

CHARTER SCHOOLS



November 9, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that your election day was a good one and that returns didn't keep you up too late.

Over the course of the last week, early childhood lead agencies were briefed on results in their respective parishes from the 2015-2016 school year and on steps to assist schools and centers in making ongoing improvements. As the early childhood process continues with conversations at the parish level, the Department will turn its attention to results and reports covering PK-12 schools.

This week the Department is hosting calls with superintendents and charter school leaders detailing performance scores, letter grades, and academic outcomes in every school.

Next week the Department will publicly post reports for all schools and school systems. You will be provided these data prior to the statewide release so that you can not only view the results on other parts of the state, but also review the Department's presentation on statewide outcomes. I will share more specifics on this release in next week's newsletter.

In December, the Department will host collaborative events across the state that will allow for deeper reviews of the data included in all reports. This will include profile reports for superintendents, charter school leaders, and principals that provide a richer and more detailed field of information than exists in public report cards. Those data will be followed later in the winter by transitional student growth data at the classroom level and by workforce reports detailing the status of educator professionals in schools across the state.

I appreciate your attention to this annual process. Even more than that, however, I appreciate all that you put into making these data work to improve schools and to increase student learning.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS

[Current LEA Support Calendar](#)

Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action Item (see body of newsletter for more details)	Owner(s)
11/11/2016	Schools submit Educational Excellence Fund applications in eGMS	eGMS coordinators and school leaders
11/18/2016	Submit feedback on learning expectations proposal for students with significant cognitive disabilities and ELLs to louisianastandards@la.gov	Curriculum supervisors and SPED directors
11/30/2016	School food authorities interested in applying for the equipment grant must submit application	Kitchen Managers/Finance Directors
12/2/2016	Complete Title III survey	Title III LEA/security coordinators
12/12/2016	Annual Count for Title I due in LEADs Portal	Title I directors/security coordinators
12/16/16	Orleans Parish schools applying for Citywide Exceptional Needs Fund submit applications	Orleans Parish SPED directors

LEA Support

Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities and English Language Learners

The Department is currently in the process of collecting feedback on the [Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities and English Language Learners](#). Through this process, the Department met with a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a draft set of aligned learning expectations for students with significant disabilities and English Language Learners. In addition, it completed a comparative analysis of the [Louisiana Student Standards](#), the Louisiana Extended Standards, The [National Center and State Collaborative \(NCSC\)](#), the Stanford University [Understanding Language Initiative](#), and the work of [WestEd](#) and other national models.

The analysis showed that there is general, though not complete, alignment between the Louisiana Student Standards and the national models. Where discrepancies were found, edits were recommended to ensure full alignment of the Louisiana Student Standards.

The Louisiana Connectors are the pathways for students with significant disabilities and English Language Learners to meet the Louisiana State Standards; they are not learning standards that stand separate and apart from the standard expectations we have for other students.

The Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities capture the "big ideas" of each content area, while also maintaining alignment to the standard expectations, while the Louisiana Connectors for English Language Learners identify the language expectations students need to access content areas as defined by English proficiency levels.

The Department is seeking feedback from all stakeholders. Teachers are encouraged to review draft proposals and provide feedback.

To learn more about the alignment process and to review proposals, please visit the LDOE [Louisiana Standards Alignment Process page](#) and **submit feedback by November 18, 2016**.

- Review Louisiana Connectors for [English Language Learners](#)
- Review Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities in [math](#) and [English](#).

Email louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

Updated 2016-2017 LEA Support Calendar

The Department has released an updated [2016-2017 District Support Calendar](#). All new additions or revisions are highlighted in yellow so LEAs can easily identify these changes:

- Addition of WorkKeys testing window;
- Updated LEAP science administration date;
- Update to December Collaborations.

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions related to this calendar.

Assessment & Accountability

New K-2 Formative Tasks Released

K-2 formative tasks are now available to LEA and school users from eDIRECT, the administrative portal for statewide assessments. These tasks are ELA and math instructional tools that can be downloaded, printed, and used by kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers.

The tasks:

- focus on essential skills in ELA and math;
- offer teachers tools to observe and collect information about young students;
- allow for performance-based opportunities for learning;
- help teachers understand student performance through checklists and rubrics;
- inform next steps of instruction for each student.

How do teachers gain access?

On November 1, District Test Coordinators (DTCs) were given permissions to access the K-2 Formative tasks through [eDIRECT](#). District Test Coordinators will grant permissions to **all other LEA and school users**. Click [here](#) for an overview of the tasks and a guide to get started. If you have any questions about access, please contact your LEA or School Test Coordinator.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

District Test Coordinator Reminders

Assessment Administration Support and Training:

- **Office Hours:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 1:00 PM
 - Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/> .
 - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
 - Call-in Information: (646) 307-1380; meeting room #951155484
- **WorkKeys:** WorkKeys training videos will be available on the [ACT State Testing](#) website.

Technology Readiness:

- **EOC Administration:** In preparation for the EOC window, schools should be creating TA numbers, assigning and viewing accommodations, creating test sessions, generating and printing test tickets, and ordering additional materials. Also, STCs must deliver online test security training to school personnel.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

High School Opportunities

LCTCS College and Career Transitions Coordinators

Louisiana Community and Technical College System [College and Career Transitions Coordinators \(CCTCs\)](#) are located around the state and work closely with postsecondary institutions and K-12 school LEAs to provide information and resources about CTE postsecondary opportunities that are available (e.g., dual enrollment, professional development, career awareness, and collaboration and communication). Additionally, CCTCs are available to provide assistance to students, counselors, and parents with FAFSA completion and Financial Aid Planning. Click [here](#) to locate the CCTC nearest you.

