

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



August 1, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

First, a big thank you to all of you who came to Baton Rouge last week for the [Annual Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year Gala](#). It was an awesome night. Congratulations to Teacher of the Year Kimberly Eckert of Brusly High School and to Principal of the Year Tommy Byler of North Vermillion High School. Congratulations also to all of the [finalists](#), [semi-finalists](#), and colleagues involved in the process. My favorite part of the gala is seeing how much of an educator-team experience it is; for every honoree there is a dozen colleagues. It's such a great reflection of the spirit of school faculties, and it's greatly inspiring to see the love shared among people who have worked together for years.

Next week schools begin opening their doors to students across the state. [Results](#) announced this summer show that Louisiana's young people are achieving at increasingly high levels. But each year, we are called to greater ambitions for them.

The essential work my team and I will be focused on will not change. We will support you in unifying early childhood systems, implementing top-tier curriculum, preparing aspiring educators under mentors, expanding pathways to college and work, and intervening in schools that are persistently struggling. This [back to school guide](#) includes a set of key resources for teachers, principals and school system leaders. You can also refer to the state's [2017-2018 support calendar](#) for all state-led support opportunities this year.

Some particular, new initiatives are worth highlighting as we start the year.

- [LEAP 360](#): An optional, free system of standards-aligned formative assessment that can replace time-consuming, expensive tests and can help you reduce assessments
- **Statewide mentor training**: This fall more than 500 mentor teachers will begin their training to support Louisiana's next generation of new educators. Department staff will share details on this month's Superintendent's Call and District Planning Call, and on webinars in mid-August.
- [LSU pre-engineering pathway](#): Students in pilot high schools will take engineering courses that qualify them for TOPS University credit and earn a Jump Start credential.

Of course, most important is that each school and each school system have a plan that addresses the needs of its students using the resources at its disposal. This summer the Department released the 2017-2018 [High School Student Planning Guidebook: A Path to Prosperity for Every Student](#), a comprehensive guide detailing Louisiana's pathways to opportunities after high school for school administrators, counselors, teachers, and parents. At the September collaboration, we will start the district planning process, reviewing outcomes and preparing for key academic decisions ahead.

The start of the school year is among the most exciting times of the year. All possibilities lie ahead. I look forward to more extraordinary things from Louisiana's students and from the educators who teach them so capably.

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

John

In This Issue

- [Educator Recognition](#)
- [District Support](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability](#)
- [Talent](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Other](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [System Data Coordinator Webinar](#): August 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- [August Superintendents' Call](#): August 9 at 9:30 a.m.
- [JAG-LA New Specialist Training](#): August 8 and 9, at 9:30 a.m.
- [August School System Planning Call](#): August 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- [JAG-LA First Quarterly Meeting](#): August 10 and 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Important Deadlines

- Enter [exit interview data](#) for the 2016-2017 school year by August 4
- Register for [JAG quarterly meeting](#) by August 4
- Register for [JAG new specialist training](#) by August 4
- Download 2016-17 Seclusion and Restraint Report by August 8
- Submit Club/Sports Opportunities Data by August 11

Educator Recognition

Department Names the 2018 Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Winners

On Friday, July 28, 2017, the Department named the [2018 Teacher and Principal of the Year winners](#) at the [11th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala](#), cosponsored by [Dream Teachers](#). Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

2018 Teachers of the Year

- Kimberly Eckert, 2018 Louisiana State Teacher of the Year
- Rosemary Riggs Grimm, 2018 Louisiana Elementary School Teacher of the Year
- Marcy Mahler, 2018 Louisiana Middle School Teacher of the Year
- Angelina Drago, 2018 Louisiana High School Teacher of the Year

2018 Principals of the Year

- Thomas Byler, 2018 Louisiana State Principal of the Year
- Cleo Perry Jr., 2018 Louisiana Elementary School Principal of the Year
- Bobbye Jean Dickinson Delaney, 2018 Louisiana Middle School Principal of the Year
- David Gray, 2018 Louisiana High School Principal of the Year

Please visit the [Awards Programs page](#) for a full listing of all 2018 state-level honorees. Please email jeni.lacy@la.gov for more information.

District Support

New: August Superintendent Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on Wednesday, August 9, at 9:30 a.m. You may begin dialing into the call fifteen minutes in advance by following the instructions below.

