

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**September 12, 2017**

Dear Colleagues,

I'm looking forward to tomorrow's monthly superintendent call. You can find the presentation that will guide the call [here](#).

We'll start the call by celebrating several school systems that have gone above and beyond, doing particularly creative work. We don't spend enough time celebrating the things we're not required to do, and I'm happy to have a couple minutes to talk about some of the most interesting work happening around the state.

I will also provide you an updated timeline for the posting of 2017 results, including timing for providing aggregated social studies results from this year. This year's social studies assessments, based on standards adopted in 2011, challenged students to recall content knowledge about history and geography and to use the knowledge as evidence in making persuasive cases. While there is significant variation in performance across the state, and while there are many schools and school systems that shine, performance in both social studies and science continues to lag behind performance in literacy, largely due to the challenges students face in demonstrating deep content knowledge on these subjects' assessments. We can do more to deepen the base of historical and scientific knowledge our students possess—this year's work to generate high-quality science curriculum is critical to this mission—and to teach them to use this knowledge in supporting their views. To support educators with the work of building content knowledge, the Department has released detailed [scope and sequence documents](#) for every grade level. These tools illustrate the daily experiences students need to build and apply knowledge about history.

As 2017 results are reported in full this fall, school systems will begin a needs analysis process and will submit plans to the state related to the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, which requires a plan for improvement from schools struggling overall or struggling to serve specific student populations. On tomorrow's call, I'll walk through a summary of changes BESE will be considering to bulletins that govern these processes, and I will provide a broad overview of the planning process that the law, and Louisiana's plan for implementing the law, require of school systems. I'm also looking forward to various meetings with superintendents in the coming weeks, at which we will continue to discuss these processes and the rules governing them.

I hope you will have a chance to peruse the presentation before the call. There is a lot to cover, just as there is a lot of good work going on in our schools and across our state. I look forward to talking tomorrow.

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

John

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## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [Superintendents' Conference Call](#): September 13 at 9:00 a.m. (time change)
- [AP Test Fee Funding Options Webinar](#): September 14 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Compass Training in Baton Rouge and Crowley](#): September 15
- [Accountability Commission](#): September 18 at 12:00 p.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): September 19 at 1:00 p.m.

### Important Deadlines

- Submit [School Redesign Planning Grant Application](#) by September 15.
- Register for [Charter School Authorizers Workshop](#) by September 20.

## School System Support

### **New: Join the Charter School Authorizers Workshop**

On September 27, the Department is hosting the second in a series of charter school oversight workshops for districts that have authorized charter schools or are interested in authorizing charter schools in the future. The workshop will take place at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge from 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. District staff are encouraged to attend. Staff who missed the May workshop may also register for a makeup session that will be held from 8:15 until 9:45 a.m.

The deadline to [register](#) for either workshop is **Wednesday, September 20, 2017**.

For more information please visit the Department's district charter authorization [webpage](#) or email [david.shepard@la.gov](mailto:david.shepard@la.gov).

### **New: Pre-K through Grade 3 Guidebook Released**

The Department released the [Pre-K through Third Grade Guidebook](#) for site and system leaders to help them create strong plans for their schools and centers to ensure quality and continuity of proven practices across pre-K through third grade. The guide provides information, tools, and resources to support leaders in implementing:

- high-quality curriculum;
- meaningful assessment methods, including early identification processes;
- shared curriculum and content-specific professional development between pre-K and K-3 teachers;
- robust teacher observation systems; and
- positive support systems for children and families.

The Department will provide [sessions](#) on the guidebook at the September Collaborations.

Please email [jill.slack@la.gov](mailto:jill.slack@la.gov) with questions related to the guide.

### **New: Social Studies Sample Scope and Sequence Updates**

The Department has updated several of the [Social Studies Scope and Sequence documents](#) and is in the process of updating others for the for the 2017-2018 school year. These updated documents provide instructional tasks which build content knowledge and skill with sources, a coherent yearlong frame which makes connections among content ideas, and assessments which measure how well students express informed opinions with evidence and outside knowledge. The complete scope and sequence for grade 7 will be available by the end of September 2017.

