



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 23, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving this week, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the hard work that you do.

It's no secret that being an educator has been particularly challenging these past two years. Not only have you and your families had to personally adjust to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and several natural disasters, but you have also been instrumental in helping our students and school communities respond to these changes. Time and time again, you have done all that you could to ensure that our students are receiving a supportive yet rigorous academic experience. Please know that your dedication is making an impact in your students' lives.

On behalf of everyone at the Department, thank you for the passion and commitment you bring to our students everyday. I am grateful that I am able to work alongside you all as we envision an even brighter future for all Louisiana children.

Have a happy and restful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

In This Issue

- Important Dates for School Systems
- Operations
 - Federal Support and Grantee Relations
- Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics
- Career and College Readiness
- Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities
- Teaching and Learning
 - Academic Content
 - Diverse Learner Supports
 - Educator Development
- Reminders

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	November 29 at 3:30 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	November 30 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	November 30 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	November 30 at 3:45
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	December 2 at 3 p.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	December 7 at 12 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	December 9 at 1 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Call	December 1 at 8 a.m.
Preparation Providers Monthly Call	December 1 at 10 a.m.
Literacy Monthly Call	December 2 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	December 2 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	December 3 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	December 7 at 1 p.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	December 8 at 11 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	December 8 at 1 p.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	December 8 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	December 9 at 2 p.m.
Teaching and Learning Roundtable	December 10 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN Communities of Practice	December 12 at 11 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	December 13 at 10 a.m.

Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	December 14 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	December 15 at 2 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	December 16 at 9 a.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call**	December 16 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	December 16 at 3 p.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	December 17 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> <p><i>**Achieve! Incentive Round 2 and Super App application office hours and Q&A will take place during this call.</i></p>	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Principal Webinar Series	November 29 from 2-4 p.m.
Pre-Educator Pathway call	December 1 at 12 p.m.
Early Literacy Commission	December 8 at 12 p.m.
Upcoming Deadlines	
School Plan Family Engagement Survey Due	December 1

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

2022-2023 School System Planning Support

Please share with Super Ap planning leads, federal program directors, business managers, and special education directors

The department is available to assist LEAs with answering questions, and support school systems as they complete their Super App and Achieve! Application. By completing the [Super App or Achieve! Support Request](#) link, LEAs can select individual or group support in time increments of 15, 30 or 60 minutes. We look forward to supporting and serving you as you work to complete your plans.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Release of 2021 Simulated School Performance Scores

The 2020-2021 simulated school performance scores (SPS) will be released on December 3.

- Prior to release, school system leaders:
 - Receive individual, unsuppressed school system and school-level performance scores via email
 - Participate in briefing calls with Assistant Superintendent Thomas Lambert around simulated SPS results for their respective school systems.
- On the day of release:
 - School system leaders will participate in the regularly scheduled System Leader call with Superintendent Cade Brumley
 - Simulated School Performance Scores are posted on LDOE website
 - Simulated SPS Appeal/Waiver Form is released in Accountability Library
- December 7: School Finder updated with 2020-2021 data, including simulated School Performance Scores.

Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

Test Security for LEAP 2025 LEAP Fall High School

- Test security is extremely important to assure valid and reliable measures of student performance. District test coordinators are responsible for providing training for STCs, who in turn must train all school staff participating in test administration.
- The department provides resources for test security at this link: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/assessment>.
- All test security policy is in Bulletin 118, and it is reinforced in test coordinator and test administrator manuals.

ACT 688 Survey

- All school systems are mandated by statute to report the number of students referred for gifted screening based on their performance of the literacy screener, with the literacy screener being at least one indicator used in consideration for gifted screening.
- The department will collect this information using the [Act 688 Survey](#). DTCs and Special Education Coordinators should work together to submit one form per school system.
- The deadline for completion of the survey is Friday, December 3. These data will be reported to BESE.

Office Hours

- Office Hours on Tuesday, November 23 are cancelled in observance of Thanksgiving

Career and College Readiness

2022 Jump Start Convention

Please share with CTE personnel, counselors, and school administrators.

