

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



April 26, 2016

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

First, my thanks to all in your schools and central offices who are working hard to make this testing period a successful one. Our students deserve a peaceful and orderly environment during times like this week, so that they can focus on the task at hand. The job of making sure all bases are covered is an unsung one, but it is important and much appreciated.

Over the course of this week, the Department will be finalizing audited cohort graduation figures from 2015 for release next week. As a state, we have [done a lot](#) in recent years to expand opportunity for high school students. On one hand, high school graduation is just the start of life and opportunity in America. It should be the predominant rule in our system that students graduate. However, in this year's data are reflected the extraordinary, cumulative results of thousands of students and educators in this state. That hard work is paying off, in big ways, for many young people. We can acknowledge we must do more, just as we can be proud of what has been done to date.

I will share details next week as to the results themselves. For now, you can find below a schedule of informational releases over the course of the next week. I'd ask that you pay heed to each step as the process goes forward.

- Sunday, May 1: State and district graduation rates made available to all LEAs.
- Monday, May 2: State and district data made publicly available.

A high school diploma is the launching point toward the American dream. Promoting it ranks among our schools' most fundamental tasks. My congratulations, in advance, for what you have done to assist so many young people on transitioning to adulthood and the world of opportunity that lies beyond.

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit Registration Reminder**

**Please share with Teacher Leader Points of Contact**

**On Wednesday, May 4, the Department will redistribute any unused seats for the Teacher Leader Summit to LEAs who have requested additional seats.** Therefore, Teacher Leader points of contact should make sure that all participants in their school system, especially teachers, have received a registration code and [registered](#) by this date.

After the reallocation of seats is complete, **registration will officially close on Wednesday, May 11.**

For more information, email [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov).

## **2015-2016 Roster Verification**

The CVR roster verification correction window is now open through May 20. This process provides teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct student rosters for the purpose of creating value added data for the 2015-2016 school year.

An updated CVR and CIS user guide is available [here](#). Email [ldocvr@la.gov](mailto:ldocvr@la.gov) with questions.

## **2016-2017 Early Childhood Education Instructional Support Released**

To ensure children are ready to enter school prepared for success, teachers in all early childhood settings need strong and coordinated curriculum, assessments, and professional development. The Department released [guidance](#) to help districts and community networks work together to ensure quality and continuity in each of these areas across early childhood and early elementary settings.

To further support all early childhood programs-child care, Head Start, and school-based pre-K-in selecting strong curriculum, the Department is conducting a review of early childhood curricula and will [post reviews](#) throughout the spring and summer. Please contact [jill.slack@la.gov](mailto:jill.slack@la.gov) with questions.

## **Literacy Grant Released**

**Please share with Grant Coordinators and Curriculum Supervisors.**

The Department will offer 10 mini-grants for professional development focused on using writing tasks to measure student growth. The application guidelines can be found [here](#). Applications are due to [jill.slack@la.gov](mailto:jill.slack@la.gov) **by May 10**.

Please contact [jill.slack@la.gov](mailto:jill.slack@la.gov) with questions.

# Assessment Preparation

## **Assessment Administration Update**

### **FINAL TEST ADMINISTRATION FOR DTCs**

- **LEAP Assessments:** From now to May 30, districts should complete the following:
  - **NEW April 25-April 29:** LEAP ELA, math, and science paper-based test administration window. School test coordinators should administer LEAP tests to students in grades 3 through 8.
  - **NEW May 9-May 13:** LEAP Social Studies field test paper-based test administration window. Participating school test coordinators should administer the field tests to students in grades 3 through 8.
  - **NEW May 9-May 20:** LEAP Social Studies field test computer-based test administration window. Participating district technology coordinators should prepare by setting up the operational Testing Site Manager (TSM) and installing INSIGHT on all testing devices. Participating school test coordinators should administer the field tests to students in grades 3 through 8.
  - **Through May 6:** LEAP ELA and math online administration window continues. School test coordinators in districts using online assessments should administer computer-based LEAP tests to students in grades 3 through 8.
- **EOC**
  - **April 25-May 20:** EOC administration window. School test coordinators should administer EOC tests to students.

## **ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES**

- **Parent Guide to the 2016 LEAP Tests:** This document provides basic facts about the LEAP tests and links to helpful resources in order to support parents in understanding what students will experience on the tests. Please share this resource with principals, teachers, and parents.
- **LEAP FAQ** and **Spring Assessments Resource for Teachers:** These documents provide basic facts about the LEAP tests and links to helpful resources in order to support test coordinators and teachers in understanding what students will experience on the tests.
- **LEAP Test Coordinator Manuals and Test Administrator Manuals:** These manuals provide LEAP test administration guidance for test coordinators and administrators. Manuals are available in [eDIRECT](#).
- **Social Studies Online Tools Training (OTT):** Students and teachers should use the OTT, which includes online training tools for grades 3 through 8, to become familiar with the INSIGHT testing platform and the online testing tools (e.g., highlighter, magnification).
- **Social Studies Sample Task Sets:** Sample task sets illustrating how content and claims will be assessed on the grades 3 through 8 field tests are now available on the [Released and Sample Items](#) page.
- **Online Math Spanish Practice Tests:** Teachers with Spanish-speaking students who are limited English proficient (LEP) and who have this accommodation on their LEP plan should use these online training tools to become familiar with the INSIGHT testing platform.
- **Office Hours:** The Louisiana Department of Education hosts weekly office hours every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to answer any questions that teachers, supervisors, test coordinators, and test administrators may have regarding statewide assessments.
  - 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 contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with any questions.

