

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**November 6, 2018**

Dear Colleagues,

This Thursday, the Department will publicly post data indicating the extent to which child care centers, Head Starts, and schools prepared children and young adults for the next level of learning during the 2017-2018 school year. The results, which are available online in the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#), mark a significant step in the implementation of the state's plan to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and reflect critical shifts in the design and reporting of Louisiana's accountability system. I hope you will join me tomorrow at 1 p.m. for a webinar at which I will provide an overview of the report.

As you know, in 2016-2017, Louisiana began observing all publicly funded early childhood programs and rating each center based on the quality of classroom teaching and environment. Early childhood performance profiles this year provide strong indication that this strategy is paying off. As will be detailed in the briefing, the percentage of centers providing quality care and education increased significantly this year. This improvement was true for programs serving infants, toddlers, three-year olds, and four-year olds. And it comes as more centers than ever before have incorporated a high-quality, evidence-based curriculum into their programs.

Per the state's ESSA plan, K-12 school performance scores released this week will reflect changes in the state's accountability system that have been in development for several years. Among these shifts are more ambitious expectations for 'A-rated' school performance, greater credit for annual student progress, and targeted approaches for schools in need of urgent intervention. As schools respond to new, higher expectations, the report will indicate a modest shift in the distribution of school ratings. This week's report will also indicate a sizable number of schools that have particular challenges in addressing learners of varying backgrounds and needs.

Much has been made of this year's release, as there are new policies and features involved. But as in any year, the release is just one part of a year-round cycle of improvement and change. No rating is permanent, and all information is actionable. Our role, at every level of the system, is to review, hypothesize, plan, and do our best to get better at what we do. Next year we will again take stock and commence the process once again.

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

John

## In This Issue

- [School System Support](#)
- [Family Engagement](#)
- [Assessment & Accountability](#)
- [High School Pathways](#)
- [Educator Preparation](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Policy](#)

## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [November School System Planning Call](#): November 7 at 1:00 p.m.
- [ACT WorkKeys Groups and Batch Load Training](#): November 8 at 10:30 a.m.
- [LEAP Connect Test Administration Webinar](#): November 7 at 3:30 p.m.
- [CTE Leadership Academy Regional Meeting](#): November 7 at 4:00 p.m.
- [Bossier Supervisor Collaboration](#): November 8 at 8:00 a.m.
- [2018 school and center performance scores](#) released: November 8 at 1:30 p.m.
- [Deconstructing Mathematics Constructed-Response Items Webinar](#): November 8 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Baton Rouge Supervisor Collaboration](#): November 13 at 8:00 a.m.
- [Super App Office Hours for Attendees of the Bossier Collaboration Event](#): November 9 at 11:00 a.m.
- [LEAP Connect ELA Constructed-Response Sample, Grades 3-5 Webinar](#): November 13 at 3:00 p.m.
- [LEAP Connect ELA Constructed-Response Sample, Grades 6-8 and 11 Webinar](#): November 14 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Data Coordinator Office Hours](#): November 15 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar](#): November 16 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): **moved to November 27 at 1:00 p.m.**

### Important Deadlines

- [Fall High School LEAP 2025/EOC testing schedules submission](#) deadline: November 7
- [New Principals Workshop Registration](#) deadline: November 12
- [2019 Student of the Year Information: District/LEA Information Form](#) deadline: November 16

## School System Support

### **New: 2019 Student of the Year Information**

**Please share with your Student of the Year District Coordinator and all principals.**

Each year, the Department recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of our students through the Louisiana Students of the Year Awards Program.

The Department has released the application for the 2019 Student of the Year program and strongly encourages all LEAs to play an active role in celebrating the exceptional students in your area. To participate, please review the revised [written guidelines](#) for the program and current [logistics memo](#).

