



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 5, 2023

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

September is Attendance Awareness Month. Academic success starts with attendance and Louisiana is making progress. In 2022-23, our statewide truancy rate dropped by nearly 3% with over 24,000 fewer students identified as truant. This comes one year after Louisiana was a national outlier due to a dramatic decrease in chronic absenteeism.

Louisiana's child welfare and attendance professionals (CWAs) have been key to this progress. Our team at the LDOE continues to invest in CWAs. I encourage you to make sure the CWAs in your system are connected to our support.

- **Monthly calls:** Child welfare and attendance directors, supervisors, and attendance stakeholders in Louisiana meet every first Thursday of the month. Our next call is [September 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- **Louisiana Attendance Planning Toolkit:** Louisiana CWAs create [toolkits](#) with resources, recordings, and tools to address chronic absence.
- **Louisiana CWA web page:** Our website now includes a [landing page of resources](#) for families and CWA professionals.
- **Annual summit:** Our CWA Summit is held each February in conjunction with the Jump Start Convention. This event brings together educators and experts from across the state.

If you have any questions or would like more information about supporting the work of your CWAs, please contact Child Welfare and Attendance Liaison Shelneka Adams at shelneka.adams@la.gov.

Dr. Cade Brumley

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [September 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Annual Financial Report (AFR) Office Hour: [September 7 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [September 12 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [September 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [September 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [September 20 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [September 20 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [September 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Annual Financial Report (AFR) Office Hour: [September 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [September 21 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [September 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [October 6 at 9 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [School Support Institutes](#): Session 1: September 11-14
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year Award Overview Webinar](#): September 14 at 3 p.m.
- Deadline to submit [Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Nominations](#): September 22
- [2024 Student of the Year Program Overview Webinar](#): September 26 at 1 p.m.
- Deadline to submit Annual Financial Report (AFR): September 29
- Deadline to submit Budget Form A: September 29
- ESSER II funding obligation deadline: September 30
- [School Health Provider of the Year Nominations](#) due: October 12
- [Mentor and Resident data](#) due in Edlink: October 20
- [Fall 2023 Counselor Institutes](#): October 24-26
- Deadline to submit [2023-2024 PPP](#): October 31
- Deadline to submit [2023-2024 Title I, Part A - Annual Comparability Report](#): November 7
- Deadline to submit [Immersion Site Certification application](#): November 15

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2023-2024 Title I, Part A Annual Comparability Reports

Please share with federal program directors and superintendents.

The LDOE will release the 2023-2024 SY Title I Comparability Report section in eGMS September 18. Title I Comparability requires school systems to demonstrate if services provided with state and local funds are comparable between Title I schools and non-Title I schools or are substantially comparable for school systems with all Title I schools. School systems with one school per grade span and Type 2, 3, 3B, and 5 charters are exempt from the submission.

School systems should use October 2022 staffing and salary data to complete this report. Access the [Comparability Instructions](#) and the [Comparability FAQ](#) document for more details and instructions. The report must be submitted via eGMS no later than **November 17**.

Please contact DOE-program.monitoring@la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

Assessment Literacy Initiative

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

The first session of the monthly webinar series Effective Assessment Practices, hosted by the LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment, takes place this Thursday, September 7. Each one-hour session will provide opportunities for Louisiana educators, both leaders and classroom educators, to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms. Webinars will be recorded.

- **September Topic:** Introduction to Assessment Literacy and Balanced Assessment Systems
- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 7 at 3:30 p.m.; **Q & A:** 4:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82791828031>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** +1 646 931 3860
- **Webinar ID#:** 827 9182 8031
- **Passcode:** 019422

The [Effective Assessment Practices Webinar Series flyer](#) provides a complete schedule, Zoom links, and monthly topics for the series.

Please contact danielle.ricks@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with testing coordinators.

- ACT MOUs are due to assessment@la.gov no later than September 30. Every school system planning to test students who do not qualify for ACT and/or WorkKeys testing under state contract must complete this document.
- Credentials for accessing PANext and Validus systems will be distributed by ACT to district test coordinators September 11.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

Please share with counselors, secondary administrators, social studies supervisors, and student council advisors.

The LDOE, in partnership with the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, will select two juniors or seniors to serve as delegates for the 62nd Annual Washington Week Program March 2-9, 2024. These two students will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship after attending all sessions scheduled for that week. Please refer to the [LDOE's Awards webpage](#) for more information.