The 2022 Jump Start Convention will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. [Registration is currently open](#), and will close on **Friday, December 3** or when capacity is reached.

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

CWA - Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Call

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 1 at 8 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99831502953?pwd=TWRkclVwMG5na1FSbGNyUE45OEdndz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:**
 - +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 - +1 470 250 9358 US (Atlanta)
 - +1 470 381 2552 US (Atlanta)
 - +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- **Meeting ID#:** 998 3150 2953

Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

Oct 2021 Home Study Report

Please share with Superintendent, Child Welfare and Attendance Officers, Home Study Personnel, and Data Management FTP Coordinators.

The Quarterly Home Study Report for October 2021 is available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named "LEACode_LEAName_October2021HomeStudy". Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- Statewide enrollment numbers of Registered Nonpublic Schools, not Seeking State Approval
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in Home Study program
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in Registered Nonpublic Schools, not Seeking State Approval
- Each student's home study approval notification letter

Please note that numbers may look different than the interim reports received last month, as these files have been fully cleaned up and are the most accurate counts.

Please contact Sue.Millican@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Standards Review Update

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-12 social studies teachers

A reminder that the public comment on the revised K-12 social studies standards will close November 30. All stakeholders are encouraged to comment on individual standards using the [online form](#) until November 30. Questions about how to complete this form? See the [Public Comment FAQ's](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learner Supports

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

School systems often face unique and complex challenges in improving outcomes for students with disabilities. Addressing these challenges is multifaceted and requires leaders who can effectively coordinate programming within and across departments and schools to increase equitable access to inclusive learning opportunities for students with disabilities.

In 2021-2022, the Department will release Guidance for Leading Special Education Programs. Each guidance document will cover a critical topic of special education programming and be accompanied by a webinar that will support school system implementation. School and school system leaders are encouraged to review the guidance materials and attend webinars in partnership with special education leaders.

The topic for December will cover Equity and Cultural Responsiveness and the hour long webinar will be held on [January 4, 2022 at 2 pm](#).

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

Educator Development

2020-2021 School Leader Evaluation Uploads

Please share with school system leaders, school leaders, and HR directors

The Leader Evaluation Score Upload window in the Compass Information System (CIS) will open December 6, 2021, and will close January 7, 2022. The evaluation spreadsheet is currently available to download from CIS and instructions can be found in the [CompassLibrary](#).

Please contact compass@la.gov with any further questions.

Deadline: School Plan Family Presentation Survey

Per state law, CIR and UIR schools must present families with their state-approved school improvement plan within 60 days of the start of the school year at a school meeting. The School Plan Family Presentation template is located in the School Improvement Library. Schools are required to communicate the following to families in these meetings:

- School and student performance data that caused the Department to identify the school as being in need of improvement;
- Detailed overview of the improvement plan;
- Timelines for implementation of the plan and attainment of performance goals; and
- Implications of the plan for students, families, and educators.

Families shall be notified at least one week prior to the date of the meeting. Meeting dates must be reported to the LDOE no later than December 1 via the [School Plan Family Engagement Survey](#).

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Call Rescheduled for December 1

Please share with school system coordinators, school leaders, and CTE directors

The next Pre-Educator Pathway statewide check-in will be held on **December 1**. All system leaders, school leaders, CTE coordinators, and college counselors connected to Grow Your Own work are encouraged to attend this check-in as we will discuss and share updates related to the pathway and continue to highlight best practices for establishing a strong regional Grow Your Own program.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** December 1, 12-1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Webinar Phone number:** 1-470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Balanced School Calendar: Key Considerations for Implementation

Please share with school system leaders and school leaders

At its August 2020 meeting, BESE directed the Louisiana Department of Education to research the potential development of a Louisiana “balanced” school calendar model or other possible alternative school calendar options.

Year-round education (YRE), also referred to as the balanced school calendar model, is a concept that reorganizes minimum instructional time requirements across the academic year to provide learning that is more continuous by reducing the time students spend on summer vacation.

Last week, the Department hosted the Teaching and Learning Roundtable discussion on Balanced School Calendar: Key Considerations for Implementation. Educators may access the presentation using the following [link](#).