To ensure your LEA is represented, please complete the following steps:

1. Complete the [District/ LEA Information Form](#) and email it to Marian Johnson by November 16. This information will enable the Department to determine the regional sites and to communicate directly with coordinators on upcoming events and activities related to this program.
2. Make the [logistics memo](#) available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

Please read the revised [Student of the Year Guidelines](#) concerning charter school submissions and scoring. Please contact [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: Super App Office Hours for Attendees of the Bossier Collaboration Event**

The LDOE Grants Helpdesk will offer office hours for school systems that will attend the Bossier Collaboration on November 8 to ask questions about the Super App. These Super App office hours will take place this Friday, November 9 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 9 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/594569803>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 594569803

School systems attending the collaborations in Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, and Harvey should first attend the collaborations before attending office hours. The LDOE Grants Help Desk will hold recurring Super App office hours every Monday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. beginning November 19.

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

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

The **November School System Planning Call** will take place tomorrow, **November 7 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:** November 7 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: November Supervisor Collaborations**

The November Supervisor Collaborations will focus on providing resources and training for the new School System Planning Process for 2019-2020 and the launch of the Super App. This is an all-day event for Supervisors only. The originally scheduled Principal Collaborations will be held in January.

Attendees should include those who supervise: academic content, assessment, high schools, CTE, workforce development, ECE, diverse student populations (including SPED), federal grant programs, and budgeting and finance.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Address</b>
November 8	8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Bossier	<b>Bossier Parish School for Technology &amp; Innovative Learning</b> 1020 Innovation Drive Bossier City, LA 71111
November 13	8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge	<b>Claiborne Building</b> 1201 North Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

November 14	8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Lake Charles	<b>Calcasieu Parish Assessment Building</b> 1618 Mill Street Lake Charles, LA 70601
November 15	7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Harvey	<b>Jefferson Parish School Board Building</b> 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058

Please contact [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) with questions regarding these events.

## Family Engagement

### **Reminder: School and Center Performance Score Communications Toolkit for Families**

**Please share with principals.**

A [communications toolkit](#) is now available to help school systems, schools, and early childhood centers communicate the release of their 2018 performance scores in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). The toolkit includes resources such as:

- School Finder flyer, poster, website button, and social media graphics
- Sample early childhood and K-12 news releases
- Animated videos to help explain early childhood performance profiles
- Early childhood and K-12 customizable parent night presentations

All resources are available in the [principal support library](#), and all videos are available on the Department's [YouTube channel](#) in the "School Finder" playlist.

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

## Assessment and Accountability

### **Update: Timeline for Release of 2017-2018 School and Center Performance Scores**

**Please share with principals.**

The 2017-2018 school and center performance scores will be released on November 8 in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). Below is a timeline for when school systems will receive data and resources related to this release:

#### **November 7:**

- School system leaders and media receive statewide, school-system, and school-level suppressed results.
- School system leaders participate in statewide briefing call with Superintendent John White on statewide results at 1:00 p.m.

#### **November 8:**

- Superintendent White holds media briefing at 1:30 p.m. on statewide results.
- Statewide, school system and school-level results made public in [School Finder](#) and on the [website](#) in the afternoon.

- 2017-2018 SPS Appeal/Waiver Form will be available in the [accountability library](#) and must be completed by December 4 for 2018 SPS requests. Please remember that appeals and waivers cannot be based on data that could have been corrected during the data certification process. Send questions to [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov).

Please view the [communications toolkit](#) for helpful tools in communicating these results to families.

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

## **New: Reminders 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 system 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](#).

### **LEAP 2025**

- Fall High School LEAP 2025/EOC testing schedules must be submitted to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) by **tomorrow, November 7**.
- Fall high school test setup opened October 29 in [eDIRECT](#). STCs can create test sessions and Test Administrator numbers in eDIRECT in preparation for fall high school LEAP 2025 and print student test tickets using the [eDIRECT User Guide](#).
- DTCs should deliver test security and LEAP 2025 administration training to School Test Coordinators (STCs) and other applicable school and school system personnel for fall high school LEAP 2025. Resources can be found in the [Assessment Library](#).
- Assessment guides for grades 3 and 4, all content areas, have been updated to include the paper-based administration schedule. All science assessment guides have been updated to include test session times.
- Deconstructing Mathematics Constructed-Response Items Webinar
  - Mathematics teachers and instructional supervisors/coaches should join the Deconstructing Mathematics Constructed-Response Items Webinar to learn about the components necessary to effectively assess reasoning and modeling using constructed-response items.
  - **Webinar Date and Time:** November 8 at 3:30 p.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/991846723>
  - **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
  - **Meeting ID#:** 991846723

