

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



January 8, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Since the passage of Act 3 in 2012, communities across Louisiana have unified their fragmented early childhood education systems into teams of programs, working together to make things better for children and easier for parents. It is no longer uncommon, for example, for teachers of LA4, Head Start, and child care to sit together in the same professional development session. It is no longer rare that a parent applies to the child care down the block and the neighborhood pre-k in one process rather than two. These are sea changes in the early childhood system.

Yet the administration of pre-k programs, Head Start, and child care remain headquartered in Baton Rouge and Washington, DC. As a result, decisions about nuanced local issues – where to increase the volume of seats in a child care, how to balance seats for children at different ages, or what to do when a program struggles – still are made far away from the actual location of the service.

Last week the Department announced that Louisiana has been awarded a pre-kindergarten development grant by the U.S. Department of Education. The grant, which totals \$7.1 million, was made possible by an \$800,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation used as matching funds and will support local communities seeking to govern their early childhood services locally. In response to legislation passed in 2018, the Department solicited applications from community networks across the state to serve as pilot local early childhood networks. Selected parishes, which will be notified in the weeks to come, will now see their pilot proposals fully funded.

These pilots, called Ready Start Networks, will serve as leaders on behalf of the rest of the state, demonstrating the strategies and supports needed to manage early childhood services and improvement efforts at the local level. As our state considers whether to invest more resources in early childhood education – and I sincerely hope that our state will take this step – we will soon have models of how local leaders can manage the resources appropriated at the state level in a manner that best suits the needs of their communities, thanks to the creativity of these pilot parishes.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [January School System Planning Call](#): January 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar](#): January 10 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar](#): January 10 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Webinar on Curriculum Tool for Families](#): January 11 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Title I School Planning Webinar](#): January 14 at 11:00 a.m.
- [Yearlong Resident and Mentor Data Collection Process Webinar](#): January 14 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Data Coordinator Office Hours-Collections Kickoff](#): January 14 at 2:30 p.m.
- [Monthly Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): January 15 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Webinar on RFA for Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Trainings](#): January 16 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Healthier Generation's Program Manager Webinar](#): January 16 at 12:00 p.m.
- [ACT Test Administration Q & A](#): January 16 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Healthier Generation's Program Manager Webinar](#): January 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [SCA Course Choice Spring 2018 Registration](#) deadline: January 9
- [2019 Jump Start Convention Registration](#) deadline: January 11
- [2019 Behavior Intervention Summit](#) deadline: January 11
- Complete [2017-2018 School and Center Finder Survey](#): January 11
- [Louisiana School Counselor Association \(LSCA\) 2019 Award Nomination](#) submission deadline: January 15
- [Jump Start Survey](#) deadline: January 18
- [School Health Survey](#) final deadline: January 18

School System Support

New: 2019 Teacher Leader Summit Early Bird Registration

Early bird registration will open this **Friday, January 11** for the [2019 Teacher Leader Summit](#), which will take place June 26-28 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Additional details are available in the [overview](#) and will be provided on tomorrow's School System Planning Call.

Month	Action
January - March	Early Bird Registration <i>(\$35 per day, \$80 for three days)</i>
April - June 14	Regular Registration <i>(\$45 per day, \$100 for three days)</i>
Late April	Session List and Mobile App Available
June 26 - 28	On-site Registration <i>(\$60 per day)</i>

Please note: All registration fees must be paid by credit card at the time of registration. Seats will not be held for pending payments.

Contact doe.registration@la.gov with questions.

New: New Department Event Registration Platform

As of December 31, the Department will no longer use WisdomWhere for event registration. All Department-led events requiring registration will now be on EventBrite. A list of current events is also [available](#) at any time. EventBrite is simple to use and all registrations can be completed via mobile phone.

- [iPhone](#) instructions
- [Android](#) instructions

Email ldoe.registration@la.gov with questions.

