



News for Louisiana



CHARTER SCHOOLS

October 6, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

We all know an exceptional educator who consistently goes above and beyond to meet the needs of students. The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with Dream Teachers and the Louisiana Association of Principals, seeks to recognize a few of these great teachers and school leaders every year through its Teacher and Principal of the Year award programs.

Look no further than our 2022 Teacher and Principal of the Year winners for two examples of the fantastic talent present in Louisiana. The 2022 Teacher of the Year, Annelise Cassar Tedesco, is a vocal music teacher and music director at Chalmette High School. Along with being an accomplished performer herself, Annalise has traveled with her students to numerous performances and auditions across the country, where students have earned multiple awards and scholarships. Marco French, the 2022 Principal of the Year, is the principal of Queensborough Elementary School. While Queensborough was on the verge of state takeover when his tenure as principal began in 2017, French's diligent leadership has since transformed the school and led to several honors, including recognition as Louisiana's Outstanding School.

The search is now on for the 2023 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees. LDOE is accepting nominations, including self-nominations, for these honors until this Friday, October 8. You can find the nomination form [here](#). Please email excellenteducators@la.gov should you have any questions. I encourage you all to celebrate the outstanding educator in your life by making a nomination.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	October 6 at 11 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	October 7 at 3 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	October 11 at 3:30 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	October 12 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	October 12 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	October 12 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	October 12 at 3:45
Education Technology Office Hours	October 14 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	October 14 at 1 p.m.
April Dunn Act Office Hours	October 14 at 4:30 p.m.
AE Leadership Community of Practice	October 27 at 10 a.m.
CLSD UIN TA Office Hours	November 5 at 11 a.m.
School System Planning Office Hours	November 12 at 10 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link

Literacy Monthly Call	October 7 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	October 7 at 1 p.m.
Teaching and Learning Roundtable	October 8 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN Communities of Practice	October 8 at 11 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	October 13 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	October 13 at 3 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	October 14 at 2 p.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	October 15 at 9 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	October 18 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	October 19 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	October 20 at 2 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	October 21 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	October 21 at 3 p.m.
Preparation Providers Monthly Call	October 27 at 10 a.m.
AE Leadership Community of Practice	October 27 at 10 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	October 27 at 1 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	October 28 at 9 a.m.

Nutrition Support Monthly Call	November 2 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	November 5 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>	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Mentor and Resident Funding Office Hours	October 6 at 11 a.m. & October 7 at 2 p.m.
Teacher and Principal of the Year Process: Informational Zooms	October 12 at 11 a.m. & October 13 at 9:30 a.m.
Principal Webinar Series	October 25 at 2 p.m.
Interests and Opportunities Principals and School System Leaders Webinar	October 27 at 2 p.m.
Important Deadlines	
Achieve! Incentive Round 1	October 7
Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application Due	October 8
High Cost Services Application Due	October 29
Act 419 Dyslexia Report Due	October 31
2021 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards & Inclusive Art Contest Nominations Due	November 1
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

Due to Hurricane Ida, the following deadlines have been extended.

EXTENDED DEADLINES		
Due	Previous Deadline	Extended Deadline
<u>Teacher and Principal of the Year Nominations</u>	September 28	October 8

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Parent and Family Engagement State Regional Trainings

LDOE will host 3 State Regional Trainings for the District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators and Early Childhood Providers. There will be an in-person and virtual training offered in each training location beginning Monday, October 18 – October 25, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The **registration** will open on Tuesday, October 5. See the detailed schedule below.

The **Be Engaged Trainings** are open to all Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators and Early Childhood Providers. The Be Engaged B-12 Framework will be explored and the Collective Impact Theory will be explained and aligned.

In addition, the **PimsPoints Trainings** are opened only to Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators in the K-12 system. The training will provide technical assistance on how to set up the LEAs portal and prepare for the November 1st launch.

Please contact State Coordinator Dr. Antiqua Hunter at antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions.

