

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: November 12, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana continues to be a national leader in expanding access to high-quality tutoring for all students and families. West Feliciana Parish Schools is one of the systems setting the standard. Last week, [we honored them with our Models of Excellence award](#) – the highest distinction for a school or system in our state. Their strategic implementation of high-dosage tutoring has doubled the number of students benefiting from this proven support. We'll be sharing additional resources and best practices soon to support this work across the state. You can also find [current resources to support your implementation of Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring](#) on our website.

As one West Feliciana leader shared during the award ceremony while recalling how they approached their high-dosage tutoring plan, "We can figure this out, because every school has the capability to do this." This captures the resolve and dedication needed from every school system in Louisiana. Expanding high-dosage tutoring to drive academic achievement is new and challenging. It's also both achievable and essential. Every school can unlock new possibilities for students. By approaching this work with determination and creativity, we can ensure all students receive the support they need and deserve. Together, we can pave the way for lasting improvement and a brighter future for every child in our state.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [November 13 at 11 a.m.](#)
- LEADS Implementation Monthly Call: [November 13 at 12 p.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [November 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [November 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [November 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- CLSD 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance Call: [November 14 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [November 18 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learner Office Hours: [November 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [November 19 at 3 p.m.](#)

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [November 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [November 20 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [November 20 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [November 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [November 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [November 21 at 3 p.m.](#)
- CLSD 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance Call: [November 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [December 3 at 1 p.m.](#)
- High School Science Support Monthly Call: [December 3 at 3:30 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [December 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [December 5 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [December 6 at 9 a.m.](#)
- CLSD 2024 Office Hours and Technical Assistance Call: [December 12 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Administration portal opens in mCLASS to create classes, assign test administrators: November 12
- Students of the Year Online Portal Call: [November 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- K-12 Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar: [November 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- K-12 Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar: [November 13 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Louisiana Farm To School Application Deadline: [November 15](#)
- Submit requests for exemptions from ELPT Listening or Speaking Domains: Deadline November 15
- Joint Informational System Leaders/Stakeholder Awards Program Call: [November 19 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- IEP Writing Workshop-Secondary: [November 21](#)
- 2024 Louisiana Child Care Parent Poll Submission Deadline: [November 21](#)
- Students of the Year Submission Deadline: November 22
- Submission of applications for Assessment Development Educator Review Committees: Deadline December 1
- K-3 Literacy Mid-Year (MOY) Screening: December 1-31
- FY24 eGMS Program Evaluation submission deadline: December 2
- English Learner Institute Session 2, Baton Rouge: [December 3](#)
- Staffing and Scheduling Support Webinar-Elementary: [December 6 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Staffing and Scheduling Support Webinar-Middle School: [December 6 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Staffing and Scheduling Support Webinar-High School: [December 6 at 1:30 p.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [December 9 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [December 9 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit 2025 External Presenter Webinar: [December 9 at 11 a.m.](#)
- Act 370 Training Webinar: [December 9 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Teacher Leader Summit 2025 External Presenter Webinar: [December 9 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Green Ribbon Schools Application Deadline: [December 16 by 5 p.m.](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline: [January 15](#)
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, Monroe: [January 28](#)
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, Lafayette: [January 30](#)
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, New Orleans: [February 4](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 3, Baton Rouge: [February 4](#)
- Business Managers Regional Collaboration, Baton Rouge: [February 5](#)
- 2025 PAEMST Nomination Deadline: [February 6](#)
- English Learner Institute Session 4, Baton Rouge: [May 14](#)

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar

Please share with administrators, content specialists, school system leaders, and superintendents.

School system leaders are invited to attend an upcoming K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Webinar.

The webinar will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 13 at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, November 14 at 1 p.m.

Prior registration is required. Please see the [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Overview Webinar](#) information document for further details and registration links.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Green Ribbon Schools Application Open

Please share with administrators, school system leaders, science content specialists, and superintendents.

The LDOE is excited to announce that the [application](#) to be recognized as a [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School](#) for the 2024-2025 school year is open. Eligibility requirements include that schools, systems, and early learning centers show progress in

- reducing environmental impacts and costs;
- improving health and wellness; and
- providing effective environmental and sustainability education.

To assist interested applicants, the LDOE will host a series of webinars to help potential applicants understand the application process and its three pillars. The [next application support webinar](#) is scheduled for November 18 at 4:30 p.m. Final applications are due on **December 16 by 5 p.m.**

Additional information is available on the [Environmental Education](#) web page.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Please share with administrators, science content specialists, school system leaders, and superintendents.

Nominations are now open for the [2025 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching \(PAEMST\)](#). This award is the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for recognizing K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teachers. This year's cycle will recognize teachers of grades 7-12. [Nominations](#) will close on **February 6**.

Please contact info@paemist.org or STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

English Learner Institute

Please share with English Learner directors/coordinators, federal program directors, and Lead EL teachers.

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner Institute for EL directors and coordinators. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registrations are linked below.

- [December 3](#)
- [February 4](#)
- [May 14](#)

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with questions.

Developing Strong Literacy Skills in 4th-8th Grade

Please share with interventionists, literacy coaches, and special education teachers.

The LDOE and Public Consulting Group (PCG) are pleased to offer Professional Development Modules focused on teacher-friendly content that provides the knowledge and skills necessary for intermediate and middle school classroom instruction by applying age-appropriate science of reading strategies. Registered participants will have access to five online modules, opportunities for professional learning, and easily accessible tools and resources.

Please contact diverselearnerssupport@la.gov with questions.

IDEA Annual Performance Report (APR) Monitoring Outreach for School Systems

Please share with special education leaders.

