

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



May 3, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

First please let me congratulate you, your staffs, and your students on yesterday's [announcement](#) of 2015 graduation results. The 2.9 percentage point increase is all the more extraordinary because of the even higher increase of 3.5 percentage points among African-American students. You can see more detail regarding the results in a presentation listed [here](#).

As a group, we have met twice to discuss the state's transition to [Louisiana Student Standards](#). As we discussed in our last meeting, the transition is now the subject of legislation, and we understand this legislation is now the subject of an agreement in principle reached among organizations concerned with schools, students, and educators. The bills comprising the agreement will be heard this Thursday in the Senate Education Committee.

At this moment in time, we understand the legislative agreement provides for the Louisiana Student Standards to be implemented in 2016-2017 and for one additional year of statewide transition policies covering that year. This means the overall distribution of school letter grades in 2017 cannot be below the 2013 distribution. It also means in 2017 state test scores need not be used in making promotion decisions and value-added data need not be used in educator evaluation determinations.

To assist with the transition, and in response to our recent discussions, Assistant Superintendent Jessica Baghian will be hosting small group meetings with superintendents around the state in the weeks to come. The meetings will provide a forum for discussing both the transition in standards and the competitive procurement of a vendor to provide LEAP 2025 assessments based on the standards.

The meetings will also include presentation of a timeline for dialogue and policy development related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This summer, as Assistant Superintendent Baghian will present, the Department will host stakeholder meetings with advocates, business leaders, and education leaders related to the new laws and specific academic challenges the state may seek to solve in responding to the law's requirements. In the fall, the Department will commence a more intensive series of planning meetings, so that by the spring, the state has a fully vetted plan ready for presentation to the federal government.

Our students' results are clear evidence: when we keep our expectations high, more often than not, students respond. The imminent adoption of Louisiana Student Standards and new federal requirements, as with past initiatives, will be of a benefit to students if we keep them front of mind throughout the entire process.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

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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

Superintendent's Conference Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Wednesday, May 18, at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the Superintendents' Conference Call on May 18, please see the webinar information below:

Webinar Login Information (*No pre-registration required)

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: **(866) 818-1223**
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # **1672113**
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting

2016-2017 Teacher Leader Advisor Application

Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs) are a group of exceptional educators from across Louisiana who play an influential role in raising expectations for students and supporting the success of teachers. The 2016-2017 TLAs will use their robust knowledge of teaching and learning to review and create the next wave of high-quality instructional materials and training tools that will be used by thousands of teachers across the state.

Becoming a TLA not only allows educators to expand their positive impact by influencing over 750,000 students and over 50,000 Louisiana educators, but it also provides an opportunity to deepen and refine their leadership skills, learn about key priorities and projects at the Louisiana Department of Education, and develop their understanding of curricula and teacher training.

Please encourage exceptional educators in your district to apply by Friday, June 13.

Applications: [ELA](#), [math](#), [social studies](#), [early childhood](#)

EAGLE Update

EAGLE will begin transitioning to a new comprehensive assessment-delivery platform that is aligned with the platform currently used for LEAP assessments. While current EAGLE items will be migrated to the new platform, a small percentage of items may be realigned or removed to ensure full alignment to the new Louisiana Student Standards.

The EAGLE system will be available through June 30. Districts and schools should print and retain hard copies of all tests before this date, since district- and school-level tests will no longer be available after the transition. EAGLE items will be available in the new platform in September 2016.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

2016-2017 Early Childhood Education Instructional Support Released

To ensure children are ready to enter school prepared for success, teachers in all early childhood settings need strong and coordinated curriculum, assessments, and professional development. The Department released [guidance](#) to help districts and community networks work together to ensure quality and continuity in each of these areas across early childhood and early elementary settings.

To further support all early childhood programs-child care, Head Start, and school-based pre-K-in selecting strong curriculum, the Department is conducting a review of early childhood curricula and will [post reviews](#) throughout the spring and summer.

Please contact jill.slack@la.gov with questions.