New: Updates to School System Planning Calendar

The [2018-2019 School System Planning Calendar](#) has been updated and changes are highlighted in yellow. Changes include the addition of 2019 BESE, Accountability Commission, and Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meetings.

New: Title I School Planning Webinar During Super App Weekly Office Hours

The Department is offering recurring office hours for Super App support every Monday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. through January 28. On January 14, the Department will be hosting a webinar on Title I School Planning Guidance during office hours. Schools that have questions outside of this webinar are still encouraged to attend and send their questions to Department representatives.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 14 (and every Monday at 11:00 a.m.)
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/594569803>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 594569803

For schools interested in reviewing webinar materials presented during previous Super App learning experiences, the following materials are available:

- [Coordinated Early Intervention Services](#) presentation from the December 17 office hours
- [Nonpublic Equitable Share](#) presentation from the December 10 office hours
- [2019-2020 Equitable Services timeline](#) sent to nonpublic schools
- [Allowability of Federal Funds](#) presentation from the December 3 office hours
- Collaboration event resources are located in the [School System Support Library](#)

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: 2019 Louisiana Regional Science Bowl Registration

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) created the National Science Bowl® in 1991 to encourage students to excel in math and science and to pursue careers in these fields. More than 275,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl® throughout its 28-year history, and it is one of the nation's largest science competitions.

The USDOE is currently looking for school teams to join the National Science Bowl being held at the University of New Orleans on March 16 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. [Registration](#) is now open.

- There is no registration fee for the event, but teams will be selected on a first come, first served basis.
- The top four teams will receive cash prizes.
- First place winners will be invited on an all-expenses paid trip to compete for the national title in Washington D.C.

Please view the Science Bowl Guide on the [USDOE's website](#) for more information or contact michael.anderson@spr.doe.gov with questions.

Reminder: January School System Planning Call

The [January School System Planning Call](#) will take place tomorrow, January 9 at 1:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Curriculum and instruction supervisors
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- Early childhood supervisors
- Federal Program supervisors
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Personnel directors
- Talent (Mentors, Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders) supervisors

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Meeting ID#:** 398875849

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations

[Registration](#) for the January/February Collaborations is now open in the new EventBrite platform and will close on January 25. The collaborations will offer sessions for [supervisors](#) in the morning from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and for [principals](#) in the afternoon from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Supervisors will need a code to register for this event. Contact your Network Leader or coach for the code.

Sessions will focus on supporting the implementation of School System Redesign Plans for 2018-2019 and School System Planning for 2019-2020 to support early childhood, curriculum and instruction, special education, assessments and accountability, workforce, and high school opportunities.

The Supervisor and Principal Collaborations will be offered on the following dates and locations:

- January 28: Baton Rouge, Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center (New Location)
- January 31: Harvey, Jefferson Parish School Board Office
- February 5: Ruston, Trinity Methodist Church
- February 7: Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish Assessment Office

Please direct all questions to districtsupport@la.gov.

Reminder: Common Charter Application and Timeline

At their December meeting, BESE approved the 2019 common charter application and timeline. All school systems should review the [available information](#) regarding steps they will be required to take **by this Friday, January 11** in order to run a new charter application process that is compliant with state law and policy.

The Department hosted a webinar that provided an overview of charter schools, reviewed local school system legal requirements, reviewed changes, and provided resources for the charter application process. School systems may review the [webinar](#) if they were unable to join.

Please contact andrew.shachat@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Webinar on Curriculum Tool for Families **Please share with curriculum and family engagement supervisors.**

Research shows that students whose families are actively engaged in their learning are more likely to succeed. However, schools often struggle to find ways to help families support student learning at home.

This year, the Department partnered with the Family Engagement Lab to pilot a tool, FASTalk, that engages families in improving literacy outcomes for all students, including English learners and students with disabilities, in six school systems. FASTalk sends text messages with literacy activities that are fully aligned with the ELA Guidebooks in grades 3-5. These messages will be expanded to support K-2 Tier 1 curricula next year.

