

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



February 5, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

First, my gratitude to all who attended the fifth annual [Jump Start Convention](#) and the first ever [Behavioral Intervention Summit](#), both held last week in Baton Rouge. Both were well attended, and both were well covered by the media (see *In Case You Missed It* below). But more important than that, the events gave thousands of people a chance to come together and talk about opportunities to provide young people the best possible daily experience and the best possible futures.

It is appropriate that this week is National School Counseling Week. Professional school counselors are on the front lines of both issues addressed in Baton Rouge last week. They are informed guides as to the pathways beyond high school, in education and in work. And they are thoughtful counselors when students struggle with emotional or relational issues. Certainly one thing I took from last week's events is that counselors cannot bear these responsibilities alone. These must be school wide concerns. Nevertheless, the role of counselors is essential to both missions.

In our state, counselors have played and will continue to play an essential role in these initiatives. To that end, counselors around the state regularly convene in regional collaborations. They come together at the Teacher Leader Summit. They are also called upon to coordinate financial aid planning events so our students have every opportunity for a funded post-secondary or training option. And they use a suite of [resources](#) developed by the state to support both behavioral intervention and post-secondary pathway success.

I hope you will celebrate the counselors in your schools and communities this week, and follow our celebrations on social media. But more than that, I hope you will think strategically about how the talents of professional school counselors can be best used in your schools. Too often, we in administration forget to tap the full range of their skills and allow their time to be consumed with tasks that distract from their essential mission. If we are to be successful in addressing the unique needs of every individual student, we ourselves must be disciplined not just about what we put on their plates but also what we take off.

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

John

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## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [Superintendents Call](#): February 6 at 10:30 a.m.
- [School System Planning Call](#): February 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Classroom Physical Activity Workshop](#): February 6 at 2:30 p.m.
- [Transition from TSM 9.2 to Central Office Webinar](#): February 7 at 3:00 p.m.
- [2019-2020 Alternative Education Authorization Process and Timeline Webinar](#): February 7 at 3:00 p.m.
- [2019-2020 Alternative Education Authorization Process and Timeline Webinar](#): February 12 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): February 12 at 1:00 p.m.
- [ACT Test Administration Training Webinar](#): February 13 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Alternate Assessment Eligibility Criteria Updates Webinar](#): February 14 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Early and Accurate ID Lighthouse School System Webinar](#): February 14 at 1:00 p.m.

### Important Deadlines

- [Mentor Teacher Training RFA](#) and [Content Leader Training RFA](#) deadline: February 8
- [2019 AP Fellow Scholarship Application](#) deadline: February 12
- [IDEA Grant Application Feedback Survey](#) deadline: February 13

## School System Support

### **New: Updated School System Support Calendar**

The Department has updated the [2018-2019 School System Calendar](#). Highlights are in yellow and include the following:

- Cancellation of March Supervisor Collaborations
- Date change for March and May SPED Leader monthly calls

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

### **New: Supporting Early and Accurate Identification**

When developmental and learning needs are identified early and accurately, children are more likely to receive more timely, appropriate, and effective interventions. Beginning in the spring of 2018-2019, **the Department will partner with interested school systems designated as “Lighthouses” to identify the systems and structures necessary for improving the early and accurate identification of children with developmental and learning needs.**

Potential partner school systems will be identified based on:

- review of [system-level data](#);
- completion of [interest survey](#) reflecting a willingness to partner with the Department in this work; and
- results of phone interview and/or site visit in March.

Interested school systems should review the presentation from the [January/February Collaborations](#) and attend an hour-long webinar on February 14 that will provide additional details on the pilot:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 14 at 1:00 p.m
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/444299304>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 699-900-6833
- **Meeting ID #:** 444299304

The [interest survey](#) is due February 21.

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

### **Reminder: February Superintendents Call**

Superintendents are invited to participate in the **Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White tomorrow, February 6 at 10:30 a.m.** Participants may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 6 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/707496465>
- **Phone Bridge:** 877-475-0109
- **Meeting ID#:** 1472667
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting. Please enter your full name, and school system name when logging in.

### **Reminder: February School System Planning Call**

The **February School System Planning Call** will take place tomorrow, February 6 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:** February 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Meeting ID#:** 398875849
- Please enter your full name, and school system name when logging in.