PimsPoints

- October 18 - Bossier Instructional Center
 - 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-am-tickets-178189097387>
 - 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-pm-tickets-178208023997>
- October 19 – Virtual
 - 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-tickets-181161628307>
- October 20 - David Thibodaux Stem Academy Lafayette
 - 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-am-tickets-180403831717>
 - 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-pm-tickets-181143514127>
- October 21 - Virtual
 - 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-tickets-181280102667>

- October 22 – EBR Professional Development Center
 - 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-am-tickets-178216298747>
 - 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-pm-tickets-178219678857>
- October 25 – Virtual
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-pimspoints-tickets-181163664397>

Be Engaged

- October 18 – Bossier Instructional Center
 - 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-am-tickets-178202667977>
 - 1 – 3 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-pm-tickets-178200150447>
- October 19 – virtual
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-tickets-181158288317>
- October 20 - David Thibodaux Stem Academy Lafayette
 - 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-am-tickets-181154125867>
 - 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-pm-tickets-181150434827>
- October 21 – Virtual
 - 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-tickets-181279400567>
- October 22 - EBR Professional Development Center
 - 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-am-tickets-178218495317>
 - 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-pm-tickets-180351364787>
- October 25 – Virtual
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-and-family-engagement-coordinator-regional-training-be-engaged-tickets-181159792817>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Schedule</u>		<u>Capacity</u>	
<u>Oct. 18</u>	<u>Bossier Instructional Center</u> 2719 Airline Drive Bossier City, LA 71111	<u>PimsPoints Training</u>	<u>BE ENGAGED Training</u>	<u>Comp Lab-30/30</u> (PimsPoints training) <u>Large room-125</u> (Be Engaged training) <u>Register- 30 for PimsPoint AM & 30 PM</u> <u>Register-125 for Be Engaged</u>	
		<u>Group 1</u> <u>8 a.m.-12 p.m.</u>	<u>Group 2</u> <u>10 a.m - 12 p.m.</u>		
		<u>LUNCH Group 1 & 2 12 - 1 p.m.</u>			
		<u>Group 2</u> <u>1 - 5 p.m.</u>	<u>Group 1</u> <u>1 - 3 p.m.</u>		
<u>Oct. 19</u>	<u>VIRTUAL</u>	<u>10 a.m.-12 p.m.- BE ENGAGED Training</u> <u>12 - 1 p.m.- LUNCH</u> <u>1 - 5 p.m.- PimsPoints</u>			
<u>Oct. 20</u>	<u>David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy</u> 805 Teurlings Drive	<u>PimsPoints Training</u>	<u>BE ENGAGED Training</u>	<u>Comp Lab-25/25</u> (PimsPoints training) <u>Large room-100</u> (Be	
		<u>Group 1</u> <u>8 a.m.-12 p.m.</u>	<u>Group 2</u> <u>10 a.m.-12 p.m.</u>		

	Lafayette, LA 70501	LUNCH Group 1 & 2 12 - 1 p.m.		Engaged training)
		Group 2 1 - 5 p.m.	Group 1 1 - 3 p.m.	Register- 25 for PimsPoint AM & 25 PM Register-100 for Be Engaged
Oct. 21	VIRTUAL	10 a.m.-12 p.m.- BE ENGAGED Training 12 - 1 p.m.- LUNCH 1- 5 p.m. - PimsPoints		
Oct. 22	Professional Development Center 3000 N. Sherwood Forest Drive Building C Baton Rouge, LA 70814	PimsPoints Training	BE ENGAGED Training	Comp Lab-24/24 (PimsPoints training) Large room-100 (Be Engaged training) Register- 24 for PimsPoint AM & 24 PM Register-200 for Be Engaged
		Group 1 8 a.m.-12 p.m.	Group 2 10 a.m.-12 p.m.	
		LUNCH Group 1 & 2 12 - 1 p.m.		
		Group 2 1 - 5 p.m.	Group 1 1 - 3 p.m.	

Oct. 25	VIRTUAL	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.- BE ENGAGED Training 12 - 1 p.m.- LUNCH 1 - 5 p.m.- PimsPoints	
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Nutrition Support

2021 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants

USDA has awarded Louisiana \$604,377, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFA's) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program. Only those entities that participate in the NSLP will have access to the online grant application for these funds. Schools approved for participation in the NSLP that participate(d) in Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and/or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) as part of COVID-19 flexibilities are eligible to apply for the grant opportunity. Priority will be given to schools where the greatest percentage of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applicants may access the [2021 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants](#) document for additional information. Online applications will be accessible at the Child Nutrition Programs [website](#). The application period opened October 1, 2021 and will close on November 2, 2021.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Emergency Operational Cost Grants and P-EBT Local Level Funding for CNP Operators

The Division of Nutrition Support has posted additional information for Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators regarding the funding made available to operators, by USDA, for activities related to [FY 2021 State Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\)](#) and [Emergency Operational Cost Grants](#).