CLEP Webinar

The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) helps students receive college credit. Developed by the College Board, CLEP is the most widely accepted credit-by-examination program, available at more than 2,900 colleges and universities.

A webinar will be hosted to outline the guidelines on CLEP credit policy, CLEP subject areas, exam preparation, and how to become an

authorized CLEP administration center.

District Test Coordinators, Administrators, Professional School Counselors, and Teachers are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- * **Thursday, November 17, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.**
- * **Thursday, December 8, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information (no pre-registration required):

- * Meeting Name: College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- * Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/clep/>
- * Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- * Audio access: (855)240-2575; participant code: 38582295

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

Virtual College Fair

High school students are invited to a free virtual college fair for the Southern United States November 14th-19th. Students can log on any time during that week to get information from many colleges. There is a question and answer section for the students to get answers directly from college representatives. Students must go to the students tab at www.collegefairsonline.com to register; select the South fair.

For more information, please email tpendleton@collegefairsonline.com.

Talent Office

Believe and Prepare

Louisiana is committed to preparing every educator under a mentor educator through a professional residency, and the Believe and Prepare Community has been paving the way since 2014.

On October 31 the Believe and Prepare community met to examine the [teacher preparation transition guide](#), timeline, and funding opportunities. Additionally, participants explored data tools and resources, including the [regional workforce reports](#). All session materials are available in the [LDOE Resource Library](#). They are located in the middle of the page under Fall 2016 Community Meeting.

If you were able to attend please complete the [feedback survey](#) by Friday, November 11th.

Please save the dates for the following 2017 Believe and Prepare Meetings.

- February 13
- May 1

For more information please contact BelieveandPrepare@la.gov.

Federal Programs

Data Collection of Annual Counts for Title I, Part D

The Department must report 2016-2017 Annual Counts for Title I, Part D in order to determine funding for its neglected and delinquent facilities. Title I Directors/security coordinators can enter the data for the 2016-2017 school year (October) via the [LEADSPortal](#). The LEADSPortal (TID - **Annual Counts Table only**) is now open through **December 12, 2016** for entering data.

If any additional information is required, please contact tikera.chisley@la.gov for further assistance.

Data Collection in Title III Survey - LEADS Portal

The Louisiana Department of Education must report specific data from all LEAs receiving Title III funds. Title III LEA/security coordinators must complete the Title III survey (TTS) for the 2015-2016 school year available at this [link](#). The LEADS portal (TTS) will be open from November 7, 2016 through **December 2, 2016**, for entering data.

Guidelines for completing the survey are found in the [Title III Survey Manual](#).

If any additional information is required, please contact your NCLB point of contact ([POC](#)) for further assistance.

Funding and Grants Management

Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application Extended

The FY 2016-2017 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application is currently available in LDOE's electronic grants management system (eGMS). The submission deadline has been **extended to November 11, 2016**.

As you prepare your EEF submission please keep the following in mind:

As you prepare your EEF submission please keep the following in mind.

- Review the FY 2017 EEF Allocations page to confirm all funds for budgeting in 2016-2017
- Update and resave your Budget Detail Page
- Run the Consistency Check prior to submitting the application to LDOE
- Indirect Costs are not allowable in the EEF application

For further information about EEF, contact Kenya.Jenkins@la.gov, Terri.Byrd@la.gov or Tonya.Johnson@la.gov.

2016 Equipment Grant

The Fiscal Year 2016 Agriculture Appropriations Act has awarded Louisiana \$552,927 to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns. Priority will be given to schools in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and those that have not received equipment grant funding in 2009, 2010, 2014 and 2015. Grant-related information is located at the Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities link. Online applications are accessible for food and nutrition supervisors on the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) website.

The deadline for submission is November 30, 2016.

Safe and Healthy Schools

School Bus Passenger Safety Task Force Survey

Please share with transportation directors.

In compliance with Louisiana Senate Resolution 122, a Student Transportation and School Bus Safety task force has been formed to study and make recommendations regarding student transportation and school bus passenger safety. Transportation Directors should complete this [survey](#) to assist the task force in collecting information regarding student transportation.

Request from Dr. Rebekah E. Gee, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health

Inhalant abuse is a growing problem in the United States. Accordingly, [House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session](#) urged the [Louisiana Department of Health Office of Behavioral Health](#) to raise awareness of the problem. The Department encourages school leaders to share the following information with teachers, parents and students:

- [Abuse Prevention Kit for Parents](#)
- [The Inhalant Abuse Quiz for Middle and High School Students](#)
- [Inhalant Abuse Quick Fact Sheet](#)

Other

9th Annual Louisiana Charter Schools Conference

Register today for the annual state charter school conference being held this year on December 13, 2016 in New Orleans. The event is a full day of learning and networking at the only statewide conference dedicated to key issues, opportunities, and challenges faced by the charter school movement in Louisiana.

Visit the conference website at <http://lacharterschools.org/conference> for more information, including the full schedule of the day and details on sessions and speakers.

If you have any questions, please contact Donyell McGlathery at dmcglathery@lacharterschools.org.

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