

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: October 15, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

I'm excited to announce that, effective immediately, we are reducing the time students spend taking state assessments by 20%. You can [learn more on our website](#). This initial reduction is focused on grades 3-8 ELA and math LEAP tests, and marks the first action in a long-term commitment for future reductions.

As I have shared with legislators, the state board, and our education community, we must be thoughtful about the amount of time students spend testing. These assessments are invaluable tools that help us identify student progress and target support. We must strike a strategic balance with implementation to decrease the time students are sitting for tests.

We're taking a responsible approach to surgically reduce standardized testing time without affecting accuracy. I hear constantly from parents, teachers, and students about this issue. These changes address their concerns, while allowing us to still have reliable and valid results.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- EdLink Workforce Dashboard Office Hours: [October 16 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Act 260 Numeracy Training Office Hours: [October 16 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [October 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Certification and Credentialing Monthly Call: [October 21 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [October 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Monthly Call: [October 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar [October 23 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [October 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar [October 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- CLSD Grant 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance: [October 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Staffing Data Collection Webinar: [October 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [October 30 at 10 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Call: [November 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- High School Science Support Monthly Call: [November 13 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [November 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- CLSD Grant 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance: [November 14 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [November 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- CLSD Grant 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance: [November 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [December 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- CLSD Grant 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance: [December 12 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [School Support Institutes/System Leader Regional Collaborations](#) Session 2: October 15-23
- 2025-2026 In-Person Super App Launch during LASAFAP: October 17
- 2025-2026 Super App Virtual Launch: [October 22 at 10 a.m.](#)

Teaching and Learning

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Leader Mentors Needed

Please share with all system and school leaders.

The LDOE is seeking effective school leaders to serve as mentors for the next generation of school leaders. Interested current school leaders will receive professional development focused on supporting and coaching future school leaders.

Multiple mentoring opportunities are available. Mentoring opportunities can last between three and twelve months. The LDOE will schedule some meetings, but mentors will schedule the majority at their convenience, which can occur virtually or in person.

Research has consistently demonstrated that mentoring future school leaders is critical for their long term retention and success. Therefore, mentoring is being added for new principals and will be a core component of the new alternative pathway into principalship recently approved by BESE (EDL Alternate Pathway 4). Educational leaders currently serving in the field who are interested in being compensated to mentor potential future leaders while receiving professional development within leadership and mentoring should contact louisianaleaders@la.gov for more information.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

The New Teacher Experience: Professional Learning Modules

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

The LDOE, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed monthly professional learning modules on topics that are critical for new teacher success. These modules include online asynchronous content followed by an in-person learning lab where participants practice and apply these concepts. These modules are designed to build learning throughout the year.

We still have complimentary seats available for Modules 2-5.

Module 1: Classroom Management/Classroom Environment

Although we have already completed the Professional Learning Labs for Module 1, registered teachers will still have access to the asynchronous materials for Classroom Management/Classroom Environment.

Module 2: Standards and Curriculum

Module 3: Data Literacy

Module 4: Literacy for 21st Century Learners

Module 5: Parent and Community Engagement

Registration will remain open until mid-October. Once teachers complete the registration, participants will receive details on selected training locations. Participants will also receive an invitation to access the online asynchronous modules.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers: Accepting Spring 2025 Applications

Please share with teachers.

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. [Online applications](#) for coursework funding for the spring 2025 semester are now open and the deadline has been extended to October 22. Program details can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or contact louisianaleaders@la.gov.

Diverse Learners

See the Sound-Visual Phonics Training Opportunity

Please share with special education leaders, teachers of deaf and hard of hearing, special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, and teachers of English learners.