Please email [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) for more information.

### **New: Applications Now Open for Louisiana Green Ribbon Schools**

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, working together with the Louisiana Department of Education, will nominate up to five pre-K–12 schools for the 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award. Selected schools demonstrate achievement reducing resource consumption and costs, supporting student and staff health and wellness, and providing innovative environmental, sustainability, and STEM learning opportunities.

More information and applications can be found on the Green Ribbon Schools [web page](#). Please email [BGautreau@wlf.la.gov](mailto:BGautreau@wlf.la.gov) with any questions.

### **New: Louisiana Environmental Education Commission Grants Now Available**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Environmental Education Commission (LEEC) is now accepting proposals for their 2017 grants program. **The submission deadline for each of these grants is September 25, 2017.**

- **Educator Grants** should be based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, and be designed to directly impact Louisiana students. Accredited K–12 Louisiana schools are eligible. The maximum award is \$1,000 for one teacher or \$2,000 for a team.
- **Green Schools Grants** support projects designed to reduce a school's environmental impact, reduce health disparities that can aggravate achievement gaps, and engage students in hands-on learning. Proposals to be considered are those that align with pillars found in the U.S. Department of Education's [Green Ribbon Schools Program](#). Accredited K-12 Louisiana schools are eligible. The maximum award is \$5,000.
- **Professional Development Grants** should be based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, and be designed to directly impact preservice and/or in-service educators in Louisiana. Louisiana education organizations are eligible. The maximum award is \$2,500.

For more information and applications, visit the LEEC Grants Opportunities [web page](#). Please email [vortego@wlf.la.gov](mailto:vortego@wlf.la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Social Studies Resource from the National Humanities Center**

The [National Humanities Center](#) has just launched new titles in their annual webinar series. The goal is to give educators of all disciplines background on the day's compelling topics which focus on issues that educators navigate daily in their classroom conversations as well as their curriculum.

These 90-minute sessions are free and include associated resources and offer opportunities to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Although the webinars are designed for an adult audience, they may also be used with high school students. To check out the available topics, please visit the Humanities in Class Webinars [web page](#).

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with any questions.

## **Reminder: September Superintendents' Call**

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White **tomorrow, September 13, at 9:00 a.m. (Please note that this is a change to the original meeting time.)** You may begin dialing into the call fifteen minutes in advance by following the instructions below.

To join the Superintendents' September 13 call

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall>.
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109.
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #34167449.
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

## **Reminder: School Redesign Planning Grant Due**

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 2017-2018 school year. **Schools systems that would like more time to develop a strong plan for improvement should consider submitting a [planning grant application](#) by September 15, 2017.** School systems electing to apply for the planning grant should wait until Round 2 to submit a full School Redesign Grant application. To learn more about the grant application process, timeline and planning grant option, please review the [School Redesign LEA guidance](#), the [School Redesign Budget Form](#) and other materials on the LDOE [School Redesign webpage](#).

Please email questions to the point of contact for your [Network](#).

- Network A: [Shavonne Price](#)
- Network B: [Delaina LaRocque](#)
- Network C: [Kelly DiMarco](#)

## **Reminder: Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka**

The Principal Institute for Implementing Eureka on [October 11 in Baton Rouge](#) will allow principals and other instructional leaders to dive deeply into the things that matter most in today's math classroom. Learning will spotlight shifts in the mathematics standards, strategic lesson planning, yearlong 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 in their schools.