School systems interested in finding out more about this tool should join an informational webinar this Friday, January 11 at 3:30 p.m.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 11 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/119399003>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 929-205-6099
- **Meeting ID#:** 119399003

Email vidya@familyengagementlab.org with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Updates to 2018 Growth to Mastery Student Rosters

The Department provided growth to mastery student-level rosters to school systems last summer via eDirect for grades 4-8 and FTP for high schools. The rosters provided annual growth targets for students who may be included in the progress index component of the school performance score.

The **rosters have been updated** based on more current enrollment data and **will be available on the FTP no later than this Friday, January 11** with file name *LEA Code_Updated High School (or K8) Growth to Mastery Student Rosters*.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: For District Testing Coordinators

General:

- The [2018-2019 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) is located in the Assessment Library. The checklist identifies key dates and deadlines for statewide assessment programs and accountability processes for next school year, provides action steps to ensure readiness for administering statewide assessments, and recommends resources for school systems and school staff.
- All changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts must be submitted to the Department using the DTC and Accountability Contact Update form found in the Assessment Library.
- The NAEP 2019 Prepare for Assessment activities became available December 3, 2018. The STC for each selected school must review their list of NAEP-sampled students. The STC can select the Prepare for Assessment link from the menu on the left side of [MyNAEP](#). All activities below must be completed prior to the Pre-assessment Review call in during early January:
 - Review and Verify List of Students Selected for NAEP (must be completed first)
 - Complete SD/ELL Student Information
 - Notify Parents

- Manage Questionnaires
- Plan for Assessment Day
- Encourage Participation
- Update Student List

LEAP 360

- All Interim 2 and 3 assessments will be available beginning January 10. Reports will be refreshed every 24 hours after the initial post date as outlined below:
 - Student Response Map, Test Session Response Map, District Data File: Initial Post- January 11; Additional Posts- within 24 hours of test completion or educator scoring
 - Student Summary Report: Initial Post- January 11; Additional Posts: within 24 hours of educator scoring
 - Test Session Summary Report, School Summary Report: Initial Post- Week of February 25; Additional Posts: within 24 hours of educator scoring
 - Test Session Roster Report: Initial Post- Week of February 25; Additional Posts:-within 24 hours of test completion or educator scoring
 - School List Report, Test Session List Report: Initial Post- Week of March 4; Additional Posts- within 24 hours of educator scoring

LEAP 2025

- Practice tests for grades 3-8 are now available for student access. Accommodated materials are posted in [eDIRECT](#).
- The grades 3-8 LEAP 2025 paper-based and computer-based Test Coordinator Manuals and Test Administration Manuals will be posted in [eDIRECT](#) next week.

LEAP Connect

- DTCs should begin delivering test security, preparation, and administration training for LEAP Connect/LAA1 to STCs and other applicable school and school system personnel, available in the Assessment Library.
- Testing personnel and students should continue to access the LEAP Connect OTTs in INSIGHT or via [website](#) in Google Chrome. OTT DTAs are posted in [eDIRECT](#).

ELPT

- DTCs should begin delivering test security, preparation, and administration training for ELPT to STCs and other applicable school and school system personnel, available in the Assessment Library.
- Testing personnel and students should continue to access the ELPT OTTs through the [ELPT Portal](#).

ACT and WorkKeys

- January 16: ACT will host an ACT Test Administration Q & A @ 1:00 p.m. [Registration](#) is required.
- An update to the [ACT Schedule of Events](#) on the [ACT State Testing](#) site in the “Prepare for Makeup Testing” section on page 4 was posted on December 3. All DTCs and STCs should download the updated schedule.
- January 25 is the deadline to:
 - Complete the ACT Mock Administration for any schools considering testing ACT online.
 - Install ProctorCache software and setup proctor caching in [PANext](#) (ACT online testing only).
 - Verify the 11th grade students and initial testing 12th grade students in [PANext](#). Use the enroll/unenroll function to add newly enrolled students eligible for testing or remove students no longer enrolled.
 - Upload repeat 12th grade testers in [PANext](#) for ACT using the SDU upload.
 - Only students in [PANext](#) by the end of the day on January 25 will have bar-code labeled tests.

