

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



November 1, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Among the many areas in which Louisiana educators and students have made great progress, the reduction in struggling schools in our state should rank among the top accomplishments. Fewer schools today are rated D or F than was the case years ago, benefiting thousands of students who otherwise would have been assigned to a struggling school.

At the same time, there remain schools in our state whose challenges are significant, measurable, and obstinate. In dozens of high schools, for example, less than two-thirds of students graduate. In many elementary schools, no more than 10% of students have fully proficient literacy or mathematics skills. In spite of many good plans and good intentions, too often these results are repeated year after year.

These schools are not necessarily in urban settings, nor are they necessarily rural. They are not concentrated in one or two school districts. They are spread out across our state, in diverse communities with diverse needs. No one plan can resolve the challenges faced by these schools, their educators, and their students.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides targeted resources states must spend on schools with strong, research-based plans to change these circumstances for students. However, this comes with its own challenges. First, while persistently struggling schools typically require outside support, there is no statewide or nationwide inventory or catalogue of effective support organizations. Next, too often the federal mandates to transform low-achieving schools have often become a heavy-handed dictate from state agencies, yielding an oppositional dynamic between states and districts that is helpful to no child.

To the end of resolving both of these tensions, and to the end of providing the most effective support possible for Louisiana's persistently struggling schools, the Department sent a [Request for Information](#) to dozens of organizations across the country and across the state today, inviting them to share their vision for what it would mean to assist struggling schools in our state to better serve their students. The organizations we are inviting to reply to the RFI are diverse and include non-profits, universities, start-up organizations and even traditional school systems such as yours.

Subsequent to receiving and reviewing these responses, the Department will invite the most promising of these organizations from within and without our state, with proven track records, to a School Redesign Summit January 18, 2017, in New Orleans. As you know from briefings last week, my hope is that you and your leadership teams will join us for the summit, and that you will be able to dialogue with these organizations. At the least, such a dialogue may spark a vision not yet considered for transforming the quality of struggling schools in your communities. Even better, such a dialogue may spark thoughts on potential partners to assist in achieving such a vision.

Per ESSA, your district will build a plan to improve each of your struggling schools, and it may be that such plans include partners such as the ones you will meet in January. Your district may choose to submit these plans as part of a competitive grant process to allocate the targeted resources that states must spend on improving schools, and the state will aim to allocate these funds prior to the start of the next school year.

Ultimately, our hope is that Louisiana's ESSA plan will not reflect a state vision to be handed down to school systems, but a series of diverse local visions to be incorporated into the statewide plan. The [RFI](#) issued today and the summit in January are two steps. A school system is only as good as the schools to which it assigns its students. Therefore, there is no more important discussion in our education system than the discussion of ending the struggle for schools where it has gone on too long.

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

John

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

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CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS

[Current District Support Calendar](#)

District Support

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 WorkKeys testing window;
- Updated LEAP science administration date;
- Update to December Collaborations.

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions related to this calendar.

November District Planning Call

This November District Planning Call is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 2, from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.** Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

The following district supervisors should attend:

- Assessment and Accountability
- Technology
- Early Childhood
- High School
- Career and Technical Education
- Principal and Teacher Leader
- Human Resources

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

- Meeting Name: November 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 with questions.

November Superintendent Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Monday, November 7, at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below.

To join the Superintendents' November 7, 2016 Meeting:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 866-238-1665
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # 1677727.
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

2016-2016 Compass Information System Webinars

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

Compass Information System (CIS) Webinar for Administrators: This webinar provides technical guidance to operate the following components of CIS for school- and district-level administrators.

- Timeline
- Account Management
- User Roles
- Goal Setting
- Accessing Data in CIS
- Updating Rosters
- Evaluations
- Compass Reports

Webinar information:

- Date and Time: **November 3, 2016 at 1:00 PM.**
- Click [here](#) to join the webinar.

Compass Information System (CIS) Webinar for Teachers and all Other Users: This webinar provides technical guidance to operate the following components of CIS for teachers, counselors, librarians and all other CIS users.

- Timeline
- Account Management
- Goal Setting
- Accessing Data in CIS

Webinar information:

- Date and Time: **November 9, 2016 at 1:00 PM.**
- Click [here](#) to join the webinar.

Email compass@la.gov for additional information or support.

Standards Alignment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities and English Language Learning Needs

Please forward to curriculum, special education and ELL supervisors.

The Department worked with stakeholders to develop aligned learning expectations for students with significant disabilities and English language learning needs. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the [draft proposals](#) and **submit feedback by November 18, 2016.**

The Department will host an informational webinars to discuss the framework for each draft.

- Thursday, November 3, 2016- 2 p.m. -3 p.m.

Webinar Login Information (no pre-registration required)

- Conference Number(s): 1-855-240-2575
- Participant pin code: 60265090
- To join the meeting click <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/sped/>

Assessment & Accountability

District Test Coordinator Reminders

Assessment Administration Support and Training:

- **Office Hours:** Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 1:00 PM
 - 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.
 - This week's topic: Question and Answer Session.
- **EOC OTT Tutorials Available:** Available now in INSIGHT or [here](#) using the Chrome browser, the OTT provides educators and students a voiceover of all tools and features in the assessment platform.
- **Updated Assessment Calendar:** The [2016-2017 Assessment Calendar](#) has been updated to reflect the WorkKeys testing window and the science paper-based test date.
- **Updated Assessment Guides:** The grades 3-4 paper-based testing schedule is now included in the grades 3-4 ELA and math [Assessment Guides](#).

