

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



November 7, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, earlier today the Department publicly launched the [Louisiana School Finder](#), reporting student outcomes, curricular and extra-curricular offerings, and other essential information for more than 2,500 publicly funded schools and early childhood centers across the state. The School Finder is a [first-of-its-kind effort](#) to join all publicly funded education institutions into one comprehensive system of reporting. I hope you'll explore the site. Please let us know what you think.

The School Finder is a step in the direction of more information and greater power in the hands of parents and community members to see the entire education landscape. But the school and center rating systems exist also to celebrate successes and to prompt improvement. Many of you have already submitted planning grant applications or full applications for schools in need of comprehensive support. Full applicants will know the schedule for their interview on Monday, November 13. Schools with subgroup challenges were not labeled in School Finder this year; they will receive such labels in 2018-2019. School systems can apply for funding for these schools in Round 2 of the school redesign application process, but you are not required to submit an improvement plan at this time.

Today's announcement is another step in an annual cycle of data production and review. Soon you will receive secure superintendent and principal profiles, as well as workforce reports and transitional student growth data. And all of this will build up to planning for next school year in the late winter and spring.

My thanks again for the input so many of you have provided regarding these reporting and planning systems. More than that, my congratulations on the hard work captured in so many of the reports, from the early childhood years through high school, especially these [top gains schools and honor roll centers](#). Our progress continues, due to the dedication of our school communities.

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

John

In This Issue

- [School System Support](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability](#)
- [Student Opportunities](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Federal Programs](#)
- [Grants Management](#)
- [Safe and Healthy Schools](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Louisiana School Finder and 16-17 School and Early Childhood Performance Profiles released:](#) November 7
- [Team Nutrition Training Grant application opens:](#) November 9
- [Supervisor](#) and [Principal](#) Collaborations in **Bossier:** November 9
- [Fall LEAP 2025 and EOC High School Assessment Materials delivered:](#) November 10
- [Supervisor](#) and [Principal](#) Collaborations in **Baton Rouge:** November 13
- [Supervisor](#) and [Principal](#) Collaborations in **Lafayette:** November 15
- [Supervisor](#) and [Principal](#) Collaborations in **Harvey:** November 16
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours:](#) November 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- Submit SRCL [subgrant application](#) by November 10.
- Submit Believe and Prepare: Full Preparation in Rural Communities [application](#) by November 10.

School System Support

Reminder: SRCL Subgrant Applications Due This Friday

School systems applying for a [SRCL](#) subgrant must serve the entire span of birth to grade 5, grades 6-8, or grades 9-12. Schools that do not should partner with a feeder school to serve the complete span.

Applications are due this Friday, November 10. Please see the [subgrant application](#) for submission guidelines and the [SRCL webpage](#) for updated [FAQs](#) and [allowable expenses](#).

Please email jill.slack@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Release of Louisiana School Finder, School Performance Scores and Early Childhood Performance Profiles

Today, the Department [released](#) the 2016-2017 school performance scores and the first-ever early childhood performance profiles in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). School systems and Lead Agencies received their individual school system-level files in October, but state, school system and school-level summaries can be found in the [School and Center Performance library](#).

School Finder Data: In advance of the release of the Louisiana School Finder, the Department created a [data guide](#) for schools and school systems that was shared with superintendents last week through network teams. The guide provides a description of all data in the system, instructions for how to correct the data, and who to contact for more information.

Communicating Results with Families: All schools and centers are encouraged to host a parent night to discuss their results with families and talk through school/center strengths and opportunities for improvement. To support school and center leaders with these conversations, the Department has released the following resources:

- **Animated school performance score and performance profile videos** will explain each metric in the Louisiana School Finder related to [K-12 school](#) and [Early Childhood](#) performance
- **Customizable Parent Night Presentations (K-12 and ECE)** for principals and center directors to use in parent nights that will highlight school/center successes, explain the purpose of new

Louisiana School Finder system and the data included in it, and how families can support learning at home

- [School Finder Promotional Flyer](#) directing families to the Louisiana School Finder and how to find information on their school

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions regarding the School Finder, or email assessment@la.gov with questions on school performance scores.

New: Reminders for Accountability Contacts

School Performance Score Appeals: The Fall 2017 School Performance Score Appeal-Waiver Form is available in the Accountability library. **The form must be completed and received by the Department no later than December 1, 2017.** An appeal will not be considered based on data that could have been corrected during one of the regular data certification periods: Cohort Graduation, ACT, DCAI, Assessment.

