

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 20, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Our profession is under significant strain. As school systems across the country rebound from the [global recession and staff reductions](#) of 2009 and the years that followed, more positions become available, but qualified staff is hard to find. Studies also show that while compensation for workers with bachelor's degrees continues to grow, [compensation for educators](#) remains stagnant. These are not Louisiana-specific issues; they are American issues.

But these issues have an effect on Louisiana's children. Retaining teachers remains a challenge, especially in low-income communities. Shortages abound in the hardest-to-staff subject areas. Nearly one in four subject-area courses taught to students with disabilities in our state is taught by a teacher without an academic background in that subject area.

The causes behind these problems are complex. But there are steps we can take together to make teaching the most exciting and sustainable profession it can be, and to give teachers a professional path that sustains their work for the duration of their careers.

In 2014, our state launched [Believe and Prepare](#), then a pilot initiative, to provide aspiring teachers with classroom-based residencies, not unlike the residencies undertaken by aspiring physicians, nurses, and architects. To do this, these pilots created a new class of "mentor teachers" who oversaw the residents, an opportunity for effective, veteran educators to take responsibility for nurturing the next generation. In the three school years since, hundreds of mentors and residents have created a community of educators systematizing the professional educator pathway.

In October, BESE will consider policies that will expand this pathway statewide over the next six years, providing undergraduate and alternative programs unprecedented flexibility in designing a professional program that meets the needs of aspiring teachers. Over the last three months in particular, BESE, the Board of Regents, and Department of Education, colleges of education, and colleges' partner districts and schools have engaged in a study of the costs of transitioning to the professional residency model. This study arrived at a minimum formula and a funding proposal that repurposes previous Believe and Prepare dollars and that supports the mentor and resident roles over the course of the transition period:

- Undergraduate programs will have funds to staff a residency coordinator.
- Mentor teachers will receive a minimum annual stipend of \$1,000, tripling the maximum stipends given to teachers who host student teachers today. Mentors will also be evaluated annually based on a system specific to their unique role.
- Residents will receive a minimum annual stipend of \$2,000, covering incurred transportation or defrayed part-time wage cost.

The state will also fund statewide training for mentors and a "high-cost pool" for funding needs that cannot be captured in a formula. Once these issues of program design and funding support have been addressed, BESE, the Board of Regents, and the Department will convene a working group to consider the criteria for these programs' ongoing approval, a system of measurement and accountability, and plan for data collection and research needs.

Our profession must be strong if we are to continue making progress with students, especially those who need a good education the most. Professionalizing our profession's preparation system and career pathways is a significant step. I look forward to seeing it happen in your parishes, communities, and schools.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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District Support

2016-2017 Compass Action Steps and Tools

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The following tools are available to support Compass for the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year:

2016-2017 Goal-Setting

- District and school leaders can begin:
 - working with teachers, counselors and librarians to set student learning targets (SLTs);
 - reviewing and accepting SLTs in CIS; and
 - monitoring SLT completion.

Resources

- [Teacher Goal-Setting Resources](#)
- [Principal Goal-Setting Resources](#)
- [Louisiana Principal's Teaching and Learning Guidebook](#): supports the goal-setting process and includes detailed examples of how goal setting connects to principals' work as instructional leaders.

Observation and feedback:

- **Alternative Evaluation Rubric:** LEAs choosing to use alternative evaluation rubrics as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for public schoolteachers for 2016-2017 must complete the [Alternative Evaluation Rubric Waiver](#) and email it to compass@la.gov by **October 4, 2016**.
- **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. To attend a Department-led training, check availability and register in [Coursewhere](#).

Evaluations:

- [2016-2017 CIS/CVR User Guide](#): This document provides technical guidance to operate all systems related to Compass evaluations including CIS and CVR.

