

# NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

*A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools*



October 27, 2016

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## Key Highlights: Important Dates for School Choice Programs

### Key Info New to the Newsletter:

Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline
All Orleans Parish nonpublics	10/28	Orleans Parish nonpublics interested in or currently serving PreK students must submit <a href="#">application</a>
LSP	11/11	Create username and password in <a href="#">Technology Readiness Tool</a>

## Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

### Tech Readiness Toolkit

All nonpublic schools administering state tests must ensure their schools are prepared for online testing. The Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) helps schools identify technology gaps that need to be filled before tests can be administered. The Technology Readiness Tool is a web-based application designed to help schools identify their current technology infrastructure and assist the state in determining what next steps will best prepare schools and districts for a successful transition to online testing. **Please sign**

**up for a username and password and complete the TRT by Friday, November 11th.**

In order to access this tool, Testing Coordinators or other appropriate technology personnel should click on the following [link](#).

Schools should have received an email with this information as well as user guides to help access the tool. Please reach out to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with any questions or concerns or if your school did not receive the communication.

## **New Transfer Form**

The Department of Education has made small changes to the [2016- 2017 Transfer Form](#) to track and accommodate the needs of displaced families. Please use [this form](#) for all transfers that happen throughout the rest of the 2016-17 school year.

# Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News

## **Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information**

Information about the Tuition Donation Rebate Program can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart](#). Currently, Louisiana has three School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Rebate Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, and New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund. Schools interested in participating in the TDR program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

School Tuition Organization	Regional Focus	STO Website	Email	Phone
ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.acescholarships.org">www.acescholarships.org</a>	<a href="mailto:TDR@acescholarships.org">TDR@acescholarships.org</a>	504.491.1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.aretescholars.org">www.aretescholars.org</a>	<a href="mailto:maryhw@aretescholars.org">maryhw@aretescholars.org</a>	225.245.3610
New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund	Baton Rouge	<a href="http://newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund">newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund</a>	<a href="mailto:esf@newschoolsbr.org">esf@newschoolsbr.org</a>	225.395.1686

## School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

Educational Certificates are awarded contingent upon funding availability.

### **Student Transfers**

Families seeking to transfer their educational certificate should complete a transfer form with the receiving school. Please note that the submission of this form is not a guarantee that a transfer will be approved.

- Students must have been awarded an educational certificate for the 2016-17 school year to qualify for a transfer.
- This form must be signed by the parent/guardian and a representative of the receiving transfer school.
- The receiving school should submit this form to the Louisiana Department of Education.

Please contact [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) for a School Choice Program transfer form.

## Other Department Resources for Nonpublic Choice Schools

### **Nonpublic School Communication**

The Louisiana Department of Education is committed to ensuring that all of our non-public partners have access to the information they need regarding the non-public school approval process and the Louisiana Scholarship Program. [Here](#) you will find a document that outlines the key contact information for nonpublic schools and the Louisiana Scholarship Program. You will also find the calendar of events for nonpublic schools for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.

### **Updated ELA Guidebooks 2.0 Unit Release Schedule**

**Please share with curriculum supervisors.**

In June, the Department released a schedule of [ELA guidebooks 2.0 units](#) that would be released this year. The schedule has been updated to provide release dates for the remaining units in grades 3-8.

[FLA Guidebooks 2.0](#) is a curriculum for whole-class instruction at each grade-level, and ensures all students meet the ELA goal of

[LEAP Guidebooks 2.0](#) is a curriculum for whole-class instruction at each grade-level, and ensures all students meet the LEA goal of reading and understanding complex, grade-level texts and expressing their understanding of those texts through writing and speaking.

Additional information on ELA Guidebooks 2.0, including the release schedule can be found [here](#), or you can email [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## **LEAP 2025 Assessment Guides Released**

**Please share with curriculum supervisors, district test coordinators, principals and teachers.**

Assessment guides, providing detailed information about the LEAP 2025 assessments for ELA and math in grades 3-8, are now available in the [Assessment Guidance library](#). Updated guides with sample test questions will be released in mid-November.

Updated LEAP 2025 Social Studies Assessment Guides are also now available in the [Assessment Guidance library](#). The update includes session testing times, computer-based testing administration policies, and information about additional resources.

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

## **Testing Coordinator Reminders**

**Please share with District Test and Technology Coordinators and Data Managers.**

### **Assessment Support:**

- **Monthly DTC and Accountability Call:** Tuesday November 1 at 1:00 p.m.
  - 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

### **Assessment Administration:**

- **EOC administration:** The EOC Fall 2016 deadline to finalize IEP, IAP, and LEP accommodations prior to fall EOC administration is October 28. DTCs must register their schools for testing in [eDIRECT](#). DTCs should only register schools for days testing will take place.
- **NAEP Administration:** School Test Coordinators should login to [myNAEP](#) and enter the enrollment for the grade(s) selected to participate in NAEP.

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

## **Orleans Parish**

### **Application for Pre-K Seats for 2017-18 due Oct. 28th**

All approved nonpublic schools located in Orleans Parish are eligible to apply for the NSECD (Nonpublic Schools Early Childhood Development Program) to provide pre-K classes to four-year-olds from low-income families for 2017-18. Each nonpublic school interested in serving Pre-K seats-those schools that have never had pre-K before, as well as those nonpublic schools who are currently serving NSECD students-must complete and submit an application by October 28th as part of the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Coordinated Funding Request.

Applications and additional information can be found [here](#). Please contact [talgoust@agendaforchildren.org](mailto:talgoust@agendaforchildren.org) if you have any questions.

## **Other Department Newsletters**

Read the [October 25 District Newsletter](#).

Read the [October 20 Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter](#).

### **LDOE Contacts**

[John White](#)  
State Superintendent of Education  
877.453.2721 (toll-free)  
Twitter @LouisianaSup

### **LDOE Links**

[LDOE Website](#)  
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