



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

December 19, 2023

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [December 20 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [December 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [December 21 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [December 21 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [December 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Healthy Schools Community of Practice Call: [December 28 at 2 p.m.](#)
- P-EBT Managers Office Hours: [January 2 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [January 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours: [January 2 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [January 2 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [January 4 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [January 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [January 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Zearn Support for Middle School Leaders: [January 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Human Capital Handbook Webinar Series - Hiring and Selection: [January 9 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [January 9 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [January 9 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinars for Math and Literacy: [January 10 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [January 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Monthly Practicing Principal Webinar – EdLink Workforce Dashboard: [January 29 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Deadline to register for the [Special Education Collaborative](#): January 9
- [Math Refresh Regional Tour](#): January 9-10
- Edlink 360 Workforce Dashboard Super App Support: [January 10 at 10 a.m.](#)

- Deadline for [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year](#) state-level submissions: January 11
- Deadline for [Teacher and Principal of the Year](#) state-level submissions: January 11
- Deadline to submit [High Cost Services Round 2 application](#): January 12
- Deadline to submit [Zearn - Impact Analysis Addendum for LEA](#): January 12
- [2024 Jump Start Convention and CWA Summit](#): January 23
- Deadline for [New Teacher of the Year](#) state-level submissions: January 26

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

Holiday Newsletter Updates

Please share with system leaders.

Due to the holidays, the LDOE Weekly Newsletter will not run December 26 or January 2. The final LDOE Weekly Newsletter of 2023 will run December 19. The newsletter will resume January 9.

Please contact ted.beasley@la.gov with questions.

Graduation Appeal Process

Please share with system leaders.

The LDOE anticipates that on December 20, 2023, revisions to *Bulletin 741 - Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators* will be published as Rule in the Louisiana Register. The LDOE is taking appropriate measures to implement this board-approved policy. Implementation guidance, including a copy of the language as approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), portfolio guidance, and the required cover sheet and portfolio checklist, may be found [at this link](#).

Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Literacy Screening

Please share with literacy leaders and testing coordinators.

All screening must be completed in the statewide mCLASS platform. January 19 is the deadline for completion of field testing. January 26 is the deadline for completion of regular MOY testing.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect and ELPT Connect

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

Policy requires that all accommodations and identification of LEAP Connect eligibility be completed no less than 30 days prior to the opening of the LEAP Connect and ELPT/ELPT Connect window. IEPS should indicate eligibility and all applicable accommodations are final no later than January 19.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ELPT Requests for Exemptions

Please share with testing coordinators.

The last day for district test coordinators to submit requests for exemptions from the listening or speaking domains of the ELPT or ELPT Connect is January 8. No exemptions will be approved for the reading or writing domains. All submissions for exemptions must be submitted by the district test coordinator to assessment@la.gov.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with testing coordinators.

Testing coordinators should submit requests for reconsideration of ACT authorized accommodations and/or supports in TA as soon as possible.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

State-Level Award Applications Due in January

Please share with educators, school and school system leaders.

Teacher/Principal of the Year applications and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications are due by midnight on January 11. Applications for New Teacher of the Year are due by midnight on January 26. All application materials and resources are available in the [library](#) on the [awards](#) page. The LDOE will host informational calls for candidates and coordinators regarding the application process and submitting applications. Please see the details listed below.

Teacher and Principal of the Year

Webinar Date and Time: January 9 at 4 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96079793618>

Webinar Phone Number: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID#: 960 7979 3618

Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

Webinar Date and Time: January 9 at 3:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92667057428?pwd=dWFUeHdyTmwwUFZDR3A5MmVaNkNnZz09>

New Teacher of the Year

Webinar Date and Time: January 11 at 4 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91584721542?pwd=L1VMR1IBc1NhNGZJeDFTNWdUUGg5Zz09>

Teacher and Principal of the Year candidates/coordinators should complete the [Online Portal Help Desk Form](#) if any issues are encountered when submitting information into the online portals.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov for more information.

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

LASARD Project Partnership Preview

Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and special education directors.

A webinar to provide information and a preview of a sample partnership of services offered by LASARD will be offered twice in January. Register to attend the live webinar on [January 10 at 3 p.m.](#) or [January 18 at 2 p.m.](#) The webinar will be recorded.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Spring Occupational Therapy Collaborative

Please share with special education directors.

The Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association and the LDOE will partner to host a meeting in Baton Rouge for lead occupational and physical therapists working in Louisiana schools. The meeting will be held at the Claiborne Building (1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802) in the Thomas Jefferson Room on March 13 at 8 a.m. The meeting will provide a chance for lead therapists to collaborate on implementation of Medicaid claiming and allow discussion of school health services relative to OT and PT practice in schools. We are inviting one occupational therapist and one physical therapist from each school district to [register](#) for this meeting. The deadline to register is February 29.

For more information please contact elizabeth.duncan@la.gov.

Educator Development

Retiree-Return-to-Work Guidance and Sample Certification Reinstatement Letter

Please share with human resources directors and system level leaders.

The LDOE has developed a sample [reinstatement letter](#) for Louisiana educators whose teaching certificate has lapsed. The letter provides licensure options to reinstate and/or renew a Louisiana teaching certificate. School systems may use this letter to recruit past educators who are no longer in the profession to fill staffing shortages. Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana recently hosted a retiree return to work webinar to outline how recent laws work and their impact on retirees who become reemployed in positions eligible for TRSL membership. The [Retiree-Return-to-Work webinar deck](#) provides an overview.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Boot Camps: Save the Date

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

In order to assist schools and systems in developing dynamic and effective schedules aligned to best practices, the LDOE is hosting four [Staffing and Scheduling Boot Camps](#) in February. Registration opens on January 5. Elementary and secondary boot camps will be held in both the southern and northern regions of the state. The full-day boot camps will include an overview of the staffing and scheduling best practices and allow system and school leaders to build effective schedules aligned to best practices for next school year. Participation is at no cost to school systems.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

January Summit Extensions

Please share with system leaders.

Registration is currently open for the January [Summit Extensions](#), which will continue to support school systems in utilizing the [Professional Learning Roadmap](#). All superintendents and their school system level instructional team members are encouraged to attend. The January Summit Extensions will support system leaders in implementing system-level long range plans that have clear alignment to school ILTs and Teacher Collaboration.

- January 23: [Shreveport](#)
- January 24: [Baton Rouge](#) - At Capacity
- January 26: [Lake Charles](#)

Contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Learning Visit in Bossier

Please share with school and system leaders.

Learning visits are an opportunity to see another system's Grow Your Own Strategy up close. Visits may include opportunities to observe Pre-Educator Pathway classrooms or extra-curricular organizations. Participants will engage with system leads, teacher leaders, and pathway students to gather best practices in developing and expanding supports for aspiring educators.

System, school, and teacher preparation staff should register to visit Bossier Parish on January 16. Participants must [register](#) by January 3. Space is limited, and only a few spots remain.

Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

2022-2023 Leader Evaluation Data Entry

Please share with data managers, human resource directors, school leaders, and system leaders.

The deadline to [upload](#) 2022-2023 leader evaluations into the [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#) is January 8. Only leader evaluations can be uploaded as the deadline has passed for all other evaluation types. Data cannot be entered or edited following this date.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Third-Party Entity Teacher Certification

Please share with human resource directors and system leaders.

During the 2023 Regular Session, legislation was passed allowing [third-party entities](#) employing teachers to receive approval to evaluate their contracted teachers for the purposes of maintaining certification. An RFA was published, and a pilot is under way. The approval process will be outlined at the January BESE meeting and several pilot entities will be recommended for approval.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.