Literacy Grant Released

Please share with Grant Coordinators and Curriculum Supervisors.

The Department will offer 10 mini-grants for professional development focused on using writing tasks to measure student growth. The application guidelines can be found [here](#). Applications are due to jill.slack@la.gov by **May 10**.

Assessment Preparation

Assessment Administration Update

TEST ADMINISTRATION FOR DTCs

- **Social Studies Field Test:**
 - **Now through May 9:** Participating district technology coordinators should prepare for the field test by setting up the operational Testing Site Manager (TSM) and installing INSIGHT on all testing devices.
 - **May 9-May 20** is the LEAP Social Studies field test computer-based test administration window. Participating school test coordinators should administer the field tests to students in grades 3 through 8.
- **LEAP Assessments:**
 - **Now through May 6,** the LEAP ELA and math online administration window continues. School test coordinators in districts using online assessments should administer the test to students in grades 3 through 8.
- **EOC**
 - **Now through May 20,** the EOC administration window continues. School test coordinators should administer EOC tests to students.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES

- [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 Test Coordinator Manuals and Test Administrator Manuals:** These manuals provide test administration guidance for test coordinators and administrators. Manuals are available in [eDIRECT](#).
- **Social Studies Online Tools Training (OTT):** Students and teachers should use the OTT, which includes online training tools for grades 3 through 8, to become familiar with the INSIGHT testing platform and the online testing tools (e.g., highlighter, magnification).
- **Social Studies Sample Item and Task Sets:** Sample item and task sets illustrating how content and claims will be assessed on the grades 3 through 8 field tests are now available on the [Released and Sample Items](#) page.
- **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 with any questions.

Assessment and Accountability

May Accountability Commission Meeting

Meeting:	When/Where:
Accountability Commission: May 6 Meeting	Canceled

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

2016 K8 School Performance Score Social Studies Index

This year, many students in grades three through eight are participating in a social studies field test that includes new test items designed to measure the 2011 social studies GLEs. The test scores from the social studies field test will not be used for accountability purposes.

Per policy, the 2016 K8 school performance score (SPS) will include the social studies index from 2013-2014 or 2014-2015, whichever is higher. As a result, **the Department released 2016 K8 SPS Social Studies Index Leacode files via the FTP on Friday, April 29** so that districts can estimate their 2016 K8 SPS through the use of the updated [2016 SPS calculator](#).

These files will be available to districts through the release of 2016 school performance scores.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

2015-2016 NCCER Updates

The Department will host a webinar to support NCCER Craft Instructors and NCCER accredited schools in the proper implementation of NCCER within their schools. The webinar will focus on NCCER instructor trainings and certifications, facility visits, Form 200 submission and approval.

All Career and Technical Education Supervisors and NCCER Instructors are encouraged to participate in the webinar scheduled for:

- **Thursday, May 5 - 10:00 - 10:30 am**

Webinar Login Information (**no pre-registration required*)

- **Meeting Name:** NCCER Updates 2016
- To join the meeting, click <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccerupdates2016/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**

For additional information, please email bryan.bertucci@la.gov.

Career and Technical Education (C.A.T.E.) Data System

The C.A.T.E. data system, found [here](#), will open from **May 16, 2016 to July 1, 2016** for districts to submit 2015 - 2016 Career and Technical Education data as required for reporting of Performance Core Indicators to USDOE. A series of webinars will be provided to give guidance to district and school users regarding required data submission and "new" system functionality.

The webinars are scheduled for (**No pre-registration required*).

- **Thursday, May 5, 2016, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

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

- Meeting Name: **C.A.T.E. for Districts / Charters and Schools**
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/catefor2016/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**.

As there is a limit to participants, we recommend sites with more than one participant log in as one user.

For additional information, please email martha.moore@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:

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

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <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.

Data

Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on **Thursday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices.

