

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**April 9, 2019**

Dear Colleagues,

Summarize. Identify points of view. Locate evidence. Name the author's intent.

These tasks are the currency of upper elementary, middle school, and high school reading and writing coursework. And, in many ways, they are a significant improvement over the round-robin reading so prevalent in English language teaching generations ago. Our teachers are focused on building students' skills, and that is a good thing.

But it is also true that these skills are practiced in service of the broader goal – making meaning of what we read. When you and I pick up the newspaper or a magazine, we read to comprehend. We use these skills and call on everything we know about the subject being covered, and we use our knowledge to make sense of the new information. We make sense of what it means, why it's important, and, ultimately, what we think about it all. That process – applying old knowledge to new knowledge to make sense of things – is the complicated act of comprehending a text.

Four school systems in Louisiana are engaged in a pilot, now generating [nationwide attention](#), to determine whether a state ELA test could better measure a student's ability to make meaning of texts if connected to familiar content, rather than using texts in which students may not have significant background knowledge. Teachers in these school systems are piloting a version of the middle grades ELA LEAP that will be based on [ELA Guidebooks 2.0](#). Students in these classrooms next school year will complete three short assessments at the end of three Guidebook units.

The theory behind this pilot is that by allowing assessments to focus on the texts students are actually reading in class, teachers will have cause to focus on discussion, debate, and writing, all based on classroom texts. The result may be a test on which students can demonstrate more of what they've learned and know in addition to measuring skills.

The nature of a pilot, of course, is that it might not work. This pilot has all of the challenges of any pilot: it's new, it needs resources and time, and it's unproven. But if it works, it could become an important option for teachers wanting their students to focus on the material being taught in class, to immerse themselves in the richness of literature, and to learn great command of written works. Additional information will be provided at the Teacher Leader Summit, and we will keep you updated as the pilot proceeds.

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

John

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## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [Early Childhood Roundtable \(Bossier\)](#): April 11 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Managing Chronic Conditions in Schools Webinar](#): April 11 at 12:00 p.m.
- [Early Childhood Roundtable \(Monroe\)](#): April 11 at 1:30 p.m.
- [2019-2020 System Enhancements Webinar](#): April 12 at 1:00 p.m.
- [2019-2020 System Enhancements Webinar](#): April 15 at 2:00 p.m.
- [2019-2020 System Enhancements Webinar](#): April 16 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): April 16 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Request for Applications - Extension Academy Pilot Webinar](#): April 16 at 3:00 p.m.
- [2019-2020 System Enhancements Webinar](#): April 17 at 9:30 a.m.
- [Overview of Essential Components of Physical Education Webinar](#): April 18 at 12:00 p.m.

### Important Deadlines

- [Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Nominations](#) deadline: April 18

## School System Support

### **New: Updates to the 2019-2020 School System Support Calendar**

The [2019-2020 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar.

- Addition of remaining 2019 SPED Leader monthly calls
- Addition of 2019-2020 Education Technology monthly calls
- Addition of 2019-2020 Special Education Advisory Panel meetings

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

### **New: School Attendance Awards for 2018-2019**

**Please share with child welfare and attendance directors and administrators.**

The Department encourages all school systems to plan activities to recognize students who attend school regularly.

The available 2018-2019 School Attendance Award Certificates include the following:

- [Perfect Attendance Award](#)
- [Excellence-in-Attendance Award](#)
- [Meritorious Attendance Award](#)

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

### **New: Early Childhood Roundtables**

The Department will be conducting a series of Early Childhood Roundtables around the state in order to convene stakeholders, share the Department's vision to increase access to quality care and education for children birth to five, and solicit feedback on the plan to achieve this vision. These roundtables are open to the public, and all are welcome to attend.

