



November 23, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

What a fantastic thing it is that we reserve a week every year when at least for a time, we can put aside the world's disappointments and simply express gratitude.

I am thankful, among other things, for being educated. I am thankful to have had family, clergy, teachers, and coaches who showed me the world and how I might experience it. In this abundant world, it is easy to forget that even this basic thing - an education - is a gift not given to all.

I am thankful as an adult to be a part of the educational process for children. It is easy to call teaching a noble profession; few people would argue with that. But when you are part of the process day in and day out you understand what a blessing it is to have such a meaningful calling as your vocation, a calling that replenishes itself every day.

And I am thankful to educate in a state whose people love its children so fully. There will always be different views on public schooling and education policy. But to have full trust in the goodness of the people who care for Louisiana's children, to learn from them every day what it means to work hard, to create, and to sacrifice - this too is a thing for which I am grateful.

To call oneself a Louisiana educator is to be blessed.

To you and your family, have a happy Thanksgiving.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action Item	Owner(s)
11/30/2016	Submit nominees for Presidential Scholars	CMO Leaders
11/30/2016	Apply for 2016 Equipment Grant	Kitchen Managers/Finance Directors
12/2/2016	Complete Title III survey	Title III LEA/SecuritCy coordinators
12/16/2016	Submit applications for Citywide Exceptional Needs Funds	Orleans Parish Directors of Special Education
12/16/2016	Submit ACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and supporting documents	CMO Leaders
01/06/2017	Register for Jump Start Convention	CTE Coordinators and Counselors

LEA Support

Uploading 2015-2016 Compass Evaluation Data

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The Department will host a Compass Information System (CIS) webinar for uploading 2015-2016 school year evaluation data on **November 29, 2016**. This webinar will provide technical guidance for administrators, supervisors and data managers in uploading 2015-2016 school year Compass evaluation data.

Webinar Login Information: (*No pre-registration required)

- **Date and Time:** November 29 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Meeting Name:** Procedures for Uploading 2015-2016 School Year Evaluation Data
- **Login:** Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/cis/>
- Enter the meeting room as a **guest** and provide your name.

Please email compass@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

District Test Coordinator Reminders

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment Administration Support and Training:

- **Office Hours:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 1:00 PM

Login Information: (**No pre-registration required*)

- **Meeting Name:** Question and Answer Session
- **Login:** Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
- **Audio access via phone bridge:** 646-307-1380; meeting room #951155484
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

Assessment Administration:

- **EOC Window:** November 28 through December 16, 2017
- **2016-2017 ACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and supporting documents:** due **December 16, 2016** for all public, charter, and scholarship schools (scholarship students only); documents are located in the [Assessment Library](#) under ACT Documents; contact Trish Gilbert at patricia.gilbert@la.gov with any questions.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Data

Quarterly Home Study Reports Available in FTP

Please share this information with child welfare and attendance officers and home study personnel.

The Quarterly Home Study Report for October 2016 will be provided via FTP during the week of November 28, 2016. A file folder named, "LEACode_LEA_Oct2016QuarterlyHomeStudy," will be available on the Data Management FTP site (with user names ending in @datamgmt) through December 28, 2016. The folder will contain the following files:

- Cover letter
- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-approved home study students
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in home study programs
- Each student's home study approval notification letter
- Statewide enrollment numbers of registered nonpublic schools and student enrollment
- Detailed list of registered schools and students

Please email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

Course Choice Spring 2017 Registration

Please share with professional school counselors and LEA high school coordinators.

Registration for Course Choice Spring 2017 will open on November 30, 2016. Schools will register students directly with the course provider. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered with the course providers, schools should document enrollments in the [Course Choice Registration System](#).

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers. These course offerings will enable schools to provide courses not currently available to their students, including:

- career and technical preparation supporting the Jump Start program;
- academic work required to achieve TOPS;
- advanced course work not available at the school due to limited resources;
- dual enrollment courses from colleges and universities; and
- intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation.

For more information, please e-mail sca@la.gov.

Financial Aid

The Department released a [Regional Financial Aid Calendar of Events](#) to inform students, parents, schools and LEAs of upcoming financial aid events in the area. The calendar, along with other helpful financial aid resources, can be accessed at the department's [Financial Aid web page](#).

The calendar is updated weekly. Schools, LEAs and institutions can submit financial aid-related events to be published on the web calendar. Please send the event name, date, time, location, and a brief description to Stephanie.Marcum@la.gov.