SPS Calculator: The [2017-2018 SPS Calculator](#) is available in the accountability library. This calculator applies BESE-approved policies for the new accountability system as defined in the Louisiana ESSA plan. Please send questions to assessment@la.gov.

2016-2017 Subgroup CSV Files

On Friday, October 27, the Department provided school systems and schools with LEAP spring 2017 results by subgroup in the **DRC eDIRECT portal**.

2016-2017 Progress Points for Fall 2017 SPS and DPS

The 2016-2017 K8 progress point rosters were posted **to the secure FTP**. The rosters include:

- a list of all schools and the total number of K8 progress points awarded to them for the 2016-2017 SPS
- a list of students eligible for consideration of progress points with their expected scale score and their actual scale score

The progress point calculation in 2016-2017 is based on previous policy, which did not include student background characteristics. The expected scores reported for students are not necessarily the same as the expected scores calculated for teacher VAM. The [K-8 Progress Points FAQ](#) can be found in the accountability library. Please contact assessment@la.gov if you have any questions.

2016-2017 Post Data Certification Files

Post data certification files for ACT, DCAI and assessment were posted to the secure FTP on Friday, November 3. These files are for information only as all data certification is closed. Post-data certification graduation rosters were posted on June 22.

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

Practice Tests: The [Practice Test Quick Start Guide](#) has been updated to reflect the usernames and passwords for teacher access to the updated grades 3-8 practice tests.

ACT and WorkKeys

- A Summary of the ACT and WorkKeys Updates is available in the [Assessment Library](#).
- The ACT Schedule of Events is posted on the ACT State Testing website.
- Nov 6-Dec 1: Manage participation and shipping dates in PearsonAccessnext for ACT and WorkKeys.
- Nov 6-Feb 2: Request ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT in the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA).

- New high schools who have not received an ACT school code should submit requests using the [ACT/SAT Common High School Code Request](#). Requests should be submitted by the school and will take approximately three weeks to process. If you have questions, you may
 - use the [Contact Us web page](#)
 - call 800-553-6244
 - Standard time, ext. 2800
 - Accommodations, ext. 1788
 - email accommodations questions to ACTStateAccoms@act.org

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380
- Participant PIN code: 89147656

The November Assessment and Accountability Monthly call presentation and recording are located in the [Assessment Library](#).

Fall High School Assessments: School test coordinators should be preparing for fall high school LEAP 2025 and EOC assessments by setting up test sessions, scheduling assessments, and assigning test administrator numbers in eDIRECT. Test coordinators should ensure that TAs, proctors, and monitors are assigned to testing groups.

- **November 10:** Materials delivered to school systems
- **November 13:** Window for ordering additional braille materials and communications assistance scripts

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Release of LEAP 2025 High School Tests Scale Score to Grade Conversion Tables

The [LEAP 2025 High School Tests Scale Score to Grade Scale Conversion Tables](#) are designed to help districts factor the LEAP 2025 Algebra I, English I, Geometry, and English II test scores into final course grades. Based on the uniform grading scale, these conversion tables are now available in the Assessment Library.

The existing [conversion tables](#) for EOC 4-level tests for Biology, English III, and U.S. History remain in the Assessment Library.

Note: BESE waived the requirement to include scores from some tests in final letter grades for the fall of 2017. The decision to use scores from these 5-level tests in the spring of 2018 is a district decision that must be included in the Pupil Progression Plan.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2017-2018 BESE Accountability Changes

At its October meeting, BESE approved changes to Bulletin 111 to reflect changes to Louisiana's school accountability system for 2017-2018 and beyond. School and school system leaders can review a [summary of these changes](#) and contact jessica.baghian@la.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

New: 2018 Jump Start Convention Registration Now Open

Please share with CTE Supervisors, school system administrators, high school principals, teachers, professional counselors and Jump Start regional team members.

[Registration](#) for the 2018 Jump Start Convention is open until January 12, 2018. The convention will be held at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge on January 23, 2018.

Sessions at the convention will provide school systems with important information related to Jump Start planning and implementation. Sessions include:

- CTE Leadership Academy
- Micro-Enterprise Start to Finish
- K-16 Pathways
- Industry-Based Credentials (Emergency Medical Services, Crafts, and Louisiana Agriculture Tech)
- Assisting Students with Disabilities with Job Readiness Skills and Intern Placement
- Building Relationships with Industries
- Jump Start Summer Grants and Implementing Jump Start in Rural School Systems
- Scheduling Start to Finish

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

New: Financial Aid Planning

Please share with school counselors.

