



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 12, 2022

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	April 14 at 1 p.m.
April Dunn Act Office Hours	April 14 at 4:30 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	April 18 at 4 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	April 19 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	April 19 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	April 19 at 3:45 p.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	April 20 at 12 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	April 13 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	April 13 at 3 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	April 20 at 9:30 a.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	April 20 at 3 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	April 21 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	April 21 at 3 p.m.

System Leaders Roundtable	April 22 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	April 25 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	April 26 at 3:45 p.m.
Teaching and Learning Monthly Call	April 27 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	April 28 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	May 3 at 1 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	May 5 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	May 6 at 9 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>	
Upcoming Deadlines	
SPED Fellow Academy: Cohort 3 Application	April 11-May 13
Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application	April 30
Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application	April 30
Strong School Systems Cohort 3: Letter of Commitment	May 2
Cohort Graduation Data Certification	May 4
Social Studies Source Review Committees Interest Survey	May 4
Social Studies Advisory Group Interest Survey	May 4

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Future of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program: Forthcoming Survey

Please share this announcement with school system and school leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is beginning the planning process for the future of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). The goal is to develop a plan for state assessments that honors [Louisiana's priorities](#) and builds upon the strong foundation of the current LEAP.

An essential component to this effort is to gather input from various groups across the state of Louisiana for the purpose of informing this work. The Department has released the [Future of Assessment Survey](#) for stakeholders to provide their feedback. The survey is designed to take about 10 minutes and will be **available through April 29.**

School system or school leaders are encouraged to help to spread the news about the survey to teachers, parents, and students. Examples of how the news might be shared include posting the survey with a brief explanation on the school system or school website, sending the survey out in an email blast to teachers and parents, or posting the survey link on the school system or school's social media.

The deadline to complete the [survey](#) is April 29.

Please contact Alissa Kilpatrick at alissa.kilpatrick@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025

Please share this announcement with district test coordinators.

- April 6-12: Materials receipt acknowledgement window for PBT
- Additional materials can now be requested in DRC INSIGHT.
 - April 19: Last day to order materials for all grades 3-8 for delivery prior to test window
 - May 19: Last day to order materials for CBT grades 3-8 for delivery after test window opens
- Third year assessment cohort rosters are now posted to the FTP.
 - All students in high school grades must take an ELA, math assessment to meet federal law. The third year cohort rosters are designed to identify students who have not taken English I or II and/or Algebra I/Geometry.
 - Students must test even if they have not been enrolled in the course.
 - Students who transfer in from out of state, nonpublic school or home study with a credit do not have to test. The credit should be appropriately recorded in STS.
 - Students who participated in LEAP Connect in 2022 or a prior year do not have to test.
 - Test coordinators should not remove any third year assessment cohort students from DRC INSIGHT. The students must be tested or placed in a test session and assigned an accountability code if one can be documented.
 - Students who took a high school assessment in middle school grades and who will contribute zero points to a high school SPS have not been loaded into DRC INSIGHT. It is not necessary to add them to INSIGHT and code them out. They are included on the list as a courtesy in the event that a school system would like to test them one additional time to improve the banked score of Unsatisfactory or Approaching Basic.

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share this announcement with district accountability contacts.

- Some students are selected for exit code review on the cohort graduation rosters. Please remember that documentation is necessary for all records flagged. If no documentation is provided in Louisiana Data Review, the student's final end category will be changed from legitimate leaver to nongraduate.
- School system staff should not submit any records or requests for change through email. All requests and documentation should go through Louisiana Data Review.
- School system staff should not send emails that contain full PII to department staff providing assistance to school systems.

Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov or assessment@la.gov for assistance.

ACT

Please share this announcement with district test coordinators and security coordinators.

- DUE NOW: ACT and ACT(other realms) Data Sharing Agreements
 - Submit signed agreements to ldedata@la.gov. Use this link to access the documents.
 - Email patricia.newman@la.gov as notification that the agreements were submitted.
- Signed agreements are necessary for the department to receive test data from ACT for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Interests and Opportunities Preliminary Guidance

Please share this announcement with school system leaders and school leaders.

The preliminary Interests and Opportunities guidance has been published in the [Accountability Library](#). This guidance includes the menu, course codes, and general timeline information. Between now and June, information may be added to the guidance. Nothing will be removed from the menu or course offerings. A final guidance document will be published in June 2022.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

2021-2022 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM

The [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analysis. The data in CVR will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies (grades 4-8), and Algebra I, Geometry, English I and English II EOC courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores. **Updated dates follow.**

- **April 11 - April 29, 2022: CVR open for view-only**
During this time, users can view and check roster data for accuracy but cannot make changes in the CVR Portal. System Support will be available to assist with any issues that a school system must correct in EdLink 360.