2017 Jump Start Convention

The 2017 Jump Start Convention will be held **Tuesday, January 17, 2017** at the Raising Cane's River Center (275 S. River Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802). Attendees of the convention should include high school principals, LEA/charter administrators, professional school counselors, Jump Start regional team members, and regional economic development and workforce development organizations.

Key Jump Start Convention agenda items this year will include:

- Maximizing Jump Start funding for schools and LEAs;
- Expanding workplace experiences for students;
- Providing alternate pathways for students with disabilities;
- Encouraging best practices for counselor support.

Please [register here](#) by **January 6, 2017**.

Please refer to [this document](#) for information about hotel room blocks available for the convention or visit the [Jump Start Meetings and Training Opportunities page](#). Please direct all questions about the convention to JumpStart@la.gov.

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. LDOE will host a webinar outlining CLEP credit policy, subject areas, and exam preparation, as well as information about becoming an authorized CLEP administration center.

District test coordinators, administrators, professional school counselors, and teachers are encouraged to participate in the webinar scheduled for: **Thursday, December 8, from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information (no pre-registration required):

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

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

Talent

Regional Educator Workforce Reports

The Regional Educator Workforce Reports are now available in the [Educator Workforce Library](#). The regional reports build upon the LEA workforce reports by providing a field of data at the regional and state levels. These reports will support LEA leaders in analyzing educator workforce trends relative to teacher recruitment and hiring, certification status, effectiveness, and departures.

The Regional Educator Workforce Reports were released at the fall Believe and Prepare community meeting and will be discussed again during the December regional supervisors' collaboration.

Please email Sara.Strickland@LA.gov with any questions.

Federal Programs

Data Collection in Title III Survey - LEADSPortal

The Department must report specific data from all LEAs receiving Title III funds. Title III districts/security coordinators must complete the Title III Survey (TTS) for the 2015-2016 school year via the [LEADSPortal](#). The LEADSPortal (TTS) is open 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

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 the [Student Injury Questionnaire](#) by December 5, 2016** to assist the task force in collecting information regarding student transportation.

Other

Contest for Grade 6-12 STEM Teachers

Please share with principals and teachers.

Samsung's Corporate Citizenship team is sponsoring the STEM-focused [Solve for Tomorrow Contest](#). One middle or high school teacher is selected to receive \$25,000, and those who move to the next level can win up to \$150,000. **The deadline to enter is November 30, 2016.** Please visit the [contest web page](#) for more information.

2017 Students of the Year Program

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

The Department released the application for the **2017 Students 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 **December 9, 2016**. 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.

All LEAs are encouraged to visit the [LDOE Awards Programs](#) web page for more information about the Students of the Year Awards. If you have any questions, please email Marian.Johnson@la.gov or call 225-219-7372.

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program: Invitation to Nominate Students Extended

The U.S. Department of Education has invited district and charter school leaders to nominate outstanding students for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. This year, states are allowed to submit nominations for up to 25 outstanding students who would otherwise not qualify under the program's traditional academic (based on ACT/SAT scores) or arts component. Nominations may also include students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in career and technical education.

State Superintendent White invites charter school leaders to submit nominations for up to three outstanding students. The nominations must include a male and female student, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in career and technical education. Students should be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January and June 2017. Please see [additional program requirements](#) for more information.

Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total) signed by the CMO or school leader and emailed to leslie.hill@la.gov no later than **Wednesday, November 30, 2016**. Please note "Presidential

Scholars" in the subject line.

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](#) 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.

Federal Policy on Military Recruiting in Schools

Please share with principals and counselors.

Representatives of military recruiting offices have recently contacted the Department to express concerns regarding access to student contact information. **By Federal law, all LEAs that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), must provide student's names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters unless the student's parents or guardians have individually opted out of providing this information.** Local education authorities cannot adopt a blanket opt-out policy.

In addition, please be mindful that schools are to allow recruiters from the various branches of service equitable access to classrooms and/or facilities. LEAs must allow equal access and accommodation to all branches of services in accordance with a consistent application of their local policies. Students interested in joining the military after high school should be allowed to receive information from all branches of service so they can make an intelligent decision if they are considering joining the military.

Please share this information with the principals and counselors in your high schools to ensure your LEA is in compliance with federal law.

LDOE Contacts

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LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
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