To join the Superintendents' August 9 call:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #62265400
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

New: August School System Planning Call

The [August School System Planning Call](#) will take place **Wednesday, August 9, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m.** The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Assessment and Accountability
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Early Childhood
- Career and Technical Education
- Principal and Teacher Leader

Webinar login information:

- Webinar Name: August District Planning Call
- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Phone number: 1-855-240-2575; PIN # 89147656

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Department Releases Additional Back-to-School Resources

Please share these tools with principals and teachers.

The Louisiana Department of Education is committed to providing all educators—teachers, principals, and school system leaders—with the supports and resources they need to continue raising the bar for students in Louisiana.

Here are new resources released by the Department this week to support the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

- [2017-2018 Educator Resource Guide](#): Guide highlighting instructional priorities and new resources to support educators with the start of the 2017-2018 school year. The guide is located in the [School System](#), [Principal](#) and [Teacher](#) Toolboxes.
- [2017-2018 School System Support Calendar](#): Schedule of in-person trainings, virtual support, tools and resources, and communication streams designed to support educators
- [Teacher Guide to the 2017 LEAP Results](#): Blueprint for teachers on how to interpret the 2017 LEAP student reports; includes links to available resources to support adjustments to instruction

Released the week of July 24:

- [Principal Support Toolbox](#): Direct links to the tools and resources school leaders need to support student learning
- [Back-to-School Night Presentation](#): Customizable presentation that school leaders and teachers can use to provide parents with information on 2017-2018 academic goals, standards, and assessments; slides help to meet parent engagement requirements in ESSA
- [Parent Back-to-School Guide](#): Downloadable guide providing families with information and resources to support learning at home for the 2017-2018 school year; includes talking points to help guide conversations with teachers about assessment results at the start of the year

Email doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

New: 2017-2018 Teacher Leader Advisors Announced

Congratulations to the [2017-2018 Teacher Leader Advisors](#)! These Louisiana educators are vital in the creation of instructional and assessment tools throughout the year.

Teacher Leader Advisors:

- create instructional and assessment resources, such as the Science and Social Studies Scope and Sequence documents, ELA Guidebooks, math assessment items, and EAGLE items;
- participate in the Department's Instructional Materials Review process; and
- lead sessions at the annual Teacher Leader Summit.

For more information about Teacher Leader Advisors, please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov.

New: Using CLASS™ for Compass in 2017-2018

During the 2017-2018 school year, school systems are encouraged to use CLASS™ as the rubric for evaluating professional practice of public school pre-K teachers in all or some of their schools. For information about using CLASS™, please see the [Compass Choices for Early Childhood Networks 2017-2018](#). **LEAs that choose to use CLASS™ as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for public school pre-K teachers for 2017-2018 must complete the waiver and return to compass@la.gov by September 30, 2017.**

Please email compass@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Social Studies Resources

Grades 3–8 Sample Scope and Sequence Updates

The Department is in the process of updating the Social Studies Scope and Sequence documents for the 2017-2018 school year. The updated version for grades 3-5 is located on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) web page and in each [grade level teacher library](#). In addition, Unit One for grades 6-8 are now available in [draft form](#).

Key Themes for U.S. History

The [Key Themes U.S. History](#) document is now available. The document has two sections for guidance in planning instruction:

- descriptions of the seven key themes as they relate to U.S. History
- comparison of the previous end-of-year assessment to the new assessment requirements

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Support for Implementation of Louisiana Student Standards for Science

The Department is helping educators transition to the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science \(LSSS\)](#) in the 2017-2018 school year by offering a series of webinars and releasing instructional tools to support science instruction.

Please visit the Department's [YouTube channel](#) for recorded versions of the LSSS webinars.

- Part 1: [Overview of the Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#)
- Part 2: [LSSS Instructional Shifts](#)
- Part 3: [Three-Dimensional Learning](#)
- Part 4: K-12 Learning Progressions (coming soon)
- Part 5: Phenomenon-Based Learning (coming soon)

Please visit the [K-12 Science Resources Library](#) for instructional tools to support implementation of the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#).