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

## Assessment and Accountability

### **New: Accountability Commission Meeting, September 18, at 12:00 p.m.**

- **Meeting:** Accountability Commission
- **When:** Monday, September 18, 2017, at 12:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Thomas Jefferson Room A-B, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge or watch the meeting live at <https://livestream.com/LouisianaBelieves/Accountability917>

### **New: LEAP 2025 Updates**

- [LEAP 2025 High School Assessments Webinars](#) from August have been posted to the [Assessment Guidance Library](#).
- [LEAP 2025 Assessment Guides](#) for grades 3-8 math, ELA, social studies, Algebra I, Geometry, English I, and English II have been updated and reposted to the Assessment Guidance library. Primary updates include
  - ELA: minor test design changes for all grades/courses
  - ELA and math: session times updated for all grades/courses
  - Social studies: achievement level descriptors for all grades

Please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) for more information.

### **New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts**

#### **Assessment Administration Support and Training**

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380
- Participant PIN code: 89147656

#### **Resources**

The **LEAP 360** Teacher Access link is available for high school Interim 2. The teacher access link, usernames, and passwords are located in the [Interim Quick Start Guide](#).

#### **KEA and K–3 Literacy Assessment Reporting**

All school systems are required to report beginning of the year Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) and K–3 screening assessment results by **Sept. 29, 2017**. Please see the [September 5 newsletter](#) for details.

#### **eDIRECT**

On September 7, 2017, DRC pushed an update to eDIRECT to improve the process of transferring students using the multiple student upload (MSU). Currently the MSU requires a complete match on LASID, full first name, and full last name.

After the transition in mid-September, the MSU will match on the following criteria:

- Full LASID;
- First letter of first name;
- First three letters of last name.

Systems with data sharing agreements can still enter full PII into their MSU files and full PII will still populate in eDIRECT.

#### **ACT and WorkKeys**

- ACT MOU
  - **September 29:** Deadline to submit the [2017-2018 ACT MOU](#) and [Estimated Number of Testers Worksheet](#). Originals should be mailed to the following address.  
Trish Gilbert  
Office of Academic Policy and Analytics  
Louisiana Department of Education  
1201 North Third St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
- Fall 2017 WorkKeys
  - Week of September 11: Materials arrive at system offices

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

### **Reminder: Device Toolkit Dashboard**

**Please share this information with district technology coordinators and district testing coordinators.**

On August 29 DRC completed an update to the Device Tool Kit. This update now allows you to use the **Device Toolkit Dashboard** to visually monitor and manage your configurations and their devices. Any ORG Units previously created will appear in the new Device Toolkit Dashboard as configurations. Each configuration contains the same testing devices and TSM as the ORG Units from which it was created.

For more information, please refer to the [Device Toolkit Update Guide](#).

### **Reminder: Release of High School Growth to Mastery Student Rosters**

**Please share with accountability contacts.**

In 2017-2018, the academic progress that students make each year will become a more substantial part of our SPS formula. In measuring progress, two questions are asked: are students on track to mastery, and how are students doing compared to peers?

To assist with answering whether or not students are on track to mastery, the new accountability formula uses simple growth targets for every child. On September 1, 2017, the *2017-2018 High School Growth to Mastery Student* rosters were posted to each school system's FTP. The department also released the *High School Progress Index FAQ* that explains the process for setting targets for high school students. The FAQ document will be posted in the resources section of the accountability library next week.

Please send any questions to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

## **Student Opportunities**

### **New: Register for Fall 2017 Counselor Collaborations**

Statewide Counselor Collaborations for professional school counselors will be held in October. The topics covered will include graduation requirements and pathways, financial aid, and information on special state programs. Counselors are encouraged to [register](#) for a meeting in their region but may attend out of region if needed.

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

## **Reminder: 2017 Louisiana Counseling Association Annual Conference**

Please share this information with school counselors and system supervisors.

The Louisiana Counseling Association will hold its annual conference October 1–3, 2017, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge. This year's theme is Mentoring: Enriching and Empowering Relationships. **Preregistration is closed, but participants may register on site beginning Saturday, September 30.** Counselors are encouraged to attend to get the latest information in the field and earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Please visit the [LCA Conference](#) web page for more information.

For more information, please email [stephanie.marcum@la.gov](mailto:stephanie.marcum@la.gov).