The LDOE is required annually to analyze special education data and conduct outreach regarding outcomes for particular indicators as part of the IDEA, Part B State Performance Plan and report these in the special education annual performance report (APR).

Results will be provided to school systems via APR outreach packages in the Indicator Outreach folder in the data management FTP the week of November 4. Any school system identified as non-compliant in one or more targeted indicators will be required to complete certain actions outlined in the outreach packages by December 4. Additional details on this process, including timelines, will be provided in the outreach packages.

Please contact iris.jones@la.gov with questions.

FFY 2021 and FFY 2022 Final LEA Determinations Available

Please share with special education leaders.

The LDOE is required to issue a determination to each school system on the provision of special education and related services under IDEA. These are called LEA Determinations.

The final FFY 2021 and FFY 2022 LEA Determinations will be available in the data management FTP on November 1.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Louisiana Art and Science of Teaching Reading Part 1 Modules Available

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

The Louisiana Art and Science of Teaching Reading Part 1 is now available on the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#). Part 1 includes six modules with the following topics:

- The Science and Art of Teaching Reading
- Science of Reading
- Assessment
- Oral Language
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics: Decoding, Encoding, and Word Study

The course code is **8CBF0261**. Part 2 will be released this winter.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Educator Resources

LEADS Educator Monthly Newsletter

Please share with teachers, teacher leaders, principals, and counselors.

The current 2024-2025 school year marks the final “Learning Year” of the newly reimagined teacher, leader and counselor evaluation process, LEADS. Statewide implementation will occur in the 2025-2026 school year.

To support educators through this transition, the LDOE has launched the LEADS Educator Newsletter, a monthly resource providing the latest tools, guidance and updates for teachers and leaders.

All educators are encouraged to [subscribe](#) to the LEADS Educator Newsletter and to share it with colleagues who may also benefit from this valuable information each month. Past newsletters are also available for review:

- [Welcome to the LEADS Newsletter](#)
- [The Importance of Self-Assessment](#)
- [Tips for Effectively Planning for Instruction](#)

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Title IV, Part A Program Evaluations

Please share with federal program directors.

The FY24 eGMS Program Evaluation has been released. As LEAs complete the eGMS Program Evaluations, please ensure submissions are finalized by December 2.

Please contact terri.byrd@la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Connect Practice Tests

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

LEAP Connect Practice Tests for ELA grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 are now available in DRC Insight. Additionally, the Reading Foundational items have been removed from the practice test for LEAP Connect ELA grade 4 to reflect the removal of those items from the operational tests at grades 3 and 4. The following materials are located in the [DRC Insight Portal](#) and in the [LDOE Practice Test Library](#) for each grade:

- Directions for Practice Test Administration
- Reference Materials
- Graphics Files
- Practice Test Answer Keys

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

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

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP and LEAP Connect assessments in January and February to:

- review newly developed items for alignment and content-related criteria (LEAP Connect); and
- review proposed stimuli/passages to ensure:

- content alignment,
- selections are clearly worded with grade-appropriate language, and
- selections are appropriate for all students. (Science and English)

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete applications is December 1.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

College and Career Readiness

HVAC Technical School Grant Program

Please share with system leaders and CTE supervisors.

The HVAC Technical School Grant Program offers grants to educational institutions that are willing and able to expand their syllabus to include propane specific lessons, and their lab with a set list of hands-on resources. This program is specifically intended for the upgrade and expansion of school labs interested in teaching the propane curriculum to current and future students. The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) will provide up to \$10,000 to selected applicants, along with the curriculum, instructor tools, and a regulator test and demo board. The [HVAC Tech School Grant Program](#) is open and will close on **Friday, December 20, 2024**.

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

Fall 2024 Counselor Institutes Presentation

Please share with school counselors and administrators.

The [presentation](#) from the Fall 2024 Counselor Institutes is now available for review and may be shared with colleagues, as well. Thank you to all that attended the sessions this year. Dates for the Spring 2025 Counselor Institutes will be released at a later date.

Please contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.

Early Childhood

2024 Louisiana Child Care Parent Poll

Please share with early childhood parents, school leaders, and teachers.

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, in partnership with the LDOE, is administering its annual survey to help further understand the child care needs of Louisiana families with children under the age of 5.

The [2024 Louisiana Child Care Parent Poll](#) is a survey for any parent, guardian, or caregiver with children under age 5 in their home. The survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#).

Printable flyers are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#) to post in schools to promote the survey.

The survey takes less than 15 minutes to complete, and all responses will be kept confidential. The survey opens on November 7 and will close on November 21.

Please contact info@policyinstitutela.org with questions.

School System Financial Services

Business Managers Regional Collaborations

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The LDOE will host in-person regional collaboration meetings to discuss relevant financial-related topics regarding school business operations according to the following schedule:

- January 28: Monroe, University of Louisiana at Monroe
- January 30: Lafayette, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- February 4: New Orleans, Pontchartrain Convention & Civic Center
- February 5: Baton Rouge, Crowne Plaza

Space is limited. Please register to attend by accessing the [registration form](#) by December 15.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Annual Financial Report Submissions

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

Louisiana Revised Statute 17:92 requires local school systems to provide annual financial data to the LDOE no later than September 30 of each year. School systems that have provided financial data in accordance with the requirements of the law are listed in the [FY 2023-24 Annual Financial Report](#).

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Act 370 Training Webinars

Please share with business managers and school finance officials.

The Louisiana Department of Treasury will host additional training sessions to share information regarding the reporting software that will be used to implement the Act 370 Transparency website. The informational sessions will be hosted through Zoom on December 9. The links for the webinar sessions are included in the “Upcoming Events” section of the newsletter.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.