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

- Meeting Name: **System Data Coordinator Webinar**
- Click [here](#) or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- *Select the "listen only mode."*

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT Coordinator's Portal under [Monthly DC Webinars](#) by **Wednesday, May 4.**

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

TOPS Processing for 2015-16 High School Graduates

In order for LOSFA to process TOPS awards for 2015-2016 in a timely manner, LEAs should complete data submissions for all high school graduates in the Student Transcript System (STS) no later than **5:00 p.m. on May 30, 2016.**

Please verify graduation requirements are met, ensure all graduate records contain a graduation date, and certify all sites. The STS system will be reopened as soon as the LOSFA harvest is complete on **May 31, 2016**, so LEAs can continue to process remaining students.

For assistance, contact SystemSupport@la.gov.

2015 Cohort Graduation Rate Data Released

The Department [released](#) 2015 cohort graduation rates on Monday, May 2, 2016. State and district-level data can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) to view the media briefing also held on Monday.

The Department will release district-, school-, and student-level rosters in the FTP on Friday, May 6. Detailed information can be found in the Data section of this newsletter.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Files Available on the FTP

Currently Available:

- **2016 Social Studies Index:** The Department released the data file *2016 K8 SPS Social Studies Index LEAcode* for each LEA and charter site via Data Management FTP on April 29. Files will be available on the FTP through the release of 2016 school performance scores.

Coming Soon:

- **2015 Cohort Graduation Rate District Rosters:** The Department will post two graduation cohort roster files in the secure FTP folder named 2015 Cohort Review this Friday, May 6 as listed below:
 - 1) **2015 Cohort District and School Graduation Rates:** District and school level graduation rates with the file named **2015_Cohort Graduation Rates_by_District_and_School_LEAcode**
 - 2) **Final Student-level Cohort Rosters:** Rosters list all students who are included in the calculation of graduation rates with changes requested and approved through the data certification process. The file name for the rosters is **2015 Cohort_Student_Level_File_Final_LEAcode**

Files will be available on the FTP through June 30.

- **Quarterly Home Study Reports:** The Quarterly Home Study Reports for April 2016 will be provided via FTP during the week of May 1 and will remain on the FTP until early June. A zipped file named, "LEAcode_LEA_April2016QuarterlyHomeStudy," will be available on the Data Management FTP site (with usernames ending in @datamgmt).

For FTP issues, contact SystemSupport@la.gov. For questions about the files, contact Assessment@la.gov.

Finance

FY2015-16 Projected Local Revenue Data

Please forward to business managers and superintendents of city/parish school systems.

In order to complete the FY2016-17 MFP calculations for charter schools, projected FY2015-16 local revenue data (and expenditures related to the collection of the revenue) must be submitted to the Department by each city/parish school district. The FY2015-16 local revenue data is being collected through the LEADS portal using the same process as was used last year. Step by step instructions for submitting your data through LEADS are provided [here](#). A list of the required keypunch codes is provided [here](#). Submit this data no later than **Friday, May 20, 2015**. The LEADS portal is currently open and will remain open through Friday, May 20.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Melanie Ruiz at 225-342-0180, or via e-mail at melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

Retention Stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers and Escadrille Louisiane Graduates

Please forward to business managers and financial officials of public school districts and charter schools.

Funding of Retention Stipends for second and third year Foreign Associate Teachers and Escadrille Louisiane Graduates is provided in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) for FY2015-16.

- Payments for the second and third year retention stipends provided [here](#) will be transferred to LEAs by Friday, May 6.
- LEAs must pay the applicable Foreign Associate Teachers and Escadrille Louisiane Graduates \$4,000 during the last two weeks of May 2016.

For questions or more information please contact Terri.Hammatt@la.gov.

70% Instructional Requirement (FY2014-15)

Please forward to business managers and superintendents of city/parish public school systems.

Per the MFP Resolution, local school boards must ensure that 70% of the local school system general fund expenditures are in the areas of instruction and school administration, at the school building level. The 70% Instructional Requirement calculation is complete for FY2014-15. An overview of the 70% Expenditure process is provided [here](#). The items listed below will be available in each LEA's "edfin" FTP site on Tuesday, May 2.

