

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



July 19, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

The annual reporting of state assessment results offers an opportunity for educators and parents to take stock of progress made, to examine learning yet to be achieved, and to plan for the future. Parents will be able to review results with teachers as their children come back to school. Teachers will review results in analyzing student need and in setting goals for the year to come. Administrators will look across entire schools and districts to gauge progress achieved and to strategize for the future.

At the state level, policymakers will use this year's assessment results to inform our multi-year "baseline" assessment of student performance in Louisiana, analyzing the extent to which students' skills put them on a path to readiness for education after high school. Having established that baseline assessment in 2017, the state will pursue a means of evaluating schools and districts that reflects college and career ambitions for students. By 2025, schools achieving a rating of "A" will average student performance indicating full readiness for the next level of education.

As part of this transition to expectations of readiness for the next level of learning, Louisiana started in 2013 providing all 11th graders the opportunity to take the ACT free of charge. Students demonstrating readiness for the next level of education not only increase their chances of admission to academic and workforce training programs but also increase their ability to fund those choices. Later this week you will receive your district's preliminary ACT average composite score, showing the average score for every public school student's best attempt. Roughly two weeks later, having already received LEAP science results, you will receive LEAP English and math results.

It is important we continue to streamline state and local testing. English and math LEAP assessments administered in 2016 reduced time spent taking tests by 38 percent. Districts across the state are cataloging their own vendor-made, district-made, or teacher-made assessments to determine what truly is essential and what is not.

Just as important is that we use the information we do have on student skills responsibly and thoroughly. The weeks and months ahead will present many opportunities to evaluate student need, set goals, and create plans, all backed by data that can inform our ability to meet the individual needs of students. I look forward to celebrating all successes, to taking a hard look at all struggles, and to going back to school armed with information that can help students and educators overcome challenges ahead.

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

John

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Louisiana Department of Education
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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.

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 be aware the location for the Wednesday, July 27, meeting in Alexandria has been changed.

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 System Maintenance:** Maintenance to the EOC system has been **rescheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2016**. School systems will not be able to access the EOC system on this date.
- **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.
- **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.

High School Opportunities

Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) New Specialist Training

All new JAG-LA specialists are required to attend one of the two training opportunities listed below. Participants are asked to register on [Solutionwhere](#). New JAG-LA specialists for Multi-Year and Out-of-School may select either training location, however, all middle school specialists must attend the training in Alexandria in August. For questions regarding registration, please email [Renee Montgomery](#).

Note: All Middle School Specialists must attend the new specialist training held in Alexandria.

- **Baton Rouge:** Tuesday-Thursday, July 26-28
- **Alexandria:** Tuesday-Thursday, August 2-4

Course Choice 2016-2017 Registration Webinar

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers. These course offerings will enable schools to provide courses not currently available to their students, including:

- Career and technical preparation, supporting the Jump Start program;
- Academic work required to achieve TOPS;
- Advanced course work not available at the school due to limited resources;
- Dual Enrollment; and
- Intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation.

New for 2016-2017, schools will register students directly with the Course Provider. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered with the Course Providers, schools should document enrollments in the [Course Choice Registration system](#).

Informational webinars on usage of the new Course Choice Registration System will be held. School administrators, professional school counselors, and district staff are encouraged to participate in one of the three scheduled dates.

- **Wednesday, July 27:** 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Wednesday, August 3:** 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Wednesday, August 10:** 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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

- *Meeting Name: Course Choice Registration System*
- *To join the meeting go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ccr1/>*
- *Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name***
- *Audio access: 1-800-832-0736; room number: 1053465*

TOPS Funding Update

The annual TOPS Award Amount is the total amount TOPS would pay for a student if TOPS was fully funded for the 2016-2017 academic year. The [pro-rata amount](#) for the fall semester is the maximum amount that will be paid for a student's TOPS Award in the fall semester of 2016.

At this time, the winter/spring pro-rata amounts are estimated. The maximum amount that will be paid for TOPS in the winter quarter and spring semester/quarter will be revised based on actual billing numbers for fall received by October 14 deadline.

The re-calculated pro-rata amounts will be available by November 1. Actual amounts payable for winter/spring are subject to appropriation and funding received.

For more information, please visit www.osfa.la.gov.

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.

Finance

Accountability for Weighted Student Funds in the MFP

Please forward to business managers.

R.S. 17:7(2)(f)(i) provides for the accountability for weighted student funds included in the MFP. Per R.S.17:7(2)(f)(i), city, parish and other local public school districts, RSD schools, LSU and Southern Lab schools, LSMSA, NOCCA and Type 2 and Type 3B charter schools are required to expend funds generated by applying the weighted factors contained in the formula for low income students, career and technical education course units, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students on items that serve the unique needs of students who generate such funds. Funds must be expended on the following items:

- Personnel
- Professional Services
- Instructional Materials
- Equipment
- Supplies

The following items are attached for your reference:

- [FY2016-2017 Weighted Calculations - City-Parish LEAs](#)
- [FY2016-2017 Weighted Calculations - Charters and Other Public Schools](#)
- [AFR Reporting Details](#) (Contains clarification on reporting specifics for each weight as it pertains to the AFR.)

If you have any questions or need further information, please email [Kristen Smith](#).

USDA Required School Lunch Match

Please forward to business managers.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that districts and schools participating in the School Lunch Program contribute a portion of their state funds to the operation of this program. The contribution required of districts and schools must be supported by the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) allocations. This [memo](#) and [spreadsheet](#) provide details regarding each district's and school's required school lunch amount for FY2016-2017.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email [Melanie Ruiz](#).

FY2016-2017 General Fund Budget

Please forward to business managers and financial officials.

Louisiana R.S. 17:88 requires district school boards to adopt, no later than September 15, a budget of expected revenues and probable expenditures for the year and submit copies of the budget to the State Superintendent of Education for review and approval. The following items outline the General Fund Budget requirements and collection process:

- [FY2016-2017 General Fund Budget - memo](#)
- [Instructions and Signature Sheet](#)
- [FY2016-2017 General Fund Budget - Form A](#)
- [Steps for Budget Adoption](#) (Legislative Auditor document for reference)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please e-mail [Kristen Smith](#).

Policy

Sports Medicine Policies and Supports

With the 2016-2017 school year soon beginning in the heat of summer, the Louisiana Athletic Trainers' Association (LATA) is offering to partner with local school systems around the state to review school sports injury management policies and practices in an effort to keep student safe and healthy as they engage in team sports and other physical activities. [BESE Bulletin 135](#) contains regulations aligned to state law (R.S. 40:1087.1) regarding youth sports injuries and comprehensive sports injury management programs, which include concussion management, heat stress, return to play, and much more. For assistance, please contact [LATA President Scott Arceneaux](#).

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](#).

Other

U.S. Department of Education Releases Newcomer Toolkit

The U.S. Department of Education's has released its [Newcomer Toolkit](#) designed to help schools support immigrants, refugees, and their families with a successful integration process. This [toolkit](#) provides information, resources and examples of effective practices that educators can use to support newcomers in our schools and communities.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application

Applications for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the 2016-2017 School Year are now available for School Food Authorities to open, complete, and submit online through the [Child Nutrition Program website](#). Applications must be completed and submitted by August 4, 2016. Please refer to the [Application Instructions and Certification Signature Page](#) for more information.

Department Announces 2017 State Teacher and Principal of the Year

On Saturday, July 15, 2016, the Department celebrated the 2017 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists and semi-finalists at the 10th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Symposium and Celebration. On this evening, the grade-level and statewide winners were also named.

2017 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

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