- **May 2 - May 20, 2022 (3 weeks): CVR open for roster verification**
This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school system and school level in the system.

Please see the [2021-2022 Curriculum Verification and Roster Portal \(CVR\) User Guide](#) for more information; contact LDOECVR@la.gov with questions regarding roster verification; contact compass@la.gov with general Compass-related questions.

Social Studies Assessment Advisory Group

Please share this announcement with social studies supervisors, school leaders, and K–12 social studies teachers.

The Division of Assessment Content is accepting applications for a Social Studies Assessments Advisory Group in addition to ongoing assessment development committees. The group will be composed of social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers and coordinators. They will provide input as the Department develops new LEAP Social Studies assessments aligned to the 2022 Louisiana Standards for Social Studies and related assessment resources.

The advisory group will convene over the course of two academic years, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024. There will be approximately six to eight meetings per year, held virtually after school for no more than two hours. Participation is entirely voluntary. **The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is May 4.**

Please contact elizabeth.carney@la.gov and kelly.pizani@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Source Review Committees

Please share this announcement with social studies supervisors, school leaders, and teachers of grades 3–8 and high school social studies.

The Division of Assessment Content is accepting applications for the Social Studies Source Review Committees for grades 3–8 social studies and high school civics. Each committee will

- include four to six social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge or grade-level expertise;
- review proposed sources to ensure that materials are fair and appropriate for all students and will support the development of items that allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in social studies and align to the 2022 Louisiana Standards for Social Studies;
- convene for the first time in summer 2022 and on a regular basis during the 2022–2023 school year; and
- complete synchronous and asynchronous reviews during the 2022–2023 school year, with approximately five to six virtual meetings held outside of school hours.

Interested educators can access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for committee details and links to apply to participate on specific committees. **The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is May 4.**

Please contact elizabeth.carney@la.gov and kelly.pizani@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Strong School Systems Strategic Planning Cohort 3

Please share with school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education invites school system leadership teams to join the third cohort of the Strong School Systems Strategic Planning Initiative. Systems participating in the cohort will enjoy the benefits of professional development and coaching, technical assistance, and an opportunity to network with other system leaders from across the state while developing a multi-year, system-wide strategic plan.

System leadership teams interested in signing up for Cohort 3 should complete the [Notice of Intent](#) form to sign up or learn more about Strong School Systems Strategic Planning Initiative.

Additional information and the letter of commitment (due by May 2) are available in the [Strong School Systems Cohort 3 Overview](#) of the benefits, timeline, process, and deliverables associated with cohort participation.

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with school and system leaders.

In less than 60 days, Louisiana's educators will come together at Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans. [Grab a ticket](#) for your classroom teachers before registration closes on April 15. You do not want them to miss this opportunity to hear from [keynote speakers](#) Stephen M.R. Covey and Juliana Urtubey.

The City of New Orleans has lifted the mask, vaccine and test requirements as of March 21. Under the [updated guidelines](#), Teacher Leader Summit will not require these.

Once registered, attendees should use [these recommendations](#) to prepare for arrival prior to the event.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

District K-2 Teacher Professional Practice

Please share with systems leaders.

During the 2022-2023 school year, schools are encouraged to choose CLASS® or NIET (TAP/Best Practices) Rubrics as an option to replace Compass for [K-2 Teacher Professional Practice](#).

LDOE is gathering information to help support systems through this process. System evaluation contacts are asked to complete the [K-2 Professional Practice Information Survey](#) by **April 19, 2022**.

This survey will:

- 1) Collect needed information on current system observation rubrics utilized for K-2 teacher evaluations to help us better support the learning year transition.
- 2) Indicate school systems' interest and need for the [CLASS® Observer Train-the-Trainer](#) funding opportunity.

Please contact lori.pennison@la.gov with questions.

CIS Teacher and Staff Evaluations

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

The teacher evaluation upload window opens on **May 11, 2022**. Systems are encouraged to begin finalizing teacher and staff evaluations. The Compass Information System (CIS) will shut down for the 2021-2022 school year on September 1, 2022. Following this date, no teacher evaluation data for the 2021-2022 school year will be able to be amended or added. Please prepare to complete the following no later than August 26, 2022 to assure a successful upload margin prior the close of the 2021-2022 window in [CIS](#):

- Enter and rate both SLTs for teachers and staff.
- Enter professional practice scores (for 2021-2022 only, if the evaluated person scored "Effective: Proficient" or "Highly Effective" (2.5 and above), enter the single score twice).
- Finalize evaluations.

