

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



December 6, 2016

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

For nearly two decades, the quality of schools in Louisiana has been measured based on the quantifiable skills that students demonstrate. This system of measurement and accountability has fostered radical gains in student learning and individual opportunity in Louisiana for nearly a generation.

But the definition of quality schooling in our state can be refined to improve outcomes even further. Too often the term "good school," for example, refers to the level of student performance in a school rather than the gains students make over the course of the year. This misses an opportunity to set higher goals for all students, no matter their performance levels, and to reward educators whose students see gains in spite of difficult odds.

As part of deliberations regarding the federal [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), the [Accountability Commission](#) met yesterday to consider how the state's accountability system could incorporate a calculation of the gains achieved by each child. You can find the material presented [here](#), and I look forward to a discussion of these issues at the Superintendents Task Force meeting this Thursday at 9 am.

You will note in the presentation that the commission is focused on a simple but challenging question: if Louisiana is to include a calculation of individual student gains, how should that be done? Should it be a reflection of the gains a student makes relative to her peers? Or should it be a calculation of gains relative to the absolute goal of mastery? Should it be both?

Answers to these questions will affect how teachers and parents set goals for children, now and for years to come.

At its January 9 meeting, the Accountability Commission will expand on this discussion of "how" the model should work, addressing "how much" of a school's score should be comprised of individual student growth. Department staff will also provide updates on the commission's work at upcoming [collaboratives](#) happening around the state.

While these are detailed discussions of esoteric subjects, the stakes for our state and its young people could not be greater. The questions go to the heart of what we expect from our students and from ourselves.

I thank all of you who have participated in the process so far, just as I look forward to the many discussions yet to be had.

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

John

John White  
Louisiana Department of Education  
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## In This Issue:

[District Support](#)

[Assessment & Accountability](#)

Data

High School Opportunities

Talent

Safe and Healthy Schools

Federal Programs

Finance

Other



[Current District Support Calendar](#)

## District Support

### December District Planning Call

This December District Planning Call is scheduled for **tomorrow, Wednesday, December 7, 2016** from **1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.** Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

The following district supervisors should attend:

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

Webinar Login Information: (no preregistration required)

- Meeting Name: December District Planning Call
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <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

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

### Registration for December Supervisor and Principal Collaborations

Please share the [Principal Collaboration Overview](#) with principals in your district and encourage them to register.

The December Supervisor and Principal Collaborations will take place in the following locations:

December 9	Baton Rouge	<a href="#">Claiborne Building</a>
December 12	Harvey	<a href="#">Jefferson Parish School Board Office</a>
December 16	Metairie	<a href="#">Ernest G. Breaux Building</a>

December 13	Lafayette	<a href="#">Bayou Church</a>
December 15	Ruston	<a href="#">Trinity United Methodist Church</a>

Sessions at the [Supervisor Collaborations](#) and [Principal Collaborations](#) will provide district supervisors and principals with important information related to assessment and accountability, curriculum and instruction, special education, and early childhood. Please use the links below for more information about each of these events, including session descriptions and registration instructions.

- [Supervisor Collaboration Overview](#)
- [Principal Collaboration Overview](#)

Each meeting has a limited number of spots, which will be filled on a first come, first served basis. **Registration for both events closes tomorrow, December 7, 2016.**

## **December Virtual Teacher Leader Collaborations**

**Please share with district and school administrators as well as the Teacher Leaders in your district.**

In response to feedback from Teacher Leaders, the December Teacher Leader Collaborations will be delivered in a webinar format to provide support to Teacher Leaders while minimizing time away from the classroom. The December virtual webinars will focus on the following topics:

- Math Tools (Monday, December 12)
- Science Standards Review and Public Portal (Tuesday, December 13)
- 2017-2018 Assessment Guides (Wednesday, December 14 and Friday, December 16)

Please refer to the [Virtual Teacher Leader Collaboration Overview](#) for more information about each of these webinars, including when they will be offered and how to access them. In addition to Teacher Leaders, district and school administrators are invited to attend.