## **New: Join the CLEP® in Louisiana Webinar**

**Please share this information with system and school site administrators and testing coordinators.**

The College Board is offering the webinar, “CLEP in Louisiana,” to provide an overview of the [College-Level Examination Program \(CLEP®\)](#) and to share information on the following topics:

- Understanding the benefits of CLEP for students and schools
- Opening a CLEP Test Center
- Promoting the CLEP test
- Using CLEP resources

System and school site administrators and testing coordinators are encouraged to register for one of the following dates and times using access code **CLEP171a**.

- [Tuesday, September 19 at 2:00 p.m.](#)
- [Monday, September 25 at 3:00 p.m.](#)
- [Friday, September 28 at 9:00 a.m.](#)

For more information, please email [highschoolacademics@la.gov](mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov).

## **Talent**

### **Reminder: Nominate Louisiana’s 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year**

**Please forward to principals and teachers.**

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. The Department, along with [Dream Teachers](#) and the [Louisiana Association of Principals](#), honors the state’s most exceptional educators through the annual Teacher and Principal of the Year program. Part of the selection process for naming the system- and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members.

Please nominate yourself or someone you know by **September 29, 2017**, via the [nominations portal](#) or on the [Department’s website](#). Nominations will be sent to the local school systems for consideration as they select their top candidates for the full application process. For more information, please review the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Nomination Overview](#).

Contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov) with questions.

## Special Education

### **Reminder: High Cost Services Grant Round 1 Now Open**

The 2017-2018 High Cost Services Grant is now open for Round 1 applications. **The application will close on Thursday, September 28.** For more information about the 2017-2018 application, please refer to the [state plan](#) as well as the [slide deck](#) from August High Cost Services Webinar.

If you have questions about the application, please email [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov).

## Federal Programs

### **New: Purchasing Pre-K Curriculum Materials with Title I Funds**

The U.S. Department of Education recently confirmed that school systems may use Title I funds to purchase pre-K curriculum materials. School systems are therefore encouraged to consider upgrading their current pre-K curriculum materials to meet Tier I criteria.

Tier I pre-K curriculum materials have been identified as high-quality instructional tools that help teachers provide interactive and engaging learning experiences through instruction that is aligned to the Louisiana Early Learning and Development Standards.

The state's Instructional Materials Review helps pre-K programs choose high-quality and appropriate curriculum materials. Reviewers have currently identified ten Tier I pre-K curricula choices.

To purchase pre-K curriculum materials with Title I funds, school systems must adopt a methodology to ensure that state and local resources equitably support all schools within the system, regardless of whether the schools receive Title I funds. This would fulfill Title I fiscal requirements regarding "supplement, not supplant."

If this provision is not met, school systems using Title I money to purchase curriculum materials would potentially create a presumption of supplanting. Single-site school systems do not have to adopt a policy but do have to ensure that Title I money supplements, and does not supplant, state and local funds.

For further information, contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov).

## Finance

### **Reminder: 2017-2018 Advanced Placement Test Fee Funding Options Webinar**

**Please share with high school academic supervisors, school counselors, school business officials, district test coordinators, and federal program directors.**

For information on Advanced Placement test fee funding options available for 2017-2018 and beyond, **please participate in the webinar this Thursday, September 14, from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m.**

To join the 2017-2018 Advanced Placement Test Fee Funding Options Webinar:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/aptestfeeoptions1718/>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Audio access: 855-240-2575; participant code: 38582295

For more information, please email [highschoolacademics@la.gov](mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov).



## Policy

### **Reminder: Guidance on Student Fees**

As first communicated in the June 20, 2017, weekly newsletter, [House Resolution 183](#) of 2017 urges and requests all public school governing authorities, including local school boards and charter school governing boards, to enact and publish policies relative to student fees. Please refer to the Department [guidance document](#) if your governing board has not yet enacted and published these policies. The Department will submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2018, identifying the policies that have been adopted, pursuant to the Legislature's request.

Please email [erin.bendily@la.gov](mailto:erin.bendily@la.gov) for more information.