

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



November 15, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to you and your staffs for the time you have put into reviewing student results and initial school performance scores. I hope that the review process was helpful to you as you consider the successes and challenges in your schools.

Tomorrow, district and school report cards will be shared with accountability contacts through the secure FTP. Additional information about these files can be found in the newsletter below. Tomorrow evening, you will receive an email from [Assistant Superintendent Jessica Baghian](#) providing statewide results and performance reports. **On Thursday, I ask that you join me for a briefing conference call on these results at 8:00 a.m. after which I will brief the news media.** Click [here](#) to join the briefing, or dial 1-866-802-4364, and enter code 1678367#.

As you know, in 2015 and 2016 students demonstrated growth on nearly every conventional measure of school success. Academic mastery rates, graduation rates, and career and college credentialing all increased in our state. As a result, school scores and ratings increased overall.

At the same time, a close examination of our state's rating system reveals both successes and challenges that the system itself does too little to highlight. There are schools in which low-performing students are making great strides, for example, but which are not recognized prominently for that growth in the scoring system. Similarly, in many cases A-rated performance is not commensurate with true readiness for community college or university coursework. These, among others, are challenges that the state's [Accountability Commission](#) and [ESSA planning process](#) aim to resolve.

The ESSA planning process will also include a [School Redesign Summit](#) in January in New Orleans. The summit is meant to be a source of knowledge and inspiration to schools and school systems looking for ideas for improving struggling schools or schools with struggling student groups. While the summit is completely voluntary, it provides an opportunity for districts or charter schools interested in federal school support grants to develop and refine their improvement plans. For more information, please contact your network leader or [Assistant Superintendent Kunjan Narechania](#).

As we review past results, we turn our eye toward the future, both to continue our momentum and to address our greatest challenges. I look forward to it all.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS

[Current District Support Calendar](#)

District Support

2016-2017 Compass Action Steps and Tools

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

Compass Information System (CIS) Webinar for Procedures for Uploading 2015-2016 School Year Evaluation Data:

This webinar provides technical guidance for administrators, supervisors and data managers for uploading 2015-2016 school year compass evaluation data.

- The webinar will take place November 22, 2016 at 3:00 PM.
- The webinar will be repeated November 29, 2016 at 1:00 PM.
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/cis/>.

Compass Information System (CIS) Office Hours for Completing Evaluation Data for the 2015-2016 School Year:

These sessions provide time for districts to seek technical guidance for completing the evaluation process for the 2015-2016 school year.

- Office hours will be held:
 - December 6, 2016 at 2:00 PM
 - December 13, 2016 at 2:00 PM
 - December 20, 2016 at 2:00 PM
 - December 27, 2016 at 2:00 PM
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/cis/>

Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities and English Language Learners

The Department is seeking feedback from all stakeholders on the [Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities and English Language Learners](#). Teachers are encouraged to review the alignment expectations and proposals and complete the feedback surveys. To learn more about the alignment process and to review proposals, please visit the LDOE [Louisiana Standards Alignment Process page](#) and submit feedback by November 18, 2016.

- Review [Louisiana Connectors for English Language Learners](#).
- Review [Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities](#) in [math](#) and [English](#)

Assessment & Accountability

2016 K-12 Accountability Release

Below is the timeline for the release of district and school report cards and performance scores, as well as subgroup AYP rosters.

Wednesday November 16:

- **District and School Reports Cards:** The 2016 district and school report cards will be posted in the secure FTP **tomorrow, November 16**. The files, named LEA Code_LEA Name_Report Cards, will be available through December 16, 2016, and should be provided to all accountability contacts.
- **Subgroup AYP Preliminary Rosters:** Subgroup AYP Preliminary Rosters will be posted in the secure FTP **tomorrow, November 16**. The files, named LEA Code_LEA Name_AYP Roster, will provide information about how subgroups of students performed on state assessments and on-time graduation relative to annual measurable objectives, and will be available through December 16, 2016.

The [Subgroup AYP Fact Sheet](#) is available in the Louisiana Believes accountability library and provides an explanation of how adequate yearly progress (AYP) is determined. These rosters should be provided to all accountability contacts.