- [Shifts in Science](#)
- [Learning Progressions](#)
- [Connections to ELA and Math Standards](#)
- [Suggested Middle School Transition Plan](#)

Sample Scope and Sequence Documents for grades 3-8 will be available on the Department [K-12 Science Resources](#) web page this week. Scope and sequence guidance for other grades and courses will be released throughout the month of August.

Please email louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: LEAP 360 Diagnostic Assessments Now Available

The LEAP 360 Comprehensive Assessment System supports systems and schools in their collective efforts to improve the quality of local assessments and significantly reduce the amount of classroom time spent on them. The LEAP 360 **diagnostic assessments for English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, and grades 3 through 8 English language arts and mathematics are now available in eDIRECT**. These diagnostics are designed to help educators identify the specific prerequisite skills individual students or groups of students have or will need to have in order to be successful in grade-level content.

The following resources are available to support the implementation of LEAP 360.

- The [Diagnostic Assessment Quick Start Guide](#) provides instructional guidance and information about test access, administration, scoring, and reporting.
- The [Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#) provides guidance for using LEAP 360 in the classroom, making meaning of results, and understanding the design of the LEAP 360 system.

Minor adjustments to accommodated/accessibility features and forms will continue to be uploaded throughout the week.

Please reach out to assessment@la.gov if you have questions about LEAP 360 or the companion guides.

New: Announcements for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>

- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380
- Participant PIN code: 89147656

LEAP 360

- Districts can begin the test setup process for Diagnostic assessments in [eDIRECT](#).

LEAP 2025

- Districts can choose to administer LEAP 2025 grades 3-4 tests as a computer-based or paper-based assessment. DTCs will select the online or paper option for each site and grade under the Materials tab in [eDIRECT](#) from August 1 through 31, 2017.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Release of 2017 Advanced Placement (AP) Results

The Department released 2017 school and school system-level AP results with school systems via the FTP on July 26. Statewide results are now available in the [High School Results library](#).

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Opening of Data Certification System for Final Review of SPS Data

Please share this information with accountability contacts.

In early August, data certification will open for ACT/WorkKeys, DCAI, Assessment, and Early Childhood Informational Metrics through the Louisiana Data Review online system.

School systems have four weeks to review the data that are used to calculate the fall 2017 School and District Performance Scores and Early Childhood Performance Profiles and request changes that can be documented. This is the final opportunity to review and request changes to these data. Once the certification system closes, school systems are not eligible for an appeal of the SPS or DPS based on any data that was provided to them.

Accountability contacts will receive usernames, passwords, and data certification instructions and resources via email. **It is extremely important that the Department has current and complete accountability contact information for all school systems.**

Data Certification Type	Rosters Provided	Timeline
Early Childhood Informational Metrics	Site-level files with self-reported classroom-level informational metric data	August–September
ACT, ACT WorkKeys, DCAI, High School Progress Points	ACT/WorkKeys roster includes highest scores for grade 12 students and high school progress point eligibility DCAI rosters provide Carnegie credits, high school of record, dropout flags	Opens early August for two weeks
Assessment	Rosters provide scores for spring 2017 LEAP, LAA 1, EOC scores	Opens for two weeks after close of ACT, ACT WorkKeys, DCAI
Fall: K-8 Progress Points	Roster for information only; eligibility checked in August with assessment rosters	Released in fall. No additional review

For additional information, please contact assessment@la.gov or jennifer.baird@la.gov.

High School Opportunities

New: Register for Fall 2017 LDOE Counselor Collaboratives

The Fall 2017 Counselor Collaboratives will focus on graduation pathways and financial aid access for all students. High school and middle school counselors may attend a collaborative outside their area if necessary but are encouraged to attend a collaborative in their area. Please register through [Wisdomwhere](#).

Date	Time	Network	Location
10/3/17	9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	A	Bossier Instructional Center, Bossier
10/3/17	1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	A	Sabine Parish School Board Office, Many
10/10/17	10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	A	Ouachita Parish Student Support Services, West Monroe
10/10/17	9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	C	Treen Technology Center, Mandeville
10/11/17	1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	A	Avoyelles Parish Media Center, Marksville
10/12/17	9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	C	LSDVI, Baton Rouge
10/17/17	9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	B	Acadia Parish Educational Center, Crowley
10/19/17	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	B	St. Charles Schools Professional Learning Center, Luling

Please email larry.alexander@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: College Board 2017 Fall Counselor Workshops

Please share with principals and school counselors.

