

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



August 9, 2016

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that your school year is off to a good start. There is no time like the first week of school.

We started the week by announcing positive results from the spring. This year, Louisiana students earned 845 more AP credits than last year. Over the last four years, the number of credits earned annually has more than doubled. Students taking dual enrollment courses and then validating their achievement through CLEP tests also saw record gains; the number of CLEP credits earned in Louisiana more than doubled this year alone. To find more about AP and CLEP gains, please read our [news release](#).

The first weeks of school create an opportunity to put last year's results to work for students in the year to come. Embedded in the results is information about each student's strengths and weaknesses that can assist both teachers and parents in helping children to grow this year.

In the weeks to come, schools across the state will host parent events or back-to-school nights. Schools and teachers alike can use these opportunities to share with parents their children's [2016 LEAP reports](#). Using this [presentation](#), they can provide parents an overview as to what is contained in the report, and using this [guide](#), they can host individual conversations about the reports and the results they contain.

Tests are meant to provide a snapshot. They do not tell the whole story, but they provide important and objective evidence that can be used to identify challenges and to plan for overcoming those challenges. A good start to the year, therefore, involves identifying how students ended last year and what goals they and their parents have for the year to come. I wish you luck in laying that important foundation, and I look forward to more positive results in the year to come.

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

**John**

John White  
Louisiana Department of Education  
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

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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

### **Superintendents' Conference Call**

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on Wednesday, August 17, at 10:30 a.m. CST. You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below:

To join the Superintendents' Wednesday, August 17, 2016 Meeting:

1. Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
2. Dial into the Phone Bridge: (866) 793-1343
3. When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # 1675111
4. You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

### **New and Improved ELA Guidebooks 2.0**

[ELA Guidebooks 2.0](#) is an English language arts curriculum for whole-class instruction. Made by teachers for teachers, the guidebook units ensure all students can read, understand, and express their understanding of complex, grade-level texts.

Each ELA Guidebooks 2.0 unit comes with three unit assessments and approximately 40 classroom-ready daily lessons on an online platform. The lessons include everything a teacher needs to teach. Teachers can focus on adjusting the lesson supports so all students meet the lesson and unit assessment goals, instead of spending time finding something to teach.

The Department released the [ELA Guidebooks 2.0](#) in June and has added more resources over the summer:

- Updated [ELA Guidebooks 2.0 webpage](#)
- [More units available](#) at each grade level
- Downloadable [student materials](#) for each unit
- Short informational videos for each grade level
  - [Overview](#)
  - Videos for standards, texts, assessments, and lessons are coming soon!

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

### **New Back-to-School Resources Released**

**Please share these resources with principals and teachers.**

The Department has updated the [2016-2017 Back-to-School package](#) to include newly released resources such as:

- [Teacher Guide to LEAP Results](#): guidance for teachers on how to interpret the 2016 LEAP student reports, and available resources to support adjustments to instruction.
- [Parent Conversation Guide to 2016 LEAP Results](#): quick guide to support teachers in preparing for parent conferences regarding the 2016 LEAP results.
- [2016-2017 Month-by-Month Assessment Checklist](#): identifies key dates, action steps, and resource for the 2016-2017 assessment administrations.
- [Digital Literacy Guide](#): guide for teachers in supporting students' use of technology in the classroom

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

## Compass EOY Deadline and Support

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The following are tools to support closing out 2015-2016 and conducting 2016-2017 Compass evaluations.

- **Compass end-of-year evaluation results** must be entered in [CIS](#) annually for all school leaders and teachers as defined by [Bulletin 130](#). The [Compass End-of-Year Webinar](#) provides information on finalizing teacher evaluations and end-of-year conversations. Submission deadlines have been established for teachers and principals.
  - **Teachers:** August 15, 2016
  - **Principals:** August 15 (via CIS entry or upload) or December 30 (via CIS upload only)
- **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. Please visit [Coursewhere](#) for more information and to [register](#).
- **Goal-Setting Resources:** With the start of the 2016-2017 school year, principals and teachers will begin setting rigorous goals for student learning. The following tools are available to support them in this process.
  - [Teacher Goal Setting Resources](#)
  - [Principal Goal-Setting Resources](#)

Email [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) for additional information or support.