### **LEAP Connect**

- LEAP Connect Test Administration Webinar for test coordinators and test administrators
  - **Webinar Date and Time:** November 7 at 3:30 p.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/447648371>
  - **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
  - **Meeting ID#:** 447649371
- LEAP Connect ELA Constructed-Response (CR) Samples will be available in early November - one for grades 3-5 and one for grades 6-8 and 11.
  - To join the LEAP Connect ELA Constructed-Response Sample, Grades 3-5 Webinar:
    - **Date and Time:** November 13 at 3:00 p.m.
    - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/990649066>
    - **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
    - **Meeting ID#:** 990649066
  - To join the LEAP Connect ELA Constructed-Response Sample, Grades 6-8 and 11 Webinar:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 14 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/620633169>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 620633169

### **ACT and WorkKeys**

- [PANext](#) is open for managing participation and shipping. No students will be in the system until late November. Schools must indicate participation in Spring ACT testing and choose material delivery dates. Please be mindful of school system holidays when choosing dates.
- Nov. 7- ACT Accommodation Q & A at 11:00 a.m. [Registration](#) is required.

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

- Office Hours webinar information:
  - **Webinar Date and Time:** November 13 at 1:00 p.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
  - **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
  - **Meeting ID#:** 393463942
- Due to Election Day and the Supervisors Collaboration events, the Monthly Assessment and Accountability Call has been moved to November 27.

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

### **Reminder: K-3 Literacy Screening Request for More Information**

Louisiana public schools must administer a [literacy screener](#) to students in grades K-3 within the first 30 days of school to **identify the number of students who read below, at, or above grade level and report these results to the Department by mid-October each school year**. Act 688, recently passed, adds that students who score above grade level on the screener shall be considered for gifted evaluation and that the school system shall report the number of children who were referred for gifted evaluation as a result of their screening results.

**Please complete this brief [questionnaire](#) by November 27** to provide the Department with information on the number of students in grades 1 through 3 who were referred for gifted evaluation as a result of their literacy screening results.

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

## **High School Pathways**

### **New: Financial Aid Event Planning**

**Please share with staff responsible for financial aid planning at your school.**

The [FAFSA](#) for the 2019-2020 school year is open for students. If you already have an event planned, please email [ldefinancialaid@la.gov](mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov) to have it added to the [Regional Calendar of Events](#) on the [LDOE Financial Aid web page](#).

Reminder: The [Louisiana Department of Education \(LDOE\)](#), the [Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance \(LOSFA\)](#), and the [Louisiana Education Loan Authority \(LELA\)](#) are available to lend support.

Please email any or all of these offices to discuss your site's needs or to get assistance with a scheduled event: LDOE: [ldefinancialaid@la.gov](mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov); LOSFA: [breanna.paul@la.gov](mailto:breanna.paul@la.gov); LELA: [carmichael@lpfa.com](mailto:carmichael@lpfa.com).

## **New: 2019 Jump Start Convention**

**Please share this information with CTE Supervisors, school system administrators, high school principals, professional counselors, and Jump Start Regional team members.**

**Registration for the 2019 Jump Start Convention is now open until December 31.** The convention will be held at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge on January 29, 2019. Sessions at the convention will provide school systems with important information related to building stronger Jump Start pathways. Sessions include:

- Accessing Post-secondary Opportunities: Financial Aid, TOPS, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement
- Career Readiness: Quest For Success and Other Course Options
- CTE Leadership Academy
- Health Sciences Updates
- Instructor Training and the Value of Externships
- Jump Start 2.0
- Jump Start Summers/Jump Start After Hours
- Using SIS/STS to Track Credentials

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

## **Reminder: 2019 Behavioral Intervention Summit**

**Please share with school system administrators, school principals, counselors, and behavioral interventionists.**

The 2019 Behavioral Intervention Summit will be held January 30, 2019 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. This summit will provide professional development on evidence based behavioral interventions, implementation of a Multi-Tier System of support, new behavioral intervention resources from the Department, and the new Alternative Education model and authorization process.

