

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



January 19, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As with many of you, today I had the great honor of joining more than 1,200 high school and middle school educators, industry representatives, higher education faculty, and economic development leaders at the second annual Jump Start Convention in Baton Rouge.

Given the diversity of participants, I was struck by the shared sense of purpose at the gathering. Every young man and woman graduating from high school deserves a credential and a next step that comes with economic and life opportunity. Today's event was, first and foremost, a celebration of that idea. Given that soon every graduate will have decided whether or not to [apply for financial aid](#), the idea is closer than ever before to becoming reality.

But today's gathering marked a turning point as well. The class of 2018, today's sophomore class, is, after all, the first class required to have completed Jump Start credentials in order to graduate with a career diploma. It is also the first class required to choose whether or not to apply for financial aid. The [Individual Graduation Plans](#) we complete with these students, as they choose diplomas and pathways to prosperity, require a heightened level of focus.

I take from today three things we can all do to help ensure that every member of the class of 2018 is moving down the right path.

First, we are moving away from offering courses, pathways, and credentials that we have customarily offered, toward a system customized to the needs of each young man and woman. I sensed today a great desire to converse with students and to help them find the particular opportunity that excites them, in both the academic and the technical arenas, finding creative ways to provide that opportunity when it is not something we have traditionally done.

Doing this means preparing every educator - teachers and counselors alike - for those conversations. In large part this means sustaining training opportunities like annual [Super Summer Institutes](#) and quarterly [Counselor Collaboratives](#). But it also means making workplace-based externships available for educators seeking greater familiarity with Louisiana industry, as many of us discussed at length in today's sessions.

Finally, we must locate every possible resource to support Jump Start plans. Several of today's sessions focused on generating and [blending funds](#) that come with Jump Start courses. We also talked about tapping both local businesses and Louisiana's novel virtual internship pilot to provide students authentic workplace-based experiences.

These steps mark the continuation of a movement toward economic opportunity that our state's schools have embraced in recent

years. In a time of great inequity, you have risen up, insisting that a pathway to prosperity is a right for every young man and woman in today's Louisiana. Today's gathering in Baton Rouge was a professional conference, but more than that, it was an affirmation of that right. I was proud to be there.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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**CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS**

To view the current District Support Calendar, please click [here](#).

District Support

Reminder: Download Materials for the January Collaboration Events

The January [Supervisor](#) and [Teacher Leader](#) Collaboration Events will take place in the following locations:

- Baton Rouge (1/20)
- Thibodaux (1/25)
- Natchitoches (1/27)
- Lafayette (1/28)

Materials for the January Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations are now available. Participants should download session materials for the event(s) they are attending in advance as printed copies will not be available.

- [Supervisor Session Materials](#)
- [Teacher Leader Session Materials](#)

Please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Register for February/March MDC Trainings

The Math Design Collaborative (MDC) provides quality trainings for middle and high school math teachers. Sessions are led by Louisiana educators and focus on integrating high quality tasks into the curriculum, fostering rich math conversations among students, and analyzing student work.

[Register](#) for sessions in **Bossier on February 24** and **Lafayette on March 10 (new date)**. Contact LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov with questions or to find out more information. Registration is free for all participants.

Literacy Design Collaborative Training

Teachers and leaders can register [here](#) for the November [Literacy Design Collaborative](#) (LDC) sessions being held in:

- West Monroe on January 20
- Lafayette on January 21
- Chalmette on January 22

These sessions support ELA, science, and social studies teachers in grades 3-12 in creating unit plans and daily instructional plans for students using resources in the [Teacher Support Toolbox](#).

Click [here](#) for participant expectations, training dates, and overview of the framework.

Contact jill.slack@la.gov for assistance.

Textbooks and Instructional Materials Review

Instructional materials play a critical role in clarifying for educators what they should teach and how. Therefore, it is imperative that textbooks and other materials fully align to state standards and are high quality, meaning they promote teaching that leads students to be college and career ready.

