

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



December 13, 2016

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Among the many facts of which Louisiana students and educators can be proud, this rarely discussed accomplishment ranks high: 28,000 fewer students attend schools rated 'F' today than did in 2012. This is due to a relentless focus on the rights and needs of students in dire circumstances, and it should be commended.

Still today, however, 30,500 students attend a school where performance merits an 'F' grade. Graduation and college readiness rates are low. Mastery of essential skills is rare. And while struggles at home are largely causal of these struggles in school, there are too many Louisiana schools helping students to beat the odds of their circumstances for us to accept such causality as inevitable. Schools cannot change everything; but if one school can viably combat the ravages of poverty, then we must see that all schools fight that fight well.

The fight, especially for struggling schools, more often than not requires outside assistance. In the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#), Congress authorized Title I funds specifically for the purpose of assisting schools that are struggling the most. In the year to come, Louisiana schools and school systems will submit research-based plans for improvement that use federal resources to transform these schools.

There have been challenges for states in carrying out this work in the past. First, the federal and state government have often dictated specific models for school improvement rather than empower district and school leaders to identify research-based practices that will work for their children and schools. Second, a catalogue of support entities or research-based models did not exist. Thus, local leaders were left with limited guidance in developing plans.

In an effort to resolve both of these issues, the Department recently issued a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) from in-state and out-of-state organizations with promising track records in improving struggling schools. The question asked was a simple one: How would you help Louisiana's most struggling schools to best serve their students? The response was overwhelming and inspiring. [Here](#) you can find a listing of every response received, organized by the type of model each organization provides.

As a next step, you are invited to attend a voluntary [School Redesign Summit](#) on January 19, 2017 in New Orleans. Dozens of organizations who responded to the RFI will be in attendance. At the Summit you will be able to brainstorm ideas for addressing the needs of struggling schools and students with colleagues and with experts from around the state and across the nation. You will leave, I hope, with a list of ideas, a clearer sense of research-based practices, and potentially even a list of potential partners. At a minimum, this voluntary event will be a chance to stretch your imagination as to what's possible in the most challenged school settings in our state.

Please look for more information about the Summit in future newsletters and from your Network Leader.

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

### Superintendent Conference Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendent Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White **tomorrow, December 14, at 10:30 a.m.** 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.

### Compass Action Steps and Tools--Deadline Extended

**2015-2016 Evaluation Data Deadline:** The deadline for all 2015-2016 evaluation data to be uploaded into the Compass Information System (CIS) **has been extended to January 13, 2017**. The original deadline was December 30, 2016. [Procedures for Uploading 2015 Evaluation Data Quick Guide](#) can be found in the [Compass Library](#).

Please email [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with any questions about this process.

### **District Charter Application Process**

At the December BESE meeting last week, 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).

## **District Support Reminders**

December 14, 2016	3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Virtual Teacher Leader Collaboration</a> --Assessment Guides
December 16, 2016	2:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Virtual Teacher Leader Collaboration</a> --Assessment Guides
December 15, 2016	3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">School Redesign Summit Needs Assessment Due</a>
December 20 and 27, 2016	3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">CIS Office Hours for Completing Evaluation Data</a>

## **Assessment and Accountability**

### **District Test Coordinator Reminders**

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

**Office Hours: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** (no preregistration required)

- Meeting Name: DTC Office Hours
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Audio access via phone bridge: 646-307-1380; meeting room #951155484
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

#### **LEAP Practice Test**

- DTCs can begin managing users in [eDIRECT](#) for the LEAP Practice Test Spring 2017 administration.

#### **NAEP**

- Schools selected to participate in NAEP do not need to enter National School Lunch Program information into myNAEP. LDOE will submit a file on your behalf in February.

#### **ELDA and LAA1**

- Test Coordinator Manuals and Test Administrator Manuals are available in [eDIRECT](#).

#### **ACT**

- 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) in the [Assessment Library](#) under ACT Documents. Contact Trish Gilbert, [patricia.gilbert@la.gov](mailto:patricia.gilbert@la.gov) with any questions.
- The window to manage ACT and ACT WorkKeys participation information in PearsonAccessNext (PANext) closes **December 16, 2016**. Detailed information can be found [here](#).
- The ACT Match/No Match lists were placed in district FTPs last week. The Match List is used to identify students who have an ACT score on record. **Students who took the ACT in 2015-2016 and whose tests were voided will appear on the ACT Match list flagged as a void.** Districts will incur the cost for testing students on the Match List if they choose for those students to retest. The No Match List identifies the students who will take the ACT this school year that are paid for by

LDOE.

- 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

- Testing window ends **December 16, 2016**.
- DTCs should submit any testing irregularities by the end of the week to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

## Accountability:

### High School Progress Points

- The department posted an updated [High School Progress Points Fact Sheet](#) for 2016-2017 in the Accountability Library which aligns with policy approved by BESE in August 2016.