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Interests and Opportunities

- Resources for 2021-2022 I&O are now available on the website in the [Accountability Library](#).
 - [2021-2022 Interests and Opportunities Accountability and Reporting FAQ](#)
 - [2021-2022 Interests and Opportunities Principal Survey Fillable PDF Template](#)
- Interests and Opportunities Principals and School System Leaders Webinar: October 27 at 2 p.m.
 - LDOE is hosting a webinar about Interests and Opportunities for Principals and School System Leaders. Join us to hear more about the Menu Based Approach and the policy implications for 2022-2023 and beyond. This webinar will be recorded and posted to the Accountability Library.

LEAP 2025

- October 1-31: School systems will verify grade 3-8 enrollment and indicate their selection of paper-based or computer-based testing for grade 3 in the Enrollment function of DRC INSIGHT. There is no paper-based testing option for grade 4 in spring 2022. Paper tests will remain available in grades other than 3 as a unique accommodation that will require department approval.
 - All grade 3 subject tests taken with paper will have accommodated forms this year. It is very important that students who have TRA, TTS, braille, communication assistance scripts, transferred answers, and large print use only the appropriate accommodated forms.
- October 25: Window A (November 30-December 17) high school testing schedules due to assessment@la.gov.
- October 25: Manuals posted and DRC test setup opens for high schools testing in Window A
- October 31: All testing accommodations are recorded on IEP, IAP or EL checklist for Window A (November 30-December 17)
- November 8: Materials delivered to school systems testing in Window A
- November 9: Window A additional materials request available in DRC INSIGHT

Birth-Grade 3 Assessment Guidance

- The Birth-Grade 3 Assessments has a [suite of resources](#) available to help school systems (and early learning centers) with assessment administration for the 2021-2022 school year. School systems who were severely impacted by Hurricane Ida and will not be able to submit data on time should email assessment@la.gov.
- Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)
 - OCTOBER 29 (NEW DATE): Reporting due from one of two approved [Kindergarten Entry Assessment \(KEA\)](#) options: [DRDP-K](#) and [TeachingStrategies GOLD KEA](#)
 - Administer within the first 30 operational school days (exclude days closed for hurricane from the count)
- K-3 Literacy Screener
 - OCTOBER 29 (NEW DATE): Reporting due from one of four approved [K-3 Literacy Screener](#) options: [Acadience Reading](#) (formerly DIBELS Next), [DIBELS 8th Edition](#), [STEEP](#), and [STEP](#).

- Administer within the first 30 operational school days.(exclude days closed for hurricane from the count)
- GOLD (Birth-Age 5)
 - OCTOBER 31: Reporting due from administration of TeachingStrategiesGOLD®. This administration should include all children, ages birth-5, enrolled in public and nonpublic pre-K, Head Start, and child care centers that receive public funding and all children, ages 3-5, with an Individual Education Program (IEP), including children who receive speech services only.

NAEP

- The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will proceed with administration of the mandated mathematics and reading assessments. For 2022, at the state level, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will be administered in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8. The NAEP 2022 school sample will represent the 2022 student population while also maximizing overlap with the NAEP 2021 school sample. Maximizing the overlapping school samples between NAEP 2022 and 2021 opens up the possibility of studying student performance, as measured by NAEP, within the unique context provided by the two NAEP studies that were administered in the 2020–2021 school year.
- The NAEP 2022 administration will include three assessment programs:
 - **January 10 to March 18, 2022:** National long-term trend mathematics and reading assessments: age 9
 - **January 24 to March 4, 2022:**
 - State-level mathematics and reading assessments: grades 4 and 8
 - National civics and U.S. history assessments: grade 8
- Superintendents of selected school systems will receive a letter through email in September.
 - School systems will play an important role by supporting participation.
 - NAEP will continue to adapt to new processes and procedures as the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve.
 - As in previous years, NAEP representatives will provide significant support to schools by administering the assessment and bringing all necessary materials and equipment, including sanitized tablets, on which students take the assessment.
 - NAEP representatives' top priority is to protect the health and safety of students and school staff.

