

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



January 10, 2017

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

For nearly two decades, Louisiana has evaluated schools based on the demonstrated performance of students on state tests. The more advanced students' skills in history, science, language, and mathematics, the better a school's score will be.

This system was designed in a time when there was not a standard way of measuring learning or rating schools. In the absence of such a process, there could not be a common sense of responsibility for educating all students, especially the most disadvantaged. And, indeed, the fact-based clarity this system engendered has led to learning gains. Every conventional measure of education attainment shows positive gains in Louisiana, in recent years and over the last two decades.

But this system is far from being as nuanced or comprehensive as our schools, educators, and students need it to be. For example, the system does little to acknowledge the progress made by students at the top and bottom of the scale. Equally problematic, the system does not dispel the long-practiced idea that a strong school is simply one with strong students, rather than one that intensely and effectively grows the skills of students no matter their place on the scale. Now two decades in, the time for this shift-toward a system that accounts for all children and that rewards progress and growth rather than just absolute attainment-is now.

Yesterday the [BESE-appointed Accountability Commission](#) voted unanimously to recommend to BESE a [method](#) for calculating student progress in elementary and middle school scores. While the Commission has yet to vote on the percentage of a school's score comprised by this student progress calculation, its role in the system will allow every child to contribute to a school's score and will reward schools that make genuine gains with students, no matter the skills with which they entered the school.

Under this proposal, we will answer two questions about all students in a school. First, are students on track to Mastery by 8th grade? Second, are students outperforming similar peers?

For step one, schools will receive (and could calculate for themselves) simple growth targets for students with previous results on state examinations, calculating the growth needed in a given year in order to be on track to achieving mastery-level performance by the end of 8th grade. If students achieve the simple growth target, a school earns an A+ for that child's growth. You can find a slide demonstrating this calculation [here](#).

However, these are often ambitious targets. They are meant to establish an absolute target of mastery for all students. Knowing that some students may make extraordinary gains but not hit the target, all students not hitting the target will be moved to a "step two" in which their growth is calculated relative to peers with similar learning needs. Here, students not hitting targets in step one can demonstrate progress by exceeding the gains made by other students across the state with similar needs. You can find a slide detailing this calculation [here](#).

Over the next two months, the Accountability Commission will continue to refine this two-step model for including all students' gains in the accountability system. The Commission will also be addressing high school calculations before a [final ESSA proposal](#) is put out for public comment in the spring.

There will be many more conversations, and I'm looking forward to your thoughts. However the process ends, I am greatly enthused at the idea of a fairer system, a more nuanced, system, and, most important, a system that values every child.

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

John

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Upcoming Events and Deadlines for School Systems

In this week's newsletter, please see important information about these upcoming **events**:

- January 12 [Superintendents' Conference Call](#)
- January 12 [System Data Coordinator Webinar](#)
- January 12 [Louisiana School Redesign Summit Preparation Calls for Networks A and B](#)
- January 13 [Louisiana School Redesign Summit Preparation Call for Network C](#)
- January 17 [Jump Start Convention](#)
- January 19 [School Redesign Summit](#)
- January 19 [Monthly Educational Technology Call](#)
- January 25 [District Planning Call--rescheduled](#)
- January 25 [Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting](#)

Please also note these important **deadlines**:

- January 13 CIS [evaluation data deadline](#)
- January 27 EEF budget reduction amendment [submission deadline--extended](#)

As always, you can find the most current Department events in the [LDOE Communications Calendar](#).



CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS

District Support

Update: January District Planning Call--Rescheduled

The January District Planning Call has been moved to Wednesday, January 25 at 1:00 p.m.

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc/> (no preregistration required)
- Audio access via phone bridge: 646-307-1380; meeting room: #951154160

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Update: District Support Calendar

The [District Support Calendar](#) has been updated include the following changes:

- Date change of January District Planning Call
- Cancellation of January Special Education Monthly Call
- Date change of March Superintendent Call

Reminder: January Superintendents' Call

The Superintendents' Conference Call is **Thursday, January 12, at 10:30 a.m.** Please follow the instructions below to join the call. You may begin dialing in 15 minutes in advance. You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/> (no preregistration required)
- Audio access via phone bridge: 877-475-0109; meeting room: #43673066

Reminder: Join School Redesign Summit Preparation Calls

In preparation for the [Louisiana School Redesign Summit](#) on **Thursday, January 19, 2017**, the Department is hosting three district preparation calls this week. LDOE staff will preview the [Summit Preparation Memo](#) while leaving substantial time for questions. Only one member of each attending school team should join the call.

