

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



August 8, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Five years ago, our state took an important step toward providing opportunity for graduates, providing free access to the ACT for all students. In the time since, thousands of students who would not have taken the test in prior years have completed it and have succeeded, moving on to higher education and the world of work. Schools, too, have stepped up, by challenging students with [top-tier curricula](#), by providing [course access](#) to classes not always offered to all students, and by [radically expanding access to financial aid](#) for college and workforce training. Never before has the promise of education after high school – universities, community colleges, and workplace preparation – been more evident to as broad a set of Louisiana youth as it is today.

This afternoon, you received an email from Assistant Superintendent Jessica Baghian detailing your school system's and schools' pre-data certification ACT results for the class of 2017. We will discuss these results further on tomorrow's superintendent call. I will then brief the media regarding statewide results at 11:00 a.m.

This year's results tell a familiar story: our students continue to achieve new heights. And while Louisiana has yet to achieve either its full educational ambitions or a school system free of inequity, on both fronts, we are working very hard, and we are making real progress.

As we head back to school, tomorrow's announcement will remind of us of the awesome promise of a new school year. With nine months ahead of us, our students and we can accomplish so much together.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [August Superintendents' Call](#): August 9 at 9:30 a.m.
- [JAG-LA New Specialist Training](#): August 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.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): August 15 at 1:00 p.m.
- [School Redesign Finance Webinar](#): August 17 at 12:00 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- Download 2016-2017 Seclusion and Restraint Report by August 8
- Submit Club/Sports Opportunities Data by August 11

District Support

New: Save the Date for the Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations

The collaboration events provide system leadership and classroom teachers across Louisiana with access to high-quality tools, resources, and professional development designed to help them achieve their goals with students.

Please save these dates for the September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations.

- Tuesday, September 12: Trinity Methodist Church in Ruston
- Thursday, September 14: Bayou Church in Lafayette
- Tuesday, September 19: Jefferson Parish School Board Office in Harvey
- Wednesday, September 20: Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge

Supervisor Collaborations are from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Teacher Leader Collaborations are from 12:00 until 4:00 p.m. Registration opens on August 22 in [Wisdomwhere](#).

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions related to this event.

New: Compass Updates and Trainings

Closing out 2016-2017

All 2016-2017 teacher evaluations must be completed in the Compass Information System (CIS) by August 15, 2017. View the [User Guide](#) for additional information. School leader evaluations can be completed following the release of 2016-2017 school performance scores this fall.

Starting 2017-2018

The Department will host a series of Compass trainings throughout the state to support new evaluators and school and school system leaders in the implementation of Compass this school year. The morning sessions from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. will be training for new evaluators, and the afternoon sessions, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., are designed to support 2017-2018 Compass implementation.

- **Shreveport: August 24**
 - Wanda Gunn Professional Development Center, Caddo Parish School Board
- **Monroe: August 25**
 - Board Room, Monroe City School Board
- **Baton Rouge: August 30**
 - Instructional Resource Center, East Baton Rouge Parish School Board
- **Natchitoches: August 31**
 - Treen Auditorium, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts
- **Acadia: September 15**
 - Educational Center, Acadia Parish School Board

Registration is [now open](#) and space is limited. Email compass@la.gov with questions.

New: School Redesign Grant Materials

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, schools identified on the [School Redesign List](#) are required to create improvement plans. To support these plans, the LDOE is awarding competitive funds in the form of the School Redesign Grant. All school systems with a school identified on the School Redesign List must complete a full [School Redesign grant application](#) in one of the two cycles during the 2017-18 school year. On Thursday, August 17, LDOE will host a webinar to release the School Redesign budget form and answer finance-specific questions. To learn more about the grant application process, timeline, and planning grant option, please review the [School Redesign LEA guidance](#) document and other materials on the LDOE [School Redesign webpage](#).

To join the School Redesign Finance Webinar from 12:00 until 1:00 p.m. on August 17, 2017 (no preregistration required)

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/r9w6cdf9bvf4/>.
- Dial in to the phone bridge: 1-855-240-2575
- Enter the participant PIN code: 80736353

Please email delaina.larocque@la.gov or shavonne.price@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: August Superintendents' Call

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

To join the call

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

Reminder: August School System Planning Call

The [August School System Planning Call](#) will take place **tomorrow, August 9, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m.**

Webinar login information

- Webinar Name: August School System 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.

Reminder: Department Releases Additional Back-to-School Resources

Please share these tools with principals and teachers.

Here are new resources released by the Department 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; 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
- [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.

Reminder: 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.

Assessment and Accountability

New: 2017 ACT Results Release

The Department released 2016-2017 ACT results to school systems today in the FTP. State-, school-system- and school-level results will be released publicly tomorrow, August 9 in the [High School Performance library](#) at 11:00 a.m.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: LEAP 360 Diagnostic Assessments Now Available

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 accommodation/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.

Reminders for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: Tuesday, August 15, 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.

High School Opportunities

New: 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan Update

The submission deadline for Pupil Progression Plans (PPPs) has been extended into early spring pending policy recommendations the Department will bring to BESE in October. An updated PPP template will be released via the Superintendent's weekly newsletter and on the [LDOE website](#).

The following policy updates are currently under consideration:

- Proficiency and promotion expectations;
- Fourth and ninth grade transition policy; and
- Summer remediation expectations.

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit feedback on these items by emailing ppp@la.gov.

New: 2017-2018 Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) Supervisor/Principal Webinar

Please share this information with supervisors and principals.

Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) supervisors and principals not able to attend the JAG-LA supervisor meeting at the June conference, must attend a mandatory webinar on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. The webinar will provide in-depth information regarding the JAG-LA program(s) under your supervision.

To join the September 12 JAG-LA Supervisor/Principal Webinar (no preregistration required)

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/rqdlpcewr151/>
- Dial into the phone bridge: 855-240-2575
- When prompted, please give meeting ID #70296931
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

Please email dianna.keller@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Talent

Reminder: 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.

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.

Reminder: Additional Teacher Certification Appeals Council Meeting to Consider TAT 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 webpage](#). **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.

Finance

New: FY2016-2017 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Collection Timelines

Please forward to business managers and financial officials.

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires that local school systems and schools provide financial data to the Department no later than September 30 each year. The LEADS portal will be available for financial data submissions beginning Monday, August 14. Please use the [AFR documents](#) to assist you in the submission of your data.

If you have any questions concerning the preparation of the financial information or account classification, please email kenric.delone@la.gov. For questions regarding the electronic submission or online update process, email systemsupport@la.gov.

Reminder: FY2017-2018 General Fund Budgets

Please forward to business managers and financial officials.

[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.

Federal Programs

New: ESSA Foster Care Guidance Documents and Templates

Please share with foster care points of contact, federal programs coordinators, and other relevant school system staff.

The LDOE and the Department of Children and Family Services have jointly created the following guidance documents to help ensure districts are in compliance with the new ESSA regulations regarding the educational stability of children in foster care.

- [Louisiana Best Interest Determination for School Placement of Child in Foster Care](#)
- [Making a Transportation Plan: Implementing ESSA Transportation Requirements to Ensure School Stability](#)
- [Foster Care Educational Stability Overview](#)
- [School Notification Letter](#)

Please email melanie.mayeux@la.gov for more information.