

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



May 10, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

In the weeks to come, BESE, the Legislature, and the Governor will each consider new Louisiana Student Standards in English and math. The Legislature has also begun deliberations over important compromise legislation that would sustain statewide transition accountability policies through 2016-2017 and that would, in years hence, continue to require the use of multiple measures rather than value-added data alone in calculating student growth for the purpose of teacher evaluations.

Having completed the transition to new standards, BESE will begin raising expectations for performance on state assessments, as schools march toward 2025, when an A rating will require average student performance at the mastery level.

Higher expectations for student work will increase the likelihood students progress to college without need for remedial courses. However, our state's children have challenges that go beyond that need alone. Achievement gaps between poor and middle income students, for example, or between students with disabilities and their peers without disabilities, risk widening when the world after high school demands higher levels of skill. Similarly, a relatively small number of schools in Louisiana continue to serve large numbers of struggling students in very high concentrations. Too many students do not experience enriching, necessary coursework such as music and world language. And the education profession struggles to inspire college graduates who seek lucrative opportunities in other fields.

These are not new challenges, but as we transition to new standards, we can also see opportunities to solve these critical problems through discussions related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This month Assistant Superintendent Jessica Baghian is hosting regional meetings with district administrators and charter school leaders to discuss both the transition of standards and assessments as well as the new federal law. At the Teacher Leader Summit, Department staff will also host sessions detailing the new law and associated opportunities.

These initial discussions will be followed by statewide and regional meetings that Department leadership and I will host on the subject over the summer. Some meetings will be specific to certain audiences, such as district administrators, while others will be open, public meetings. Please look for a schedule in the weeks to come.

In the fall, discussions will intensify, so that by the winter, the state and its partners will have collaboratively developed ideas that may solve our students' most pressing issues.

We have a great opportunity to spend the next year proactively resolving stubborn challenges. I look forward to the discussions.

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

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

Monthly District Planning Call

This district planning call for May is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 18, from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**

The following district supervisors should attend:

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Assessment and Accountability
- Data
- Early Childhood
- High School
- Career and Technical Education
- Principal and Teacher Leader
- Finance

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

- Meeting Name: **May District Planning Call**
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Call-In Information: (800) 832-0736; meeting room #3423625

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Deadline for 2016 Teacher Leader Summit

The [2016 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will offer over [200 sessions](#) covering a variety of instructional topics for educators across the state. This is the last week to register.

Please ensure all participants are registered in Coursewhere by tomorrow, **May 11**. For instructions on how to register, please reach out to your district's Teacher Leader point of contact.

2016-2017 Teacher Leader Advisor Application

The Department is pleased to announce the release of the 2016-2016 Teacher Leader Advisor applications for [ELA](#), [math](#), [social studies](#) and [early childhood](#). Teacher Leader Advisors are educators from across the state who have strong skills in math, ELA and social studies instructional planning.

This group will create the next wave of high-quality instructional materials and support for fellow Louisiana educators. Becoming a Teacher Leader Advisor also provides educators with an opportunity to expand and refine their instructional skills, learn about key state-wide project projects, and deepen their understanding of planning and teaching.

Please encourage talented educators in your district to apply by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 13. You are encouraged to share this [flyer](#) with them. Please reach out to louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with any questions.

End-of-Year Principal Support

Please share with principal supervisors.

The following tools and support are available to principals in closing out the 2015-2016 school year, and planning for 2016-2017.

- [Principal Virtual Town Hall Meeting](#): Principals will have the opportunity to review and consider how recently released instructional tools and resources support them as they plan for the 2016-2017 school year.
 - Monday, May 23, at 3:00 p.m
 - Click [here](#) to access the livestream
- [Compass End-of-Year Webinar](#): This presentation provides information about the end-of-year Compass process, including roster verification and finalizing teacher evaluations and end-of-year conversations. Click [here](#) to access the recording.

Please email compass@la.gov with questions.

Updated Professional Development Course Catalog Released

Improving teacher instruction requires access to high-quality resources and targeted, ongoing professional development (PD) to help teachers use resources effectively. Based on six criteria, the Department identified various vendors that provide quality professional development to Louisiana school systems.

The updated [PD Course Catalog](#) supports districts as they make decisions regarding professional development for their teachers, and includes an expanded list of professional development opportunities for:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Early Childhood
- Social Studies

Contact classroomtoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Assessment Preparation

Assessment Administration Update

TEST ADMINISTRATION FOR DTCs

- **Social Studies Field Test**

- **Now through May 20**, the LEAP social studies field test administration window continues. School test coordinators in districts using the optional social studies field test should administer the assessment to students in grades 3 through 8.
- **WorkKeys**
 - Assessments must be administered **by May 13** in order to be included in the grade 12 ACT index within 2017 high school performance scores.
- **College-Level Examination Program (CLEP):**
 - CLEP scores must be administered **by May 13** in order to be included in the strength of the diploma index within 2017 high school performance scores.
- **EOC**
 - **Now through May 20**, the EOC administration window continues. School test coordinators should administer EOC tests to students.
- **DIBELS**
 - **May 30** is the last day to enter DIBELS data in the DIBELS Data Management System.

TECHNOLOGY READINESS

- [LEAP TECH FAQ](#): This document provides guidance and final online test preparation tips to support online testing.

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.
- **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.