- **State, District and School-Level Reports:** Superintendents will receive an email from Assistant Superintendent Jessica Baghian Wednesday evening with the state, district and school-level school performance reports and a presentation summarizing state results.

Thursday, November 17:

- **Superintendent Call:** Superintendent White will host a **briefing call** with Superintendents and charter school leaders at **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 17** to provide an overview of district performance scores. Click [here](#) to join the briefing, or dial 1-866-802-4364, and enter code 1678367#.
- Superintendent White will brief the media on district and school performance scores at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 17.

District Test Coordinator Reminders

ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION

ACT/WorkKeys

- ACT WorkKeys testing window is **November 14, 2016 through May 12, 2017**. A 30 day waiting period between test administrations for the same test is recommended.
- 2016-2017 ACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and supporting documents are due **Dec. 16, 2016** for all public, charter, and scholarship schools (scholarship students only). They are located in the [Assessment Library](#) under ACT Documents. Contact Trish Gilbert at patricia.gilbert@la.gov with any questions.
- The window to manage ACT and ACT WorkKeys participation information in PearsonAccessNext (PANext) is open now through **December 16, 2016**. Detailed information can be found in the ACT ["Welcome to your Testing Program: State and District Testing"](#) document.
- 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.

EOC

- The Fall EOC window has been extended to December 16, 2017. The TCM has been updated in eDIRECT to reflect the extended window. If a test session in the original window is moved to the extended window, the session will need to be regenerated.
- STCs should continue creating test sessions, entering accommodations for retesters, and printing student test tickets within eDIRECT in preparation for fall EOCs. The testing window opens **November 28 and runs through December 14, 2016**.

NAEP

- NAEP School Test Coordinators should login to myNAEP and enter the enrollment for the grade(s) selected to participate in NAEP. Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

TECHNOLOGY READINESS

Please share with District Test and Technology Coordinators.

The November Education Technology Call will be held on **November 17, 2016, 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 Information: (646) 307-1380; meeting room # 951155484

Please contact edtech@la.gov with any questions.

New K-2 Formative Tasks Released

K-2 formative tasks are now available to district and school users from [eDIRECT](#), the administrative portal for statewide assessments. These tasks are ELA and math instructional tools that can be downloaded, printed, and used by kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers.

The tasks:

- focus on essential skills in ELA and math;
- offer teachers tools to observe and collect information about young students;
- allow for performance-based opportunities for learning;
- help teachers understand student performance through checklists and rubrics;
- inform next steps of instruction for each student.

How do teachers gain access?

On November 1, District Test Coordinators (DTCs) were given permissions to access the K-2 Formative tasks through [eDIRECT](#). District Test Coordinators will grant permissions to **all other district and school users**. Click [here](#) for an overview of the tasks and a guide to get started. If you have any questions about access, please contact your District or School Test Coordinator.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

2017 Jump Start Convention

The 2017 Jump Start Convention will be held **Tuesday, January 17, 2017** at the Raising Cane's River Center (275 S. River Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802). Attendees of the convention should include high school principals, district/charter administrators, professional school counselors, Jump Start regional team members, and regional economic development and workforce development organizations.

Key Jump Start Convention agenda items this year will include:

- Maximizing Jump Start funding for schools and districts;
- Expanding workplace experiences for students;
- Providing alternate pathways for students with disabilities;
- Encouraging best practices for counselor support.

Please [register](#) by **January 6, 2017**.

Please direct all questions about the convention to JumpStart@la.gov.

LCTCS College and Career Transitions Coordinators

Louisiana Community and Technical College System [College and Career Transitions Coordinators \(CCTCs\)](#) are located around the state and work closely with postsecondary institutions and K-12 school districts to provide information and resources about CTE postsecondary opportunities that are available (e.g., dual enrollment, professional development, career awareness, and collaboration and communication). Additionally, CCTCs are available to provide assistance to students, counselors, and parents with FAFSA completion and Financial Aid Planning. Click [here](#) to locate the CCTC nearest you.

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.

Talent

Believe and Prepare

By **July 2018**, all teacher preparation programs in Louisiana will include a yearlong classroom residency alongside an experienced mentor teacher. To support these shifts, funding is available for:

- Stipends for yearlong undergraduate residents and their cooperating mentor teachers;
- Access to teacher preparation experts and training for mentor teachers.