Districts must make decisions about what materials to adopt based on these criteria. They can adopt [materials reviewed by the state](#) or engage in a local review process. To support districts in updating their process and policy, the Department:

1. Will provide a session at the [January Supervisors Collaboration](#). **District textbook supervisors should attend and bring a copy of their local textbook policy**

- a copy of their local textbook policy.
2. Has released [district guidance](#) to support districts in conducting local reviews as required by the passage of [Act 389](#) and updated [Bulletin 741, §1703](#).

Updated CTTIE New Instructor Workshop Guidelines Effective January 1, 2016

The Department has released updated [Career and Technical Trade and Industrial Education New Instructor Workshop Approval Guidelines](#) for school districts or preparation providers interested in developing proposals to offer the required workshop to career and technical education teachers. The new workshop guidelines went into effect beginning January 1, 2016. Current and prospective workshop providers must submit an application for approval based on the new expectations in order to offer workshops after January 1, 2016. *Workshops must be approved by the Department before being offered to teachers in order for attendees to be eligible for CTTIE teacher certification.*

Please contact BelieveAndPrepare@la.gov with any questions or for additional information regarding proposal submission.

Assessment Preparation

Weekly Assessment and Technology Readiness Update

Across the state, educators are preparing for the administration of the spring 2016 assessments. This section will provide LEAs with a weekly update on all information related to assessment preparation.

ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION PREPARATION

- **LAA1/ELDA Assessments:** This week districts will receive shipments for the administration of the LAA 1 and ELDA assessments. All orders for additional materials must be received via [Operational eDIRECT](#) by January 26.
- **Online vs Paper Assessment Survey:** This spring, students in grades 3 to 8 may test online. This [survey](#) allows districts to indicate whether they will administer tests to grades 3 through 8 online or on paper. It will also allow districts to sign up to participate in the social studies field test. District responses are due in late February.
**Note: LEAs will determine testing formats and may chose options by entire LEA, schools, or grade levels.*

TECHNOLOGY READINESS

- **Preparation for Online Practice Tests:** The online practice tests will be available in the INSIGHT assessment platform by the end of January. In order for students to be able to access these tests, LEAs will need to upload student rosters into the [Practice eDIRECT](#) prior to the assessment. Directions for upload can be found within the user guide.
- **Technology Readiness Tool:** This week, districts will receive Technology Readiness Tool reports via email to District Technology and Test Coordinators to help inform decisions as to whether or not their schools are ready for online tests.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- **Practice Tests:** The grades 3-8 math paper-based practice tests are now available on the [Practice Tests](#) page. Grades 3-8 ELA paper-based practice tests will be posted by Friday, January 22, and online practice tests will be released the week of January 25.

Office Hours Login Information: (*No pre-registration required)

- Click here to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone or access audio via phone bridge: (800) 832-0736 / room number: 3423602

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

ACT Memorandum of Understanding

The Department has developed additional payment options for LEAs that wish to administer and pay for additional ACT, ACT WorkKeys, and EXPLORE assessments to students who are not otherwise funded through the state assessment contract. This includes seniors retaking the ACT, students who are not pursuing the Career Diploma who wish to take ACT WorkKeys, or any administration of the EXPLORE exam.

Though the previously issued MOUs are still viable options, the Department has released additional versions of the MOUs after consultation with LSBA and LASS leadership and the new versions are available at the links below. These additional MOUs allow for payment of 75 percent of the anticipated costs over four installments from February to May. The installment payment plan is available for either the invoice or the MFP deduction option.

The deadline for submission of either of these MOUs and the related expected number of testers **is February 1, 2016**. LEAs may submit a scanned copy to assessment@la.gov in order to meet the deadline.

The new MOUs are available in the Assessment Library.

[2015-2016 ACT Memorandum of Understanding Option 1.B](#) (invoice with installment plan)

[2015-2016 ACT Memorandum of Understanding Option 2.B](#) (MFP withholding with installment plan)

[Guide to the 2015-2016 MOU](#)

January Accountability Commission Meeting

Meeting:	When/Where:
Accountability Commission: January Meeting	Friday, January 29 1:00p.m. Thomas Jefferson Room (1-136) Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Data Certification for Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives(AMAO) 1 & 2 Reporting

Please forward to Title III coordinator and accountability coordinators.