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

### **Reminder: Alternative Education School and Program Authorization**

**Please share with school system staff, administrators, and all alternative education site leaders.**

The Department released the new [application](#) for alternative education schools and programs last week. The application should be completed by all school systems that are seeking new alternative schools and programs and/or desire to go through the new authorization process for an existing school for the 2019-2020 academic year. School systems not planning to seek authorization using the new process this year will be required to [confirm existing alternative education sites](#).

The Office of Student Opportunities team will host two webinars to describe the new authorization and approval process as well as answer any questions from schools systems.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 7 at 3:00 p.m. or February 12 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/980433858>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 980433858

Please email [behaviorintervention@la.gov](mailto:behaviorintervention@la.gov) with any immediate questions.

## Assessment and Accountability

### **New: Interests and Opportunities Review Committees**

As part of its [ESSA plan](#), Louisiana is developing an Interests and Opportunities measure to be included in the accountability system starting in 2020-2021, pending approval by BESE at their March meeting. The [Interests and Opportunities index](#) will make up five percent of school performance scores and is intended to measure enrichment experiences in schools. Assistant Superintendent Jessica Baghian recently wrote about this work for the [Thomas B. Fordham Institute](#).

The **Department is currently seeking Louisiana educators with expertise in visual and performing arts, world language, and fitness and health education to provide feedback on draft Interests and Opportunities rubrics and scoring guides** developed in partnership with local and national organizations with expertise in these areas.

Review committee participants should:

- have at least three years of experience in the enrichment content area,
- be credentialed in the content area, and
- have deep knowledge of relevant content standards.

Participants should expect to spend approximately 5-8 hours in March to read and provide feedback on the extent to which the rubrics align to Louisiana's content standards and reflect Louisiana values. Participants will attend 1-2 virtual meetings.

**To volunteer for the review committees, please email [jill.zimmerman@la.gov](mailto:jill.zimmerman@la.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on March 1** with the following information:

- Name and current job title
- Enrichment area, years of experience in the content area, and any relevant credentials
- School/school system where you work

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto: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 DTCs or accountability contacts must be submitted to the Department using the DTC and Accountability Contact Update form found in the Assessment Library.
- The 2019-2020 Assessment Calendar is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- The NAEP assessment is being administered in selected schools from January 28 through March 8.
- The second webinar communicating information for Technology Directors and DTCs regarding the transition from TSM 9.2 to Central Office will be February 7. The webinar will cover how to select the best option for your school and school system, installing Central Office, and moving student devices from TSM 9.2 to Central Office.
  - **Date and Time:** February 7 at 3:00 p.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/886820025>

**CLEP**

- The College Board is offering a series of webinars about the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Topics include academic advising and best practices for implementing CLEP programs in high schools. Please visit the College Board website for webinar dates, titles, and registration links. For more information about credit by examination, email [raphael.curtis@la.gov](mailto:raphael.curtis@la.gov).

#### **LEAP Connect**

- The additional materials form is now posted in [eDIRECT](#). The additional materials form can be used for STCs to submit orders to the DTC.
- Test Administrator numbers can now be assigned and entered in [eDIRECT](#).
- STCs ensure that TAs, proctors, and monitors are appropriately assigned to testing groups for LEAP Connect testing.

#### **ELPT**

- TIDE will be offline for updates from February 15 - February 17.

#### **ACT and WorkKeys**

- 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.
- February 4- Window opens to create test sessions and assign students to test sessions for ACT online only.
- February 8 is the deadline to request **reconsideration** for ACT-approved accommodations and/or supports on the ACT in the [ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations System \(TAA\)](#). See page 56 of the [ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations System \(TAA\) User Guide](#).
- February 13 at 1:00 p.m. – [ACT Test Administration Training](#) webinar hosted by ACT. Please register using the link prior to February 13. The link is also available on the [ACT Schedule of Events](#).
- Now-March 8 is the window to complete the following:
  - Request **late consideration** of ACT-approved accommodations and/or supports on the ACT for eligible examinees in [TAA](#) using the ACT-Approved Late Consideration form in TAA. This is only for newly enrolled students having accommodation plans or newly diagnosed students. Forgetting to submit requests is not a reason for late consideration.

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

The next Assessment and Accountability **Office Hours** call will be February 12 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](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **High School Pathways**

### **Reminder: 2019 Jump Start Summers Request for Applications**

**Please share with school system staff, school administrators, counselors, and instructors.**

The Department has released its [Request for Applications](#) for the Jump Start Summers program funded by Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) to launch scaffolded, multi-year summer training sessions in public school facilities and on employer worksites that help students prepare for college, career, and life success at the 2019 Jump Start Convention.

