

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



December 20, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

First, my best to you and your families for the upcoming holidays. Our work is hard work, and it is important that we spend time with loved ones during this season dedicated for that purpose. Please do have a special holiday season.

Last week schools and school systems concluded the most recent round of collaborations held regionally across the state. More than 1000 educators attended the collaborations, including, for the first time, school principals. This marks an important shift in the direct support provided to school leaders, and I look forward to continuing to work directly with principals at future collaborations.

Over the years the collaborations have become affirmations of those skills most important to develop and most important in the classroom. For example, during this last session we focused on the selection of high-quality curricula and on using data to make upcoming decisions about our educator workforce. We also continued our focus on digital literacy for both teachers and students as we turn the corner toward establishing plans for next school year. We will continue our focus on these essential decisions at future collaborations and through the academic planning process beginning in January for the 2017-2018 school year.

Knowing what works in the classroom is obviously critical. A strong curriculum, regular opportunities to learn how to use the curriculum, regular measurement of results, and reflection on those results, are easy to talk about and harder to do. In our state, we have found ways to come together and regularly assist one another, face-to-face, in a collective effort to improve. Ultimately, this type of collaboration is essential for putting best practices to work on behalf of children.

My best to you and to your families, and as always, thank you for all you do for our children,
John

John White
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THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS

[Current District Support Calendar](#)

District Support

Louisiana School Redesign Summit Preparation Guidance

In preparation for [Louisiana's School Redesign Summit](#), the Department has created the [School Redesign Summit Logistics Memo](#), which contains travel information, a summary agenda, and a preparation guide to help you make the most of your time at the Summit.

We encourage you to review this material and begin preparing for the Summit soon. The Department will be hosting three LEA preparation calls during which we will preview the Summit Preparation Memo while leaving substantial time open for you to ask clarifying questions. Please see the table below for the date and time for your network call.

Network	Network Leader	Date	Time
A	Dana Talley	Thursday, January 12, 2017	2:00 p.m.
B	Francis Touchet	Thursday, January 12, 2017	1:00 p.m.
C	Melissa Stilley	Friday, January 13, 2017	12:00 p.m.

To join your network's preparation call, please dial 800-747-5150; access code 3423625#.

Please email hunter.brown@la.gov with questions.

December Collaboration Follow-Up

Thank you to those of you who attended the December Collaborations. We hope you found them helpful.

1. Help us improve future events by completing this brief [survey](#) about the December Collaborations.
2. Look for materials from the Collaborations, including the sign-in sheets, to be available in the [Supervisor Library](#), [Principal Library](#), and the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

District Support Reminders

December 27, 2016	CIS Office Hours for Completing Evaluation Data	3:00 p.m.
January 13, 2017	Deadline for all 2015-2016 evaluation data to be uploaded into the Compass Information System (CIS)	

Assessment and Accountability

District Test Coordinator Reminders

Assessment Administration Support and Training:

NAEP

- To ensure local email servers are not blocking emails from Westat, please white list the following sending IP address and domains: *.westat.com 68.232.143.236.

LEAP Practice Test

- Beginning December 22, 2016 eDIRECT users will have access to the LEAP Practice Test 2017 test setup features which allow users to create sessions, upload students, and assign Test Administrators.

LEAP Testing

- Districts will choose to administer LEAP Grades 3-4 ELA, Mathematics, and Social Studies testing as a computer-based or paper-based assessment in eDIRECT. The window to select the delivery method in is December 22, 2016 - January 17, 2017. Refer to the LEAP Spring 2017 Online vs. Paper Enrollment User Guide in eDIRECT for directions on completing.

ACT

- Enrollment files were loaded in to PearsonAccess^{next} on December 19, 2016. STCs should check the grade level assignments for students to ensure accurate reporting.
- **ACT Online Pilot Schools:** Schools must complete setting up proctor caching and other site readiness tasks (i.e., review of technical requirements, system check or app check) by **February 23, 2017**.

Accountability:

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.