- Any junior or senior holding an elected or appointed leadership position in the school, community, state, or nation may qualify to apply.
- The [U.S. Youth Senate Scholarship application](#) will trigger the release of the list of essay topics and directions for the proctored writing session from the state coordinator to the school sponsor. These topics are considered test secure by the Hearst Foundation and should be treated as such.

- The deadline for portfolio submission is **October 3** at 11:59 p.m. Applications will not be returned. Finalists will be notified by October 26.
- The national exam and interviews will be held November 8 in Baton Rouge.
- Finalists will be notified by the LDOE in early December of their selections as delegates or alternates.
- The delegates must be able to attend all events in Washington, D.C. to receive the college scholarship.

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

2024 Student of the Year Recognition Program Guidelines

Please share with counselors, school administrators, and Student of the Year coordinators.

Newly revised Student of the Year Guidelines and accompanying documents will be available to school systems in early September; a webinar is scheduled to explain the changes.

Revisions include determining zones and regions, using electronic applications at the school level, and using Jotform applications for zone, regional, and state levels.

- **Date and Time:** Tuesday, September 26; 1-2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99276733896?>
- **Meeting ID:** 992 7673 3896
- **Passcode:** 868367

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA) Education Program

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

[Act 180](#) of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session requires each public high school provide instruction relative to organ donation to students. The instruction shall be integrated into the curriculum of an existing required course, such as health education or another required course deemed appropriate by the public school governing authority.

The [LOPA](#) developed instruction modules designed to introduce students to the process of organ, tissue, and eye donation and transplantation. In addition to providing facts about donation for students to make informed decisions about joining the Louisiana Donor Registry, the program includes information on diseases and conditions that lead to organ failure, as well as the process used to match organs and tissues to recipients. Education is provided by the LOPA Community Team (in-person or video) at no cost to schools.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School Health Service Provider of the Year Nominations

Please share with nursing administrators, related service coordinators, school administrators, and school system leaders.

The LDOE understands student health plays a vital role in education, and school health providers are the critical link in ensuring health service delivery to students. The Department recognizes and celebrates some of the state's most exceptional school health providers through the [School Health Service Provider of the Year program](#).

The LDOE is accepting [nominations](#) for any of the following school employees or contractors: occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, nurses, and licensed behavioral health providers (LCSW/LMSW, LPC, psychologists). The deadline to submit is **October 12**. The informational webinar will provide detailed information.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 14 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96369057805>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 963 6905 7805

Please contact elizabeth.duncan@la.gov with questions.

School Safety Back-to-School Campaign

Please share with school administrators, school safety personnel, school system leaders, and teachers.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Education (ED), Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Justice (DOJ), launched a [public awareness campaign](#) to highlight federal school safety resources and evidence-based practices available through [SchoolSafety.gov](#).

The campaign will educate school administrators, teachers, parents and guardians, and state and local government officials about school safety resources available at [SchoolSafety.gov](#). The goal is to advance the mission and maximize the benefits of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSA) by accelerating and enhancing the implementation of programs and initiatives to help families, communities, and schools build capacity and establish and expand successful school safety strategies.

As part of the campaign, SchoolSafety.gov released a range of resources, including a video, [communications toolkit](#), and infographics, to help schools learn more about how to enhance school safety, access support, and easily share information about the campaign with others in their communities. Campaign information and materials are [accessible](#) through a dedicated hub on [SchoolSafety.gov](#) throughout August and September.

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

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [annotated reviews](#) web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#).

- Activate Learning - Activate Learning OpenSciEd, Grades 6-8 (©2022)
- Imagine Learning - Imagine Learning Guidebooks, English I (©2020)

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

ELA Back to School Professional Learning Series

Please share with content supervisors, ELA teachers, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

The first session of the [ELA Back to School Professional Learning Series](#) is now available. This session focuses on using the [interactive supports](#) that are available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). This learning series will support teachers in implementing newly released ELA resources. Additional sessions will be released on a rolling basis, with the next session occurring in September.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Principal Webinar Series: Math Refresh Presentation

Please share with principal supervisors, school leaders, and school system leaders.

The LDOE hosts a monthly webinar series for current school leaders and principal supervisors on best practices in school leadership aligned with the state's priorities. Each month, the webinar features national and Louisiana experts sharing strategies and tools on a specific topic necessary for being effective in the school leader role. August's [webinar](#), featuring Louisiana's Math Refresh, and all future webinars will be located in the [Principal Support Library](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher Survey

Please share with second-year teachers.

The LDOE is collecting feedback from early career educators to inform the support provided by the [New Teacher Experience](#). Please ask all second-year teachers to complete this brief [new teacher survey](#) by **September 29**.

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