We also encourage you to enter professional practice scores for leaders and ensure that SLTs are set.

Resources for [evaluation uploads](#) are located in the [Compass Library](#).

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Listening Session Nominations

Please share with superintendents.

The Department will be hosting a series of listening sessions across the state to provide the opportunity for stakeholders to describe their experiences and perceptions as well as offer suggestions on issues related to teacher recruitment, recovery, and retention. Each stakeholder group will participate in a facilitated listening session led by the Region 14 Comprehensive Center, an outside organization that is a partner with the LDOE in improving education in our state.

Superintendents are asked to complete this short [survey](#) by **Friday, April 15** to nominate participants for the listening sessions. To ensure a variety of representation from across the state, the Region 14 Comprehensive Center and the Department will review inquiries from interested stakeholders to ensure representation.

Please contact brandy.branigan@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship

Please share with human resources directors.

HR Directors who are interested in participating in the 2022-2023 Recruitment and Retention Fellowship through a partnership with the national non-profit organization, [Urban Schools Human Capital Academy](#) should complete this short [application](#) by **April 30**.

Additional information can be found in this [overview](#) of the Recruitment and Retention Fellowship.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Building-Level Leader Principal Newsletter Recognition

Please share with school leaders and school leader supervisors.

The monthly Principal's Newsletter will be released on **April 21**. If you have a building-level leader who you would like to recognize, take a minute to send a shout-out of appreciation using this [survey link](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our April Principal [Newsletter](#).

Please contact brandy.branigan@la.gov with questions.

Mentor List

Please share with system and school leaders.

The Department created a list of currently certified Mentor teachers that was emailed to teacher preparation programs and K-12 system leaders on April 1 to assist with the placement of residents.

The list includes educators who hold the Mentor credential, their location, and their certification area(s). Educators will be listed several times if they have numerous certification areas.

Mentors who hold a provisional license for the 2021-2022 school year were not included on the list. There are an additional 1,000 Mentors who held a provisional license this school year. As a reminder, an educator on a provisional license is enrolled in or has completed an approved Mentor training program. Once they complete the training and assessment series they are eligible for the Mentor certification. The Department will update this list bi-annually.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Waiver

Please share with system and school leaders.

The Department is asking BESE to waive the Mentor policy for the 2022-2023 school year. This request is identical to what was approved for the 2021-2022 school year. Although there are currently 1,506 credentialed mentors and an additional 1,000 holding the provisional license, there are still gaps in particular subject areas and geographic regions.

Upon approval by BESE, the Department will share application instructions with school systems and preparation providers by early summer. It is anticipated that the application process will be identical to the [process](#) used in 2021-2022.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate

Please share with system leaders.

Accelerate, Louisiana's pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students. School system and school leaders should continue implementing Accelerate in their schools.

All CIR/UIR-A schools will be required to implement Accelerate during the 2022-2023 school year. Resources and training are available in the Accelerate Library and the Department will host an Accelerate Overview webinar to support system and school teams in implementation.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 28 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://doe.zoom.us/j/98219634371?pwd=TW5BRkxtQXhZU2JN3ZaL2FMb0NUQT09#success>
- **Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 98219634371

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Please share with summer learning program coordinators.

As School systems begin finalizing their summer learning programs, the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) can be utilized to plan for their 2022 program. The focus during the months of April and May should be focused on hiring staff, planning professional development, previewing summer tutoring lessons with teachers, planning enrichment activities, confirming community involvement, developing students rosters and bus routes, as well as communicating summer learning program details to parents. .

The [Summer Learning Program Overview webinar presentation located in the School System Support Toolbox](#) can also be referenced as an additional resource. Beginning this summer 2022, all CIR and UIR-A schools must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students.

Please contact keisha.thomas2@la.gov with 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](#).

All general [training dates](#) for the 2022 Louisiana Best Practices can be found on the [NIET website](#). Most Best Practices trainings are two days, which must be taken consecutively, and the Teaching and Learning Standards training is four days in length. School systems are encouraged to connect with their schools to discuss which sessions they would like Instructional Leadership Team members to attend. Each school can send up to five participants.

All CIR and UIR-A schools will be required to participate in the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Support and Teacher Collaboration Support training sessions, as well as the accompanying online portal and two days of on-site and/or virtual coaching as follow-up support to the training.