ACT Match/No Match Lists

The ACT Match/No Match Lists include important information for schools systems as they plan for ACT testing in March. The lists will be posted to the ftp no later than January 10. Please note important accountability policy below.

- All grade 12 students must have an ACT score on file by the end of the 2018-2019 school year, regardless of graduation cohort assignment, unless the student's score was used in a prior ACT index.
- The only grade 12 students who are not required to have an ACT score are students who participated in LEAP Connect testing prior to ACT testing this spring. Students who participate in LEAP Connect will need to have accountability codes applied during the testing window. Please do not wait to do this during data certification.
- WorkKeys scores will only be used for accountability purposes if the student also has an ACT score on file with the Department.
- Students in grade 12 who are listed on the Match list have scores on file with the Department and can only be retested at the expense of the school system.
- Students in grade 12 who are listed on the ACT No Match list must participate in ACT testing unless the school system has a prior year score on file.
- The students on the ACT No Match list will be loaded to PANext.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be January 15 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Feedback Survey on 2017-2018 School and Center Results

The Department is committed to providing families with a complete look at school quality and helping them to find the right school or early childhood center for their children through the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

To that end, the Department is seeking feedback on the 2018 school report cards and early childhood performance profiles released in the School and Center Finder in order to make improvements to the system in 2019. School system and school leaders should share their [feedback](#) by January 11.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: Join the 2019 Individual Graduation Plan Webinar

Please share with middle and high school counselors.

The Department is hosting a webinar to support professional school counselors with the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) and diploma pathway selection process. Participants will review the IGP [guidance document](#) and the newest version of the [IGP fillable form](#). This 30-minute long webinar is being offered twice: January 23 at 3:30 p.m. and January 24 at 9:00 a.m.

- **Webinar Dates and Times:** January 23 at 3:30 p.m. and January 24 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/150940171>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 150940171

Note: This is a repeat of the September 2018 webinar.

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for assistance.

New: AP Summer Institute Scholarships

Please share with AP teachers, administrators, and AP coordinators.

The College Board has released its [2019 AP Fellow Scholarship](#) applications. The AP Fellows Program awards teachers, serving minority or low income students, \$1,000 grants at schools without funding for professional development. These grants are paid directly to endorsed AP Summer Institutes to cover the cost of tuition, and the remaining funds will be sent to teachers directly to be applied to travel costs. Although these grants are competitive, they are typically awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Please contact APScholarships@Collegeboard.org with questions.

Reminder: SCA Course Choice Spring 2018 Registration

Please share with professional school counselors and high school supervisors.

Registration for Course Choice Spring 2019 is currently open and will close tomorrow, January 9, at 5:00 p.m. Schools will register students directly with the course providers and/or higher education institutions. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Schools must document all SCA private provider and dual enrollment enrollments in the [Course Choice Registration System](#) by the end of registration deadlines in order to fund the courses using SCA allocations.

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 coursework not available at the school due to limited resources;
- dual enrollment courses from colleges and universities; and
- intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation.

For more information, please email sca@la.gov.

Reminder: Awards for Supervisors, Administrators, Advocates, and Counselors

Please share with school and school system-level personnel.

The Louisiana School Counselor Association (LSCA) is currently seeking nominations for its 2019 awards program in the following categories:

- Administrator/Supervisor Award
- Legislator Award
- Louisiana School Counselor of the Year
- Advocacy Award
- Writing Award

The winning elementary, middle/junior, high school, and postsecondary counselors of the year and all other award recipients is recognized during the annual Louisiana Counseling Association Conference. The [American School Counselor of the Year](#) is awarded in Washington, DC.

