



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 19

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	April 20 at 12 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	April 21 at 1 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	April 26 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	April 26 at 3 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	May 2 at 4 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	May 3 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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 Cal	April 21 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	April 21 at 3 p.m.
System Leaders Roundtable: Next Roundtable in September	No April Roundtable
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.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	May 11 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	May 11 at 3 p.m.
<p>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</p>	

Upcoming Deadlines	
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
SPED Fellow Academy: Cohort 3 Application	May 13

Note: The April System Leaders Roundtable will not take place this week. The next Roundtable will take place in September.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Future of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program

Please share this announcement with school and school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is seeking input from stakeholders as we consider changes to our assessments that will both honor [Louisiana's priorities](#) and build upon the strong foundation of the current LEAP.

The Department has released the [Future of Assessment Survey](#) for stakeholders to provide their feedback. **School system or school leaders are encouraged to help to spread the news about the survey to teachers, parents, and students.**

The [survey](#) is designed to take about ten minutes and will be **available through April 29th.**

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025

Please share this announcement with district test coordinators.

- 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 or as a T9 student, 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, then 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 with questions.

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 and school system 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: Monday, April 11-Friday, 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.
- **Monday, May 2-Friday, 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.

An updated user guide for CVR is available [here](#).

Please contact LDOECVR@la.gov with questions regarding roster verification, and 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 comprised 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 school years, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024. There will be approximately six to eight meetings per year. All meetings will be 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 grades 3–8 and high school social studies teachers.

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

- include 4–6 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 5 to 6 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.

Career and College Readiness

Improving School Health Education Practices

Please share with Health and Physical Education teachers, curriculum supervisors, and assistant principals.

The LDOE has partnered with Well-Ahead Louisiana to provide self-paced, virtual training for schools and school systems to improve health education. Improving School Health Education Practices is for K-12 health teachers, curriculum and instruction professionals, and those interested in supporting high-quality health education for students.

The [training](#) focuses on the Characteristics of an Effective Health Education Curriculum as defined by the CDC to support curriculum selection and classroom instruction. Upon completion of the training participants can earn a certificate of completion.

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Stop the Bleed by Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN)

Please share with school nurses and health and wellness staff.

Training has been developed to ensure that school systems are prepared to respond to a traumatic injury emergency. The Department has partnered with the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) to make this **free training available at school sites**.

Schools may also purchase [training kits](#), which will help comply with incorporating training into each school's emergency plans.

To schedule a training, please call the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) office at 225-756-3440. For more information on these efforts, visit [LERN](#).

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

OpenSciEd High School Pilot Support Form Deadline Extended

Please share with science or high school curriculum supervisors.

Schools systems who indicated plans to implement [OpenSciEd High School](#) should have received follow-up communication regarding next steps for implementation support. Due to the nature of this pilot, opportunities to secure kit materials and professional learning are limited and time sensitive. Any school system planning to implement this pilot should fill out the [OpenSciEd Pilot Support Form](#) by **April 22** for priority in open enrollment training opportunities. If you are unsure whether someone from your system has completed the form, contact STEM@la.gov for confirmation.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

Please share with school system leaders and special education leaders.

The Department continues to release monthly guidance covering a critical topic of special education programming and is 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 March, the Department released guidance on the topic [Staff Well-Being](#). On April 26, the Department will release guidance on the topic Student Well-Being. School system leaders are encouraged to attend the hour-long implementation webinar on [May 3 at 1 p.m.](#)

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

SPED Fellow Cohort 3 Application Open

Please share with school system leaders and special education leaders.

[SPED Fellow Academy](#) is a year-long, comprehensive development program for novice special education leaders (administrators) across Louisiana. The program will provide in-person training, coaching and a community of practice that will instill the knowledge and skills the next generation of leaders needs to lead and sustain change to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Learning will cover topics such as strategic budgeting, stakeholder engagement, laws and policies, leveraging data, leadership development including managing teams and sustaining change. In addition to a robust curriculum, the program will support fellows in examining a systems level problem of practice, developing a theory of action to address the problem of practice, and developing an action plan to lead systems level change.

