

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



January 9, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you had restful holidays and are back in action. I'm looking forward to another year working together.

As you know, every fall a relatively small number of students take or re-take state high school assessments in specific subject areas. Later this week you will receive a student-level file from this year's fall tests and re-tests in eDIRECT. Next week, student reports for each subject will also be released in eDIRECT.

As you also know, this year's high school LEAP 2025 tests include some changes. First, in order to align with expectations in elementary and middle school, high school LEAP 2025 tests will be graded on a five-point scale. This makes the definition of "mastery" consistent across grade levels and allows parents and educators to see growth in performance from middle school to high school. However, the minimum criteria for graduating from high school does not change; level two out of five remains the minimum in order to graduate. There thus will not be a significant change in the percentage of students meeting the minimum criteria to graduate.

Second, first-time 9th graders now take LEAP 2025 tests in English I, allowing seamless measurement of literacy skills from elementary school through high school. First-time students in U.S. history also take a test based on revised 2011 social studies standards, calling for students to write in-depth when demonstrating knowledge of American history (students re-taking U.S. history tests this year in order to graduate took an older version of the test).

Finally, high school performance scores will include measures of both student performance and student growth on math and English LEAP 2025 tests, allowing high schools to earn credit for how well they are improving student performance throughout the year, rather than for absolute achievement alone. Schools will see these gains reflected in school performance scores released in fall 2018, as explained in the [Accountability Policy Update](#).

These changes to high school assessments call for a more challenging high school curriculum while rewarding those high schools that make gains with all students. I look forward to seeing all that our high school students achieve in years hence.

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

John

In This Issue

- [School System Support](#)
- [Family Engagement](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability](#)

- [Student Opportunities](#)
- [Talent](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Federal Programs](#)
- [Statewide Monitoring](#)
- [Safe and Healthy Schools](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [January School System Planning Call](#): January 10 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar](#): January 11 at 2:00 p.m.
- [January Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar](#): January 11 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Individual Growth Plan and Graduation Pathway Webinar](#): January 11 at 3:00 p.m.
- [ACT Q&A Webinar](#): January 16 at 1:00 p.m.
- [January Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): January 16 at 1:00 p.m.
- [January Superintendents' Call](#): January 17 at 10:30 a.m.
- [Individual Growth Plan and Graduation Pathway Webinar](#): January 17 at 3:00 p.m.
- [Implementing Connectors for ELs with ELA Guidebook Lessons Training](#): January 18 and 19

Important Deadlines

- High Cost Services grant application due by January 10
- Jump Start Convention [registration](#) closes by January 12
- [VEX Robotics Grant application](#) due January 12
- [Registration](#) for January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations closes on January 19
- [IDEA Alternate Assessment Monitoring documentation](#) due on January 19

School System Support

New: January Superintendents' Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on Wednesday, January 17, at 10:30 a.m. Superintendents may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the January Superintendents' Meeting:

1. Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
2. Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109
3. When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #5695769
4. You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

Reminder: January School System Planning Call:

The [January School System Planning Call](#) will take place tomorrow, January 10, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- District test coordinators
- Accountability contacts
- Data coordinators
- Curriculum supervisors
- Teacher Leader and mentor teacher supervisors

- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Special education and English learner supervisors

Webinar login information

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter PIN # 89147656.

Reminder: Join the Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on Thursday, January 11, at 2:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

To join the Special Education Policy Monthly Webinar (no pre-registration required):

- Go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/spedjan/>.
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575.
- Enter participant code: 30160130.

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

Reminder: January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations

Sessions at the January/February [Supervisor](#) and [Principal](#) Collaborations will focus on topics relevant to school system leaders, including but not limited to accountability, school system planning, content area instruction, assessment, early childhood, and data systems.

Registration opened on Wednesday, January 3 in [Wisdomwhere](#) and closes on January 19.