The Department is seeking school systems, charter management organizations, and third-party course providers willing to sponsor student summer training sessions in collaboration with industry partners. Sponsoring school systems/charter schools/course providers will be approved to use Course Choice SCA funding to launch and sustain student summer training programs as long as they have at least one

committed industry partner willing to provide students with the opportunity to complete on-site job shadowing and/or internships with student stipends.

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

### **Reminder: AP Summer Institute Scholarships**

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

All [2019 AP Fellow Scholarship Applications](#) must be submitted by 10:59 CST February 12.

The AP Fellows Program awards teachers, serving minority or low income students, \$1,000 grants that are paid directly to endorsed AP Summer Institutes to cover the cost of tuition. The remaining funds will be sent to teachers directly to be applied to the cost of travel. Due in part to the limited number of endorsed sites operating in Louisiana, this is a great opportunity for our teachers. Although these grants are competitive, they are typically awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Please contact [APScholarships@Collegeboard.org](mailto:APScholarships@Collegeboard.org) with questions.

## **Educator Preparation**

### **New: Toolkit for Mentoring in Alternate Preparation Programs**

**Please share with principals and mentor teachers.**

In Louisiana, there are [two pathways to teaching](#) - undergraduate and post-baccalaureate. Roughly half of all teachers in Louisiana are prepared through post-baccalaureate or "alternate certification" training programs that require fewer pre-service practice experiences as compared to undergraduate residents.

As part of its [research](#) and [support of](#) alternate certification programs in Louisiana, the Department released a [toolkit](#) on January 28, to help schools provide these teaching candidates with significantly more time to practice with an expert mentor.

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

### **New: Louisiana Principal Fellowship/NISL Nomination Forms Available**

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 the [Louisiana Principal Fellowship webpage](#). This newly developed webpage 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 and should be completed no later than March 15 to ensure a spot.**

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

## Special Education

### **New: Alternate Assessment Eligibility Criteria Updates**

The Department will hold a webinar for pupil appraisal representatives and special education coordinators on February 14 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss alternate assessment eligibility revisions to Bulletin 1530 and implications for pupil appraisal and IEP teams. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 14 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/297875259>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923  
(For dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 297875259

For more information, please email [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov).

### **New: February Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar Cancelled**

**The Special Education Leader Webinar scheduled for February 7 has been cancelled.** The monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education will resume on March 14 at 2:00 p.m. Webinar and call in information will be provided two weeks in advance.

Please direct any questions to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov).

### **New: IDEA Grant Application Feedback Survey Open**

Each year, the Department submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of the this year's grant application development process, the Department is seeking feedback from members of the special education community on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. **Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete this [survey](#) by February 13.**

Please direct any questions to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov).

## Data

### **New: Early and Accurate ID Data**

**Please share with curriculum and instruction and special education supervisors.**

The Department will **release school-system level early and accurate ID data files on the FTP by this Friday, February 8.** There will be two files named *LEACode\_LEAName\_Early and Accurate ID Data Snapshots* and *LEACode\_LEAName\_Early and Accurate ID Data Spreadsheet*, which depict trends in LEAP results by school system alongside available early literacy and early intervention data.

These snapshots complement the more detailed discussion of the vision for early literacy presented in the [Improving Outcomes for Children Birth to 3rd Grade Through Early and Accurate Identification](#) presentation at the January/February Collaborations.

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

## Policy

### **Reminder: January BESE Meeting Summary**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on January 22-23 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](mailto:ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov) for more information.

## Grants Management

### **New: High Cost Services Round 1 Allocations**

Allocations for Round 1 of the High Cost Services grant are now visible in [eGMS](#). School systems that have been approved through the application process must now create budgets by creating an amendment in the High Cost Services Round 1 application in eGMS.

Amendment 1 must be created for all students for whom an allocation was received. The Department will review budget amendments for eligibility and allowability as they are submitted by school systems.

For support, please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov).

## Safe and Healthy Schools

### **New: Readiness: Training Identification Preparedness Planning (RTIPP) Course**

The Department has partnered with LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training/Academy of Counter Terrorist Education (LSU-NCBRT/ACE) to provide technical assistance and training to schools and local emergency officials. Ouachita Parish will be hosting the next [Readiness: Training Identification Preparedness Planning \(RTIPP\)](#) training course, scheduled February 14-15 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Monroe. **Please note:** Seating is limited.

Please contact [rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu](mailto:rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu) to register and with any additional questions.