## Assessment & Accountability

### District Test Coordinator Reminders

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

- **LEAP Online Tools Trainings (OTT):** LEAP OTTs are available in INSIGHT and [here](#) using the Chrome browser. DTCs should share this resource with principals and teachers. Students and teachers should utilize the OTTs this fall prior to engaging in online tests to become familiar with online testing tools.
- **2016-2017 Month-by-Month Checklist:** The [2016-2017 Month-by-Month Checklist](#) is available in the [Assessment Library](#). The checklist includes key activities and dates related to testing throughout the school year. Please review and share this document with district staff.
- **2016-2017 Assessment Guides:** Grades 3-8 Social Studies and End-of-Course Biology and US History Assessment Guides are now available on the [Assessment Guidance](#) page. Timing information and a complete administration schedule will be provided in a September update to the grades 3-8 social studies guides.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with any questions.

### Assessment Data Certification

Annually, school systems have the opportunity to certify and make changes to assessment data to ensure its accuracy prior to the calculation of school performance scores (SPS). To facilitate this process, LA Data Review is now open for accountability contacts to review and request changes to student scores in the system, prior to SPS scores being released.

Accountability contacts received an email with user ID/password information and user guides.

- **ACT, DCAI, and high school progress points:** LA Data Review **opened August 1** for accountability contacts to review of ACT<sup>®</sup> scores, DCAI points, and high school progress points. Requests for change should be submitted no later than August 12.
- **Assessment rosters:** Assessment rosters will be available for accountability contacts to review in LA Data Review the **week of August 16**.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with any questions.

## High School Opportunities

### NCCER Webinar and Registry Update - For CTE Supervisors & School Administrators

The Office of Student Opportunities will host a webinar for CTE Supervisors and school administrators to review NCCER Guidelines for the 2016-2017 school year. The webinar will also review the following: District Assurance Letter, Instructor requirements, Department processes, "Helper" Pathways, and Registry update. There will also be time for Q & A.

The [NCCER CTE Supervisor & School Administrator Webinar](#) will take place Tuesday, August 30, 2016, from 10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

NCCER has updated their registry system. All NCCER instructors must log into the [new registry system](#) and familiarize themselves with the new format to submit module completion. If assistance is needed, contact [NCCER Support](#)

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

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

- **Meeting Name:** NCCER CTE Supervisor & School Administrator Webinar
- **Webinar Link:** [https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccer\\_cte\\_2016/](https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccer_cte_2016/)
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**

## **2015-2016 Advanced Placement Results Released**

The Department released [district- and school-level AP exam results](#) Monday, August 8. Additionally, district level counts and percentages of students taking AP exams by exam title was released via the Data Management secure FTP. These files will be available on the FTP until September 5, 2016, with the filename "LEACode\_LEAName\_2016\_APStudentsbyExamTitle."

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

## **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, August 10: 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

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

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

# Data

## **Audit Assurances FY 2015-2016**

The Audit Assurances packet is now available on the [INSIGHT Portal](#) under Announcements. This packet contains information used to facilitate improvement in the data collection and reporting procedures during LEAs annual financial audit. **LEAs should download the packet and provide to the appropriate audit staff.**

In order to better assist LEAs in this process, the Department has added documentation/reports for various audit assurance schedules which will be available on the data management FTP site now through December 2, 2016. The filename is "LEACode\_LEAName\_2015\_Assurance Schedules.zip." Contact information for each schedule is included in the packet.