Reach out to [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov) with questions related to the Teacher Leader Collaboration events.

## **Superintendents' Conference Call**

You are invited to participate in the **Superintendents' Conference Call** hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Wednesday, December 14, at 10:30 a.m. CST**. You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below to join the call.

Conference Call Login Information: (no preregistration required)

- Meeting Name: December Superintendents' Conference Call
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # 31428283

You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

## **District Charter Application Process**

At the December BESE meeting today, BESE authorized the 2017 common charter application and the 2017 district charter school application process timeline. All local school boards must post district charter school application process information to their websites no later than **Friday, January 6, 2017**.

The Department has prepared resources that will support local school boards in running a compliant district charter school application process. Those resources can be found on the Department's Charter School Application Process for District Administrators [web page](#).

In addition to the resources posted on the Department's website, Department staff will host a webinar to guide district administrators through the steps districts must take in order to run a compliant charter school application process. **The webinar will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.**

Webinar Login Information: (no preregistration required)

- Meeting Name: District Charter Application Process
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/r634bdwhm10/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

For more information about the district charter school application process, please contact David Shepard at [david.shepard@la.gov](mailto:david.shepard@la.gov).

## **Draft of Louisiana Science Standards Released for Public Review**

**Please share this information with principals, Teacher Leaders, science educators, and parents.**

Stakeholders from across Louisiana have spent over 4,000 hours drafting the Louisiana Student Standards for Science. The standards were posted for public comment on **December 1, 2016 and will be available until January 6, 2017**. Your feedback will help ensure the final standards lay the right foundation for quality science instruction for all students in Louisiana.

The link to the public review portal and other information regarding the standards review process can be found on the [Louisiana Standards Review](#) page. All comments will be shared with the science committee when they make final updates in January. The standards will be submitted to BESE for approval in March 2017.

Email [louisianastandards@la.gov](mailto:louisianastandards@la.gov) with questions.

### **School Redesign Summit Registration Released**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that LEAs develop plans to improve student achievement in their persistently struggling schools, and that states grant competitive funds to LEAs with the strongest evidence-based plans. The [School Redesign Summit](#), which will be held in New Orleans on **January 19, 2017**, will provide LEAs with the opportunity to brainstorm strategies for supporting their struggling schools as they build out these plans.

To register for the summit, school systems should **email the completed [School Redesign Summit Needs Assessment](#) to [hunter.brown@la.gov](mailto:hunter.brown@la.gov) by December 15, 2016**.

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

### **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 archived editions of the Charter and Nonpublic weekly newsletters to the [Newsletters](#) page
- Addition of the School Redesign Summit on January 19, 2017

Please email [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) with questions related to this calendar.

### **2016-2017 Compass Action Steps and Tools**

**Please share with principals and principal supervisors.**

The Compass Information System (CIS) Office Hours for Completing Evaluation Data for the 2015-2016 School Year provide time for districts to seek technical guidance for **completing the Compass Information System (CIS) evaluation process for the 2015-2016 school year by December 30, 2016**.

Office hours will be held at **3:00 PM every Tuesday in December**.

Login Information (no preregistration required)

- Meeting Name: CIS Office Hours
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/cis/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Webinar resources are available in the [Compass Library](#).

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

### **TAP/NIET Best Practices Field Trip Opportunities**

**Please share with principals and principal supervisors.**

As a part of its ongoing efforts to support principals in their work to improve teaching and learning, the Department will be offering opportunities to see firsthand the powerful principles of TAP™: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement and the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) Best Practices.

Registration is now open for the [Fall 2016 TAP/NIET Best Practices Field Trip Opportunities](#). These [field trips](#) are designed to provide opportunities for existing TAP districts, as well as prospective district and school educators, to observe the various processes and structures of TAP and NIET Best Practices in a school setting—to learn by seeing them in action!

For additional information and/or to register for a field trip, please contact [nicole.honore@la.gov](mailto:nicole.honore@la.gov).