- If a CIR or UIR-A school participated in ILT support or Teacher Collaboration support trainings in Summer 2021, then it is required that they complete the “next level” training in that area in Summer 2022.
- If a CIR or UIR-A school did not participate in ILT support and Teacher Collaboration support trainings in Summer 2021, then it is required that they complete the “foundational” training in those areas in Summer 2022.

While all CIR and UIR-A schools are required to participate in the Instructional Leadership Team Support and Teacher Collaboration Support training sessions, all schools in Louisiana can participate in this opportunity to support implementation of these essential practices this summer.

Please note that once registration opens, sessions will be capped for capacity to allow for facilitators to better engage with individual educators. Specific dates will be available on a first come, first served basis. We anticipate opening registration later this month.

School systems may utilize the [Maximizing the Impact of Best Practices Trainings Guidelines](#) for Successful Participation for next steps and key actions.

Please refer to your statement of work with NIET for the specific trainings your schools will attend in 2022.

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 keisha.thomas2@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

CLSD Grants Implementation Webinar

Please share with federal program coordinators and personnel responsible for the CLSD CIR/UIR-A and/or CLSD UIN grants.

There will be an informational webinar to assist school systems with implementation of their CLSD grants, both the CIR/UIR-A and UIN grants. All recipients of either grant should plan to have a representative attend. This will be a time for systems to receive updates and information and ask questions regarding effective implementation.

Webinar Details

- **Date & Time:** Wednesday, May 4 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Zoom Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99958782679>
- **Meeting ID:** 999 5878 2679

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [Career and College Readiness](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
 - [Educator Development](#)

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application

Please share with CTE supervisors, CTE instructors, and professional school counselors.

The Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program is accepting applications for up to forty one-time \$1,000 scholarships. [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Applications](#) are due May 20.

Applicants must:

- Have a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma
- Have a National Center for Construction Education and Research credential
- Have a plan to enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program

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

LDOE Virtual Therapy through Ochsner for Educators

Please share with all school employees Birth - 12.

Ochsner Anywhere Care is a secure virtual visit tool offering appointments with licensed Therapists through your smartphone, tablet or personal computer—so you can get care where and when you need it! Schedule an appointment with the provider of your choice.

What can be treated? Addiction, Adolescent Counseling, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, Attention Deficit, Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Depression and Mood Disorders, Eating Disorders, Grief and Loss Counseling, Insomnia, Marriage and Family Counseling, Postpartum Depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Work-related Stress

Convenient virtual therapy appointments are available Monday – Friday until 8 p.m., with additional appointment times on Saturdays.

Sign up at ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com and enter **Service Key: LDOE; Coupon Code: TEACH.**

Please email anywherecare@ochsner.org or for 24/7 technical support, call 855-667-9711.

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

Office Hours Cancellation

Please share with all system leaders, school leaders, and professional school counselors.

Please note that the Office of Career and College Readiness's office hours webinar previously scheduled for April 7 was cancelled. Join us for our monthly call on [April 21 at 3 p.m.](#)

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Educator Development

Aspiring Principal Fellowship

Please share with school leaders and school leader supervisors.

Congratulations to our first cohort of Aspiring Principal Fellows who completed their fellowship in March. This group of 22 aspiring principals represented 15 school systems from across the state and left the Aspiring Principal Fellowship with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve in the principal role.

The Louisiana Department of Education is expanding the Aspiring Principal Fellowship for the 2022-2023 school year. APF cohort participants will meet throughout the year to explore best practices with regional experts, school visits, and reflection. Participants will exit this fellowship with a robust leadership portfolio, the guidance of Louisiana's most successful principals, and a strong network of lifelong colleagues.

Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems need to cover the cost of the \$1000 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than April 30.

Additional information is available in this [overview](#) of the fellowship.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

CLASS® Train-the-Trainer Funding Opportunity

Please share with systems leaders, school leaders, human resource directors, data directors, and teacher leaders.

During the 2022-2023 school year, schools are encouraged to choose CLASS® or NIET (Tap/Best Practices) as an option to replace Compass for [K-2 Professional Practice](#).

Maintaining trained, certified observers is an important component sustaining the use of CLASS® in K-2. Funding is available for the [CLASS® Observer Train-the-Trainer](#) model for systems with CIR/UIR-A schools. At the school system level, the Train-the-Trainer model will allow school system leaders to build and sustain a cadre of certified observers.

Systems are asked to request HR directors or data managers to complete the [K-2 Professional Practice Information Survey](#) to provide information on current K-2 teacher observation rubrics and to help allocate seats for affiliate training.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.