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.**

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 were posted to the FTP the week of December 12. 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 are posted as zipped files with name *LEA Code_2015-16 Principal Profile*.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Talent

Last week, the Talent Office met regionally to examine the [teacher preparation transition guide](#), timeline, and funding opportunities. Additionally, participants explored data tools and resources, including the [regional workforce reports](#). Session materials are available [here](#).

Please save the dates for the **2017 Believe and Prepare Meetings** on February 13 and May 1; contact believeandprepare@la.gov for more information.

High School Opportunities

2017 Jump Start Convention: Preparing for 2018 Jump Start Graduates

The 2017 Jump Start Convention, **The Year of Action: Preparing for 2018 Jump Start Graduates**, will be held **January 17, 2017**, at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. High school principals, district/charter administrators, professional school counselors, Jump Start regional team members, and regional economic development and workforce development organizations will

attend.

Sessions at the convention will provide LEAs with important information related to Jump Start planning and implementation. Sessions include:

- District and School Case Study: "Strategic Financial Planning for Jump Start Outcomes"
- Jump Start Credentials 101: "Making Credentials Count for Students and the School"
- Jump Start Course Guides: "Preparing Students for Business English and Technical Writing"
- Jump Start for ALL Students: "Alternate Pathways to a Diploma for Students with Significant Disabilities"
- Jump Start Opportunity for Overage Students: "A Pathway to Mobility - Get WorkIN"
- Building A Model of Collaboration for Jump Start Leaders and Workforce Development Board Education Subcommittees

Please register on [Coursewhere](#) by **January 6, 2017** and refer to the [Jump Start Convention Hotel List](#) for information about hotel room blocks. Please email jumpstart@la.gov with questions about the convention.

Statewide Monitoring

Early Childhood Related Monitoring Announcements for SY2016-2017

Please see the [LA 4 Program Announcement Memorandum](#) pertaining to the Department's plan to monitor local education agencies operating a Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program during the 2016-2017 school year.

Please see the [PDG Announcement Memorandum](#) pertaining to the Department's plan to monitor local agencies operating a federally-funded Preschool Development Grant during the 2016-2017 school year.

For additional information please contact Terry Simoneaux, Division of Statewide Monitoring, at 225-342-9615 or terry.simoneaux@la.gov.

Announcement of 2016-2017 Monitoring Plan for Preschool Development Grant Subrecipients

For additional information, please contact Terry Simoneaux, Division of Statewide Monitoring, at terry.simoneaux@la.gov.

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 or Dr. Chauncey McElwee at 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.

Federal Programs

Opening Doors Expanding Opportunities Grant Competition

On December 13, 2016, U.S. Secretary of Education John King announced a new [Opening Doors, Expanding Opportunities](#) discretionary grant competition. The U.S. Department of Education will invest \$12 million in up to 20 districts or groups of districts to help catalyze new school diversity efforts and support the progress of existing ones. A key component of this program will be the creation of **Diversity Blueprints** for improving academic outcomes for students in a district's lowest performing schools by substantially increasing socioeconomic diversity in those schools. These blueprints will serve as a critical implementation resource not only for the districts that develop them, but for other communities considering similar approaches as well as for the field overall.

A few important notes and upcoming dates relating to this competition:

- All districts with schools that receive or are eligible to receive School Improvement Grant funds may apply.
- Although the focus of the grant is socioeconomic diversity, grantees may also seek to promote student diversity by

considering additional factors such as race and ethnicity in their efforts to diversify schools.

- The grant application deadline is **February 13, 2017**, with an anticipated spring announcement of awardees.

There will be a pre-application webinar on **Thursday, January 5, 2017 from 2:00 until 3:00 p.m. ET**. Please register for the webinar [online](#). After your request has been approved, you'll receive instructions for joining the meeting.

Please email OpeningDoors@ed.gov for questions related to this grant.

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](#).

Please contact your point of contact (POC) for further assistance.

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.

For NCLB program guidance and support, please contact your network point of contact (POC).

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