Please visit the Louisiana School Counselor Association (LSCA) [award page](#) or see the [information sheet](#) to learn more about these prestigious awards. **The deadline to submit nominations is January 15.**

For more information please contact info@louisianaschoolcounselor.org.

Reminder: Jump Start Survey

Please share with CTE Leaders, professional school counselors, CTE teachers, principals, and Jump Start stakeholders.

In 2014, Louisiana launched Jump Start, revolutionizing career courses and workplace experiences for high school students. Since then, the Department has noted a growth in the number of industry-based certifications awarded, and many more students are pursuing the Jump Start TOPS Tech Diploma. This represents incredible progress in providing opportunities for students, but there is room to improve.

The Department is embarking on a comprehensive, seven-month review of Jump Start to develop a new blueprint – Jump Start 2.0 – that will set the state’s vision for the next five years.

CTE leaders, professional school counselors, CTE teachers, and school administrators are encouraged to take a brief [survey](#) share their feedback on how to shape Jump Start in the future by January 18.

Please reach out to jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2019-2020 Carl Perkins Plans and Super App

Please share with school system administrators and career and technical education supervisors.

Carl Perkins school system plans for 2019-2020 will not be submitted as part of the February 1 Super App submission. The Department is awaiting final USDOE guidance regarding Perkins V local plans. Thus, school system plans will be due later in the spring. **Perkins formula allocations will be uploaded into eGMS in April with competitive allocations and budgets will be due in May** to ensure annual plans are approved prior to the start of the grant period on July 1. Additional information and a new timeline regarding the submission of a Perkins plan and the required needs assessment will be messaged after the USDOE release of Perkins V guidance updates.

If there are further questions regarding Super App, please email ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Educator Preparation

New: Louisiana Principal Fellowship Nominations Now Open

The Louisiana Principal Fellowship Program partners with the National Institute for School Leaders (NISL) to offer a yearlong executive development program for school and school system leaders in all stages of their careers.

The [enrollment portal](#) for Cohort 5 (2019-2020) of the Louisiana Principal Fellowship is now open and available on our [Louisiana Principal Fellowship website](#). This newly developed website will contain important information about the Principal Fellowship, including: unit overviews, agendas, sign-in sheets, newsletters, and payment information.

Nominations are available on a first come, first served basis.

Please email teri.roberts@la.gov with questions.

New: State-Approved Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Trainings

Beginning in fall 2017, the Department has offered Mentor Teacher and Content Leader trainings and will continue to offer these trainings through 2019-2020.

After 2019-2020, the Department will approve programs at universities, school systems, and other organizations to offer Content Leader and Mentor Teacher trainings.

To transition from state-provided training to state-approved trainings, **the Department is releasing an RFA in mid-January** to support new providers' development of these programs. The RFA will be posted on the [Mentor Teacher](#) and [Content Leader](#) webpages.

The Department will hold a webinar on **January 16, at 10:00 a.m.** for further details about the RFA. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/618191832>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
(for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 618191832

Please email nicole.bono@la.gov with questions.

New: Teacher and Principal of the Year Applications Due

State-level Teacher and Principal of the Year applications are due by **January 23**. Application materials and the timeline may be accessed through the [resources library](#).

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state-level process. Information regarding the local-level honorees should be entered in the [Coordinator's online portal](#) by **January 23**.

Teacher and Principal of the Year candidates must also submit their applications via the [Teacher and Principal of the Year online application portal](#) by **January 23**.

Candidates and/or school systems needing assistance with the state-level Teacher and Principal of the Year application process should join an [informational webinar](#).