To encourage growth of AP® programs statewide, the Department is inviting school counselors to participate in the 2017 Fall College Board Counselor Workshops in August. Details on the trainings including information on registration, dates and times can be found on the [College Board website](#). Seating is limited. For additional information, please contact collegereadiness@la.gov.

Reminder: Register for JAG-LA 2017-2018 New Specialist Training

The **JAG-LA New Specialist Training** will be held on **August 8 and 9** at the Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge.

Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning promptly at 9:30 a.m. and concluding no later than 4:00 p.m. each day. **Attendees must register through [Wisdomwhere](#) no later than Friday, August 4, 2017.**

For questions or additional information, please contact dianna.keller@la.gov.

Reminder: Register for JAG-LA First Quarterly Meeting of 2017-2018

The **JAG-LA First Quarterly meeting, required for all JAG-LA Specialists, will be held August 10–11** at the Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge. Registration is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. with the

meeting beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m. and concludes no later than 4:00 p.m. **Attendees must register through [Wisdomwhere](#) no later than Friday, August 4, 2017.**

For questions or additional information, please contact dianna.keller@la.gov.

Talent

New: Survey of Louisiana Teachers Released

The Department has released a [brief survey](#), in partnership with the Louisiana State University Public Policy Research Lab, to better understand job satisfaction and employment decisions among teachers in Louisiana. All teachers in the state are encouraged to complete the survey.

The survey will take 15 to 20 minutes and can be completed on a smart phone. All responses will remain strictly confidential, and teachers may refuse to answer any question or end the survey at any time.

Please share the [survey link](#) with your teachers this week, as we are interested in their feedback on how we can improve job satisfaction, recruitment and retention in our state.

Email believenadprepare@la.gov with questions.

New: Additional Teacher Certification Appeals Council Meeting to Consider Temporary Authority to Teach Renewal Applications

In April, BESE approved a new process that allows the Teacher Certification Appeals Council (TCAC) to consider appeals relative to Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT) extensions through July 2018.

Appeals may be considered provided there is evidence that the teacher made a good faith effort to pass the required exams, met the standards of effectiveness, is recommended by the employing school system, will continue to be employed, and is teaching in a demonstrated shortage area.

TCAC will hear appeals relative to TAT renewals on the following dates in 2017:

- September 8 (**new**)
- November 30

The [application](#) for the TAT renewal and appeal is posted on the [Teach Louisiana web page](#).

Completed applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, August 30, 2017, for consideration at the September 8 meeting.

Please email certification@la.gov with questions.

Data

New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

Please forward to Data Coordinators.

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on **Thursday, August 3, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices.

Webinar Login Information (no preregistration 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, August 2.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Finance

New: FY2017-2018 General Fund Budgets

Please forward to business managers and financial officials of city/parish public school districts.

[Louisiana R.S. 17:88](#) requires that district school boards adopt, no later than September 15, a budget of expected revenues and probable expenditures for the year and that copies of the budget be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education for review and approval.

The following documents outline the General Fund Budget requirements and collection process.

- [FY2017-2018 General Fund Budget Memo](#)
- [Instructions and Signature Sheet](#)
- [FY2017-2018 General Fund Budget--Form A](#)
- [Steps for Budget Adoption](#) (legislative auditor document for reference)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please email errica.taylor2@la.gov.

Reminder: Final FY 2016-2017 (June 2017) and FY 2017-2018 MFP Allocations

Please forward to business managers.

The final MFP allocations for [FY 2016-2017](#) and the [FY 2017-2018 MFP Formula](#) allocation and payment schedules are now available on the Department's website. Please refer to these documents for your allocation and payment schedule.

For more information, please refer to [Circular 1161](#). If you have questions, please email kristen.smith2@la.gov.

Other

Reminder: School Year 2017-18 Child Nutrition Program Administrative Review

Please share this information with child nutrition supervisors.

As part of the Louisiana Department of Education's USDA Child Nutrition Program monitoring, the Department has released the [Annual Administrative Review Schedule for SY 2017-18](#).

The Department's administrative review team leader will contact each school system that is scheduled for review. **The off-site [Administrative Review Forms](#) are due on September 1, 2017.**

Please email georganna.brogdon@la.gov for more information.