

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



April 12, 2016

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As you likely know, Governor Edwards presented an updated picture of the state's 2016-2017 budget today. The amendments he proposed to the budget were in light of both increases to revenue approved by the Legislature during its recent special session and remaining gaps between anticipated revenues and anticipated expenditures. There remain significant cuts to state government, though the cuts are smaller in some areas than originally anticipated. The Governor was emphatic that the presentation today is not the end of the story and that there will be another special session to follow this regular session at which time additional issues will be resolved.

Under the Governor's proposal today, the following adjustments would be reflected in the budget:

- The 2016-2017 MFP would not be increased, meaning that while public schools would see revenue for an increase in the number of students, the rate of funding per student would drop, reducing schools' funding from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017 by roughly \$44 million.
- Nonpublic schools would see similar reductions, including \$15 million in annual reimbursements and \$6 million for student scholarships.
- TOPS would be reduced by \$183 million, or nearly two thirds of the appropriation needed for the program as it currently exists.

There is some positive change within this budget. Early childhood programs see no reduction in 2016-2017 under this plan, for example. Nevertheless, the financial picture remains troubling in many respects. My hope is that the Legislature and Governor are able to find solutions that protect the interest of young people across the educational spectrum.

I also recognize that there are issues that must be addressed urgently for students and families, most prominently the issue of TOPS funding and its availability for eligible graduates. At this point, the budget is not final, and there have been no changes to laws governing which students are eligible. However, the Legislature will be working on these issues in the weeks to come, and we will keep you apprised of any and all progress and any information made available by the Office of Student Financial Assistance and the Board of Regents.

I will keep you apprised of information as it is made available.

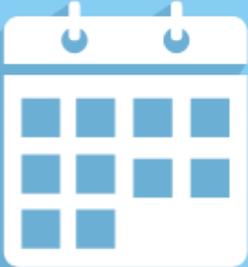
As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

**John**

John White  
Louisiana Department of Education  
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**CLICK HERE TO VIEW  
THE MOST CURRENT  
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS**

To view the current District Support Calendar, please click [here](#).

**District Support**

**Updated 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 District Support Calendars**

The Department has released an updated [2015-2016 District Support Calendar](#) and [2016-2017 District Support Calendar](#). All new additions or revisions are highlighted in yellow so districts can easily identify these changes. Changes to these versions include the following:

2015-2016:

- Removal of June District Planning Call

2016-2017:

- Jump Start Super Summer Institute: Week of July 18
- September 2016 District Planning Call changed to September 7
- May 2017 District Planning Call changed to May 10

Please reach out to [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) with questions related to this calendar.

## **Teacher Leader Summit Registration**

The [2016 Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit](#) will bring together more than 4,000 educators and content experts from across the state to share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the upcoming 2016-17 school year.

Over 200 sessions will cover a variety of topics such as setting goals, planning for and delivering high-quality instruction, assessing, and reflecting on results to foster student and teacher improvement. **A detailed session list will be released by Monday, April 25.**

[Registration](#) is now open in Coursewhere and will close on **Wednesday, May 11**. Each school system has been assigned a certain number of seats and an LEA-specific password. Anyone who is interested in attending the 2016 Teacher Leader Summit should contact the Teacher Leader point of contact for his or her LEA to find out the process for registering.

Please contact your district's Teacher Leader coordinator or [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov) with questions about the Teacher Leader Summit.

## **Compass End-of-Year Webinar**

**Please share this information Compass contacts and Principals.**

The Department will host a [Compass end-of-year webinar](#) on Thursday, April 14, at 2:00 p.m. Participants will receive details related to the Compass end-of-year process, including roster verification and finalizing principal and teacher evaluations.

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

- Meeting Name: Compass Planning
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/compass/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Access audio via phone bridge: (800) 832-0736 / room number: 1184454
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

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

## **EAGLE Update**

EAGLE will begin transitioning to the DRC assessment-delivery platform over the summer to allow students the opportunity to practice these test items in the same online system as the LEAP tests. The transition will occur in phases as specific test administration, student testing, and reporting requirements are defined.

During the transition, only EAGLE items will be moved, therefore **school systems should print and retain hard copies of all district- and school-level tests in the system.**

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions about this transition or how to retain district and school tests.

## Assessment Preparation

### Assessment Administration Update

Across the state, educators are preparing for the administration of the Spring 2016 assessments. This section will provide LEAs with a weekly update on all information related to assessment preparation.