Please see the [Teacher Preparation Transition Guide](#) for detailed information.

While teacher preparation providers are responsible for submitting funding applications, district leaders should partner with providers to assess needs and project funding needs. **Applications are due November 18.**

Please save the dates February 13 and May 1 for the 2017 Believe and Prepare Meetings.

For more information, please contact BelieveandPrepare@la.gov.

Tenure Submission in PEP

The Department has received a few questions regarding reporting tenure information in PEP. The Talent Office has provided additional guidance on [The Teach Louisiana website](#). Please email sara.strickland@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

Data Collection of Annual Counts for Title I, Part D

The Department must report 2016-2017 Annual Counts for Title I, Part D in order to determine funding for its neglected and delinquent facilities. Title I Directors/security coordinators can enter the data for the 2016-2017 school year (October) via the [LEADSPortal](#). The LEADSPortal (TID - **Annual Counts Table only**) is now open through **December 12, 2016** for entering data.

If any additional information is required, please contact your NCLB point of contact ([POC](#)) for further assistance.

Data Collection in Title III Survey - LEADSPortal

The Louisiana Department of Education must report specific data from all districts receiving Title III funds. Title III districts/security coordinators must complete the Title III Survey (TTS) for the 2015-2016 school year via the [LEADSPortal](#). The LEADSPortal (TTS) is now open through **December 2, 2016**, for entering data.

Guidelines for completing the survey are found in the [Title III Survey Manual](#).

If any additional information is required, please contact your NCLB point of contact ([POC](#)) for further assistance.

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 percent 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, 2014, and 2015. Grant related information is located at the Equipment

have not 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 are accessible for food and nutrition supervisors on the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) website.

The deadline for submission is November 30, 2016.

Other

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program: Invitation to Nominate Students (Last Call)

The U.S. Department of Education has invited chief state school officers (state superintendents of education) to nominate outstanding students for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. This year, states are allowed to submit nominations for up to 25 outstanding students who would otherwise not qualify under the program's traditional academic (based on ACT/SAT scores) or arts component. Nominations may also include students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in career and technical education.

State Superintendent White invites local superintendents to submit nominations for **up to three outstanding students**. The nominations must include a male and female student, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in career and technical education. Students should be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January and June 2017. Please see [additional program requirements](#) for more information.

Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total) signed by the local superintendent and emailed to leslie.hill@la.gov no later than **Friday, November 18, at 4:30 p.m.** Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

Federal Policy on Military Recruiting in Schools

Representatives of military recruiting offices have recently contacted the Department to express concerns regarding access to student contact information. By Federal law, all school districts that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), must provide student's names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters unless the student's parents or guardians have individually opted out of providing this information. Local education authorities cannot adopt a blanket opt-out policy.

In addition, please be mindful that schools are to allow recruiters from the various branches of service equitable access to classrooms and/or facilities. School districts must allow equal access and accommodation to all branches of services in accordance with a consistent application of their local policies. Students interested in joining the military after high school should be allowed to receive information from all branches of service so they can make an intelligent decision if they are considering joining the military.

Please share this information with the principals and counselors in your high schools to ensure your district is in compliance with federal law.

Safe and Healthy Schools

School Bus Passenger Safety Task Force Survey

Please share with transportation directors.

In compliance with Louisiana Senate Resolution 122, a Student Transportation and School Bus Safety task force has been formed to study and make recommendations regarding student transportation and school bus passenger safety. Transportation Directors should complete this [survey](#) to assist the task force in collecting information regarding student transportation.

Request from Dr. Rebekah E. Gee, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health

Inhalant abuse is a growing problem in the United States. Accordingly, [House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session](#) urged the [Louisiana Department of Health Office of Behavioral Health](#) to raise awareness of the problem. The Department encourages school leaders to share the following information with teachers, parents and students:

- [Abuse Prevention Kit for Parents](#)
- [The Inhalant Abuse Quiz for Middle and High School Students](#)
- [Inhalant Abuse Quick Fact Sheet](#)

LDOE Contacts

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