## District Test Coordinator Reminders

### Assessment Administration Support and Training:

#### ACT

- **ACT Match/No Match Rosters:** This file named, *LEA Code\_LEA Name\_2017 ACT Match\_No Match*, includes the highest ACT score available for students currently enrolled in grade 12.
  - Students who do not have a score should participate in spring ACT testing unless they participate in LAA 1 testing.
  - Students who do have an ACT score can be retested at the expense of the district.
- 2016-2017 [ACT Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) and supporting documents](#) are due **December 16, 2016** for all public, charter, and scholarship schools (scholarship students only). Please contact [patricia.gilbert@la.gov](mailto:patricia.gilbert@la.gov) with any questions.
- December 16, 2016: Deadline to manage ACT and ACT WorkKeys participation information in PearsonAccessNext (PANext). Detailed information can be found in the [Welcome to Your Testing Program](#) document.

#### ACT Online Pilot Participants

- Technical coordinators in districts identified as ACT online pilot participants should read the [Technical Requirements for the ACT® Test Taken Online](#) to ensure schools' computers and networks are ready for testing.

#### EOC

- EOC Testing window is **November 28 through December 16, 2016**.

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

## Data

The department will post the following reports to the ftp the week of December 5, 2016 for Accountability Contacts.

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  - Students who do have an ACT score can be retested at the expense of the district.

## High School Opportunities

### 2016 Counselor Collaboratives

The 2016 Counselor Collaboratives scheduled below will focus on developing appropriate High School Pathways and guiding students to resources that provide post-secondary training opportunities. Counselors are encouraged to attend a collaborative in their area; however, they may attend a collaborative outside their area if necessary.

Participants are asked to register on [Coursewhere](#). For questions regarding registration, please email [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

Date	Network	Location	Time
Feb. 6	B	Terrebonne Parish Library, North Branch Grey, LA	9:00 a.m.
Feb. 7	B	Acadia Parish Educational Center Crowley, LA	9:00 a.m.
Feb. 13	A	Bossier (location TBA)	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	A	Natchitoches (location TBA)	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	C	West Baton Rouge Pupil Appraisal Annex 670, Rosedale Road, Port Allen, LA	9:00 a.m.
Feb. 15	A	Monroe (location TBA)	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 16	A	Marksville (location TBA)	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 16	C	Treen Instructional Technology Center 2024 Livingston Street, Mandeville, LA	9:00 a.m.

### Course Choice Spring 2017 Registration

**Please share with professional school counselors and district high school coordinators.**

Registration for Spring 2017 is now open. The deadline to register is **January 9, 2017**. Schools will register students directly with the course provider. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered with the course providers, schools should document enrollments in the [Course Choice Registration system](#).

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers. These course offerings will enable schools to provide courses not currently available to their students, including:

- Career and technical preparation, supporting the Jump Start program;
- Academic work required to achieve TOPS;
- Advanced course work not available at the school due to limited resources;
- Dual Enrollment courses from colleges and universities;
- Intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation.

For more information, please e-mail [sca@la.gov](mailto:sca@la.gov).

## **Bossier Parish Community College Winter Session**

**Please share with high school principals and counselors.**

Registration is underway for the online winter session at Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) now through **December 12, 2016**. High school juniors and seniors can earn college credit from BPCC between their fall and spring semesters in only four weeks. Please see the BPCC [flyer](#) for more information.

## **Talent**

### **Believe and Prepare**

By July 2018, all teacher preparation programs in Louisiana will include a yearlong classroom residency alongside an experienced mentor teacher.

If you missed the Believe and Prepare community meeting on October 31, please join the Believe and Prepare session at the Regional Supervisor Collaboration to review the residency transition support guide and regional workforce reports.

All curriculum supervisors and human resources directors who coordinate with teacher preparation providers on residency development should attend.

For more information please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## **Special Education**

### **Monthly Special Education Leader Webinar**

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA directors and supervisors of special education on **Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

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

- Meeting Name: Special Education Policy
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/sped/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Audio access via phone bridge: 1-855-240-2575/ room number: 17428453
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.
- Once you log into the conference site, you can download the presentation. It will also be available in the Special Education Library after the event.