Please email Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Acceleration Professional Development

Please share with school and district leadership teams

The month's [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) session is Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning. During this session, participants will examine models for grouping students and plan for the incorporation of accelerated learning in core instruction, small group, and individual instruction. The target audience for this session is school and district leadership teams.

The next session in the [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) is Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Learning Recovery in Math. During this session, participants will identify skills critical to student mastery of math standards and will deconstruct those in order to scaffold and segment accelerated learning. Participants will develop thinking strategies that support student mastery of critical skills and define ways to incorporate techniques for increasing student engagement and student ownership of learning. The target audience for this session is math teachers and school and district leadership teams.

For a complete list of training dates and locations and to register, visit [NIET.org](#). Educators can receive a certificate upon completion of each training.

Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning	
Monday, November 29	Virtual
Tuesday, November 30	Virtual
Wednesday, December 1	In person - Baton Rouge
Thursday, December 2	Virtual
Monday, December 6	Virtual
Tuesday, December 7	In person - New Orleans
Wednesday, December 8	Virtual
Thursday, December 9	Virtual
Monday, December 13	Virtual
Tuesday, December 14	Virtual
Wednesday, December 15	Virtual
Thursday, December 16	In person - Baton Rouge

Please email Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations**
 - *Federal Support and Grantee Relations*
- **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **School System Relations**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - *Academic Content*
 - *Educator Development*
 - *Literacy*

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Reminder: Data Collection of Annual Counts/CSPR for Title I, Part D

Please share with Federal Program Directors.

The Louisiana Department of Education is required to report SY2021-2022 Annual Counts (October Count) for Title I, Part D under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Data collected from the SY2021-2022 Annual Counts is used to determine funding for neglected and delinquent facilities.

The LEADS portal is now open for Annual Count data submission through December 10. CSPR (Tables 1- 5) data collection will take place for the SY2020-2021, through December 30. Title I Directors and Security Coordinators can enter the data in the LEADSPortal. <https://leads3.doe.louisiana.gov/PTL/>

This request is only for LEAs that receive a Title I, Part D allocation.

Please contact Edeltress.Brown@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Screener Referrals to Gifted

All school systems must report the number of students referred for gifted screening based on their performance of the literacy screener, with the literacy screener being at least one indicator used in consideration for gifted screening.

- December 3: Deadline for completion of the [Act 688 Survey](#). DTCs and Special Education Coordinators should work together to submit one form per school system.
- The department will present survey results to BESE.

LEAP 2025

- Window B Fall high school assessment administration will be open from January 5-24.
- Test setup for Window B of the LEAP Fall high school assessment administration will open on December 22 for participating schools.
- All accommodations on IEPs, IAPs and EL checklists must be final by December 5 for students who will test in Window B

Career and College Readiness

Home Builders Institute's Schools to Skills Program

Please share with school counselors, principals, and CTE supervisors.

The [Home Builders Institute \(HBI\)](#), [The Home Depot Foundation](#) and the [National Housing Endowment](#) are committed to working with secondary educational institutions to support student access to school-based instructional programs and skills training in the residential building and construction trades. As part of this commitment, these organizations will provide financial assistance to schools new to HBI who **do not** use the [HBI Pre-apprenticeship Certification Training](#) (PACT) curriculum and are unable to fund the start-up costs to license the PACT curriculum. The deadline to apply for the [grant opportunity](#) is December 10.

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Celebrating Excellence!

On Monday, November 15, Dr. Cade Brumley and the Louisiana Department of Education held a special ceremony honoring Rapides Parish Schools as a Louisiana Models of Excellence recipient. The [Louisiana Models of Excellence](#) is a statewide award that recognizes schools and school systems that serve as a state model in meeting one of the Louisiana Department of Education's [Believe to Achieve](#) priorities.

Rapides Parish Schools was nominated for this award by the Teaching and Learning department for their pre-educator pathway based on the priority of developing and retaining a diverse, highly-effective educator workforce. Under the Department's guidance, [pre-educator pathways](#) were designed to cultivate highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished teachers, beginning in high school and extending through college and into the profession. Rapides Parish Schools was named a Models of Excellence recipient for their district level strategy for implementing a pre-educator pathway, collaboration between schools and LSUA, and for their clinical experiences for future educators.