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

Assessment & Accountability

District Test Coordinator Reminders

This section provides LEAs with reminders and updates on information related to testing. **Please share with District Test and Technology Coordinators and Data Managers.**

Assessment Administration Support:

- **Weekly Office Hours:** Held each **Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.**
 - Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
 - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
 - Call-In Information: (646) 307-1380, meeting room # 951155484
- **EAGLE and EOC Training:** The Department will host hands-on EAGLE EOC training for district test and technology coordinators in early October. These trainings will be posted in [Coursewhere](#). Participants may sign up for either a morning or afternoon session.
 - Monroe: October 6
 - Bossier: October 7
 - Jefferson Davis: October 10
 - Rapides: October 11
 - Baton Rouge: October 18
 - Jefferson: October 20
- **ACT/WorkKeys Training:**
 - [ACT and WorkKeys training videos](#) are now available
 - Register and attend [WorkKeys Test Administration Training for Online Testing Webinar](#) presented by ACT September 22 and 26

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

K-3 Literacy Assessment Reporting

Please Share with District Test Coordinators, Security Coordinators, and K-3 ELA/Reading Supervisors.

All LEAs are required to report beginning of the year K-3 screening assessment results **by September 30, 2016**, using this [form](#). The completed form(s) should then be placed into the district Data Management folder on the [FTP Server](#). Contact your district security coordinator for access to the folder, if necessary.

All information, including steps on administering, scoring and reporting, can be found above Table 1 in the [K-3 Literacy Assessment Guidance](#).

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

AP Course Audit Webinar

To support AP[®] programs statewide, the Department will host a webinar providing AP[®] teachers and administrators with clear guidelines on building and sustaining an AP[®] program as well as curricular and resource requirements that must be in place for

AP[®] courses. Teachers of AP[®] courses, whether for the first time or as a refresher course, are invited to participate.

Teachers and administrators are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- **Thursday, September 29, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, October 6, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

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

- Meeting Name: AP Course Audit Process
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/apcourseaudit/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Audio access: (855)240-2575 / participant code: 38582295

For more information, please email CollegeReadiness@la.gov.

2016 LOSFA Professional School Counselor Webinars

The 2016 LOSFA School Counselor Workshops will be presented in two separate webinars.

The first webinar will cover program and legislative updates, program rule changes, and an overview of LOSFA's expanded outreach services.

The dates and times for the webinars are:

- **Tuesday, September 27, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**
- **Wednesday, September 28, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

The second webinar will feature a review of LOSFA administered programs, including a detailed review of TOPS requirements and eligibility processing issues.

The dates and times for the webinars are:

- **Tuesday, September 27, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

You can now [register](#) for one or both webinars. Once registered, each registrant will receive a link for the webinar(s). After the webinars have been presented, all materials will be available on the website.

Please share with other counselors that may not have received this e-mail.

Course Choice Enrollment Deadline

Course Choice, funded through the Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA), will provide 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 coursework not available at the school due to limited resources
- Dual Enrollment
- 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 Registrations system](#).

The deadline to report enrollments is **Monday, September 26, 2016, 5:00 p.m.** Please address any questions to sca@la.gov.

EDGAR (Carl Perkins) Fall Professional Development

Please share this information with CTE Supervisors and Secondary School Administrators.

Louisiana Department of Education and Louisiana Community & Technical College System will host the EDGAR (Carl Perkins) Fall Professional Development for CTE Supervisors and secondary Finance staff. The training is scheduled for **Thursday, October 27, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** at the West Baton Rouge Conference Center (2750 North Westport Drive - Port Allen, LA 70767). The agenda and materials will be provided prior to the event.

Please [register](#) to attend. You may contact JumpStart@la.gov with questions.

2016 Department Counselor Collaboratives

The 2016 Counselor Collaboratives scheduled below will focus on financial aid access for all students and implementing appropriate student graduation pathways. Counselors are encouraged to attend a collaborative in their area; however, they may attend a collaborative outside their area if necessary.

Participants are asked to register on [Coursewhere](#). For questions regarding registration, please email JumpStart@la.gov.