Registration will occur in early November. For more information, email [katie.barras@la.gov](mailto:katie.barras@la.gov).

## **Educator Preparation**

### **Reminder: Workshop for New Principals**

**Please share with new (0-3 years of experience) principals.**

The Louisiana Association of Principals, in partnership with the Department, will offer their New Principals Workshop on December 4 at the Cecil J. Picard Center in Lafayette. Download the [available flyer](#) for more details about the event. The [registration](#) deadline is **November 12** and space is limited to the first 100 participants to sign up.

Please contact [debra.schum@laprincipals.org](mailto:debra.schum@laprincipals.org) with questions.

### **Reminder: 2018-2019 Fall Compass Timeline**

For the 2018-2019 Compass Information System (CIS) process, please note the following timeline for the fall.

Date	Action Item
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November 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All school rosters are up to date in CIS.</li> </ul>
December 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Learning Targets (SLTs) are reviewed and accepted.</li> </ul>
December 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2017-2018 leader scores are entered into CIS.</li> <li>Any alternative rubric waivers have been submitted to <a href="mailto:compass@la.gov">compass@la.gov</a>.</li> </ul>

For more information, please review the [2018-2019 CIS Timeline](#) located in the [Compass Library](#) in Louisiana Believes.

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

### **Reminder: Data Validation for 2018-2019 Educator Workforce Reporting**

In preparation for the 2018-2019 educator workforce reporting in the [secure portal](#), as well as the 2017-2018 teacher attendance data reported in the [Louisiana School Finder](#), school systems will undergo a data validation process to review and validate teacher tenure status, teacher certification status, and teacher attendance data.

To support school systems during the data validation period in November, the Department will provide school systems with the following via their FTP:

- A teacher level file with **tenure status**, compass results, and employment information for 2018-2019 educators ([secure portal](#)).
- A preliminary appendix that shows classes taught by teachers and their **certification status** (appropriately certified, out-of-field, or uncertified) for 2018-2019 educators ([secure portal](#)).
- A preliminary **attendance** file with school and school system level attendance rates and attendance by categories of days missed for 2017-2018 educators ([secure portal](#) and [school finder](#)). Teacher attendance will be updated in Louisiana School Finder in spring 2019.

School systems should access and review these files closely to ensure information is entered correctly so that workforce data is reported accurately in the Secure Portal and School Finder.

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

## **Special Education**

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

The Department will host the **monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on November 16 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 16 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/263860307>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 263860307

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

## Data

### **New: Oct 1 CLASS Collection**

**Please share this information to data coordinators and data managers.**

The Oct 1 CLASS collection is open for submitting data to SPC, CUR, SIS and PEP. The reporting deadline is **December 7**. This collection is important for CTE/CDF funding, class size reporting, workforce and VAM. Please refer to the [2018-2019 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions.

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

### **New: Data Coordinator Office Hours**

**Please provide this information to your data coordinator and data managers.**

The Department will hold office hours for data managers on November 15 at 1:00 p.m. The data management team will be on hand to answer questions regarding the Oct 1 CLASS collection for SPC, SIS, CUR, and PEP and Dropout reporting.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 15 at 1:00 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](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## Policy

### **New: Music Curriculum Contest for Teachers**

[64 Parishes](#), a project of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and First Lady Donna Edwards, has partnered to sponsor the Louisiana Musical Legends Contest for K-12 teachers to share ideas for how the study of Louisiana musical legends can be incorporated into classroom curricula. The project is made possible by gift from Dorothy Hanna, a music teacher in Vinton for more than thirty years whose generous gifts have been used to create “Aunt Dorothy’s Teacher Toolkit.”

In addition to a \$1,000 prize, the winning teacher from each region will be invited to help develop a short educational video and lesson plan to be hosted on the 64 Parishes [website](#). Applications and additional information are [available](#).

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