

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



October 4, 2016

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I was pleased to [announce Friday](#) that Louisiana has been awarded a five-year, \$67 million grant from the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF), a national competition authorized by Congress.

Of 13 awardees nationwide, the Louisiana Department of Education is the only state agency to receive the award - others were non-profits and districts - and is the largest recipient. Notably, two other groups won grants to do work in Louisiana schools, [New Schools for New Orleans](#) and the [National Institute for Excellence in Teaching](#), which supports the TAP model. All told, Louisiana schools will benefit from \$128 million as a result of this grant.

Specifically, funds from the Department's grant will be dedicated to teacher residents, teacher mentors, and teacher preparation, as well as compensation incentives for educators at all levels, in rural parishes that chose to participate in the grant. All districts and charter schools eligible for Rural Education Education Achievement Program (REAP) funds were eligible to apply. You can find a list of participating districts in the [Department's media release](#).

Statewide funds will also go toward developing and implementing standards-aligned formative assessments that teachers use to set goals annually and to monitor student skills. Using these formative assessment instruments well will necessitate a careful look at any and all misaligned or particularly time-intensive assessments administered locally. We will provide further detail shortly on the timeline for availability of these formative instruments, and we look forward to supporting you in a close examination of locally administered tests.

The TIF award comes as schools across the state will be moving toward a deeper model of educator preparation and mentorship. This is not an easy shift, particularly in rural communities not as easily accessed by teacher candidates. But schools across our state are [proving it is possible](#), and this national award validates the quality and importance of our work together.

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

**John**

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

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LEA CALENDAR EVENTS

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## District Support

### Superintendent's Conference Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Monday, October 10, at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the Superintendents' Conference Call on October 10 please see the webinar information below:

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

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: (866) 244-4518
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # 1676557
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting

### October District Planning Call

This October district planning call is scheduled for tomorrow, **Wednesday, October 5, from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.** Click [here](#) to **view the presentation.**

The following district supervisors should attend:

- Chief Academic Officers
- Compass
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Assessment and Accountability
- Early Childhood
- High School
- Career and Technical Education
- Principal and Teacher Leader

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

- Meeting Name: October District Planning Call
- Click here to join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Call-In Information: (646) 307-1380; meeting room #951154160

Email [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) if you have any questions.

## **Principal Town Hall Meeting on ESSA**

**Please share with principals.**

Superintendent White will host a live Principal Town Hall meeting on **Monday, October 10 from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.** to discuss the proposed challenges and solutions outlined in the state's draft ESSA framework. Click [here](#) to join the meeting. Principals may submit questions to Superintendent White during the town hall meeting through [essalouisiana@la.gov](mailto:essalouisiana@la.gov).

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

## **Updated 2016-2017 District Support Calendar**

The Department has released an updated [2016-2017 District Support Calendar](#). All new additions or revisions are highlighted in yellow so districts can easily identify these changes:

- Addition of Education Technology Monthly calls
- Updated Science Standards Review meeting dates
- Addition of October Counselor Collaborations

Please email [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) with questions related to this calendar.

## **District Points of Contact**

Networks teams are currently working with district staff to update the [district point of contact list](#). Please review your district's contacts and work with your Network team to **make all updates by October 15**. Email your network leader or coach with questions.

## **Building Digital Literacy**

**Please share with Chief Academic Officers and principals.**

Digital literacy is the ability to use technology to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information. The [Guide to Digital Literacy](#) presents guidelines for teachers as they support their students in learning to use technology.

Participants in the September supervisor collaborations were able to participate in a session that focused on building digital literacy. This [presentation](#) is now available and includes guiding questions and resources for leaders as they support their teachers in authentically incorporating technology into instruction.

Upcoming related resources include:

- Digital Literacy at a Glance for Leaders (*coming in early October*)
- Example Parent Communications (*coming in November*)
- Education Technology Monthly Call (*October 27, 1:00 p.m.*)

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

## **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:

Goal Setting	Action	Timeline	Tools & Resources
Set Student Learning Targets	School leaders work with teachers, counselors and librarians to set SLTs	September 1, 2016 - December 1, 2016	<a href="#">Teacher Goal Setting Worksheet</a> <a href="#">Teacher Goal-Setting Resources</a>

Review & Accept Student Learning Targets	School leaders review and accept teacher's, counselor's and librarian's SLTs	September 1, 2016 - December 1, 2016	<a href="#">Louisiana Principal's Teaching and Learning Guidebook</a>
Monitor SLT Completion	School leaders monitor teacher's, counselor's and librarian's SLTs	September 1, 2016 - December 1, 2016	
Observations	School leaders monitor, conduct and review observations	September 1, 2016 - May 1, 2017	
Deactivate Inactive Users	Compass Data Managers deactivate LEA Administrator and Supervisors no longer employed or inactive in CIS for over a year.	September 1, 2016 - May 1, 2017	<a href="#">CIS/CVR User Guide</a> : Deleting Employee Data beginning on page 15

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

## Assessment & Accountability

### District Test Coordinator Reminders

Please share with District Test and Technology Coordinators and Data Managers.

This section provides LEAs with reminders and updates on information related to testing.