Date	Network	Location	Time
October 4	C	Louisiana School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge	9:00 a.m.
October 6	C	Treen Center, 2024 Livingston Street, Mandeville	9:00 a.m.
October 11	B	Acadia Instructional Center, 2124 North	9:00 a.m.

October 11	B	Acadia Instructional Center, 2121 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley	9:00 a.m.
October 12	B	Terrebone Parish Library, 4130 West Park Avenue, Gray	9:00 a.m.
October 17	A	Bossier Instructional Center, 2719 Airline Drive, Bossier City	1:00 p.m.
October 18	A	Natchitoches Parish Media Center, 310 Royal Street, Natchitoches	1:00 p.m.
October 19	A	Ouachita Parish Student Support Services, 800 Claiborne Street, West Monroe	1:00 p.m.
October 20	A	Avoyelles Parish Media Center, 136 S. Fair Street, Marksville	1:00 p.m.

Data

2016 ACT PLAN Letters

Please forward to all FTP Coordinators and Secondary Directors and/or Coordinators.

The Department will provide each LEA with a template and guidance for generating a set of ACT PLAN letters for dissemination to 11th grade students and parents. **These files, titled LEAcode_LEAname_2016_ACTPLANLetters, will be available via the Data Management FTP on September 20 and available through October 21.** FTP coordinators should share these files with Secondary Directors and/or Coordinators.

ACT PLAN letters highlight individual student's Advanced Placement potential and/or student's career interest aligned with Jump Start career pathways. These letters are developed based on student performance on the PLAN assessment as well as student responses to the career World of Work inventory.

For additional information, please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov. For FTP issues, contact SystemSupport@la.gov.

OTS Scheduled Maintenance

Please forward to all Data Coordinators.

OTS will be down on **Friday, September 23** for the Onbase webserver upgrade. For instructions on the system post upgrade, please see the INSIGHT Coordinator's Portal.

For additional information, please contact SystemSupport@la.gov.

Grants Management

Title I, Part A - Annual Comparability Report 2016-2017 SY

The Louisiana Department of Education will release the **Title I Comparability** section of the 2016-2017SY eGrant this week.

Title I - Comparability requires that local education agencies (LEAs) be able to document that the services provided with state and local funds in Title I schools are comparable to those provided in non-Title I schools in the district or are substantially comparable for districts with all Title I schools. LEAs with one school per grade span do not need to submit a 2016-2017 Title I Comparability report. Also, single charter LEAs (Type 2, 5, and 3B) are exempt from submitting the report. If you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact [Madeline Swift](mailto:Madeline.Swift@la.gov).

To further assist in the completion of the report please see the [Comparability FAQs](#). Submit the on-line Comparability Report by **Friday, October 7, 2016**.

Special Education

AEPSi™ Webinars for Administrators

Early Childhood Special Education Supervisors are invited to participate in two webinars, hosted by Brookes Publishing Company, on the administration and reporting of the Assessment Evaluation and Programming System Interactive (AEPSi™), a tool Louisiana uses to measure outcomes for children ages 3-5 with disabilities.

- Webinar 1: Introduction to AEPSi™ for Administrators
- **September 28 at 10:00 a.m.**
- Click [here](#) to register

- Webinar 2: OSEP Reporting with AEPSi™
- **September 30 at 1:00 p.m.**
- Click [here](#) to register

Please email [Patsy Palmer](#) with questions.

Other

Flood Relief Assistance from the Red Cross

The American Red Cross has begun recovery efforts and limited financial assistance to help Louisiana flood victims. Financial assistance is available for those who do not qualify for federal disaster assistance and have had major damage to their homes due to the recent flooding. Persons who meet the qualifications would be eligible for \$125 per person to support recovery efforts.

The Red Cross will also help create recovery plans and locate assistance from other agencies to help get families back on their feet. If your staff members or your students and their families need assistance, they can register [online](#) or call 855-224-2490.

Click [here](#) to read the press release on Louisiana flood assistance from the American Red Cross and to learn more about their recovery efforts. The American Red Cross also has printed fliers that can be delivered to your school for dissemination.

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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