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

## **Federal Programs**

### **Foster Care Provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act**

New educational stability requirements under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the

New educational stability requirements under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), highlight the need to provide educational stability for children in foster care, with particular emphasis on collaboration between state education agencies, local school systems, and child welfare agencies to ensure students in foster care have the opportunity to achieve at the same high levels as their peers. Consistent with current law and policy, these provisions emphasize the importance of limiting educational disruption by keeping children who move in foster care in their schools of origin when in their best interest and, if not, ensure that children in foster care are enrolled in their new schools without delay.

The Title I educational stability provisions go into effect **December 10, 2016**. By that date, each local school system, including charter schools should:

1. Appoint a point of contact (POC) for the education in foster care provisions. The POC can also serve as the homeless education liaison.
2. Collaborate with state and local child welfare agencies to review current transportation plans and procedures to ensure they provide cost-effective transportation to allow children in foster care to remain in their school of origin.

Please refer to the [Foster Care Provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act](#) for a further discussion of the major ESSA provisions. For more information, please contact Melanie Mayeux at [melanie.mayeux@la.gov](mailto:melanie.mayeux@la.gov).

## Finance

### **Education Excellence Fund (EEF)**

At the **November 18, 2016** meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) a plan to solve the \$315 million state budget deficit was considered. A component of this plan is a reduction of \$743,638, or about 5%, to the Education Excellence Fund (EEF) annual allocation to school districts and charter schools. No decision was made at the November meeting regarding this plan or the reduction to EEF and instead the decision was made to reconsider the plan at the December 16 meeting.

This notice is to ensure an awareness of the possibility that if the reduction is approved by JLCB, then the department will be required to reduce the current year EEF allocations. You may view a simulation of the estimated reduction amounts at this [link](#). The outcome of the JLCB meeting will be communicated to you through the newsletter.

## Other

### **Health Notice: Mump Outbreak Alert Raised to High**

**Please share with principals and school-based health centers.**

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is investigating a large outbreak of mumps in northwest Arkansas. So far there have been 1,800 confirmed cases of mumps, mostly in school-aged children in the northwest area of the state. On December 1, 2016, the Texas Department of Health reported two mumps investigations in progress.

This information has been shared with the Department to advise Louisiana schools to be on alert for the signs and symptoms of mumps given our proximity to this outbreak. If school nurses suspect mumps in a student and have questions about (or how to arrange) testing through the state laboratory, please contact the Louisiana Immunization Program at 504-568-2600 or the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at 800-256-2748.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Mumps information page](#).

### **Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**

The 2016-2017 nomination and application process for mathematics and science teachers of grades 7-12 for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is now open.

The PAEMST is the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science. To nominate an outstanding mathematics or science teacher, please visit the [PAEMST website](#).

- Nomination Deadline: April 1, 2017
- Application Deadline: May 1, 2017

For more information about the award, visit the [PAEMST website](#) or contact Jean May-Brett, state PAEMST Math Coordinator at [jam05@bellsouth.net](mailto:jam05@bellsouth.net).

### **2017 Students of the Year Program**

Each year, the Department recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of our students through the Louisiana Students of the Year Awards Program.

The Department released the application for the **2017 Students of the Year** program and strongly encourages all LEAs to play an active role in celebrating the exceptional students in their area. To participate, please review the revised [written guidelines](#) for the program and current [logistics memo](#).

To ensure your LEA is represented, please complete the following steps:

1. Complete the [District/LEA Information Form](#) and email it to [Marian Johnson](#) by **December 9, 2016**. This information will enable the Department to determine the regional sites and to communicate directly with coordinators on upcoming events and activities related to this program.
2. Make the [logistics memo](#) available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

All LEAs are encouraged to visit the [LDOE Awards Programs](#) web page for more information about the Students of the Year Awards. If you have any questions, please email [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) or call 225-219-7372.

## LDOE Contacts

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## LDOE Links

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