To join your network's preparation call, please dial **800-747-5150**; access code **3423625#**.

Network	Network Leader	Date	Time
A	Dana Talley	Thursday, January 12, 2017	2:00 p.m.
B	Francis Touchet	Thursday, January 12, 2017	1:00 p.m.
C	Melissa Stilley	Friday, January 13, 2017	12:00 p.m.

Please email Hunter Brown at hunter.brown@la.gov with questions.

New: Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka

Date: February 15, 2017

Location: 2121 Mason Street, Alexandria, La. 71301

Registration limited to first-come basis: <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?4534>

Registration deadline: **February 3, 2017**

The Eureka Math Principal Institute will allow principals and other instructional leaders to dive deep into the things that matter most in today's math classroom. Learning will spotlight the shifts in the mathematics standards, strategic lesson planning, year-long planning, and key "look-fors" in a Eureka math classroom. The Curriculum Implementation Scale will be used throughout the day to discuss concrete ways principals can improve Eureka implementation at their school.

Please contact LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov with questions about this event.

New: Registration for Teacher Leader and Supervisor Collaboration Events Now Open

Registration for the January and February 2017 Teacher Leader and Supervisor Collaborations is now open in [CourseWhere](#). **Participants should register by Thursday, January 26, 2017. The dates and locations for these events are:**

- January 31 in Harvey
- February 2 in Baton Rouge
- February 7 in Ruston (change in location)
- February 9 in Lafayette

The Supervisor Collaboration will kick off the 2017-2018 district planning process. Please refer to the [Supervisor Collaboration Overview](#) for additional information about this event.

The Teacher Leader Collaboration will help teachers continue to build their knowledge and skills to be successful this school year and beyond. Please share the [Teacher Leader Collaboration Overview](#) with your Teacher Leaders and encourage them to register by Thursday, January 26.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions related to these events.

Deadline: CIS Evaluation Data

Technology

Reminder: Educational Technology Call

Monthly Educational Technology Call: Tuesday, January 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/edconnect/>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Call-in number: 646-307-1380; meeting room #951155484.

Reminder: E-Rate Updates

- State Entity and Student validation: LDOE will be sending out updated E-Rate validation counts in mid-January to E-Rate Coordinators and Technology Directors. Districts, charters, and independent schools should verify these counts and submit any updates back to EdTech@la.gov no later than February 15. These counts will be used to validate and update school and district EPC profiles.
- EPC Profiles Updates: USAC will be opening the window for FY2017-18 entity data updates and validation late January and will keep the window open through February. Schools must update all entities and counts during this window as USAC is not planning on allowing a second window for updates.
- E-Rate FY 17-18 Filing Window: Based on the late data migration and profile update window for EPC, USAC will be delaying the window opening for FY 17-18 filings. USAC hopes to have a February-March window but noted the window could be pushed to March-April depending on the validation process. Districts, charters and independent schools are encouraged to start and/or complete their Form 470 bidding and procurement processes as there may be a shortened filing window due to this delay.

New: Google Data Privacy Agreement Signed

LDOE has completed a statewide contract with Google for use of their G-Suite of applications by schools across the state. Schools are responsible for reviewing the contract and its terms and conditions to ensure it meets their district's/school's data privacy requirements. Schools can choose to participate by signing an Opt-in agreement as specified in the contract. The contract and opt-in form will be posted to the [LDOE Data Sharing Agreement webpage](#). For questions about the terms and conditions of the contract, please contact Carol Mosley at EdTech@la.gov or Kim Nesmith at LDEData@la.gov.

Data

Reminder: System Data Coordinator Webinar

Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices.

Monthly System Data Coordinator Webinar: Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/> (no preregistration required).
- 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, January 11, 2017. Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

New: Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) 2nd Quarterly Meeting

The JAG-LA second quarterly meeting will be Wednesday, January 25 and Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the Paragon Convention Center located at 711 Paragon Place, Marksville, LA. Sign-in will be Wednesday from 9:30 until 10:00 a.m. with the meeting beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. and concluding no later than 4:00 p.m. On Thursday, the meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and conclude no later than 4:00 p.m. **This is a required meeting for all JAG-LA Specialist per the JAG-LA Grant.** Please register on [Solutionwhere](#). For questions regarding registration, please email [Renee Montgomery](#).

Update: Financial Aid Planning Resources

Please share this entry with all school and system administrators and counselors.