Annually, the LDOE is required to report student English proficiency indicators known as Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives (AMAO) 1 and 2 to the US Department of Education. These two indicators show the percent of students making progress toward English proficiency and/or whether or not students met the exit exam criteria.

LEAs must verify these data before the federal report is submitted. Therefore, the Department is distributing student rosters to each participating LEA and charter schools who received Title III funds in 2014-2015. The **file folder will be placed in LEAs Data Management FTP on Friday, January 22** named, "LEA Code_LEAName_2015AMAO1and2Student Roster." Instructions on how to make data corrections will be provided as a separate document in the same folder.

LEAs should submit corrections to student identification information and test scores, including all required documentation, by **Tuesday, February 5, 2016 through the FTP.**

Please email assessment@la.gov with any questions about the data certification process.

High School Opportunities

Course Choice/SCA Spring 2016 Reallocation Process Update

Registration for spring 2016 Course Choice Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) funded coursework is now closed. The reallocation process has been extended until mid-February. This will give LEAs the needed time to reconcile post-secondary dual enrollment coursework. The Department will reach out to LEAs individually starting in early February to provide a funding reconciliation. Questions regarding the process should be sent to SCA@la.gov.

Advanced Coursework and CLEP

The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) helps students receive college credit for completion of advanced coursework.

District test coordinators, administrators, professional school counselors, and lead teachers are invited to participate in the following CLEP Webinar presentation:

- **Monday, January 25 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information

- **Meeting Name:** Louisiana High School and CLEP
- Click [here](#) or go to <https://collegeboardtraining.webex.com/mw3000/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=collegeboardtraining&service=6> to register and join the meeting

For more information on CLEP opportunities, please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov.

Spring 2016 Individual Student Planning

The department will host two webinars to support professional school counselors with the development of Individual Graduation Plans (IGP) and diploma pathway selection process.

- **Thursday, January 21 - 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, January 27 - 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information (**no pre-registration required*)

- **Meeting Name:** Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Selection
- To join the meeting, click [here](#) or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/igp2016>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**

For further assistance, please contact Martha.moore@la.gov.

Third Quarter Professional School Counselor Collaborative

In order to support Professional School Counselors with the [Individual Graduation Planning \(IGP\)](#) process for students this spring the Department is increasing the amount of hands-on support provided to professional middle and high school counselors. The Department [Network Teams](#) are starting 3rd Quarter counselor collaborative sessions to provide counselors with the tools and information needed to ensure appropriate courses, and pathway selections for all students. Specific dates can be found in the [2015-2016 District Support Calendar](#).

Please email JumpStart@la.gov with questions.

Data

Update on Data Sharing Agreements

The Department has executed and posted agreements for contracted systems that will continue to require students' personally identifiable information. As part of this process, LEAs have requested additional data sharing agreements to support their work by matching and sharing student information. The Department posted all final agreements for viewing [here](#):

- Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) - GED/HISET-**NEW** *
- ACT
- Pacific Metrics (OAS)
- University of Oregon (DIBELS)
- eScholar
- CAI (SER)
- Red-e Set Grow
- iSTEEP
- Pacific Metrics (EAGLE)
- Teaching Strategies Gold
- Brookes Publishing (AEPSi)

Districts and charters should download the addendums from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to LDEData@la.gov in order to ensure that they will be able to share student information with these vendors for testing and reporting purposes.

***In order to ensure LEAs have ample time to correct dropout data ahead of the February 3 deadline, it is suggested that LEAs opt into the LCTCS agreement by Monday, January 25.**

Please email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

Files available via FTP

Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives: The *Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives (AMAO)* data file for each participating LEAs and charter schools who received Title III funds in 2014-2015, will be released on **Friday, January 22**. The file will be placed in LEA's/Charter Sites' Data Management FTP as a single excel file named, "LEA Code_LEAName_2015 AMAO 1 and 2 Student Roster" and will expire on February 22nd.

