



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 30, 2021

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	December 2 at 3 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	December 7 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	December 7 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	December 7 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	December 7 at 3:45
Data Coordinator Office Hours	December 9 at 1 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	December 13 at 3:30 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.
<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
Pre-Educator Pathway call	December 1 at 12 p.m.
Early Literacy Commission	December 8
Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator’s Informational Overview	December 10 at 9:30 a.m.
Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidate’s Informational Overview	December 14 at 4:30
Upcoming Deadlines	
School Plan Family Engagement Survey Due	December 1

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, district Superintendents:
 - 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 send questions to jennifer.baird@la.gov.

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.

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.

NCCER Curriculum Proctor Certification Training for Online Testing

Please share with CTE Supervisors, Principals, Counselors, and Secondary Supervisors

NCCER Curriculum Proctor Certification will be held virtually on December 2 at 3:15 p.m. The cost for proctor certification is \$65. Per NCCER, all proctor virtual classes will be 4 hours in length. For more information about proctor certification please visit [NCCER ATS Guidelines](#).

For more information, please contact troy.borne@la.gov.

Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call

Please share with Child Welfare and Attendance directors, supervisors, attendance specialists, and all attendance stakeholders.

Child Welfare and Attendance directors, supervisors, attendance specialists, partners, and stakeholders meet every first Wednesday of the month. A professional development component is built into each meeting and facilitated by LSU's Research and Evaluation Center. The focus of each meeting aligns with the theme for the year, "Enrollment, Engagement, and Encouragement!"

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, December 1 at 8 - 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99831502953>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 998 3150 2953
- **Passcode:** 821422

Please contact shelneka.adams@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Calls

State-level Teacher and Principal of the Year applications are due on **January 12, 2022**. All applications and materials may be found in the [resources library](#) on the [Awards page website](#).

To assist candidates and coordinators with the application process, informational calls and office hours will be conducted in December 2021 and January 2022. On these calls, information will be shared about the timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals. Additionally, tips and pointers for creating a strong state-level application will be shared and there will be time for questions to be answered.

See [here](#) for information regarding the times and dates of these Informational Calls.

Please contact excellenteducators@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 today, 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](#).

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

New Teacher of the Year Award Launch

For years, the Department has been honoring outstanding educators across the state through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. The LDOE is excited to announce the addition of a new award program: **New** Teacher of the Year. This program will recognize the outstanding contributions of first year classroom teachers. To be eligible for this award, teachers must have less than one year of experience teaching full time at the time the application is due. Please join us to learn more about this exciting new award program by joining one of the webinars below.

Webinar Name: New Teacher of the Year Overview

Webinar date/time: Monday, December 6 at 9 a.m. or Wednesday, December 8 at 3 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98285738711?pwd=THY1L25mTGVkKzY0UzZOQ3hjZVVwQT09>

Meeting ID: 982 8573 8711

Passcode: 012034

Phone number: 1-470-250-9358

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

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 18 Released

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You'll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Educators can subscribe to the podcast and listen to the latest episode. .

Episode 18: Educator Recruitment and Retention with Bruce Chaffin

Bruce Chaffin, Supervisor of Human Resources for the Livingston Parish Public School System and President-Elect for the Louisiana State Association of School Personnel Administrators, shares insights on the role of human resources teams, personnel concerns since the pandemic, and strategies for recruitment and retention. Rapides Parish Schools are highlighted as the recipient of the Model Schools of Excellence Award this month for their implementation of pre-educator pathways.

Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

Share Your Stories: Educators can submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

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

Reminders

- **Operations**
 - *Federal Support and Grantee Relations*
- **Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - *Diverse Learner Supports*
 - *Educator Development*

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

2022-2023 School System Planning Support

Please share with Super App 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.

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

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	
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.