## Assessment and Accountability

### May Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call

The May Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call and Webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 3, 2016**, at 9:00 a.m.

**Webinar Login Information:** (*\*No pre-registration required*)

- Meeting Name: District Test Coordinator Monthly Meetings
- 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.
- Access audio via phone bridge: 1-800-832-0736 / room number: 3423602
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### 2016 School Accountability Tools

The Department released the [2015-2016 School Performance Score \(SPS\) Overview](#) presentation and the [2016 SPS calculator](#) in the [Accountability Library](#) on Friday, April 22. These tools can be used for the purpose of estimating 2016 SPS and closing out school leader evaluations prior to the August 15 deadline for submitting data in the Compass Information System.

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions regarding the calculator, or [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with questions regarding principal evaluations.

## High School Opportunities

### Career and Technical Education (C.A.T.E.) Data System

The C.A.T.E. data system, found [here](#), will open from **May 16, 2016 to July 1, 2016** for districts to submit 2015 - 2016 Career and Technical Education data as required for reporting of Performance Core Indicators to USDOE Office of Career and Technical Adult Education. We will provide a series of webinars to give guidance to district and school users regarding required data submission and "how-to" system functionality.

The webinars are scheduled for (*\*No pre-registration required*).

- **Thursday, May 5, 2016**                    **1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m.**
- **Tuesday, May 10, 2016**                **10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.**

**Webinar Login Information:** (*\*No pre-registration required*)

- Meeting Name: **C.A.T.E. for Districts / Charters and Schools**
- Click [here](https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/catefor2016/) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/catefor2016/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**.

As there is a limit to participants, we recommend sites with more than one participant log in as one user.

For additional information, please email [martha.moore@la.gov](mailto:martha.moore@la.gov)

## **Student Planning Guidebook Webinar Series**

The High School Student Planning Guidebook is a series of short documents showing administrators, counselors, and teachers how to use key policies, programs, and resources to help both students and schools achieve their goals.

Weekly Guidebook webinars will be held from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the dates outlined below:

- April 28, 2016: Guide Overview & **9th and 10th Grade STudents/New Jump Start Opportunities**
- May 5, 2016: Guide Overview & **Developing Advanced and Basic College and Workplace Skills**
- May 12, 2016: Guide Overview & **Counseling, Supports, Rewards, Jump Start Web Portal, Alternate Jump Start Pathways**

**Webinar Login Information:** (*\*No pre-registration required*)

- Click [here](https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/studentplanningguide/) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/studentplanningguide/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**
- Audio access: **(800) 832-0736** / room number: **2834406**

For additional information, please contact [CollegeReadiness@la.gov](mailto:CollegeReadiness@la.gov).

## **2016 Advanced Placement® Exam Administration**

AP Exams start the week of May 2. The complete exam schedule can be found [here](#). Please visit and review your school's online AP coordinator account to ensure that your orders have been properly placed and processed [here](#).

As an additional resource, please take a moment to review the [AP Coordinator Planning Calendar](#) for important dates and deadlines.

For more information contact the College Board at 877-274-6474 or email [apexams@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:apexams@info.collegeboard.org).

*The cohort graduation index recognizes a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP<sup>®</sup> exam as one of the highest levels of achievement earned by a cohort graduate. Each student with at least one AP<sup>®</sup> score of 3 or higher will earn the maximum 150 points toward the graduation index. Students who take an AP course and associated exam and earn a 1 or 2 on an AP<sup>®</sup> exam will receive 110 points toward the graduation index.*

## **Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar**

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on **Thursday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices.

**Webinar Login Information:** (*\*No pre-registration required*)

- Meeting Name: **System Data Coordinator Webinar**
- Click [here](#) or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- *Select the "listen only mode."*

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT Coordinator's Portal under [Monthly DC Webinars](#) by Wednesday, May 4.

Please email [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## **Quarterly Home Study Reports**

**Please share this information with the Superintendent and Child Welfare/Attendance Office.**

The Quarterly Home Study Reports for April 2016 will be provided via FTP during the week of May 1 and will remain on the FTP until early June. A zipped file named, "LEACode\_LEA\_April2016QuarterlyHomeStudy," will be available on the Data Management FTP site (with usernames ending in @datamgmt).

Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Cover Letter
- Enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- List of students from your LEA enrolled in Home Study program
- Each student's home study approval notification letter

Please email [ldedata@la.gov](mailto:ldedata@la.gov) with questions regarding the FTP.