The LDOE will be sponsoring a two-day training on See the Sound-Visual Phonics. Participants are required to attend and participate in both days to be officially trained to use this multisensory instructional tool that includes a system of unique hand movements and written symbols that are associated with the production of each sound. This research-based strategy can be used in conjunction with high-quality core instructional materials and is often used to support/supplement explicit reading instruction. Visual Phonics has proven successful with all students and has been the key to connecting sounds with the letters they represent for students working to master phonological awareness skills, English learners, early childhood classes, and as a quick whole group activity in kindergarten and first grade.

[Northern Region Training:](#)

- **Location:** J.B. Lafargue Special Education Center, 4515 Eddie Williams Avenue, Alexandria, LA 71302
- **Dates and Times:** October 28 and 29 from 9:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. daily

[Registration](#) is on a first-come basis and is limited to 50 participants.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov or lavisualphonics@gmail.com with any questions.

2023-2024 Seclusion and Restraint Data Release

Please share with special education leaders.

The 2023-2024 seclusion and restraint data is now available in the Data Management FTP. School systems should verify their data for accuracy as these are the counts that will be used to run the analysis and data disaggregation for the public report. If the data does not accurately reflect seclusions and restraints in your school system for the 2023–2024 school year, update the information in SER. Submit a new seclusion and restraint handbook if your school system revised a previously submitted handbook to specialeducation@la.gov. All updates in SER need to be completed and any new or revised policy submitted by Tuesday, **October 15** to be reflected in the final report.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes/System Leader Regional Collaboration

Please share with system and school leaders

Session 2 of [School Support Institutes](#) (SSI) and [System Leader Regional Collaborations](#) begins this week!

- **Oct 17: Baton Rouge:** Cook Hotel & Conference Center, 3838 W. Lakeshore Drive

Please view the [Session 2 Logistics](#) document for parking directions and room assignments.

Integrated Pathway participants are reminded that your deliverable from Session 1 was to complete your ILT long range plan and begin implementing it on your campus. We will engage in work that reflects on progress toward your goals and plan implementation. Please have your plan and any supporting data accessible during the session.

Literacy Pathway participants should bring their school's literacy goals/plan and access to intervention data from their school, if applicable.

We look forward to seeing you!

Please contact ssisupport@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

LDOE Digital Device Guidelines

Please share with school and system leaders.

As a result of House Bill 548 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, the LDOE has released a set of [guidelines](#) to provide school systems with a set of best practices regarding the use of digital devices in public schools. Developed in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health and other stakeholders, these [guidelines](#) contain useful health and safety resources for school and system leaders.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Schools

2024-2025 Annual RFA Informational Session

Please share with school system leaders and LEA charter authorizers.

The 2024-2025 Common Charter Application has been released for the 2024-2025 application cycle. The Office of School Choice will host informational sessions for interested applicants this fall. Informational sessions will be offered twice monthly and are designed for applicants interested in applying as a Type 2, 4, or 5 charter.

[Registration](#) is now open for the follow dates:

- November 7 or 14 at 10 a.m.
- December 9 or 16 at 10 a.m.
- January 9, 16, or 23 at 10 a.m.

Please contact jade.gambino@la.gov with questions.

Nonpublic Schools

2024-2025 Nonpublic School Annual Reporting

Please share with nonpublic school leaders and data managers.

The annual enrollment report window for all nonpublic schools approved by BESE (private schools seeking state approval) to submit their school's 2024-2025 annual enrollment data opened August 26 and closes on October 15.

Prior to completing your school's NPS annual enrollment report, the school administrator that will be entering the accurate data is required to set up an EdLink account and request the "NPS School Manager Role." Please review and follow the request steps in the [NPS Edlink Manual for the Annual Enrollment Report PDF](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

2024 Federal Year-End Deadlines

Please share with business managers and school systems financial officials.

The LDOE has established the following deadlines to ensure the use of all federal funding.

LEA/Subgrantee eGMS Claims and PER Deadlines:

- November 15-for federal awards ended 9/30/2024
- December 16-for ESSER III awards ended 9/30/2024

Please contact ldoe.federalclaims@la.gov with any questions.