Date	Location	
Tuesday, January 30	Claiborne Building 1201 N.3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802	Baton Rouge
Thursday, February 1	Jefferson Parish Public School Board 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058	Harvey
Wednesday, February 7	Bayou Church 2234 Kaliste Saloom Rd. Lafayette, LA 70508	Lafayette
Thursday, February 8	Trinity Methodist Church 1000 Woodward Ave. Ruston, LA 71270	Ruston
Supervisor Collaborations 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Principal Collaborations 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.		

Please contact LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov with questions related to this event.

Reminder: U.S. History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated

The U.S. History Sample Scope and Sequence document has been updated. This updated document provides instructional tasks which build content knowledge and skill with **sources**, a coherent yearlong frame which **makes connections** among content ideas, and assessments which measure how well students **express informed opinions** with evidence and outside knowledge.

- US History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated - [Word](#)
- US History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated - [PDF](#)

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Family Engagement

New: Family Engagement under ESSA Session Offered at Winter Collaborations

Please share with principals, Federal Program/Title I supervisors, and Family Engagement leads.

In order to receive funding for Title I plans under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), schools and school systems must involve families in the development of family engagement policies and compacts. Therefore, the Department is offering a session for school system supervisors and principals at the January/February collaborations on the family engagement requirements under ESSA, and what a model process for developing school and family compacts looks like.

Please review the [Supervisor](#) and [Principal](#) Collaboration overview documents for more information or email annie.morrison@la.gov.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Translated School and Early Childhood Performance Score Videos Available

The Department released new school and early childhood performance videos in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic to help families breakdown the state's K-12 and early childhood accountability systems in order to better understand how schools and centers are rated.

K-12 School Performance Scores	Early Childhood Performance Profiles
Spanish	Spanish
Arabic	Arabic
Vietnamese	Vietnamese

Please share these links with all Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese speaking families. All videos are available on the ["School Finder" playlist](#) on the Department's [YouTube channel](#).

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

LEAP 2025 Practice Tests

- Social studies, ELA, and math practice tests for grades 3-8 are now available for student use in INSIGHT.

LEAP 360

- The [Interim Quick Start Guide](#) has been updated to include grades 3-8 ELA and Math Interim 2 teacher access usernames and passwords.
- LEAP 360 Interim 2 Grades 3-8 Math and ELA Teacher Access are now available in [eDIRECT](#). LEAP 360 Interim 2 Grades 3-8 Math Teacher Access versions and answer keys have been posted in [eDIRECT](#).
- Thirteen new Social Studies passage sets have been added to EAGLE.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The Department held a webinar for EL teachers and specialists on the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) last week. The presentation and recording are located in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.
- Students have been uploaded in the [ELPT portal](#).
- The [ELPT FAQ](#) is posted in the Assessment Library.
- District technology coordinators should install the ELPT secure browser on all testing devices that will be used for ELPT testing. The ELPT secure browser can be downloaded [from the ELPT Portal](#).
- ELPT test administrators should review the [Test Administrator User Guide](#) prior to testing. The user guide supports test administrators who manage testing for students participating in the ELPT online tools training and operational tests.
- District and School Test Coordinators should review the Test Information Distribution Engine to understand how to perform the following functions:
 - Registering students for assessments
 - Establishing test settings and accommodations
 - Associating students with districts, schools and rosters
 - Creating and approving testing appeals
- The Online tools trainings (OTT) is available for [ELPT](#). Students and test administrators must review these OTTs prior to testing.
- The Test Administrator Manual is posted in the [ELPT Portal](#).
- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window is February 5 - March 16.

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The webinar for special education teachers and specialists on the LEAP Connect is posted in the [Assessment Library](#) and [Assessment Guidance](#) library.
- The Online tools trainings (OTT) is available for [LEAP Connect](#). Students and test administrators must review these OTTs prior to testing. OTT Directions for Administration are posted to [eDIRECT](#) under General Information, then Documents.
- The Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals are posted in [eDIRECT](#). Test Coordinators can manage users and create test sessions.
- Districts will receive materials January 26. The additional material window will open on January 29.
- The Student Response Check is available in INSIGHT through the LEAP Connect Online Tools Training, under the link "Student Response Check". The purpose of the SRC is to ensure that a test administrator can clearly identify the mode of communication a student uses.
- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window is February 5 - March 16.