## **Finance**

### **FY16-17 MFP Appropriation**

**Please share with business managers.**

On April 14, 2016 the BESE-adopted MFP formula for 2016-2017 was deferred by the Senate Education Committee. For this reason, it is expected that the MFP formula for 2016-2017 will be a continuation of the formula used in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Additionally, it is unlikely funds will be provided to sustain the \$44M supplement that included supplemental course allocations (\$2.6M), teacher pay supplements (\$36M), and additional high cost services reimbursements (\$5.4M). The Department is providing several documents outlining the impact of a continuation formula that can be found at the links below or on the [Department website](#):

- A comparison of the BESE adopted formula for FY2016-2017 and the continuation of SCR 55 (2014) is provided [here](#).
- For city/parish school districts, a comparison of the FY2015-2016 formula and the FY2016-2017 continuation of SCR 55 (2014) is provided [here](#).
- For other public schools, a comparison of the FY2015-2016 formula and the FY2016-2017 continuation of SCR 55 (2014) is provided [here](#). If this becomes the actual formula for FY2016-2017, these projections will be finalized in June and will be updated with Level 4 data, student data for new schools and actual audit adjustment data.

## Grants Management

### **2016-2017SY eGrants - LEA Central Data**

The Louisiana Department of Education will release the **LEA Central Data** section of 2016-2017 eGrant the week of April 25, 2016. The LEA Central Data must be completed before any program applications can be started. The LEA Central Data includes the following:

- Key Planning Decisions (formerly Focus Areas)
  - School Leadership
  - Curriculum
  - Assessment
  - Professional Development
  - Early Childhood
  - High School
- Central Contacts and Program Contacts
- Common Assurances and Program Assurances

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

### **Indirect Cost Rates**

**Please share this with federal program directors, business managers and financial officials.**

The Department is in the process of re-negotiating Indirect Cost Rates (IDCs) with USDOE. In the meantime, the Department is loading the proposed IDC rates in eGMS for use with 2016-2017 grant applications. The 2016-2017 grant applications will not be released until all of the proposed IDC rates have been loaded into eGMS. The proposed rates are subject to final approval by USDOE. Once the IDC rates are officially approved by USDOE, the Department will post any necessary adjustments in eGMS.

Should you have questions regarding this information, please contact Sheila Guidry at [Sheila.Guidry@la.gov](mailto:Sheila.Guidry@la.gov) for further assistance.

### **2016-2017 SY eGrant Trainings**

The Louisiana Department of Education will provide a series of 2016-2017 eGrant Sessions for LEAs. These sessions are specific to Maintenance of Effort, Sole Source, Central Data, Math and Science Partnership, High Cost Services, IDEA

Consolidated, NCLB Consolidated, and Carl Perkins eGrant updates. Three Face-to-Face training opportunities will be offered for Business Managers, Charter Directors, and Federal Programs Directors [NCLB, IDEA and/or Perkins Directors] with *three (3) or less years' experience*. There will also be a webinar scheduled on **May 12** for all other directors and staff. Please see the [schedule](#) for times and locations. Participants must register on Coursewhere for the face-to-face trainings, as appropriate.

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

## Talent

### **Feedback Requested: Teacher Preparation Competencies**

**Please share with Chief Academic Officers, District-Level Supervisors, and School Leaders.**

Through the [Believe and Prepare pilot program](#), school systems and teacher preparation providers are developing and offering next-generation teacher preparation programs that prepare teachers for Louisiana's classrooms and meet schools' staffing needs.

Specifically, these pilots have focused on competency-based preparation experiences that develop essential teaching knowledge and skills through practice.

[These surveys](#) gather feedback on draft competencies for teacher preparation. These competencies are meant to identify essential teaching knowledge and skills that aspiring teachers should develop and master in order to receive a professional teaching license.

- General teacher preparation competencies, which include professionalism and serving students with exceptionalities
- English Language Arts and literacy teacher preparation competencies
- Math teacher preparation competencies
- Special education competencies

The surveys opened **today, Tuesday, April 26** and will close **Friday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m.**

District and school leaders' opinions are very important. Practicing educators have critical insight into the knowledge and skills that are most important for a new teacher's success in the first years of teaching.

Please contact [BelieveAndPrepare@LA.gov](mailto:BelieveAndPrepare@LA.gov) with any questions.

## Policy

### Update on ESSA

The ESSA Negotiated Rulemaking committee met for its third and final meeting last week and successfully reached consensus on Assessment regulations, but not those for Supplement, not Supplant. Assessment regulations included criteria states must use to define "severe cognitive disability," which must be based on both adaptive behavior and cognitive ability, and defined "nationally recognized high school academic assessment[s]," which include assessments administered in multiple states and used by post-secondary education institutions for acceptance or placement.

Assessment regulations will be placed in the Federal Register for public comment. Because consensus was not reached for Supplement, not Supplant regulations, the U.S. Department of Education will draft new regulations that are not required to include committee feedback. These regulations will undergo Congressional review before heading to the Federal Register.

To learn more, watch Alliance for Excellent Education's [Federal Flash 4/22/16: ESSA Road to Regulation Continues](#) video. While the U.S. Department of Education is still putting the finishing touches on the final proposed assessment regulations, the draft language used at the third meeting can be found [here](#).

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