LDOE has updated its [Financial Aid Planning Regional Resource Calendar](#) to inform students, parents, and school systems of

LDOE has updated its [Financial Aid Planning Regional Resource Calendar](#) to inform students, parents, and school systems of upcoming financial aid events in their area. The calendar, along with other helpful financial aid resources, is located on the Department's [Financial Aid web page](#). School systems who wish to publish financial aid-related events in the calendar should send the event name, date and time, specific location, and a brief description to LDEFinancialAid@la.gov.

Funding and Grants Management

Update: Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Budget Reduction Amendment Submission Guidance

After consulting with legislative staff, LDOE is providing additional guidance concerning the EEF amendment process. The new guidance provides EEF recipients these additional options for amending their EEF budgets:

1. **Basic:** Recipients may make a simple 5% reduction across each budget item. Recipients with only one or two budget items may prefer this option since it will provide for faster processing and delivery of EEF funds.
2. **Modified:** To accommodate the 5% reduction, recipients may make minor changes to the amounts in their original budget in a way that allows them to best utilize their money. This includes making minor adjustments to items in the current budget (e.g., adding or deleting money for specific items in the budget category for supplies).
3. **Substantial:** Similar to the Modified option, this option enables recipients to make substantial changes to their budgets in a way that allows them to best utilize their money, including adding items or budget categories that do not exist in the current budget. *Recipients that take this option will be required to submit their budgets for a second approval from the Joint Education Committee in April.*

The submission deadline has been extended to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27, 2017. No new FY2016-2017 applications will be accepted.

For further information about EEF, please contact John Hanley at john.hanley@la.gov.

Reminder: Grant Award Notification (GAN) Release

Please share this information with business managers/program contacts of LEAs and charters.

The following Grant Award Notifications (GANs) have been published in eGMS:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| - Title I | - Homeless | - Neglected and Delinquent |
| - Title II | - REAP | - IDEA |
| - Title III | - Carl Perkins | - IDEA Preschool |
| - Title III, Immigrant | - Migrant | |

Additional GANs are currently being prepared. We will update the list as new GANs are published. GANs can be accessed by following these steps:

1. Open the eGMS application. (You do not have to login.)
2. Click on the "Public Access" link.
3. Click on the "Grant Award Notification" link.
4. Complete the query information for the GAN you wish to view.

For further information, contact randy.littleton@la.gov.

Safe and Healthy Schools

Update: Mumps Update from the Louisiana Department of Health

The Arkansas Department of Health continues to investigate a significant outbreak of mumps in Arkansas that began in August, 2016. As of [January 3, 2017](#), the total cases under investigation is 2,416. Throughout this outbreak, over 90% of school-aged children and over 30% of adults involved in the Arkansas outbreak have been fully immunized.

Although there are currently no cases of mumps in Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Health would like to remind school administrators of the role they have in ensuring that all students comply with Louisiana School Immunization Requirements as stated in [Louisiana R.S. 17:170](#). If a school staff member suspects that a student has mumps, he or she should immediately isolate that student and notify the parents. To report a suspected case and arrange for laboratory testing, please find your local immunization program staff on the [Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide \(LINKS\) Web Application](#) main page or contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health Immunization Program at 504-568-2600.

New: Health, Physical Education and Vending Survey

In response to [Revised Statute 17:17.4](#) of the Louisiana Legislature, the Healthy Communities Section is requesting your assistance

in response to [Revised Statute 17:17.4](#) of the Louisiana Legislature, the Healthy Communities Section is requesting your assistance in completing the annual health and physical education survey.

The Department of Education is required to monitor and evaluate health and physical education, vending machine policies and School Health Advisory Council activities and provide an annual report to the Legislature. Your participation in this survey is critical in providing quality, accurate data to the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare. It is important to note that data is analyzed and disseminated collectively and not by individual school systems.

Please have only one person complete the [survey](#) by February 3, 2017.

Special Education

Update: January Special Education Leader Call Canceled

The January 21, 2017 Special Education Leader call has been canceled. Our next gathering will be in person following the Special Education Advisory Panel meeting on **January 25, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

Other

New: Message from Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL)

Please share this information with school system personnel.

Staying informed about your retirement using TRSL's online [Member Access](#). With Member Access, you have access to your personal TRSL retirement account and important TRSL news and information, including updates about upcoming TRSL Board of Trustees elections.

Need assistance registering or logging in to Member Access? Contact the TRSL Help Desk at 225-925-6460 or helpdesk@trsl.org.

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