ACT

- The ACT Online Plan has been posted to the [Assessment Library](#). This plan includes actions districts and schools need to take prior to testing.
- ACT is offering a test administration Q&A webinar for the ACT® test and ACT WorkKeys® for State testing. The registration deadline is 48 hours before the session start time and registration links are provided below. .
 - In the webinar, ACT will answer questions about:
 - Staff and facility requirements
 - Preparation activities, such as handling test materials and completing the examinee non-test information
 - Managing information in PearsonAccess^{next}™
 - Test day policies and procedures
 - Returning test materials
 - Topics specific to state testing program
 - Both webinars will be offered from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. on [January 16](#) and [February 20](#).
- Resources for students preparing to take the ACT® can be found at www.act.org/stateanddistrict/examinees
- This month, a practice test with text-to-speech will be added to the ACT state testing website.
- ACT Match/No Match lists will be released to school systems via secure FTP the week of January 15th.
 - The ACT Match List provides names of students in grade 12:
 - who already have an ACT score and can only be retested in spring at the expense of the school or system; and
 - for whom the state does not have an ACT score, and should be tested.
 - A zero will be applied to the ACT index portion of the school performance score for any student on the No Match list who does not test.
 - The only students who are exempted from ACT testing are those who participate in LAA1 or LEAP Connect assessment.
 - ACT scores for these students can be updated during data certification in August. Please do not submit requests for changes at this time.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- [2018-2019 Assessment Calendar](#) now available
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call
 - Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.
 - Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessmentaccountability/>
 - Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380; Participant PIN code: 89147656
- The [2017-2018 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) has been updated to include additions to ACT, ELPT, and LEAP Connect action items.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

Reminder: 2017-2018 Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Webinar

Please share with 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 [Guidance for Individual Graduation Plans and Diploma Pathway Selection](#) document that was developed to assist middle and high school counselors in the annual development and review of the IGP. **The webinar will be offered from 3:00-3:30 p.m. on January 11 and January 17.**

To join the webinar:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/igp2018>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name

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

Reminder: VEX Robotics Grant Opportunity

Please share with STEM or science supervisors, teachers, and K-12 professional school counselors.

The Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation will provide ten school system grants for the state of Louisiana in support of the [Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory Council \(LaSTEM\) initiative](#). The VEX IQ Challenge grants are for elementary and middle school grades 3-8 and the VRC Grants are for middle and high school grades 7-12.

Learn more about the [grant opportunity](#) and [apply](#) by **Friday, January 12**. Contact lastem@regents.la.gov with questions.

Talent

New: Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline Extended

The 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year application deadline has been extended. Applications are now due via the online application portal by Monday, January 22, 2018. The Department encourages all school systems to identify at least one teacher and one principal to complete the application and participate in the state-level process.

All applications and materials may be found on the [Department's website](#). Candidate's may enter the application portal by following steps on the [online portal user guide](#). Please send questions to excellenteducators@la.gov.

New: 2017-2018 Educator Workforce Data

In December, school system leaders received a final report of their 2017-2018 educator workforce data to review and certify. This data will be released in the [Superintendent and Principal secure reporting site](#) this spring. Once the 2017-2018 workforce data is released, the Department will provide guidance around reporting updates to help school and school system leaders understand the data. Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Data

Reminder: October 2017 Data File of Economically Disadvantaged Students

The October 2017 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system was released today. The single Excel file, *LEACode_LEAName_Oct 2017 Economically Disadvantaged*, will be available through February 16, 2018, on the data management FTP site.

FTP coordinators should locate their individual system file and share it with their federal program and finance staff. The data include students eligible for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, reduced price lunch and those who are limited English proficient (LEP), homeless, migrant, foster care, or incarcerated. These data will be used by the Department to inform grants, federal funding, and subgroup determinations.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Systems Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar

Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices.

Monthly Systems Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar: Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/> (no preregistration required).
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only" mode.