#### TEST ADMINISTRATION FOR DTCs

- **LEAP Assessments:** From April 1 to May 30, districts should complete the following:
  - **NEW April 11-May 6:** LEAP ELA and math online administration window. School test coordinators administer LEAP test to students grade 3 through 8.
  - **NEW** Teachers with Spanish speaking students who are limited English proficient, and who have this accommodation on their LEP plan, should utilize the **online Math Spanish Practice Tests** available within INSIGHT.
- **EOC**
  - **April 22:** EOC registration window closes. School test coordinators should register testers in the [EOC System](#).
  - **April 25:** EOC administration window opens. School test coordinators administer EOC tests to students by **May 20**.

#### ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES

- [Parent Guide to the 2016 LEAP Tests](#): This document provides basic facts about the LEAP tests and links to helpful resources in order to support parents in understanding what students will experience on the tests. Please share this resource with principals, teachers, and parents
- [LEAP FAQ](#) and [Spring Assessments Resource for Teachers](#): These documents provide basic facts about the LEAP tests and links to helpful resources in order to support test coordinators and teachers in understanding what students will experience on the tests.
- **LEAP Test Coordinator Manuals and Test Administrator Manuals:** These manuals provide LEAP test administration guidance for test coordinators and administrators. Manuals are available in [eDIRECT](#).
- **Social Studies:** Online Tools Training (OTT) and [Sample Task Sets](#) are now available
- **Office Hours:** The Louisiana Department of Education hosts weekly office hours every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to answer any questions that teachers, supervisors, test coordinators, and test administrators may have regarding statewide assessments.
  - Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
  - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
  - Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone, or access audio via phone bridge: (800) 832-0736 / room number: 3423602

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

## **2016-2017 Early Childhood and K-3 Literacy Assessment Administration**

**Please Share with District Test Coordinators and Early Childhood/K-3 ELA/Reading Supervisors.**

The Department released the following information to school systems to support birth to grade 3 assessment decisions for the 2016-2017 school year.

### **K-3:**

- Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, school systems will have the flexibility to only administer and report results of K-3 literacy screening assessments once a year in the fall. Click [here](#) for additional guidance.
- School systems must continue to administer the Developmental Skills Checklist (DSC) to kindergarten students in the fall. For efficiency, they may choose to administer the DSC and the one-minute literacy screener to kindergarten students in one sitting.

### **Early Childhood:**

- Early childhood sites must continue to administer the **GOLD®** assessment or an approved alternate.

The Department is asking school systems to communicate their assessment choices in the following ways:

- All schools systems should **complete** [the K-3 literacy assessment survey](#) by **April 12**, identifying the literacy screener that they will administer in 2016-2017.
- School systems that would like to administer an alternate K-3 literacy screener **must apply for a waiver by April 19**.
- Early childhood sites that would like to administer an alternate early childhood assessment (for birth to preschool) must also apply for a [waiver](#) by April 19.

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

## **Assessment and Accountability**

### **April Accountability Commission Meeting**

Meeting:	When/Where:
Accountability Commission: April 22 Meeting	Canceled

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

## **High School Opportunities**

### **2016-17 Pupil Progression Plan**

The **Pupil Progression Plan (PPP)** is the comprehensive plan developed and adopted by each LEA that establish policies and guidelines local school districts use to determine whether students will be promoted to the next grade, retained in the current grade, or advanced (or skipped) to higher grades. Pupil Progression Plans also outline the criteria for high school graduation.

In order to address any new legislation relative to promotion and student progression, the 2016-17 Pupil Progression Plan template will be made available in June following the close of the 2016 legislative session. The deadline for submission will be extended into mid-October.

For more information regarding the 2016-17 Pupil Progression Plan, please email your request to [PPP@la.gov](mailto:PPP@la.gov).

## **Student Planning Guidebook Webinar Series**

The High School Student Planning Guidebook is a series of short documents showing administrators, counselors, and teachers how to use key policies, programs, and resources to help both students and schools achieve their goals.

Weekly Guidebook webinars will be held from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the dates outlined below:

April 21, 2016: Guide Overview & **PLANNING FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS**

April 28, 2016: Guide Overview & **9th AND 10th GRADE STUDENTS/NEW JUMP START OPPORTUNITIES**

May 5, 2016: Guide Overview & **DEVELOPING ADVANCED AND BASIC COLLEGE AND WORKPLACE SKILLS**

May 12, 2016: Guide Overview & **COUNSELING, SUPPORTS, REWARDS, JUMP START WEB PORTAL, ALTERNATE JUMP START PATHWAYS**

**Webinar information below:** (*\*No pre-registration required*)

- Click <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/studentplanningguide/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**
- Audio access: **(800) 832-0736** / room number: **2834406**

For additional information, please contact [CollegeReadiness@la.gov](mailto:CollegeReadiness@la.gov).