1. [70% Calculation Summary - 2014-15.pdf](#) - A one-page summary of your LEA's 70% Instructional Requirement Calculation.
2. [Funds Proration.xls](#) - Provides a line-by-line item account of how each expenditure is allocated and the basis for that allocation.
3. [Salary Distribution.xls](#) - Provides proration percentages by functional area based on PEP general fund salaries used to allocate AFR salaries, benefits, and certain other expenditures.
4. [Staff-Student Distribution.xls](#) - Provides proration percentages by functional area based on PEP staff full-time equivalents (FTE) and separate percentages comprised of staff FTE and SIS student counts. These percentages are applied as indicated in the funds proration document

Review the data and contact Kristen.smith2@la.gov if you have any questions or need additional information. A summary of this data will be presented to BESE at the June Finance Committee Meeting.

Grants Management

2016-2017 eGrant Trainings

The Louisiana Department of Education will provide a series of 2016-2017 eGrant Trainings for LEAs. These sessions are

The Louisiana Department of Education will provide a series of 2016-2017 eGrant Sessions for LEAs. These sessions are specific to Maintenance of Effort, Sole Source, Central Data, Math and Science Partnership, High Cost Services, IDEA Consolidated, NCLB Consolidated, and Carl Perkins eGrant updates. Three Face-to-Face training opportunities will be offered for Business Managers, Charter Directors, and Federal Programs Directors [NCLB, IDEA and/or Perkins Directors] with *three (3) or less years' experience*. There will also be a webinar scheduled on **May 12** for all other directors and staff. Please see the [schedule](#) for times and locations. Participants must register on Coursewhere for the face-to-face trainings, as appropriate.

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

Talent

Feedback Requested: Teacher Preparation Competencies

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, District-Level Supervisors, and School Leaders.

Through the [Believe and Prepare pilot program](#), school systems and teacher preparation providers are developing and offering next-generation teacher preparation programs that prepare teachers for Louisiana's classrooms and meet schools' staffing needs.

Specifically, these pilots have focused on competency-based preparation experiences that develop essential teaching knowledge and skills through practice.

[These surveys](#) gather feedback on draft competencies for teacher preparation. These competencies are meant to identify essential teaching knowledge and skills that aspiring teachers should develop and master in order to receive a professional teaching license.

- General teacher preparation competencies, which include professionalism and serving students with exceptionalities
- English Language Arts and literacy teacher preparation competencies
- Math teacher preparation competencies
- Special education competencies

The surveys opened **today, Tuesday, April 26** and will close **Friday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m.**

District and school leaders' opinions are very important. Practicing educators have critical insight into the knowledge and skills that are most important for a new teacher's success in the first years of teaching.

Please contact BelieveAndPrepare@LA.gov with any questions.

Special Education

2016 Unique Communication Needs Request for Applications (RFA)

The Department released an opportunity for any public agency/ institution or non-profit agency to apply for funding to provide direct technical assistance programs and professional development resources to Louisiana school employees. The focus of these funds is to support the unique communication needs of students including students who have cochlear implants and students who need Braille, educational interpreters, or a formal communication system to access the general education curriculum.

To access the request for proposal (RFA), click [here](#).

Applications are due by Monday May 16. Please email specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Education Technology

E-Rate: New Process for Receiving and Answering Program Integrity Assurance Questions

Starting with the FY2016 application, all applicants will only be able to receive and answer E-Rate Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) questions through the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) new IT system, known as the E-rate Productivity Center (EPC). All PIA questions will be sent through the **News** feed section in EPC and all applicant responses must be sent back to USAC using EPC. PIA will not email or fax any questions or take responses via email or fax. E-Rate staff must plan to check the EPC portal on a regular basis to ensure they do not miss any requests, as all PIA requests are time sensitive.

For more information and detailed instructions on how to view questions and send responses to PIA please refer to the attached [E-Rate Newsletter](#).

Please contact edtech@la.gov if you have any questions about this new process.

LDOE Contacts

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