### Superintendent and Principal Profiles

- **Superintendent profiles:** Superintendent profiles were posted to the FTP on December 9, 2016 for accountability contacts. This profile provides a summary of the data used to calculate the 2016 District Performance Score, and a comparison to prior year and state results. The file is posted as *LEA Code\_LEA Name\_2015-16 District Report Card*.
- **Principal profiles:** Principal profiles will be posted to the FTP by the end of this week. This profile provides a summary of the data used to calculate the 2016 School Performance Score, and a comparison to prior year data, district and state results. The profiles will be posted as zipped files with name *LEA Code\_2015-16 Principal Profile*.

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

## Data

### Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar--Date Change

Please forward to all data managers.

Due to the holidays, the monthly data coordinator webinar originally scheduled for Thursday, January 5 will be moved to **Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.**

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

## High School Opportunities

### Registration Reminders

- **January 6:** [Registration](#) for the Jump Start Convention closes.
- **January 9:** [Registration](#) for [Course Choice Spring](#) semester closes.

### 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
February 6	B	Terrebonne Parish Library, North Branch Grey, LA	9:00 a.m.
February 7	B	Acadia Parish Educational Center	9:00 a.m.

		Crowley, LA	
February 13	A	Bossier (location TBA)	1:00 p.m.
February 14	A	Natchitoches (location TBA)	1:00 p.m.
February 14	C	West Baton Rouge Pupil Appraisal Annex 670, Rosedale Road, Port Allen, LA	9:00 a.m.
February 15	A	Monroe (location TBA)	1:00 p.m.
February 16	A	Marksville (location TBA)	1:00 p.m.
February 16	C	Treen Instructional Technology Center 2024 Livingston Street, Mandeville, LA	9:00 a.m.

## 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 October 31 Believe and Prepare community meeting at which these shifts were discussed, please join the Believe and Prepare session at the [Regional Supervisor Collaboration](#) to review the [Residency Transition Support Guide](#) and [regional Educator Workforce Reports](#).

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

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) for more information.

## Statewide Monitoring

### **2016-2017 Third Quarter Coordinated Monitoring Schedule for School Districts and Charter Schools**

The Division of Statewide Monitoring conducts annual monitoring activities of local education agencies (LEAs) to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist our school districts and charter schools in thoughtful planning and preparation for the upcoming school year, we have provided a link to the annual, consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2016-2017 school year. Click [here](#) to view the third quarter schedule.

The assigned Statewide Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder along with any necessary planning documents or instructions directly to the district superintendent and the federal programs director of each school district or charter school appearing on the monitoring schedule.

The full 2016-2016 monitoring schedule may be accessed [here](#). The schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

If you have any questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), please contact Linda Tindall at [linda.tindall@la.gov](mailto:linda.tindall@la.gov) or Dr. Chauncey McElwee at [chauncey.mcelwee@la.gov](mailto:chauncey.mcelwee@la.gov) for monitoring related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Questions related to Early Childhood monitoring may be directed to Terry Simoneaux at [terry.simoneaux@la.gov](mailto:terry.simoneaux@la.gov).

## Federal Programs

### **CSPR Part II Data Collection for Title I, Part A and Part D - LEADSPortal TIA and TID**

The Louisiana Department of Education must report in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR) its progress and compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Additionally, LEAs must submit student and staff data for Title I, Part A (TIA) and Title I, Part D (TID). Title I directors/security coordinators can enter the data for the 2015-2016 school year at this [link](#). **The LEADSPortal will be open for data submission from December 14, 2016 through January 14, 2017.**

- Please find additional information for entering data at [CSPR - TIA Title I, Part A](#).
- Please find additional information for entering data at [CSPR - TID Title I, Part D](#).

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

## 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 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).

## Policy

### December BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on December 7, 2016, and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A summary of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies may be accessed [here](#).

## Finance

### Title I Periodic Expenditure Report--Past Due

**Please forward this information to LEA business managers and finance directors.**

Title I, Part A subrecipients are required to submit Periodic Expenditure Reports (PERs) in a timely manner. This report is used to record year-to-date expenses by program and year. The LDOE Office of Appropriation Control has noted that there are several LEAs that have not submitted the **September 30 PER**. LEAs with outstanding PERs run the risk of losing a portion or all of their 2015-2016 Title I carryover funds. LEA business managers should submit the September 30 PER no later than close of business **Friday, December 23, 2016** by logging into [eGMS](#) and selecting the View Reimbursement Requests/Expenditure Reports button on the Payment Summary page.

If you have questions about the PER submission process, please contact [susan.gonzales@la.gov](mailto:susan.gonzales@la.gov).

For NCLB program guidance and support, please contact your network POC.

### 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; instead the decision was made to **reconsider the plan at the December 16, 2016 meeting**.

This notice is to ensure an awareness of the possibility that if the reduction is approved by JLCB, 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).

#### LDOE Contacts

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