

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



July 13, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

The last week has been difficult for anyone concerned with the promise of our country and the well being of its people. For all that remains to be learned about the events in Minnesota, Texas, and here in Baton Rouge, they have reminded us of deep wounds and persistent scars in the body of our nation.

We each likely have our own take on the conflicts of the last week and what they represent. I myself have struggled to arrive at conclusive lessons from the violence, fear, and anguish I have witnessed across the country and in my adopted home city.

Like you, I have the blessing of a daily vocation that allows me to imagine regularly a better world. So I find myself filtering thoughts, as I watch the news, read social media, and talk to friends and colleagues, through the lens of education.

I have thought more in recent days, for example, about what it means to be a good public servant. Law enforcement officers and professional educators share the immense weight of public expectations, even in times of strife - expectations of grace, compassion, patience, and wisdom.

I have thought also about the role of conflict and violence in our communities, especially its scarring effects on children. Now more than ever, we public servants can focus on making schools places of freedom in the truest sense: free of violence, free to discuss difficult subjects, free because of respect among children and adults alike.

And I have thought about race in America. Whatever is revealed by investigations in Baton Rouge and elsewhere, the events of the last week demonstrate the prominence of racial disparities in any assessment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in America today. Education is a fundamental and necessary element of those inalienable rights. So we public servants are called, in these times particularly, to re-examine whether at every stage of education, from child care through higher education, we can honestly assure families that neither race, nor neighborhood, nor family income, shall have a bearing on the opportunities afforded their children to grow and develop.

Though any search for answers will undoubtedly encounter complexity, and though we will not all arrive at common perspectives, we educators must consider recent events and the reactions of those we serve with a thoughtfulness befitting our profession. As public servants, our daily work is necessarily connected to both wounds in the body public and to the healing of those wounds. So let us recommit to a just and fair Louisiana, for public servants and the public alike, in this generation and for all to follow.

I look forward to learning your perspective and to conversations in the days ahead.

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

John

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District Support

Back-to-School Resources Released

The Department is committed to providing educators at each level of the education system—teachers, principals, and districts—with the [supports and resources](#) they need to continue raising the bar for students in Louisiana.

- The [2016-2017 Back-to-School Package](#) provides all educators with resources, tools, and support structures to support planning and instruction, goal-setting, assessments, and parent communications for the start of the 2016-2017 school year.
- The [Back-to-School Parent Night Presentation](#) is a customizable presentation that schools can use to provide parents with information on 2016-2017 academic goals, standards and instruction, and understanding student LEAP results.
- The [Parent Guide to the LEAP Student Reports](#) helps parents read and interpret the LEAP student reports, with accompanying online resources.
- The [Louisiana Student Standards Parent Guide](#) is an overview of what the Louisiana Student Standards are, how they were developed, and how they will impact student learning and assessments this school year.

Additional resources will be released the week of August 1, including the following:

- Teacher Guide to the LEAP Student Reports and Parent Conversation Guide
- New SPS and DPS presentations
- Guidance on alternate graduation pathways and seclusion for SPED students
- Compass guidance and resources

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

2016-2017 Teacher Leader Advisors Announced

Congratulations to all of the Louisiana educators who have been selected as [2016-2017 Teacher Leader Advisors](#)!

Local Louisiana educators play a critical role in creating tools and facilitating professional development for fellow Louisiana educators. Specifically, **Teacher Leader Advisors**

- **create** instructional and assessment resources, such as the ELA Guidebooks and EAGLE items;
- **participate** in the Department's Instructional Materials Review process; and
- **lead** sessions at the Teacher Leader Collaboration Events and the annual Teacher Leader Summit.

For more information about Teacher Leader Advisors, please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov.

Statewide ESSA Forums

Superintendent White will host a series of statewide forums this summer to discuss creating educational opportunities for students through the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). All district and school leaders and teachers are encouraged to attend these forums and share their feedback with the Department. A [schedule of forums around the state](#) is posted on the Department's website.

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Compass Tools and Support Available

The [Compass](#) tool supports teachers and principals in defining expectations for student learning and monitoring progress against those goals throughout the year. The Department supports this process through tools, resources, and trainings throughout the year.

- **New Evaluator Training:** All new evaluators must complete a training to be certified to complete Compass evaluations. This requirement can be met by attending Department-led trainings or those led by local education agencies.
 - Department-led trainings have been scheduled and are available to new evaluators or as an update for current school and district leaders. More information about these trainings, including dates and locations and registration, is available in [Coursewhere](#).
- **Compass End-of-Year Evaluations:** Results must be entered in [CIS](#) annually for all school leaders and teachers as defined by [Bulletin 130](#). Submission deadlines have been established for teachers and principals.
 - **Teachers:** August 15, 2016
 - **Principals:** August 15 or fall 2016
- The [Compass End-of-Year Webinar](#) provides information about the end-of-year Compass process, including roster verification and finalizing teacher evaluations and end-of-year conversations. A [recording of the webinar](#) is uploaded to the Department's [iTunesU account](#).

Email compass@la.gov for additional information or support.

Assessment & Accountability

2016 EOC and LEAP Science Results Released

The following 2016 assessment results have been released.