High School Opportunities

Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana Grant Opportunity

The Department has released an RFA regarding the availability of Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) funds for FY 2016-2017. The grant will provide funding to support students who have major obstacles in their lives that could disrupt school completion and/or hinder successful entry into the workforce or postsecondary educational programs aligned to Jump Start Pathways. The JAG-LA Program also supports the efforts of the Jump Start initiatives by offering career readiness to school model curriculum, mentoring, financial aid planning, and follow-up to seniors. The application can be found [here](#). Projects will be funded contingent upon funds made available for the JAG-LA Program. Applications are due **Wednesday, June 8**.

A series of **webinars** providing information on the JAG-LA Program are scheduled below:

- **Monday, May 16 from 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, May 23 from 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information (*No pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana Grant Opportunity
- To join the meeting go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/r8gwbuxq2a9/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Audio access: (800) 832-0736 / room number 6246632

For additional information, please contact Dianna.Keller@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.** The final webinar will be held:

- 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

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.

Finance

FY2015-16 Projected Local Revenue Data

Please forward to business managers.

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 melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

Grants Management

2016-2017 NCLB and IDEA Preliminary Allocations

Please share this item with federal program directors and business managers.

The following NCLB and IDEA allocations have been released:

- Title I
- Title II
- IDEA 611
- IDEA 619

Additional allocations will populate in eGMS this week. The ability to submit will not be available until all allocations within an application are loaded.

Applications and budgets need to be submitted by June 30, 2016 to be considered substantially approved.

For further information, contact Randy Littleton at 225-342-3900 or via e-mail at Randy.Littleton@la.gov.

Public Notice of Waiver Requests

Please share this item with federal program directors and business managers.

LDOE is requesting waivers from USDOE for the purpose of making three- to five-year 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG) awards to eligible LEAs. LDOE is required to notify LEAs of this request as part of the waiver submission process.

FY15 Funds Waiver. In order to extend the period of availability beyond September 30, 2017, LDOE is requesting a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY 2015 school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2021.

FY16 Funds Waiver. In order to extend the period of availability beyond September 30, 2018, LDOE is requesting a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY 2015 school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2021.

Relevant personnel may review these waiver requests and submit questions or comments to John Hanley, Grants Manager at

225-342-3900 or via e-mail at John.Hanley@la.gov by Friday, May 20, 2016.

Final Date for 2015-2016 Grant Budget Amendment Submissions

Please share this item with federal program directors and business managers.

The final date to submit amendments for 2015-2016 grant budget amendments is **Wednesday, June 1**.

For further information, contact Randy Littleton at 225-342-3900 or via e-mail at Randy.Littleton@la.gov.

2016-2017 eGrant Trainings

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.

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.

Policy

ESSA and "Highly Qualified Teacher" Requirements

Under NCLB, general and special education teachers in core content areas were required to be "highly qualified." In order to earn this title, teachers had to hold a bachelor's degree, meet full state certification or licensure requirements, and prove that they knew each subject they taught. The old law was criticized for its restrictiveness and loopholes, but supported for its transparency with parents who had to be notified if their child was not being taught by a highly qualified teacher. States were expected to have 100 percent of teachers meet highly qualified criteria, and by 2014-2015, 96 percent were.

Under ESSA, teachers need only meet the licensing requirements set by the state. While states must report highly qualified data for the 2015-2016 school year, state teacher certification and licensing policies do not have to meet NCLB "highly qualified" requirements beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. States must continue, however, reporting on educator equity in order to highlight areas where disadvantaged students are disproportionately being taught by less qualified or less effective teachers. Parental reporting requirements remain, but they are based on whether or not the teacher holds a standards certificate and whether or not they are teaching in their certified field.

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is responsible for prescribing qualifications and providing for the certification of teachers under the authority of R.S. 17:7.1 and has done so through Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*.

Talent

Teach Louisiana ESL Add-on & Ancillary Endorsement

This summer, teachers have the opportunity to take two of the four courses required for Louisiana's ESL Certificate online through Louisiana State University.

Courses Offered:

- **EDCI 4800- Session A, Teaching in the Multicultural Classroom**

This course is designed to provide in-service teachers with expanded frames of reference and cultural horizons for teaching in public education. It provides an overview of the historic and current trends as well as the social issues affecting the education of language minority students.

- **EDCI 4900- Session B, English as a Second Language (ESL) Teaching Methods**

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the instructional needs and challenges of language minority students who are learning English in the U.S. It will engage students in exploring a variety of theories, issues, procedures, methods, and approaches appropriate for bilingual and ESL students as well as diverse learning environments.

For more information, email esbarreraiv@LSU.edu.

Other

Louisiana Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Education Survey

The Louisiana State Legislature enacted Senate Concurrent Resolution 69 (SCR 69) in 2014 to create the **Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children** within the Department of Children and Family Services. The task force is charged with making recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature on how to reduce child abuse in Louisiana.

Act 525 of 2014 requires each LEA to have policies and procedures that address child abuse and assault awareness and prevention and to provide age and grade appropriate instructions relative to child assault awareness and prevention. The law does not require school systems to address child sexual abuse.

The SCR 69 task force is conducting the Louisiana Child Sexual Abuse Education Survey in an effort to determine whether Louisiana schools have policies and procedures that address child sexual abuse and sexual assault and provide awareness and prevention education for students.

Please identify one point person to collaborate with professionals in your school to complete this [survey](#). Please submit only one survey per school.

LDOE Contacts

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State Superintendent of Education

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