## **2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute**

The 2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) is July 18 - 22, 2016 at South Louisiana Community College in Lafayette, LA. The Institute, co-hosted by the Louisiana Department of Education, South Louisiana Community College, and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, will provide teacher certification training for Industry-Based Certifications aligned with [Jump Start Statewide Pathways](#) and the [Louisiana Industry-Based Certification \(IBC\) State Focus List](#).

Registration is open and will close April 19, 2016. Registration REQUIRES use of a Purchase Order #, which should be provided to instructors by the Career and Technical Education Supervisor. To register, click [here](#). For a list of Lafayette Jump Start SSI discounted hotels, click [here](#).

The Department will pay training costs and provide lunch for secondary instructors attending SSI. Districts/Charters are responsible for all travel expenses and a nominal registration fee (\$150.00 / instructor) for which Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2015-2016 Carl Perkins funds may be used. Each district / charter will be invoiced for total registration fees due and will submit payment no later than June 17, 2016 to the following address:

Louisiana Department of Education  
Appropriation Control  
ATTN: Michelle S. Hill  
P. O. Box 94064  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

Instructional resources (books, etc.) will be mailed to CTE supervisors, by June 15, 2016, for distribution to registered instructors. Please direct all questions about Super Summer Institute to [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov).

## **2016 Advanced Placement® Exam Administration**

AP Exams start the week of May 2. The complete exam schedule can be found [here](#). April 8 is the deadline to order pre-administration materials. All orders placed after April 8 will incur a \$55 late fee. Please visit and review your school's online AP coordinator account to ensure that your orders have been properly placed and processed [here](#).

As an additional resource, please take a moment to review the [AP Coordinator Planning Calendar](#) for important dates and deadlines.

For more information contact the College Board at 877-274-6474 or email [apexams@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:apexams@info.collegeboard.org).

The cohort graduation index recognizes a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP® exam as one of the highest levels of

The cohort graduation index recognizes a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP® exam as one of the highest levels of achievement earned by a cohort graduate. Each student with at least one AP® score of 3 or higher will earn the maximum 150 points toward the graduation index. Students who take an AP course and associated exam and earn a 1 or 2 on an AP® exam will receive 110 points toward the graduation index.

## Finance

### **Mid-year Reduction to TANF Funding for LA4 and JAG**

**Please forward to city/parish superintendents and business managers, and type 2 and 5 charter school board presidents and business managers.**

To comply with budget reductions from the special legislative session, the Department of Child and Family reduced TANF funding for the LA4 and JAG programs. The statewide reduction for LA4 is \$2.9M. The revised LA4 allocation by LEA is provided [here](#). The statewide reduction for JAG is \$44,000. The revised JAG allocation by LEA is provided [here](#). Revised allocation files will be loaded into eGMS and budget revisions will be required to reflect the reduced funding for each program. If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Randy Littleton at [randy.littleton@la.gov](mailto:randy.littleton@la.gov).

### **IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Fiscal Requirements**

**Please share with Business Managers and Financial Officials.**

On April 28, 2015, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) published revised regulations for requirements related to local educational agency maintenance of effort (LEA MOE) [-https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-09755](https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-09755).

Meeting the yearly IDEA MOE Compliance requirement is part of the business process to confirm compliance with FY 2015 federal grant funds.

The annual **IDEA MOE Compliance Requirement for FY 2015** (IDEA MOE Confirmation) is now accessible through eGMS. The deadline for submission is **May 20, 2016**. (Click [here](#) for quick reference guidance on submitting these applications). If you have questions regarding the MOE requirement or the review process, you may select the "click for instructions" button on each tab in the MOE application(s).

For further assistance contact Nakia Jason at [Nakia.Jason@la.gov](mailto:Nakia.Jason@la.gov) or 1-877-453-2721. For technical inquiries or support contact Jason Berard at [Jason.Berard@la.gov](mailto:Jason.Berard@la.gov).

### **New Requirement for Indirect Cost - Sub-award Data Collection**

**Please forward to Business Managers and Financial Officials.**

Please complete the sub-award data collection for FY 14-15 by **April 30, 2016**.

For information regarding sub-awards click [here](#).