Assessment Administration:

- **Updated IAP:** The [IAP form](#) has been updated and is located in the Assessment Library. All accommodations codes are now aligned to SIS and the accommodation for a Braille statewide assessment is now solely available on the IEP form.
- **ACT and WorkKeys:** The 2016-2017 ACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and supporting documents are now available for all public, charter, and scholarship schools (scholarship students only) in the [Assessment Library](#) under Resources + Forms.
 - Submit ACT approved accommodations in the Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) System now through February 17, 2017.
 - Please refer to the [ACT State Testing website](#) for information, manuals, and training opportunities.
 - ACT WorkKeys testing window begins November 14, 2016 through May 12, 2017.
- **EOC fall administration:** Thank you for joining us for the October in-person training sessions. Over 600 participants were able to engage in the new EOC system in preparation for the upcoming administration. STCs should begin creating test sessions within eDIRECT and can begin to print student test tickets.

Technology Readiness:

In order to ensure that devices have been set up correctly for EOCs that will begin at the end of November, schools can launch the text-to-speech OTT within "Test Sign In." This will pull the content from the TSM instead of from the DRC servers to ensure the district's TSM(s) have been set up correctly. Tech staff should check at least one, preferably two devices per TSM.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

CLEP Webinar

The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) helps students receive college credit. Developed by the College Board, CLEP is the most widely accepted credit-by-examination program, available at more than 2,900 colleges and universities.

A webinar will be hosted to outline the guidelines on CLEP credit policy, CLEP subject areas, exam preparation, and how to become an authorized CLEP administration center.

District Test Coordinators, Administrators, Professional School Counselors, and Teachers are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- Thursday, November 17, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 8, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Webinar Login Information (no pre-registration required):

- Meeting Name: College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/clep/>
- 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.

New Jump Start Video Network and Automated Text Response System

Please share with principals and counselors.

The Department released the new [Jump Start Video Network](#) to provide students, parents and educators with direct access to information on Jump Start from their phones, iPad or laptop, such as pathways offered in every high school in Louisiana. To access the videos, text "JUMPSTART" to 99008 or visit the [Jump Start Video Network website](#).

The Department also announced a [contest](#) for students to create videos for the Jump Start Video Network showcasing their local pathway opportunities. Contest winners will earn grant awards for their schools to buy new video equipment and computers.

Email jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

2016-2017 TOPS Tech Early Start Training Provider Webinar

Please share this entry with districts/charters.

The LDOE will host a webinar this week for private training providers interested in applying to become a TOPS Tech Early Start (TTES) Course Provider. Act 737 (SB 126) of the 2014 Legislative Session amended the TTES Legislation and now provides for payment of TTES to students enrolled in an eligible program of study with a training program provider approved by BESE. The webinar will review the Request for Application (RFA) process for becoming a provider, and the TTES program goals. A full list of TTES student eligibility requirements can be found [here](#).

The webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 1:30-2:30 p.m.** (No pre-registration required.)
Webinar Login Information:

- Meeting Name: TOPS Tech Early Start Training Provider Webinar
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ttes2016/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

For additional information, please direct all questions to jumpstart@la.gov.

Data

FTP Drop: K-8 Progress Points

Please share with Accountability contacts.

The Department will distribute the K8 Progress Points Roster by Friday, November 4 via the FTP with the file name *LEACode_LEA Name_2016_K8 Progress Points Roster*. Data included in the rosters were certified during assessment data certification. The [K8 Progress Points Fact Sheet](#) is available in the LDOE accountability library.

Please send questions to assessment@la.gov.

November Data Manager Call

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on **Thursday, November 3, 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, November 2. Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Funding and Grants Management

2016 Equipment Grant

The Fiscal Year 2016 Agriculture Appropriations Act has awarded Louisiana \$552,927 to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns. Priority will be given to schools in which 50% or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and those that have not received equipment grant funding in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2015. Grant-related information is located at the Equipment Assistance

received equipment grant funding in 2009, 2010, 2014 and 2015. Grant-related information is located at the Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities link. Online applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) website on November 1, 2016. The deadline for submission is November 30, 2016.

Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application Deadline Extended

The FY 2016-2017 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application is currently available in LDOE's electronic grants management system (eGMS). The submission deadline will be November 1, 2016.

As you prepare your EEF submission please keep the following in mind:

- Review the FY 2017 EEF Allocations page to confirm all funds for budgeting in 2016-2017;
- Update and resave your Budget Detail Page;
- Run the Consistency Check prior to submitting the application to LDOE;
- Know that indirect costs are not allowable in the EEF application.

For further information about EEF, contact Kenya Jenkins at Kenya.Jenkins@la.gov, Terri Byrd at Terri.Byrd@la.gov or Tonya Johnson at Tonya.Johnson@la.gov.

Other

School-Based Medicaid Handbook Revised September 2016

The [School-Based Medicaid Handbook](#), revised October 2016, is now available in the [School Policy library](#) under "School Climate and Health Services" and on the [School-Based Medicaid Services homepage](#). The handbook provides information and technical assistance for LEAs seeking reimbursement for eligible school health services.

If you have any questions about the handbook or School Based Medicaid Services, please contact Janice Zube via email at Janice.Zube@la.gov.

LDOE Contacts

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