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

- The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 3:45 p.m. See information below to join:
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
 - **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
 - **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

School System Relations

New: Louisiana's Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Process Opening Soon

On Tuesday, October 12, the Teacher and Principal of the Year application process for the 2021-2022 school year will open. At that time, the application materials, and timeline will be available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

State-level applications are due by January 12, 2021 and must be submitted via an online application portal which will open in late 2021.

The Department will host two optional informational Zoom calls to share details regarding this year's Teacher and Principal of the Year process.

- Interested stakeholders may click the link(s) below to join a call. Please save a date on your calendar.
 - [October 12 at 11 a.m.](#)
 - [October 13 at 9:30 a.m.](#)

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov for more information.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Applications are Open for Accelerate Math Content Developers

Please share with math supervisors, administrators, and teachers.

The Department is seeking expert pre-kindergarten through high school math educators interested in building resources for [Accelerate](#), Louisiana's statewide tutoring strategy. [Applications](#) will remain open until all positions are filled. Work will begin this spring and continue through the 2021- 2022 school year. Compensation will be provided.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Standards Review Update

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

Louisiana's social studies standards are currently under review. The Social Studies Standards Review Steering Committee endorsed a draft of the Social Studies Standards in a public meeting that was held on September 25. An agenda for this meeting along with a copy of the draft standards is posted in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). All stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on individual standards using an online form in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#) throughout the month of October.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Division of Diverse Learners

Act 419 Dyslexia Reporting

[Act 419](#) requires each public school governing authority to submit a report to the State Department of Education by October 31 annually relative to students identified as dyslexic. The report shall include numbers of students in all grade levels identified as dyslexic, and shall include, per grade, all of the following:

- For students identified as dyslexic through a Section 504 Plan:
 - The number initially identified during the preceding school year.
 - The total number [students identified as dyslexic through a Section 504 Plan].
- For students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) identified as having a specific learning disability, dyslexia:
 - The number initially identified during the preceding school year.
 - The total number [students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) identified as having a specific learning disability, dyslexia].

To satisfy this legislation, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) should submit, by 5 p.m. October 31, the jotform available at this [link](#). Refer to the [Marino Dyslexia Bill Reporting Guidance](#) for support reporting the data. Questions regarding this collection may be sent to specialeducation@la.gov.

High Cost Services Application

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund supports school systems and schools who serve Louisiana's students with complex needs by providing additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities. The FY 2020-2021 HCS Round 1 application is now available in eGMS. The submission deadline is October 29. To learn more about the grant, please see the [grant overview](#) and [state plan](#).

Please contact ldoegrantshelpdesk@la.gov with any questions.

2021 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards & Inclusive Art Contest

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is continuing its tradition of hosting both the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards and the Inclusive Art Contest.

The GOLD Awards recognizes extraordinary individuals and organizations who have contributed their time and talents to benefit the lives of persons with disabilities in Louisiana. Multiple award [categories](#) are included. [Nominations](#) are due by November 1, 2021.

The [Inclusive Art Contest](#) enables participants to increase awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society through visual and written artistic expression. Entries should illustrate or describe ideas related to this year's theme: "Accessibility of the Future." The contest is open to any resident of Louisiana, with and without disabilities of any age. Entries must be received by November 1, 2021.

Please contact disability.affairs@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Accessible Education Materials Center's Annual Click or Treat Conference

The [Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials \(LA-AEM\) Center](#) is hosting its 3rd annual virtual Click or Treat Conference October 26-28. Conference information and registration can be found at this [link](#). Each day has a different focus area:

- Tuesday - Assistive Technology
- Wednesday - Vision
- Thursday - Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Please contact administrator@ssdla-aem.org with questions.

Educator Development

Acceleration Professional Development

The recent weather event has further disrupted the education of students throughout Louisiana. As school systems continue with instruction, they must address the unfinished learning their students experienced as a result of the pandemic, as well as Hurricane Ida. As part of our work to provide continuous guidance and support to our educators, we will continue to offer professional development to school systems as they work to address unfinished learning through acceleration.

All teachers have access to the 2021-2022 [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) to support their efforts to accelerate learning. The [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) includes 6 trainings that are designed to help educators target their instruction and coaching on the most effective strategies.

These trainings will be provided by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). All teachers, teacher leaders, school leaders, and district leaders are invited to attend these focused learning opportunities. Each training is a full day and the sessions will be offered virtually and in-person several times a week over the course of the 2021-2022 school year.

Educators may use this [link](#) to register for one or all of the sessions.