Please download and provide this file to your district's Title III Coordinator who will review the data. The Title III Coordinator will

need to make comments/feedback on the file, and return it to LDE by having it uploaded along with any files they are using to serve as proof of evidence to the Data Management FTP subfolder, "AMAO" no later than **Tuesday, February 5**.

Principal Profile Reports: The *Principal Profile Reports* will be released during **the week of January 25**. The file will be placed in LEA's/Charter Sites' Data Management FTP as a zipped subfolder named, "LEA Code_LEAName_14-15 Principal Report Cards", and file will expire on **February 29**. Please provide this file to your accountability contacts and principals.

Please email ldedata@la.gov with questions regarding the FTP.

Policy

January BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on January 13 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and Department recommendations. A summary of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies may be accessed [here](#).

New Civics Content Policy

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, [Act 469](#) requires high school Civics teachers or teachers of a course which substitutes for Civics to teach a unit of study that includes civics-related subject matter that a naturalized citizen is required to demonstrate knowledge. Teachers must also administer a test based upon the civics portion of the naturalization test.

The Department has provided [guidance](#) to help districts and teachers comply with the law. This guidance is located on the [Social Studies Resources page](#).

If you have any questions, please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov.

Finance

MFP Supplementary Funding (HB1 Appropriation for Pay Raise Continuation)

The second installment of the funds in HB1 in FY2015-16 for the continuation of teacher pay raises is due in January.

- \$16,087,301 of the \$20 million appropriation has materialized through Lottery proceeds leaving an unfunded balance of \$3,912,699. Per the language in the appropriation, the \$20 million allocation has been reduced on a prorata basis and will be distributed as a lump sum payment in January. The January payment amounts are provided [here](#) on the Department's website. The remaining balance of \$3,912,699 will be distributed if funding becomes available.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Melanie Ruiz at melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

Student Programs

CSPR Part II Data Collection for Title I, Part A and Part D - LEADSPortal TIA and TID

The Louisiana Department of Education must report in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR) its progress and compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Additionally, LEAs must submit student and staff data for Title I, Part A (TIA) and Title I, Part D (TID). Title I directors/security coordinators can enter the data for the 2014-2015 school year at this [link](#).

The LEADSPortal is open for data submission on **December 22, 2015 through January 29, 2016**.

Please find additional information for entering data at [CSPR - TIA Title I, Part A](#).

Please find additional information for entering data at [CSPR - TID Title I, Part D](#).

If any additional information is required, please contact your point of contact ([POC](#)) for further assistance.

Louisiana School Health Education Survey - February

For more than 23 years, the Louisiana Department of Education has maintained a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This partnership between CDC and the Department was formed to foster coordinated school health policies and programs for our youth. As part of our cooperative agreement activities, we will be conducting surveys of principals and lead health education teachers in the state to assess the status of school health policies and practices at the middle school and high school levels. Although participation is voluntary, we urge principals and lead health education teachers to complete the surveys. Without an accurate view of the extent of our current school health policies and program activities, we cannot plan and allocate program resources adequately.

Three hundred and sixty nine Louisiana schools (369), with any of grades 6 through 12, including schools that contain only grade 6, were chosen through a random selection process to participate in the School Health Profiles Survey. Principals of the schools selected to participate will be notified of the selection by email.

If you have questions, please contact Michael Comeaux at 225-342-3500 or Lillie Burns at 225-342-1870, the Department's toll free number, 1-877-453-2721, or via email at Lillie.Burns@la.gov or Michael.Comeaux@la.gov.

Education in the News

[FAFSA requirements are changing in Louisiana](#)

[Achievements, vision outlined for schools](#)

[State Superintendent reminds students on the importance of FASFA](#)

[La. parents may view test questions, newspaper reports](#)

LDOE Contacts

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