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT Coordinator's Portal under Monthly DC Webinars by Wednesday, January 10, 2018. Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

New FTP file: ACT Match/No Match Roster

Please provide this information to your school leaders and test coordinators.

ACT Match/No Match Lists will be available the week of January 15 with file name 2017-2018_LEA Code_LEA Name_ACT Match_No Match Roster.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with ftp questions.

Federal Programs

New: Guidelines for Forming Title III Consortium

Under Section 3114(b) of the ESEA, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, a state educational agency shall not award a Title III subgrant to a local educational agency (LEA) if the amount is less than \$10,000. However, LEAs that do not meet the \$10,000 threshold may form a consortium to qualify for these funds. LEAs must designate a member of the group to serve as the fiscal agent.

LEAs interested in forming a Title III consortium should review the following documents:

- [Consortium guidelines](#)
- [Intent to Form a Title III Consortium](#)

The Intent to Form a Title III Consortium form must be completed and emailed to ldegrants@la.gov on or before February 1.

For further assistance, contact at melanie.mayeux@la.gov.

Reminder: District/State/Local Fund Title I Allocation Methodology Plan – Deadline Extended

To be in compliance with the new ESSA *supplement, not supplant* rules, LEAs must adopt a plan for allocating state and local funds. This plan should describe a methodology for ensuring that each Title I school in the school system receives all local and state funds without consideration of the Title I funds it receives.

Originally, the reauthorization of ESEA required that school systems meet this compliance requirement by Dec. 10, 2017. USED, however, has been authorized to extend the deadline to the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

Consequently, school systems should be prepared to have their allocation methodology plan in place at the start of the school year to ensure that 2018-2019 Title I funds are supplementing, and not supplanting, other state and local funds.

ESEA still requires that Title I, Part A funds be used only to supplement, not supplant, state and local funds for the education of students participating in programs assisted under Title I, Part A.

Note that:

- The local/state fund school allocation methodology does not need to be sent to LDOE but should be kept on file at the school system for monitoring purposes.
- This compliance requirement does not apply to single site school systems or those that have one school per grade span.

For further information, contact LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov.

Statewide Monitoring

New: IDEA Alternate Assessment Monitoring SY 2017-2018

As required under [ESSA](#), the Department is monitoring school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements for the participation of students with disabilities in the alternate assessment. School systems that met or exceeded a 1.7% ELA alternate assessment participation rate are scheduled to participate in the 2017-2018 alternate assessment monitoring this month.

The IDEA Alternate Assessment monitoring packet—including instructions and student files to be reviewed by the Department’s monitoring staff—is now available via FTP for every LEA selected to participate in the alternate assessment monitoring. If there is no information dropped to your school system’s FTP folder, then your school system will not participate in alternate assessment monitoring this year.

All required student-specific documentation must be submitted to the Department via the FTP on or before January 19, 2017. If you have any questions about this process, please contact angela.randall@la.gov.

Reminder: Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for SY 2017-2018

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 2017-2018 school year](#). The schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

Quarterly updates will follow this newsletter announcement. Additionally, the assigned Statewide Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, 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.

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

Safe and Healthy Schools

Reminder: Team Nutrition Training Grant Application

The Louisiana Department of Education and Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) have teamed up to support healthier schools with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition Training Grant. The three-year grant will allow the Department and the LDH to support environments that are conducive to healthy eating and physical activity through resources, funding, and professional development to schools.

We encourage all schools that meet the grant requirements to apply for the grant. The Department and the LDH will select 15 schools that will be awarded \$5,000 (\$2,500 in 2018-2019 and \$2,500 in 2019-2020) to implement the following strategies:

- incorporating nutrition education into the classroom;
- communicating health messaging across multiple channels;
- implementing Smarter Lunchrooms strategies; and
- other changes that will help create a healthier school environment.

The grant information is also included below:

- [Louisiana Team Nutrition Overview](#)
- [Grant Guidelines](#)
- [Grant Application](#)

All applications should be submitted by January 31. Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov if you have any questions or visit the [Louisiana Fit Kids website](#).