Louisiana requires public school students graduating in spring 2018 and beyond, to take one of the following steps as part of their Individual Graduation Plan:

1. Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA); or
2. Complete the [Louisiana TOPS form](#); or
3. A parent or legal custodian, or a student legally emancipated or of the legal age of majority, may certify a waiver in writing to the school system (sample: [non-participation form/Letter](#)); or
4. Receive a waiver through the district hardship waiver process.

The LDOE has a [Financial Aid Planning Regional Resource Catalog](#) to inform students, parents, and schools/districts of upcoming financial aid events in the area. The catalog, along with other helpful financial aid resources, can be accessed at the department's [Financial Aid web page](#).

For questions or assistance with financial aid planning resources contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov.

Reminder: 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan Update

Please share with school system supervisors.

The Department has developed a significantly a streamlined [Pupil Progression Plan \(PPP\) template](#) and [guidance document](#) based on recent promotion [policy revisions approved by BESE](#) in October for grades 4 and 8. As a result of the delayed release, **the submission deadline has been extended to February 1, 2018.**

An informational webinar will be held to provide updates and to assist school systems in completing and submitting the 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan. School system leaders and supervisors are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars, which are scheduled for **Friday, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, November 28, from 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.**

To join the 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan Informational Webinar on November 17 or 28

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ppp>;
- dial (855) 240-2575 and enter access code 38582295;
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

For additional information please contact ppp@la.gov.

Data

New: 2016-2017 Post Data Certification Files

Post data certification files for ACT, DCAI and assessment were posted to the secure FTP on Friday, November 3. These files are for information only as all data certification is closed. Post-data certification graduation rosters were posted on June 22.

Reminder: 2016-2017 Subgroup CSV Files

On Friday, October 27, the Department provided school systems and schools with LEAP spring 2017 results by subgroup in the **DRC eDIRECT portal** with file name LEA/Site Code_LEA/School 2017_LEAP_Subgroup_Summary_File.

Please send questions to assessment@la.gov.

Reminder: FTP 2016-2017 Progress Points for Fall 2017 SPS and DPS in

The 2016-2017 K8 progress point rosters have been posted to the secure FTP. Please provide the file to your accountability team.

Please contact assessment@la.gov if you have any questions.

Federal Programs

New: Data Collection for Title III Survey – LEADSPortal Opens November 13

The Louisiana Department of Education must report specific data from all districts receiving Title III funds. Title III districts/security coordinators must complete the [Title III Survey \(TTS\)](#) for the 2016-2017 school year. The LEADSPortal (TTS) will open November 13, 2017 and will remain open until December 11, 2017.

Guidelines for completing the survey can be found in the [Title III Survey Manual](#). For additional information, please contact your LDOE [Point of Contact](#) (POC).

New: Data Collection of Annual Counts for Title I, Part D

The Louisiana Department of Education must report SY2017-2018 Annual Counts for Title I, Part D in order to determine funding for its neglected and delinquent facilities under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I Directors/security coordinators can enter the data for the 2017-2018 school year (October) at the [LEADSPortal](#). The LEADSPortal (TID - Annual Counts Table only) will be open from November 13, 2017 through December 8, 2017 for entering data.

For further information, please contact your LDOE [Point of Contact](#) (POC).

Reminder: Public Notice of Waiver Request

Please share with federal program directors, business managers and financial officials of public school systems.

The Department is requesting a period of availability waiver from USDOE for the purpose of extending the availability of federal fiscal year 2017 ESSA 1003(a) school redesign awards from September 30, 2019, to September 30, 2021. This waiver would enable the Department to award three-year school redesign sub-grants to eligible LEAs.

Relevant personnel should review this [waiver request](#) and submit questions or comments to john.hanley@la.gov by Wednesday, November 8.

Grants Management

Reminder: Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application

LDOE is currently processing FY2017-2018 [Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) applications. The submission deadline was Friday, Nov. 3. Recipients that did not submit their applications by the deadline should submit them as soon as possible.

Eligible EEF recipients that need assistance with creating, completing, revising or submitting their applications should email ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov. Additional support is available in the Training section of the [eGMS Logon page](#).

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: Louisiana Team Nutrition Training Grant

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) 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 LDOE and 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 LDOE and 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.

For more information on the grant or to apply please visit www.louisianafitkids.com or use the following links:

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

The grant application will be open from November 9, 2017, until January 31, 2018.

Please email stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.