

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: May 7, 2024

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### Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Teacher Appreciation Week is an opportunity to celebrate our educators and do something that should be a priority every day of the year — value teaching professionals.

Other than the parent, there's nothing more critical for student success than a teacher. I'm committed to a comprehensive approach that values teaching professionals. Teachers deserve effective school leaders, meaningful professional learning opportunities, reduced distractions, elevated voice, and compensation that makes sense in the 21st century.

It was the voice of teachers that led to the development of the [Let Teachers Teach Workgroup](#). I launched this workgroup after educator engagement revealed a number of challenges taking time away from classroom instruction, including excessive training and paperwork, being required to follow scripted lessons, and student behavior and discipline issues. Nearly 30 teachers from across the state have been developing a set of policy recommendations to be released soon that will help improve the working environment of every teacher in the state.

We must appreciate the significance of the profession and those who choose to serve the next generation. Their impact is immeasurable, and their dedication does not go unnoticed. As we work to move our state to the next level of success, Louisiana teachers will help lead the way.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [May 8 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [May 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [May 9 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [May 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [May 9 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Choice Office Hours: [May 9 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [May 9 at 11 a.m.](#)
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hour: [May 13 at 9 a.m.](#)

- School Choice Office Hours: [May 14 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours: [May 14 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [May 14 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hour: [May 15 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [May 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [May 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [May 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [May 20 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [May 22 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [May 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [May 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [May 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [June 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [June 6 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [June 25, 2024 at 2 p.m.](#)

## **Upcoming Events and Deadlines**

- Title II and IV Meaningful Consultation Webinar: [May 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2024 Student of the Year Virtual Celebration: [May 8 at 6 p.m.](#)
- [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Application](#) Deadline: May 10
- Last day to administer LEAP 2025 Spring Assessments: May 17
- 2024-25 LSP Site Registration Ends: May 24
- [Teacher Leader Summit 2024](#): May 28-30, New Orleans
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31
- Final Day to Upload Final SCP Roster to FTP: May 31
- Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds: June 30
- Summer EBT Application Portal Opens: July 1
- [2024 Louisiana School Safety Summit](#): July 10-11, **virtual event**
- Deadline for EEF recipients to submit Final 6/30 PERs: July 15
- [Kami Regional Tour](#): July 24 - July 26

## **Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations**

### **Summer EBT**

**Please share with federal nutrition directors.**

In summer 2024, Louisiana will launch Summer EBT, a new grocery benefits program that provides families \$120 for each eligible school-aged child to buy groceries when school is out. Most families will get these benefits automatically, but some parents will need to apply. The new program is in addition to free meals that kids of all ages can get at summer meal sites in their communities.

A [brief overview](#) of the program is available for distribution at this time. Access the May Federal Nutrition Support monthly call [presentation](#) for additional information.

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

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **LEAP 2025**

**Please share with school leaders and test coordinators.**

Please review this important list of reminders as we work to complete LEAP testing by May 17.

- Administrative error voids should be communicated as soon as possible.
- Test sessions that are completed and locked, but are not submitted, for LEAP grades 3-8 do not need to be unlocked for submission. DRC will submit all these sessions once testing is complete.
- Test sessions that are completed and locked, but not submitted, for LEAP high school grades **do need** to be unlocked for submission. Test sessions that are not submitted will cause a delay in scoring until early summer.
- Test administrators must carefully monitor the use of cell phones in the testing environment. Cell phones that are used in the testing room must be confiscated and searched for secure test content.

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

### **2023-2024 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM**

**Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and teachers.**

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 (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. Social Studies rosters will not be available in the CVR because a new Social Studies test is being piloted in the 2023-2024 school year. Teachers do not need to verify any Social Studies class roster.

**May 6-May 24** CVR will be 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.

The updated [Curriculum Verification and Roster Portal \(CVR\) User Guide](#) is now available.

Please contact [SystemSupport@la.gov](mailto:SystemSupport@la.gov) with questions regarding roster verification, or [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with general Compass related questions.

## Career and College Readiness

### **School Safety Funding Opportunities**

**Please share with system leaders, principals and school safety/emergency preparedness staff.**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) released the [FY24 Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing \(STOP\) School Violence Program Competitive Solicitation](#), which provides funding to increase school safety by implementing solutions that will improve the school environment. Solutions include school-based behavioral threat assessments and/or intervention teams to identify school violence risks among students, technological innovations that are shown to increase school safety such as anonymous reporting technology, and other school safety strategies that assist in preventing violence.

Applications also opened for the [School Violence Prevention Program](#), which provides funding to states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and their public agencies to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the jurisdiction of the grantee through evidence-based school safety programs and technology.

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

## **Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training**

**Please share with mental health professionals, principals, school resource officers, school safety/emergency preparedness staff, and system leaders.**

The Louisiana State Police, in partnership with the Louisiana Association of Principals, is providing statewide regional [training](#) related to the development, implementation and operation of behavioral threat assessment and management processes. For more information about this partnership and training, please contact [janice.ihaza@la.gov](mailto:janice.ihaza@la.gov).

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

## **FAFSA Policy and Assistance**

**Please share with counselors, system leaders, and those responsible for financial aid planning for students.**

As a reminder, at its March 2024 meeting, BESE approved updates to the [Notice of Intent](#) regarding *Bulletin 741 Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators - §901 and §2347*, focusing on policy surrounding FAFSA for 2024-2025 cohort graduates.