Please email excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Yearlong Resident and Mentor Data Collection Process

In January, the Department will run a data collection process to make corrections to the 2018-2019 yearlong resident and mentor data. This data was originally collected in August 2018, and allocations were approved by BESE in October 2018. The purpose of this data collection is to make any corrections to the data collected in August. Corrections could include deleting residents who have dropped, adding residents who were accidentally left off of the August collection, or noting changes in mentors. **Data templates must be submitted by school systems no later than January 31.**

The Department will hold a **webinar on January 14** to provide guidance to school system leaders and preparation provider partners about the data collection process. **A link to the [data template](#) will be provided during the webinar and will also be accessible via the [Preparation Library](#).** All school systems and preparation providers with yearlong residents should join this webinar. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 14 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/100441367>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
(for dial-in only)

- **Meeting ID#:** 100441367

Please email believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

Reminder: January Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its **monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education this Thursday, January 10 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 10 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/670515231>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 408-638-0968
(for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 670515231

For more information, please email specialeducation@la.gov.

Data

Reminder: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The Department will hold its **monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers of eScholar, SPS, SPC, SIS, SER, and STS this Thursday, January 10 at 1:00 p.m.** Topics will include 2018-2019 data submissions, upcoming deadlines, system enhancements, other updates and best practices.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 10 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
(for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 976397929

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Data Coordinator Office Hours-Collections Kick-Off

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The Department will hold office hours for data managers on January 14 at 2:30 p.m. The data management team will be on hand to answer questions regarding the upcoming collections: SPC/SIS/SER Feb 1 MFP, TSDL Spring, Student Transcript System (STS). The webinar will also include instructions about how to use the data collection Validation Reports and Validation Rosters to ensure data quality and accuracy.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 14 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/711178912>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
(for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 711178912

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Policy

Reminder: December BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on December 12 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A [summary](#) of the approvals that directly impact the activities of school systems is now available.

Please email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Federal Policy on Military Recruiting in Schools

Please share with principals and counselors to ensure your school system is in compliance with federal law.

Representatives of military recruiting offices have recently contacted the Department to express concerns regarding access to student contact information. By Federal law according to 20 U.S.C. 7908, all school systems that receive funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 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 and 20 U.S.C. 7908 supersedes any conflicting state law.

In addition, please be mindful that schools are to allow recruiters from the various branches of service equitable access to classrooms and/or facilities. 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 informed decision if they are considering joining the military.

Contact kim.nesmith@la.gov with questions.

Grants Management

New: High Cost Services and State Plan

The 2018-2019 High Costs Services Grant Round 2 will be released January 15. The application will close on February 20.

The HCS Round 2 applications should only contain new students. Students that received an allocation in Round 1 cannot be included in the Round 2 application process.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Program Monitoring

New: Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2018-2019SY

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department is releasing the [consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2018-2019 school year](#). This schedule is tentative and the Department may make adjustments as necessary.

Quarterly updates will be provided to school systems via the newsletter, and assigned Department staff will send detailed monitoring notification reminders, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to Superintendents and Federal Program Directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule. The [second quarter monitoring schedule](#) is also available.

Please contact tasha.anthony@la.gov with questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). For questions related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), please contact chauncey.mcelwee@la.gov.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: Webinar on Creating and Maintaining School Wellness Committees

Please share with principals, wellness coordinators, and health and physical education teachers.

The Department will host webinar opportunities, in coordination with The Alliance for a Healthier Generation, to explore the benefits and strategies of an effective and successful School Wellness Committee. Webinar participants will find ways to lead teams to improved health and wellness for students and the entire school community.

Participants must [create an account](#) before joining the webinar.

Webinar dates and times:

- [January 16](#) at 12:00 p.m.
- [January 16](#) at 3:30 p.m.
- [January 24](#) at 7:30 a.m.

For more information, please email stephen.guccione@la.gov.

Reminder: School Health Survey - Final Deadline

Please share with principals.

As required by state law, the Department monitors and evaluates health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature.

Participation is critical to providing accurate, high-quality data to the Senate and House Committees on health and welfare. Please have only one person complete the [survey](#) by or before January 18. **Please note, each school should complete the survey.**

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.