assessment participation data and take the actions outlined in the corresponding documents by **February 18, 2022**. School systems can contact their FTP coordinator to retrieve their alternate assessment files.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Professional Practice Scores 2021-2022

Please share with school leaders.

BESE approved a proposal moving through the formal rulemaking process this October for the 2021-2022 academic year only regarding observations. Only one formal observation for the 2021-2022 academic year is required for those who earn a rating of *Highly Effective* or *Effective: Proficient* (score of 2.5 or higher) on the first observation.

Individuals earning *Highly Effective* or *Effective: Proficient* on the first observation can receive a second observation upon request. Any teacher or administrator who earns an observation rating of *Ineffective* or *Effective: Emerging* (2.4 or lower) will require two observations.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

CLASS® Conversion Scores

Please share with K-2 school and system leaders.

For the 2021-2022 school year, CLASS® scores will be converted to a 4.0 scale in order to be entered in to the Compass Information System (CIS). Please ensure the conversions are correctly calculated when entering observation scores into CIS.

The [CLASS® Conversion Chart](#) can be found in the [Accountability](#) and [Compass](#) libraries for your reference.

Please contact compass@la.gov with any questions.

Leader Evaluation Uploads

Please share with school leader evaluators.

Thanks to districts for completing the leader evaluation uploads. 97% of educators identified as leaders have their evaluations entered into the Compass Information System (CIS) for the 2020-2021 school year.

For additional needs or questions, please contact compass@la.gov.

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.

In January, 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.

School Improvement Best Practices

Please share with system leaders.

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy is designed to support schools in adopting the essential components that drive professional and student growth and will continue during the 2022-2023 school year. LDOE has partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to develop, implement, and support five [School Improvement Best Practices](#). The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support;
- teacher collaboration support;
- teaching standards support;
- principal standards support; and
- career pipeline support.

Educators may use this [link](#) to learn more about the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy training sessions, what's new for Summer 2022, and the requirements for CIR and UIR-A schools. School systems may apply for funds through their Achieve! application or use other funding sources for schools without an intervention label.

School systems should complete this [form](#) to indicate the training they anticipate their schools will participate in. Upon receipt of the form, NIET will connect with the school system contact to begin planning. Completing the form does not commit systems to selecting these trainings, but it helps to inform the planning with NIET.

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

Real-time Early Access to Literacy

Please share with school system REAL coordinators.

[Real-time Early Access to Literacy](#) (REAL) provides individualized support for students in pre-K through grade 3 to make progress in their literacy development. REAL provides tutoring services to eligible students in pre-K through grade 3 attending a CIR/UIR-A school.

The Department hosted a webinar this month to kick off the spring cycle of the REAL 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. All school systems must spend their REAL allocations no later than July 31.

Please contact april.davis2@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Analyzing Mid-Year Data Guidance

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

The Department's Literacy Division has released a set of resources to support teachers and leaders with analyzing mid-year literacy screener data. These resources can be accessed in the [Literacy Library](#) under the Literacy Goals pillar. For convenience, they are also linked below:

[Analyzing Mid-Year Data to Maximize Impact](#) (recording)
[Analyzing Mid-Year Data for Maximum Impact](#) (slide deck)
[Analyzing Mid-Year Data - Screener Support Guide](#)
[Analyzing Mid-Year Data - School Reflection Guide and Action Plan](#)
[Analyzing Mid-Year Data - School and Teacher Scenarios](#)
[Analyzing Mid-Year Data - Scenarios with Ideal Responses](#)

Please contact sarah.stohlman@la.gov with questions.

Middle and High School Professional Development Series

Please share with all content area middle and high school teachers and school leaders.

A new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy will be released weekly on Tuesdays beginning February 8 in the [Literacy Library](#). Beginning with an introduction to the science of reading and how it connects to middle and high school instruction, recorded sessions will include topics designed to build knowledge around implementing literacy strategies and best practices across all content areas in the middle and high school grades. Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a listing of session titles, session descriptions, and release dates.

Contact natalie.klibert@la.gov with questions.