This month's Louisiana Acceleration Series session is Maximizing Collaborative Structures to Support Acceleration. During this session, participants will unpack the role of the leadership team in supporting teachers to accelerate learning and will learn how administrators and teacher leaders can strengthen their capacity to support accelerated learning. The target audience for this session is school and district leadership teams. Educators can receive a certificate upon completion of each training.

Session Date	Session Format
Wednesday October 13	In person, Shreveport
Thursday, October 14	Virtual
Monday, October 18	Virtual
Tuesday, October 19	Virtual
Wednesday October 20	Virtual
Thursday, October 21	In person, Baton Rouge
Monday, October 25	Virtual
Tuesday, October 26	Virtual
Wednesday, October 27	Virtual
Thursday, October 28	Virtual
Monday, November 1	In person, Baton Rouge
Tuesday, November 2	Virtual
Wednesday, November 3	Virtual

Thursday, November 4	Virtual
Monday, November 8	Virtual
Tuesday, November 9	In person, New Orleans
Wednesday, November 10	Virtual
Thursday, November 11	Virtual

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 11 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 11 Summary - Crazy for Kids with 2021 Principal of the Year Dione Bradford: Dione Bradford shares her successes at Parkway Elementary School in Vernon Parish, reaction to being named principal of the year, and inspiration to educators to increase student achievement.

Lake Elementary in Ascension Parish makes Em Cooper smile this week with their strong instructional leadership team practices.

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.

Mentor and Resident Funding Office Hours

The Department continues to provide \$1,000 for the mentors who support year-long undergraduate residents. In addition, through the teacher pay increase approved by the Legislature in 2019, the Department will allocate funds for school systems to pay \$1,000 to yearlong undergraduate residents who hold a resident certificate and are completing their residency in a public school.

On October 6 and 7, the Department will host office hours to support school systems with the data collection and verification process. School systems will receive their resident files through the FTP by October 11.

Webinar date and time: October 6 at 11 a.m. or October 7 at 2 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

Meeting ID: 345 504 8179

Phone number: 1-470-381-2552

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Principal Webinar Series

LDOE had a panel discussion about strong back to school practices with the 2022 State Principal of the Year, Marco French along with division level honorees Karen Robertson, Jeremy Muse, and Ronnie Harvey, Jr. Educators can use this [link](#) to access the webinar in the principal support library. In October's webinar, the LDOE will partner with the Center for Resilience to discuss supporting students and staff through trauma informed practices.

- Webinar Date/Time: October 25 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.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship for Human Resource Directors

Several school systems have the opportunity to participate in a recruitment and retention fellowship through a national non-profit organization, [USHCA](#). This fellowship will be an opportunity for human capital leaders to:

- Network with other human capital leaders throughout the nation, learn from one another, and discuss best practices with regard to recruiting and retaining teachers.
- Work with a small cohort of Louisiana school systems to develop strategies to recruit and retain teachers in Louisiana's highest-need certification areas, with a particular focus on advanced math and science courses.

Application process

Please complete this short [application](#) to indicate your interest and key recruitment challenges your school systems would like to tackle through this fellowship. Applications are due on **October 8th**. Fellowship participants will be announced the following week. The first session will be held during the last week in October.

Please contact victoria.dunn@la.gov for more information.

Teaching and Learning Roundtable

This year's Teaching and Learning Roundtable series will begin October 8, 2021. This series focuses on key areas related to teaching and learning such as instruction and building educator capacity and is targeted for system-level leaders (e.g., assistant superintendents, CAOs) that lead academics, professional development, human resources, school leadership, and other teaching and learning teams. These roundtables will provide space for school system leaders to share and discuss:

- best practices aligned to key areas,
- the implementation of state strategies, and
- frequently asked questions and challenges.

When: October 8, 2021 (second Friday of each month)

Time: 11 a.m.

Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98360496776?pwd=cDhPbHICNUVGOHNiaS9NYjl4RnlLUT09>

Please contact Em.Cooper@la.gov with questions.

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, and
- career pipeline support.

All schools in Louisiana can participate in this [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 email Jenee.Robins@la.gov with questions.

Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support

Healthy Communities

School Based Medicaid Services

The Louisiana Department of Education has developed the [Louisiana School Based Medicaid Program \(SBMP\)](#) Resource Library to help LEAs implement a health services program that is eligible for funding through Medicaid. The SBMP Resource Library was launched in September of 2021, and new guidance documents will continue to be added through February of 2022 and then updated as needed thereafter. Whenever a document is updated, a revision sheet will be added to the end of the document explaining any changes and the date they were made.

