

# NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

*A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools*



November 17, 2016

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## Important Dates for School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All Nonpublics	11/30/2016	Submit nominees for Presidential Scholars	School/Archdiocese leaders
LSP	12/05/2016	Complete Quarter 2 enrollment in <a href="#">LEADs</a>	Scholarship program managers
LSP	12/16/2016	Submit ACT <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</a>	High school testing coordinators

## Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

### Technology Readiness

Please share with District Test and Technology Coordinators.

The Department will host a call on Wednesday, November 30th at 12:00 for Scholarship schools that require assistance completing

the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT).

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/trttutorial/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Call-in Information: (605) 475-4000, Meeting room 321884#

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

**All schools must complete the Tech Readiness Toolkit by Monday, December 5th.**

### **Quarter 2 Enrollment Verification 12/1 to 12/5**

The Quarter 2 enrollment verification process for the Louisiana Scholarship Program will take place from December 1st through December 5th. Please be prepared to complete the enrollment verification process on time to ensure prompt payment for the second quarter.

Please contact [StudentScholarships@LA.gov](mailto:StudentScholarships@LA.gov) with any questions.

### **New LSP Transfer Form**

The Department 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.

<b>School Tuition Organization</b>	<b>Regional Focus</b>	<b>STO Website</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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**

### **District Test Coordinator Reminders**

#### **ACT/WorkKeys**

- ACT WorkKeys testing window is **November 14, 2016 through May 12, 2017**. A 30 day waiting period between test

administrations for the same test is recommended.

- 2016-2017 ACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and supporting documents are due **Dec. 16, 2016** for all public, charter, and scholarship schools (scholarship students only). They are located in the Assessment Library under ACT Documents. Contact Trish Gilbert at [patricia.gilbert@la.gov](mailto:patricia.gilbert@la.gov) with any questions.
- The window to manage ACT and ACT WorkKeys participation information in PearsonAccessNext (PANext) is open now through **December 16, 2016**. Detailed information can be found in the ACT "[Welcome to your Testing Program: State and District Testing](#)" document.
- Submit ACT approved accommodations in the Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) System now through February 17, 2017.
- Please refer to the ACT State Testing website for information, manuals, and training opportunities.

## EOC

- The Fall EOC window has been extended to **December 16, 2017**. The TCM has been updated in eDIRECT to reflect the extended window. If a test session in the original window is moved to the extended window, the session will need to be regenerated.
- STCs should continue creating test sessions, entering accommodations for retesters, and printing student test tickets within eDIRECT in preparation for fall EOCs. The testing window opens **November 28 and runs through December 14, 2016**.

## NAEP

- NAEP School Test Coordinators should login to myNAEP and enter the enrollment for the grade(s) selected to participate in NAEP.
- Please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

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## High School Opportunities

### 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 this 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 [www.collegefairsonline.com](http://www.collegefairsonline.com) to the students tab to register and select the South fair. For more information, please email [tpendleton@collegefairsonline.com](mailto:tpendleton@collegefairsonline.com).

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## Other

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

The U.S. Department of Education has invited school/diocese 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 school or archdiocese 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 local superintendent and emailed to [leslie.hill@la.gov](mailto:leslie.hill@la.gov) no later than **Wednesday, November 30, at 4:30 p.m.** Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

### Federal Policy on Military Recruiting in Schools

Representatives of military recruiting offices have recently contacted the Department to express concerns regarding access to student contact information. By Federal law, all schools 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. Schools 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 district is in compliance with federal law.

## Department Newsletters

To view the **November 15 District Newsletter**, please click [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

To view the **November 10 Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter**, please click [here](#).

### LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

877.453.2721 (toll-free)

Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

### LDOE Links

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