Early Childhood Roundtables Spring 2019		
City	Date and Time	Location
Bossier City	April 11 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Bossier Instructional Center 2719 Airline Dr. Bossier City, LA 71111
Monroe	April 11 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana 117 Hall St. Monroe, LA 71201
Alexandria	April 25 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Gladys Higdon Media Resources Center 502 Beauregard St. Alexandria, LA 71301
Lake Charles	April 25 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Early Childhood Building 1618 Mill St. Lake Charles, LA 70601
Baton Rouge	April 30 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Claiborne Building - Louisiana Purchase Room 1201 N. 3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Harvey	May 2 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Jefferson Parish School Board Office 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058

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

## Assessment and Accountability

### For District Testing Coordinators

#### General:

- The [2018-2019 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) is located in the [Assessment Library](#).
- All changes to secure shipping addresses, 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](#) has been updated in the Assessment Library.
- The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2019 assessment window is now-May 31.
- An updated Technology User Guide with instructions on the new Testing Site Manager, Central Office, is now available in [eDIRECT](#). District Test Coordinators and Technology Coordinators should access this document prior to the May 1 release of downloads.

#### K-2 Pilots

- Second Grade Checkup Update: Instead of administering the checkup only to students, LDOE will be collecting feedback through a survey of all teachers and district personnel involved in the pilot this spring. The survey will include sample test questions for teachers and students to interact with and questions on administration, reporting, and accountability. The survey will be

emailed to district contacts, administrators, and teachers. Participation will have May 6-17 to complete the survey.

- **Due April 30:** Writing Sample Pilot testing materials must be shipped via prepaid mailer.

#### **LEAP 2025**

- The computer-based testing window for grades 3-8 is now open through May 3.
- Test setup for LEAP 2025 3-8 and high school is open in [eDIRECT](#). DTCs and STCs can begin adding TA numbers, ensuring all students are in [eDIRECT](#) at the appropriate site, verifying accommodations, and creating test sessions on this date.
- School systems needing to request 2017-2018 test scores for English I and US History 5-level must complete the 2017-2018 Test Score Request Form located in the [Assessment Library](#) under Resources and Forms. Email the completed form to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- Directions in native languages are now posted in [eDIRECT](#) for grades 3-8. If students require this accommodation, the STC should print the information for the test administrator to give to the student during administration.
- Secure materials for grades 3-4 paper based tests are scheduled to arrive in school systems this week. **DTCs must complete the receipt notice within 48 hours of receiving the materials.** Per BESE policy, materials must remain in the secure location until testing.
- Testing irregularities should be sent to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) at the conclusion of each week of testing.
- Seniors needing to take a LEAP 2025 assessment must be placed into the Senior form in [eDIRECT](#). All underclassmen should be placed in the regular form in [eDIRECT](#). All students regardless of grade levels can test in the same physical location.

#### **ELPT**

- Results will be available in the [Online Reporting System](#) in May. The [Parent Guide to the ELPT Student Reports](#) is available in the [Family Support Toolbox](#).
- To reduce the amount of time school systems may need to identify potential EL students for next school year, school systems can begin using the ELPS to screen pre-k students that may qualify for EL services when they enter kindergarten.

#### **LEAP Connect/LAA1**

- Results will be available in [eDIRECT](#) in May. The [Parent Guide to the LEAP Connect Student Reports](#) is available in the [Family Support Toolbox](#).

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

The next Assessment and Accountability **Office Hours** will be April 16 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**

### **New: Extension Academy Pilot Request for Applications**

The Department, in consultation with the Board of Regents, has released a request for applications for the [Extension Academy Pilot](#) in response to the need for a greater connection between high schools, colleges, and employers. This program seeks to provide students who are on track to graduate but not on track to participate in a low-cost postsecondary college or training program with a one-year extension to attain a Regents-recognized associate degree, a registered pre-apprenticeship, or an advanced Industry-Based Credential (IBC). **All applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on May 3.**

A webinar will be held to provide additional information on the pilot and the application process.

- **Date and Time:** April 16 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/901355326>

- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 901355326

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

## Educator Preparation

### **New: Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Nomination Deadline**

The Department is collecting nominations for the 2019-2020 Mentor Teacher and Content Leader training. The [nomination template](#) and [guidance](#) are available for download from both the [Mentor Teacher](#) and [Content Leader](#) libraries.

**The deadline to submit the nomination template is April 18.** School systems and charter schools are responsible for submitting nominees, and additional directions are provided within the nomination template.