#### Assessment Support and Training:

- **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 and EOC training for district test and technology coordinators in October. Participants may sign up for either a morning or afternoon session. Registration is available in [Coursewhere](#).
  - Monroe: October 6
  - Bossier: October 7
  - Jefferson Davis: October 10
  - Rapides: October 11
  - Baton Rouge: October 18
  - Jefferson: October 20

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

## High School Opportunities

### 2016-2017 Individual Student Planning (Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Selection)

The department will host two webinars to support professional school counselors with the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) and diploma pathway selection process. The webinar will review the [guidance document](#) released to assist professional middle and high school counselors in the annual development and review of the IGP.

- Wednesday, October 12 - 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 pm
- Thursday, October 20 - 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 pm

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

- Meeting Name: **2016 - 2017 Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Selection**
- To join the meeting, click <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/igp2017/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name

For further assistance, please contact [Martha.moore@la.gov](mailto:Martha.moore@la.gov)

## AP Course Audit Webinar

To support AP<sup>®</sup> programs statewide, the Department will host a webinar providing AP<sup>®</sup> teachers and administrators with clear guidelines on building and sustaining an AP<sup>®</sup> program as well as curricular and resource requirements that must be in place for AP<sup>®</sup> courses. Teachers of AP<sup>®</sup> courses, whether for the first time or as a refresher course, are invited to participate.

If you haven't attended already, teachers and administrators are encouraged to participate in a final webinar scheduled for:

- **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](mailto:CollegeReadiness@la.gov).

## 2016 Department Counselor Collaboratives

The 2016 Counselor Collaboratives scheduled below will focus on

- Financial aid access for all students
- Implementation of appropriate student graduation pathways

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

### 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, October 6, at 1:00 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**
- Webinar Link: <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, October 5.**

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

### Tenure Data File Available on FTP

LEA level tenure reports have been placed on the FTP. The report provides LEAs with information about teachers who **may** have acquired tenure prior to September 1, 2012.

This report should be used as a starting point for the tenure data submission in PEP. The file must be cross-checked against district tenure records.

Please email [Sara Strickland](#) with questions.

## **2016 ACT PLAN Letters**

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

The Department has provided 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, are available in the Data Management FTP 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](mailto:CollegeReadiness@la.gov). For FTP issues, contact [SystemSupport@la.gov](mailto:SystemSupport@la.gov).

## **Grants Management**

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

The Department released the **Title I Comparability** section of the 2016-2017SY eGrant.

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](#).

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**.

## **Statewide Monitoring**

### **2016-2017 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule for School Districts and Charter Schools**

The Division of Statewide Monitoring conducts annual monitoring activities of local education agencies (LEAs) to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist our school districts and charter schools in thoughtful planning and preparation for the upcoming school year, we have provided the annual, [consolidated monitoring schedule](#) for the 2016-2017 school year. The schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary. The second quarter schedule can be viewed [here](#).

If you have any questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), please contact [Linda Tindall](#) or [Dr. Chauncey McElwee](#) for monitoring related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Questions related to Early Childhood monitoring may be directed to [Terry Simoneaux](#).

## **Special Education**

### **October 5 Special Education Leader Collaborative**

The next Special Education Leader Collaborative will be held on **Wednesday, October 5 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** in the Thomas Jefferson Room of the Claiborne Building. This meeting will follow the meeting with the Special Education Advisory Panel. Special education administrators are invited and encouraged to attend both meetings.

## **Education Technology**

### **Upcoming E-Rate Trainings**

**Please share with District technology coordinators, E-Rate coordinators and procurement staff.**

In order to assist and facilitate districts, charters, and schools with filing for 2017- 2018 E-Rate funding, in-person trainings will be conducted in late October and early November as noted below. District technology coordinators, E-Rate coordinators and procurement staff are invited to attend to learn more about program changes, rules and the EPC application software system.

This will be both an informational and hands-on look at USAC's EPC tool. Registration is available in [Coursewhere](#).

- October 21- Baton Rouge
- October 27- Monroe
- October 28- Rapides
- November 2- Jefferson Davis

## Policy

### **Student Fee Survey**

During the 2016 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed [House Concurrent Resolution 137](#) regarding fees charged to students attending Louisiana public schools. In this resolution the legislature requested that State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education conduct a thorough study of the prevalence and use of student fees and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature by March 1, 2017.

In order to gather the information needed to respond to this request, the Department is requesting that each local education agency (LEA) complete this [survey](#) no later than October 14, 2016. Please ensure that only one response is submitted for each LEA.

Questions may be directed to Erin Bendily, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs, at [erin.bendily@la.gov](mailto:erin.bendily@la.gov).

## Other

### **Flood Relief Book Donations**

[First Book](#) is donating books to restore school and classroom libraries in flooded areas of Louisiana. If your district, school, or classroom was impacted and you would like to apply for support, fill out the [request form](#). For more information about First Book's relief efforts, visit their [blog](#). First Book is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing new books and educational resources to children in need. Learn more about the organization by visiting [First Book Marketplace](#) or their [website](#).

### **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 than October 7, 2017.** Finalists will be notified by October 24.

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

## LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

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## LDOE Links

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