Please contact sbmp@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations**
 - *Federal Support and Grantee Relations*
 - *School System Planning*
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - *Assessment Content*
 - *Educator Development*
 - *Literacy*
- **Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support**
 - *Healthy Communities*

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

The department hosted two Academic Recovery and Acceleration plan office hour events. Our team was available to answer questions and support school systems as they work to complete their plans.

- Wednesday, September 29th at 4 - 5 p.m. ([Zoom Link](#))
- Thursday, September 30th at 12 p.m. ([Zoom Link](#))

Please contact Dr. Sharmayne Rutledge (srutledge@invictaconsultingllc.org) with any questions.

School System Planning

The Department hosted four informational sessions for school systems and created a [form for question submission](#). An [FAQ document](#) was created and released in the Pandemic Relief Funding and Guidance Library. School systems should continue to submit their questions using the form.

The Department will continue to offer one-on-one support during office hours as requested using this [form](#). The form is also available in the Pandemic Relief Funding and Guidance Library. As a reminder, plans were due by September 30, however, the Department is putting in place a review and support structure to allow school systems the opportunity to revise their plans based on feedback from reviewers.

Career and College Readiness

Louisiana Manufacturing Week

Please share with Career and Technical Education Leaders

Louisiana Manufacturing Week is a growing grassroots movement dedicated to overcoming the shared challenges facing manufacturers today. The most pressing issue facing manufacturers is a gap in skilled labor: 82% of U.S. manufacturers cannot find the qualified workers they need due to a gap between the job requirements and the skills of those who are applying for them – and the gap continues to widen. Manufacturers' ability to address this gap has been hindered by the public perception that careers in manufacturing are undesirable and by insufficient preparatory education. Both of these problems stem from a lack of understanding that present-day manufacturing environments are highly technical.

Louisiana Manufacturing Week gives manufacturers an opportunity to raise awareness of these issues and to begin to address them by providing local manufacturers, schools, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders with an easy and effective way to promote manufacturing as a top-tier career choice. [Louisiana Manufacturing Week, happening September 26 - October 2, 2021](#), includes tours at manufacturing facilities and education initiatives to change the perception of the industry and inspire next-generation workers to pursue manufacturing careers.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Assessment Content

ACT Alignment Study

The School of Education at LSU, in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education, will conduct a study to determine the degree of alignment of the ACT assessment with Louisiana's Student Standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. A panel of 45 Louisiana educators will be recruited to participate as expert panelists for this study. Panelists should be extremely knowledgeable in one of three content areas: Mathematics, English Language Arts, or Science. The participants selected for this study will be asked to participate in a 3-day virtual meeting in which they will review and score the ACT for its level of alignment with the Louisiana Student Standards. The meetings will occur on October 28, 29, and 30.

School systems will be reimbursed for participants who require substitutes. A stipend of \$350.00 will be paid to each panelist for meeting on Saturday, October 30, 2021. To be considered, panelists must commit to being present at all three meetings.

The [survey](#) was due by September 17, 2021. Applicants will be informed of selection as a participant or alternate after superintendent approval is secured.

Please contact [Alissa Kilpatrick](#) at the Louisiana Department of Education or [Eugene Kennedy](#) at Louisiana State University with questions about this study.

Educator Development

Accelerate

[Accelerate](#), Louisiana's pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal-access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students. School system and school leaders should be planning implementation of Accelerate in their schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Resources and trainings are available in the [Accelerate Library](#).

Educators may access the recent Accelerate Overview and ELA 2021-2022 Resources Overview trainings using the following links:

[Accelerate Overview \(August 25, 2021\)](#)
[Accelerate ELA 2021-2022 Resources Overview](#)
[Accelerate ELA 2021-2022 Resources Overview Recording](#)

Due to Hurricane Ida the Accelerate Math Resources Overview webinar will be recorded and posted in the [Accelerate Library](#).

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Evaluation Updates

CIS Turnover: Due to Hurricane Ida, Teacher Evaluation score entry for the 2020-2021 school year closed September 14. The CIS system is now available for 2021-2022 roster entry. For assistance, please see the CIS resources in the [Compass Library](#).