If you have any questions concerning sub-awards and indirect costs, contact Monique Livious at [Monique.Livious2@la.gov](mailto:Monique.Livious2@la.gov) or Nakia Jason at [Nakia.Jason@la.gov](mailto:Nakia.Jason@la.gov).

The Department currently calculates the Indirect Cost Rate for each LEA annually based on the expenditure data reported in the AFR. In order to maintain compliance with LDOE's current Indirect Cost agreement with USDOE for the 2016 - 2017 rate calculation, LEAs are required to provide additional financial data to capture *sub-award* amounts. This financial data should be submitted via the LEADS portal. If the LEA has no sub-award date, select the "no" option in the LEADS portal.

### **Grants Management Sessions at Teacher Leader Summit**

**Please share this item with federal program directors, business managers and financial officials of public school districts.**

The Office of Grants Management will sponsor four sessions for Federal Program supervisors, IDEA supervisors and Business Managers.

- Wednesday afternoon: *ESSA - Changes to Federal Program Requirements*
- Thursday morning: *Grants Management Quarterly Update*
- Thursday morning: *Budgeting and Rollover Options*
- Thursday afternoon: *EDGAR Update*

Interested persons should register to attend these sessions. You should contact your district's Teacher Leader Point of Contact for your LEA registration code.

Should you have questions regarding this information, or difficulty registering, please contact Sheila Guidry at [Sheila.Guidry@la.gov](mailto:Sheila.Guidry@la.gov).

## Policy

### **Survey on Pending Legislation About Automated External Defibrillators- Deadline Extended**

House Bill 123, which has been introduced by Representative Vincent Pierre, would require all high schools to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on the school premises. Representative Pierre has requested a survey local school districts to determine which high schools already have an AED. Please complete this brief [survey](#) by **Monday, April 18**. Thank you for your assistance.

### **Update on ESSA**

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in December 2015, reauthorizes and revises the Elementary and Secondary Education Act known as No Child Left Behind. The U.S. Department of Education has been consulting with stakeholders on new proposed ESSA regulations through a negotiated rule making process held in public meetings. At these meetings, publically nominated [committee members](#) have reviewed and provided feedback on proposed regulations pertaining to Title I, Part A Assessments and the requirement that federal funds supplement, not supplant, those at the state and local levels.

The U.S. Department of Education posted negotiated rulemaking materials including [Session 1 and Session 2 Materials](#), [Negotiator Nomination FAQs](#), and general [Negotiated Rulemaking FAQs](#), as well as the draft regulations inclusive of committee feedback from the meetings for [supplement, not supplant](#), and [assessments](#) proposals. In addition, the Department published issue papers that summarize existing regulations, the need for change(s), draft language, and committee feedback for each sub-topic including:

- [Supplement, Not Supplant](#)
- [Computer Adaptive Tests](#)
- [The Exception for Advanced Mathematics Assessments in 8th Grade](#)
- [Locally Selected, Nationally Recognized High School Assessments](#)
- [Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Academic Assessments](#)
- [Alternative Assessments Based on Alternative Standards](#)
- [Inclusion of English Learners in Academic Assessments](#)
- [Inclusion of English Learners in English Language Proficiency Assessments](#)
- [Revised Assessment Regulations](#)

While not required, the rulemaking committee has the discretion to meet again April 18-19, 2016. Click [here](#) to learn more about ESSA and to sign up for U.S. Department of Education ESSA updates. We will continue to keep you updated on new developments related to this new federal law.

## Other

### **33rd Annual Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice**

Each year the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board hosts a conference that delivers information regarding the current state juvenile justice and delinquency prevention in Louisiana. National and state experts will once again present powerful and timely messages about the current state of the system and offer solutions to problems facing our juvenile justice professionals. The 33rd Annual Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice will be held in Baton Rouge from April 27 through April 29, 2016. Registration fee is \$75. Please click [here](#) to register and get additional information about the conference.

### **2016 Inclusive Art Show Contact**

## 2016 Inclusive Art Show Contest

To increase awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society, the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) encourages citizens of Louisiana to participate in the Inclusive Art Show Competition. GODA will accept entries that illustrate or describe impression related to this year's contest theme: "Inclusion Matters: A Better World For All." Award Medals and special recognition from Governor John Bel Edwards will be presented to the winners. All entries must be received by **May 17, 2016**. Please contact Jamar Ennis at (225) 219-9866 or email [jamar.ennis@la.gov](mailto:jamar.ennis@la.gov) for more information. The contest form is attached [here](#).

### LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

(toll-free) 877.453.2721

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