- LEAs must ensure that each student receives adequate support in completing and submitting an application for financial aid.
- An updated parent and student financial aid planning toolkit will be made available to school systems.

For current graduates filling out FAFSAs, valuable resources are available:

- [FAFSA Data Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [FAFSA Steps](#)
- [Financial Aid Terminology](#)
- [Financial Aid Verification Process](#)

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

## **2024-2025 Pupil Progression Plan Template**

**Please share with school system administrators.**

The 2024-2025 Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) template is scheduled to release this summer and will be published in the LDOE School Policy library webpage. The PPP will need to be submitted as a pdf to [ppp@la.gov](mailto:ppp@la.gov) by October 31.

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

## **Teaching and Learning**

### Academic Content

#### **ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) Unit Update**

**Please share with ELA content supervisors and system leaders.**

The [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\) overview](#) has been updated to reflect a change to the development 5 unit for grade 8. The new unit, Persuasion, is currently in development and will be released on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) this summer. Unit Readers, student materials, and teaching guides will be available from [XanEdu](#) and the unit anchor text will be included on the [American Reading Company portal](#) upon the unit's release.

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

## **Kami Virtual and Face-to-Face Trainings**

**Please share with all content supervisors, instructional coaches, school leaders, and teachers.**

The LDOE is excited to announce a series of professional learning sessions focused on how Kami supports HQIM implementation in addition to increasing student accessibility to resources and opportunities to collaborate. The upgraded version of Kami is available to teachers in Louisiana beginning now through the 2024-2025 school year.

### [Summer Webinar Series](#)

The LDOE will host a comprehensive webinar series designed to help educators integrate Kami into the classrooms and unlock its full potential for engaging and effective instruction. Morning and afternoon sessions will be held twice a week on a range of topics from June 4-July 18. Sessions will be recorded and posted on the [Digital Learning website](#).

### [Kami Regional Tour](#)

The LDOE will also host six regional face-to-face professional learning opportunities July 24-26. Sessions will be offered in the following locations:

- July 24 - Calcasieu Parish
- July 24 - Lafayette Parish
- July 25 - Bossier Parish
- July 26 - Jefferson Parish
- July 26 - Lincoln Parish
- July 26 - East Baton Rouge Parish

Mark your calendars and [register](#) today.

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

## **2024 Louisiana Aspiring Educator Summer Academy**

**Please share with school leaders and teacher leaders.**

The Louisiana Aspiring Educator Summer Academy is a one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience for high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators.

Hosted by the LDOE and staffed by a team of advisors and coaches from around the state, the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Academy will take place at the University of Louisiana Lafayette July 8-12. High schools offering Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway coursework are eligible to [nominate one student and one alternate](#) to attend the 2024 Academy. School system [nominations](#) will be accepted until all academy slots have been filled.

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

## **CIS Evaluation Closeout for Teachers, Counselors, and Librarians**

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

Systems may begin finalizing teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluations. Systems are encouraged to complete and sign off on all observation and Student Learning Target (SLT) data prior to staff leaving for summer break. Once the deadline has passed for 2023-2024 data entry, no teacher, counselor, or librarian evaluation data can be added or amended. To create a streamlined process, it is recommended that educators complete the following assigned tasks:

## CIS Administrators

- [Update](#) rosters in [CIS](#)
- [Assign](#) evaluators to all educators
- [Monitor](#) evaluation completion in CIS

## Evaluators

- Ensure that all teachers, counselors, and librarians are in [CIS](#)
- [Enter](#) observation scores in CIS
- [Accept](#) SLTs in CIS
- [Rate](#) SLTs in CIS
- Share observation and SLT scores with evaluatees
- Submit all non-VAM teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluations in CIS
- Verify VAM rosters in [CVR](#)

## Teachers, Counselors, Librarians

- [Enter](#) all SLTs in [CIS](#)
- Assess students and [report SLT](#) results in CIS
- View and acknowledge observation and SLT scores
- VAM teachers verify rosters in [CVR](#)

Note: Even though 2024-2025 evaluation data will be placed in the new data platform, the 2023-2024 evaluation data will be closed out in CIS. Systems utilizing the spreadsheet to upload data to CIS may begin to finalize teacher, counselor, and librarian observations and SLTs. As a reminder, CIS administrators and evaluators should monitor to ensure a final score populates. Those with VAM coded as Y will not populate a score until after VAM release. Spreadsheets can be re-uploaded following VAM release to populate scores.

Resources for [finalizing and uploading](#) evaluations are located in the [Compass Library](#).

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

## **LEADS Resources**

**Please share with counselors, human resource directors, school leaders, systems leaders, and teachers.**

Resources for transitioning to the LEADS evaluation system are published in the [Compass Library](#). LEADS Informational Webinars and slide decks are available for [system-level leaders](#), [school-level leaders](#), [counselors](#) and [teachers](#). The [Evaluation Learning Year Frequently Asked Questions List](#) provides answers to many questions and will continue to be updated. The [Louisiana Leader Rubric](#) and [Louisiana Educator Rubric](#) are now available. Continue to check the Compass Library for additional resources.

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