Leader Evaluations: Leader evaluation scores will be entered from the 2020-2021 school year later this fall when SPS scores become available.

Rater Reliability Training: The required 2021-2022 [Rater Reliability training](#) can be found in the Compass Library. This annual training must be completed by new and returning evaluators prior to any formal evaluations. The survey at the end of the training should be completed to mark attendance. Timestamps are available upon request at compass@la.gov.

Professional Practice Scores: Current policy requires that teachers and administrators be observed twice per year. Pending BESE approval in the upcoming October meeting for the 2021-2022 academic year only, only one formal observation for the 2021-2022 academic year is required for those who earn a rating of "Highly Effective" or "Effective: Proficient" (score of 2.5 or higher) on the first formal observation. Any teacher or administrator who earns an observation rating of Ineffective or Effective: Emerging (2.4 or lower) will require two observations.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

School systems may need to make staffing and scheduling adjustments to accommodate for the unfinished learning that resulted from Hurricane Ida school closures.

The Staffing and Scheduling initiative launched in March provides system and school leaders robust [guidance](#) and implementation support on developing strong staffing and scheduling models aligned to the best practices below. School schedules should look different in the 2021-2022 school year in order to address unfinished learning.

1. High-quality core instruction is the foundation.
2. Effective literacy instruction is central to student success.
3. Students with unfinished learning and diverse learners need extra instructional time to catch up.
4. Both core instruction and acceleration must be provided by content strong staff.
5. Meeting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students supports academic achievement.
6. Equity should be at the forefront of all these strategies.

To culminate the second round of [staffing and scheduling supports](#), system and school leaders are encouraged to attend the Staffing and Scheduling Q&A session on October 6, 2021 at 1 p.m. Participants may register for the October 6, 2021 Scheduling Q&A session using this [link](#). All participants must register to attend.

The final round in the series of [staffing and scheduling supports](#) will continue this fall. Participants must register to attend.

Webinar	Date and Time	Link
Staffing and Scheduling Q&A Session	October 6 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Best Practice Webinar	October 13 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for District Leaders	October 19 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Diverse Learner Leaders	October 19 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Counselors and Counseling Leadership	October 20 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for School Leaders	October 20 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 10 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 10 Summary - Prioritizing Music, Art, and Movement in Louisiana with First Lady Donna Edwards: Louisiana's First Lady, Donna Edwards, shares a glimpse into life in the Governor's Mansion and her music classroom. She talks about the importance of prioritizing music, art, and movement education across the state. Em Cooper surprises her by playing the newlywed game to see how often her and Governor Edwards' answers match. Avoyelles High School makes Em Cooper smile this week with their pictures of hands-on learning in Agriculture class.

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.

Literacy

Family Literacy Engagement Support Added to SELL Guide

The [Supporting Early Learning and Literacy \(SELL\) Guide](#) provides school systems with information on vetted vendors who offer training, supplemental screeners, programs, and resources that promote literacy at all stages. Several vendors have been added to the guide recently with a focus on support for involving families in their child's literacy development. Many of the resources listed, especially the ones promoting family literacy engagement, are appropriate for all grade levels and ages. School systems and school leaders are encouraged to explore the updated guide for potential literacy partnerships.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Workforce Support

Healthy Communities

Senate Concurrent Resolution 50

In response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 50 ([SCR 50](#)) of the 2021 Regular Legislative session, the Department is required to identify training providers for students currently being utilized by school systems regarding social inclusion, violence prevention and suicide prevention.

Please assist the Department in identifying training providers being utilized, and their capabilities, by completing this brief [survey](#) by October 8th.

Please contact Michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Fire Prevention Week: October 3rd-9th, 2021

The State Fire Marshal's Office and your local fire departments work throughout the year to educate communities about fire safety. One of the spotlights of that education effort occurs during the annual Fire Prevention Week. This year, the theme is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™" and the campaign runs from October 3rd through October 9th.

We invite you and your students to be part of this life-saving cause, to help members of the community reduce their risk of fire and be prepared in the event of a fire, through an innovative challenge titled "Chalk One Up to Fire Safety." This challenge calls for participants to create sidewalk chalk art drawings of fire safety messages tied to the campaign and share them on social media

[Click here](#) for more information and to learn about a fun educational opportunity for your students to learn an important fire safety lesson next week, but to also help teach their communities about that fire safety message!

Please contact ashley.rodrique@la.gov with questions.