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

### **New: Educator Workforce Reporting in Secure Portal**

**On April 5, the Department released several sections of the 2018-2019 Educator Workforce Reports in the [secure portal](#), including information about workforce needs, workforce support (e.g., value-added and compensation information), and equity. By early May, the Department will release data on recruiting, hiring, retention, and placement.**

The data can be used to identify workforce needs in order to develop strategic partnerships with teacher preparation providers that meet these needs. During the [2019 Teacher Leader Summit](#), the Department will offer sessions on how to use the secure site to access and understand educator workforce data, and to inform partnerships with teacher preparation providers.

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

## Data

### **Reminder: 2019-2020 System Enhancements**

The Department is enhancing the following data systems for the 2019-2020 school year to improve user experiences and adhere to state and federal policies and legislation: Compass, eScholar, PEP, SER, SIS, SPS, and STS. Draft Technical Specifications for 2019-2020 System Enhancements are now live in [INSIGHT](#) for review.

**As part of this process, the Department is asking school systems to review the enhancements and submit [feedback](#) by today, April 9.**

Following the feedback period, four webinars will be held for school system and vendors to discuss final specifications. Please note, [registration is required](#). Webinar login details will be automatically provided to participants upon registration.

- April 12 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
- April 15 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- April 16 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
- April 17 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Please email [kaylie.loupe@la.gov](mailto:kaylie.loupe@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: 2018-2019 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM**

The [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analyses. The data in CVR will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster.

### **Now - April 18: CVR open for view-only**

- Users can view and check roster data for accuracy, but cannot make changes in the system. The CVR Help Desk will be able to assist with any issues that a school system must correct in the source data systems.

### **May 6 - May 17: CVR open for roster verification**

- This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school system and school level in the system.

An updated user guide for CVR is [now available](#). Please contact [ldoecvr@la.gov](mailto:ldoecvr@la.gov) with questions regarding roster verification and [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with general Compass related questions.

## **Grants Management**

### **New: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Request for Proposals**

The Department is releasing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified applicants who are interested in partnering with school systems to provide students, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, with academic and enrichment opportunities through before and after school programs, as well as programs offered in the summer. The proposal form, additional information, and specifications may be obtained from the [State's centralized solicitation website](#).

This RFP has a blackout period that begins upon the posting of the solicitation and will end when the contracts are awarded by BESE. The blackout period refers to a period of time during a competitive procurement process in which any proposer, bidder, or its agent or representative is prohibited from communicating about the affected procurement with any state employee or contractor of the State involved in any step in the procurement process. Therefore, the Department is prohibited from answering any questions regarding this RFP. All questions must be sent in writing via email to [rfp\\_lde@la.gov](mailto:rfp_lde@la.gov). Official responses to all questions will be posted to the [State's centralized solicitation website](#).

## **Safe and Healthy Schools**

### **New: Annual Vaccination Rates**

**Please share with school nurses and school administrators.**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has released the 2018-2019 [school assessment vaccination rates](#) and the [ranked school system report](#) detailing vaccination rates for kindergarten and 6th grade, and the percentage of students vaccinated by school system.

The Louisiana Immunization Program staff are evaluating exemption data and will be working with parishes and individual schools where the exemption rate is elevated. Staff are also available to assist

parishes and schools in improving reporting. Regional contact information for assistance is available on the [LINKS](#) webpage.

Maps depicting this data will be available on the [LDH Immunizations](#) webpage in May.

Please contact [stacy.hall@la.gov](mailto:stacy.hall@la.gov) with any questions.

**Reminder: Louisiana Healthy Schools Training Krewe Upcoming Webinars**  
**Please share with school nurses, school administrators, teachers, and staff.**

The Healthy Schools Training Krewe is a group of expert trainers that have joined forces to support healthier schools through the Healthy School Communities grant awarded to the Department. At no cost, the Krewe provides professional development to those working to create healthier schools. The mission of the group is to enhance the knowledge and skills of those working to create healthier schools by providing professional development to schools and school systems. The following trainings are being offered this spring.

Date and Time	Webinar Topic/Registration
April 11 at 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Managing Chronic Conditions in Schools - Why School Nurses?</a>
April 18 at 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Overview of Essential Components of Physical Education</a>
May 2 at 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Local Wellness Policy: Implementing, Monitoring, and Reporting</a>

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