- **Spring 2016 LEAP (Science) Assessment Results:** The Spring 2016 LEAP science results are currently available in [eDirect](#). The release includes student reports, school rosters, and CSV files.
- **End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Results:** 2015-2016 summary results for EOC assessments will be available in the [EOC test system](#) by the end of this week.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

District Test Coordinator Reminders

This entry provides DTCs with reminders and updates related to testing.

- **EOC Rescore: July 22** is the last day to submit EOC rescore requests for the June 2016 administration. The Request for Rescoring form is available on the [EOC homepage](#), under the Test Coordinator Materials tab.
- **Individual Accommodation Plan:** The 2016 [revised Individual Accommodation Plan \(IAP\)](#) is available in the Assessment Library under the Assessment Accessibility + Accommodations section.
- **2016 Test Viewing:** In accordance with [House Resolution 195](#) of the Spring 2015 Legislative Session, parents may view their child's Spring 2016 assessments. [Test viewing](#) will take place over a 10-day period, after the release of grades 3-8 ELA and math results. Parents and guardians wishing to view a test should email assessment@la.gov.
- **Overview of 2016-2017 Summative Assessments:** The [Overview of 2016-2017 Summative Assessments](#) provides timelines for assessment changes and resource releases for both end-of-year (grades 3 through 8) and End-of-Course (high school) assessments in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Student Records Corrections in eDirect

The Department and DRC are hosting the Student Corrections System, an online cleanup, in [DRC eDirect](#) through July 14. This process will allow districts the opportunity to clean up student test records from Spring 2016 including grades 3 through 8 LEAP and iLEAP, ELDA, and LAA 1, including student demographic information and impending zeroes prior to the release of July assessment reports.

A user guide and directions for making corrections is posted in eDirect.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

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

The [CATE data system](#) will remain open through **Friday, July 29, 2016**, for LEAs/charters 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.

LEAs/charters should submit school and student-level information (e.g., Program Offerings, Articulated Credit Courses, State-Approved Skills Certificates, Individual Graduation Plan, Jump Start Internships, Work-based Learning Programs, School-based Enterprises, etc.). Additionally, the "ONLY" Industry-Based Certification (IBC) submission should be for students who took the assessment and didn't attain the IBC.

Prior to the close of CATE, LEAs/charters should ensure all Career and Technical Education (CTE) data is validated for accuracy. All data updates or corrections should be submitted through eScholar and/or the Student Transcript System (STS).

For additional information, please email [Martha Moore](#).

Data

Data Coordinator Customer Satisfaction Survey

An online [LDOE Data Systems Customer Satisfaction Survey](#) is **now available** for LEA data coordinators involved in the submission of data to the Department's data systems (SIS, STS, PEP, SER, Unique ID assignment, and eScholar Customer Support). This survey will measure how satisfied LEA personnel are with the support received from LDOE system staff.

LEA personnel who contact LDOE or eScholar staff for support in preparing, submitting, or correcting data are encouraged to complete the [survey](#) by **Friday, July 22, 2016**.

Email LDEData@la.gov with questions or for more information.

Assessment Resources

The information below includes details about testing materials and resources LEAs may use to support assessment preparation.

ACT Billing Rosters

Districts should have already received invoices and student rosters, per the ACT Memorandum of Understanding, for the following students who participated in ACT testing:

- **ACT:** All grade 12 students with an ACT score and were retested in the spring
- **Explore:** All students participating in testing
- **WorkKeys testing and certificates:**
 - Grade 11 students not on a career diploma pathway
 - All grade 12 students

The Department will place student rosters on the district secure FTP under the filenames described below.

- **ACT:** LEACode_LEAName_2016_ACT_Billing_Student Rosters
- **Explore:** LEACode_LEAName_2016_Explore_Billing_Student Rosters
- **WorkKeys testing and certificates:** LEACode_LEAName_2016_WorkKeys_Billing_Student Rosters

Districts should remit payment to the Department no later than July 15, 2016.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Grants Management

2016 School Improvement Grant Application Process Deadline Extended

School Improvement Grants provide Louisiana school districts with the opportunity to transform their poorest performing schools. In order to support districts in crafting high-quality school improvement plans, the Department has extended the School Improvement Grant application deadline to **Monday, August 22, at 3 p.m.**

BESE will allocate School Improvement Grant funds at the October state board meeting. LEAs that receive funds in October may use the 2016-2017 school year as a planning year and begin full SIG implementation in the 2017-2018 school year.

The Department's [School Improvement Grant webpage](#) includes resources for LEAs writing School Improvement Grants, including the SIG eligibility list, the Department's SIG webinar presentation, and federal SIG guidance.

For further information, please contact [David Shepard](#).

2016-2017 Grant Applications Releases

Please forward this item to federal program directors, business managers and financial officials.

The 2016-2017 applications for the following programs are released and ready for original application submission:

- Early Childhood Consolidated (LA4)
- Assistive Technology (LATI)
- Positive Behavior Support (PBIS)
- State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)

Original applications should be submitted by **August 15, 2016**. For further information, email [Randy Littleton](#).

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