## **Data Sharing Agreements and Addenda Updates**

Pursuant to R.S. 17:3914, LEAs and charters must have a contract or data sharing agreement in place with private vendors that deliver services in order to share personally identifiable student data. Many LEAs and charters have already submitted addenda to become party to our existing data sharing agreements during the 2015-2016 school year. **In preparation for the 2016-2017 school year, the Department has prepared [guidance and next steps](#) regarding previously established MOUs and addenda.**

To verify which agreements LEAs and charters have already opted into, please review the [tracking chart](#). The tracking chart is

updated weekly as additional addenda are submitted to the Department.

**UPDATE: The contract with Pacific Metrics** for the purpose of providing services related to the online formative assessment system, EAGLE, has ended; therefore, the Department **has terminated** the corresponding data-sharing agreement with Pacific Metrics. This announcement is notification to LEAs who opted into the agreement of this termination.

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

## Finance

### **Audit Assurances FY2015-2016**

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In order to better assist LEAs in this process, the Department has added documentation/reports for various audit assurance schedules which will be available on the data management FTP site beginning August 2, 2016, through December 2, 2016. The filename is "LEACode\_LEAName\_2015\_Assurance Schedules.zip." Contact information for each schedule is included in the packet.

## Policy

### **USDOE Releases Guidance on ADHD Students and Homeless Students related to ESSA**

The U.S. Department of Education released guidance last week on two topics as they relate to ESSA: [Students with ADHD](#) and [Homeless Students](#). The Department also released a [fact sheet](#) on homeless students. Education Week has summaries of the students with [ADHD guidance](#) and of the [homeless student guidance](#).

## Special Education

### **USDOE Releases Guidance to Schools on Ensuring Equity and Providing Behavioral Supports for Students with Disabilities**

The U.S. Department of Education released last week a significant guidance document in the form of a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) emphasizing the requirement schools provide positive behavioral supports to students with disabilities who need them. It also clarifies the repeated use of disciplinary actions may suggest many children with disabilities may not be receiving appropriate behavioral interventions and supports. The guidance and accompanying resources for teachers, school leaders, and stakeholders can be found on the [Rethinking Discipline website](#).

### **Scholarships for Teachers Pursuing Certification in Blind/Visually Impaired**

Through a federal grant from the Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana Tech University will be offering financial support for individuals who wish to complete coursework and training to become certified in the state as a teacher of the Blind/Visually Impaired. Most coursework can be completed online. Classes begin September 7. To be considered, the application process can be found in the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness [informational document](#).

For more information, please email [Dr. Edward Bell](#) or call 318-257-4554.

### **Lighthouse Louisiana Offering Educational Interpreter Mentoring for 2016-2017**

Through a federal grant from the Department, Lighthouse Louisiana will be providing structured mentoring to develop the skills of educational interpreters working in K-12 settings in fourteen school districts across southeast Louisiana. [Applications](#) are due August 15.

For more information, please email [Nicky Gillies](#), Director of Deaf Services.

## Other

### **2016-2017 Child Nutrition Program Administrative Review Schedule**

As part of the Louisiana Department of Education's USDA Child Nutrition Program monitoring, we are announcing the [Annual Administrative Review Schedule](#) for the 2016-2017 school year.

Each school system's Child Nutrition Supervisor will be contacted by the Administrative Review Team leader designated by the Department.

## **2017 U.S. Senate Youth Program Application**

**Please share with principals.**

The Louisiana Department of Education and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation are pleased to announce the launch of the 2017 United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to spend a week in Washington, D.C. in March of 2017 and will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Hearst Foundation.

The Department encourages principals to distribute [national program brochure](#) and the [logistics memo](#) which includes the application and selection procedures to juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups. View the [Hearst Foundation news release](#) for more information.

**The names of the students selected and their application portfolios must be submitted to [Marian Johnson](#) no later October 7, 2017.** Finalists will be notified by October 24.

Please contact [Marian Johnson](#), Program Coordinator, with questions.

### LDOE Contacts

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### LDOE Links

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