We encourage full time administrators who are managing across these areas to [apply](#) before May 13. To improve our special education leadership pipeline, this year, applications will be open to SPED Coordinators who plan to be school system special education leaders in the next 3-5 years. Please note, a recommendation letter from the SPED Coordinator's current special education supervisor will be required.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Listening Session Nominations

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

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 has partnered with the Department to improve education in our state.

Principals are asked to complete this short [survey](#) by **April 30** to nominate teachers, support staff, parents, and community members 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 louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Workforce Reporting Update

Please share with system leaders and school leaders.

The 2021-2022 Educator Workforce Report will be released as a live dashboard with information that is updated in real-time. The data release will shift to real-time reports in lieu of annual, static reporting. The dashboard will be released and housed on EdLink 360 by early summer. EdLink 360 Workforce Reports will:

- Grant access for system and school leaders, as well as data managers, to real-time workforce data
- Provide data inclusive of Out-of-Field/Uncertified teachers; salary over time; incentive pay over time; experience of departing teachers; effectiveness of departing teachers; certified teacher need for students with disabilities; percentage of SPED classes being taught by certified teachers

Dates for system and site leader training for this new platform will be forthcoming this summer.

For more information contact emily.smiley@la.gov.

K-2 Learning Year: Phase I Office Hours

Please share with systems leaders and school leaders.

K-2 Office Hours will host Teachstone and the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) in order to provide additional information to systems planning to choose CLASS or NIET (TAP/Best Practices) for K-2 teacher professional practice observations. Please join to learn more about these observation rubrics.

- Teachstone overview of CLASS® observation rubric on May 4 at noon.
- NIET overview of NIET (TAP/Best Practices) observation rubric on May 18 at noon.
- Teachstone overview of myTeachstone data and reporting platform on June 15 at noon.
- NIET overview of EE PASS data and reporting platform on June 29 at noon.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98569851139?pwd=b0VGdTIvcThYWElZT3VnWWQzYU1kZz09>

Meeting ID: 985 6985 1139

Passcode: 578203

Please contact lori.pennison@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. 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://l.doe.zoom.us/j/98219634371?pwd=TW5BRkxtQXhZU2JJN3ZaL2FMb0NUQT09#success>
- **Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 98219634371

Resources and trainings are available in the [Accelerate Library](#).

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

Mentor Waiver

Please share with system and school leaders.

BESE approved a Mentor waiver request at the April 2022 meeting, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, for the 2022-2023 school year. The waiver will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDOE and at no fee to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation provider. The waiver will be issued by the LDOE for educators highly recommended by the Mentor's principal and who possess one or more of the following qualifications:

1. Two years of Highly Effective Compass ratings;
2. National Board Certification;
3. Statewide or national distinction for excellence in teaching;
4. Experience as a TAP mentor, master teacher, executive master teacher, or certified TAP evaluator;
5. Content leader experience, as evidenced by participation in Content Leader training or redelivery of professional development; or
6. Master's or doctorate in education and exemplary experience hosting student teachers.

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.

New Teacher of the Year Finalist Information Call

Please share with New Teacher of the year finalists and system coordinators.

New Teacher of the Year (NTOY) [finalists](#) and their school/school system coordinators should join the finalist information call on April 25 at 4 p.m. During this call information will be provided to NTOY finalists about the interview event and upcoming opportunities.

Webinar date and time: April 25 at 4 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97953804855?pwd=U0pORFBVSTQ0RTVLTWN6R2VZS2tHQT09>

Meeting ID: 979 5380 4855

Passcode: 350010

Phone: 1-312-626-6799

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [School System Relations](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
 - [Educator Development](#)
 - [Literacy](#)

School System Relations

Strong School Systems Strategic Planning Cohort 3

Please share with 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 this [overview](#) of the benefits, timeline, process, and deliverables associated with cohort participation.

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Educator Development

Aspiring Principal Fellowship

Please share with school leaders and school leader supervisors.

Applications are being accepted through the end of the month for the second cohort of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship. Aspiring Principal Fellows will exit this fellowship with the knowledge and skills needed to serve in a principal role.

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 can be found in this [overview](#) of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship.

Please contact louisianaleaders@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, 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.

System leaders are encouraged to enter professional practice scores for school leaders and ensure that SLTs are set.

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

Please contact compass@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.

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.

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 have been established. 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 week.

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 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 Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with any 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.