Following the ceremony, guests and educational stakeholders were invited to learn more about the pre-educator pathway program.

For questions, please contact modelsofexcellence@la.gov.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Please share with administrators.

The Department is accepting applications from schools and school systems seeking nomination for the [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools \(EDGRS\) awards](#), which aims to inspire schools and districts to strive for 21st-century excellence by highlighting promising school sustainability practices and resources that all can employ. Successful applications will provide a narrative that demonstrates the three EDGRS pillars:

- Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs,
- Improved Health and Wellness, and
- Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Applications should be submitted in Word or PDF format by January 18, 2022.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions or to submit an application.

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) Updates

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and K-12 ELA teachers

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Overview document](#) has been updated to include the most recent information about the 9-12 units on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). The Photojournalism unit for grade 9 will be available on the Louisiana Curriculum Hub by January 1, 2022. Three new ELA Guidebooks 9-12 units will be released by April 2022: Bioethics (10th grade), Film In America (11th grade), and In the Time of the Butterflies (12th grade).

The Department is also soliciting teacher feedback through [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9-12 Feedback Form](#) for the units being implemented this year. Please encourage educators to bookmark this link for use throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Leader Evaluations

Guidance was recently issued for finalizing [2020-2021 Leader Student Learning Targets \(SLTs\)](#). This guidance is also available in the [Compass Library](#). CIS will be open for leader uploads beginning in mid-December and close mid-January. School System CIS administrators can begin to prepare for leader evaluation uploads using the spreadsheet found in CIS in the evaluation tab.

Please contact compass@la.gov with further questions.

Principal Webinar Series

In November's webinar, the focus will be assessing equity in schools. The session will be led by Amy Hoyle with the School Leadership Center and Malekah Morgan with LDOE.

- Webinar Date/Time: November 29 from 2 - 4 p.m.
- Webinar Link:
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379
- Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the months of **November through December**, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2022 program. Some of the checklist items include:

- Release SLP dates to educators and families;
- Outreach for preliminary community support;
- Develop and distribute an interest survey for students;
- Develop a distribute an interest survey for staff;and
- Develop a needs assessment with stakeholder input.

In Super App, school systems must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students at CIR and UIR-A schools next summer.

Questions can be emailed to Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov.

School Improvement Best Practices

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](#). The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support
- teacher collaboration support
- teaching standards support
- principal standards support
- career pipeline support.

All schools in Louisiana can [register](#) to attend this professional development [opportunity](#) to support implementation of these essential practices through training sessions during Summer 2022. Educators in all schools can benefit from these best practices, no matter what the current school performance might be. Through these practices, all educators and their students reap the awards of strong leadership practices, teacher collaboration, teaching standards, and career opportunities.

Educators may use this [link](#) to learn more about the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy training sessions, what's new for Summer 2022, and the requirements for CIR and UIR-A schools.

School systems may apply for funds through their Achieve! application or use other funding sources for schools without an intervention label.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Save the date: Teacher Leader Summit will take place from **May 31 - June 2, 2022** at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

National Family Literacy Month: Activities to Share with Families

November is National Family Literacy Month and schools are encouraged to share the following ideas and activities with their families:

- Read every day! For [babies](#) and [toddlers](#), short books with rhythmic patterns and rhyming words are fun. This can be a special time to bond with your child and help develop their language skills.
- To expand literacy skills, use sign language. Learn and use signs for words your child may need to communicate (more, drink, go etc.).
- Make stories together. [Encourage your child](#) to “tell stories” to you. Write their story down for them in a booklet (just a few pages of stapled paper is fine!), and have them illustrate their story.
- For your [school-age children](#), build a home library! Include books about topics your child is interested in, popular book series, and also books that may be unfamiliar to your child to expand interests.
- For your school-age children, especially [middle and high schoolers](#), read together! Establish a family culture of reading by designating times for all family readers to read.

Check out other ideas for Building Literacy Skills at Home in the [Literacy Library](#) and share them with families.

Please contact lisa.holliday@la.gov with questions.