

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



May 24, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Over the next several weeks we have several opportunities for dialogue regarding the future of our state's schools and our shared efforts at continued progress. Later this week many of us will have the opportunity to share thoughts at the Superintendents Advisory Council. I write today to share details regarding that discussion.

Policy making is best done alongside practitioners, who can inform rule making with guidance as to what works for students. In 2012, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 3, which created a broad framework for policy making rather than a specific series of mandates. In the time since, the state has worked with school districts, Head Start centers, and child care providers to pilot reforms and to make adjustments to policy in light of what works in early childhood classrooms. More than four years later, the final pillar of Act 3 policy now waits to be made. In this case, BESE will consider tweaks to the quality profiles required by the law, putting in place a rating system based on *CLASS* that will provide parents and educators a strong sense of the comparative performance of early childhood programs. This is a critical and final step that builds on years of learning about what works to help prepare all Louisiana children for kindergarten.

In 2014, Louisiana schools launched in a similar fashion an initiative to prepare the next generation of teachers. Believe and Prepare has involved hundreds of resident teachers who spend a year as full-time faculty in Louisiana public schools learning to teach from mentor educators. Like changes in early childhood education, this too has been done alongside schools and colleges, learning from successive pilots. This June, BESE will consider a schedule of policy making in future years, allowing for a statewide commitment to this "residency" model without making sweeping policy commitments. As years go on, the state will adopt policy gradually, based on what works, to ensure all teachers come into the classroom as prepared for the challenges of today's schools as possible.

There are no areas of policy more critical to the wellbeing of Louisiana's students than early childhood education or educator preparation. We must pursue an ambitious vision, but we must implement gradually, learning from each step along the way. In June BESE will consider two gradual steps, continuing our state's shared progress.

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

John

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

District Support

2016 Teacher Leader Summit Final Logistics

The [2016 Teacher Leader Summit](#) is a week away! Be sure to complete the following tasks before you arrive on June 1, 2016:

1. Download the new app to your mobile phone, tablet, or computer by clicking [here](#).
2. Create a "My Schedule" in the app.
3. Download all [session materials](#) to your computer.

All participants will receive a final logistics memo on **Wednesday, May 25, 2016**. Please contact your Teacher Leader POC if you do not receive the memo.

Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Principal Feedback Survey

Please forward to all principals.

The Department is committed to providing school leaders with the tools, resources, and support structures they need to serve as the instructional leaders for their schools. Therefore, the Department is asking all principals to complete this [survey](#) by **June 10** and provide critical feedback on the tools and resources provided to them this school year, so that improvements can be made for 2016-2017.

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Compass Tools and Support

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The following tools are available to support school leaders through the end-of-the-year Compass process and to prepare for 2016-2017.

- **New Evaluator Training:** All new evaluators must participate in training to become certified to conduct Compass evaluations. This requirement can be met by attending department-led trainings or those led by local school systems. More information about Department-led trainings, including dates and locations, is available in [Coursewhere](#). Click [here](#) to register.
- **Compass end-of-year evaluation results** must be entered in [CIS](#) annually for all school leaders and teachers as defined by [Bulletin 130](#). Submission deadlines have been established for teachers and principals.
 - **Teachers:** August 15, 2016
 - **Principals:** August 15 or fall of 2016
- The [Compass End-of-Year Webinar](#) 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.

Email compass@la.gov or your [network contact](#) for additional information or support.

Updated 2016-2017 Principal Guidebook Released

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The Department released the 2016-2017 [Louisiana Principal's Teaching and Learning Guidebook](#) outlining key principal decisions for next school year and the resources available to support those decisions in the following areas:

- Workforce Planning and Decisions
- Curriculum, Assessment, Professional Development, and Collaboration
- Goals and Educator Support

Throughout the year, [principals](#) should use the guidebook to access tools and resources that guide them to make informed decisions. Click [here](#) to learn more about how this tool can support academic planning decisions for the 2016-2017 school year.

Please email compass@la.gov with questions related to this resource.

ELA Guidebooks 2.0 Tools and Resources

[ELA Guidebooks 2.0](#) is a curriculum for whole-class instruction made by teachers for teachers to ensure all students read, understand, and express understanding of complex texts. Teachers across the state began work on the guidebooks in the spring of 2013 and have continued to improve them to provide Louisiana teachers with a high-quality, affordable curricular option in English language arts.

To [learn more](#) about ELA Guidebooks 2.0, including how to [access the materials](#) and when [additional units will be released](#), visit the new [ELA Guidebooks 2.0 webpage](#) and attend the upcoming [2016 Teacher Leader Summit sessions](#) on ELA Guidebooks 2.0.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Assessment & Accountability

District Test Coordinator (DTC) Reminders

This section will provide LEAs with reminders and updates on information related to testing.

DTC reminders

- **DIBELS: May 30** is the last day to enter spring benchmark DIBELS *Next* data in the [DIBELS Data Management System](#).
- **Graduation Waivers: June 1** is the last day to submit Special Education Graduation Waiver applications for Spring 2016 assessments.
- **Test Security: May 24** is the last day district test coordinators may report EOC voids and irregularities to assessment@la.gov. EOC irregularities forms can be found in the *Test Coordinators Manual* at www.louisianaec.org.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

EAGLE Update

EAGLE will begin transitioning to the same online 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.

Technology Readiness Tool Data Collection

Over the summer months, technology coordinators should begin updating device, broadband and IT network data in the [Technology Readiness Tool \(TRT\)](#). This data is critical for planning and support of educational technology initiatives and online assessments at the state and district levels. Results from this collection will be released within the TRT system in September.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

High School Opportunities

2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute - New Computer Coding Training Course

Registration is now open for a new Computer Coding Through Games and Apps training course being offered at 2016 Super Summer Institute (SSI). The training is 2-days and being provided by Microsoft. Please review the [one-pager](#) detailing the training purpose, objective and two-day agenda.

The training session is posted on [Coursewhere](#) and open for immediate registration. Registration for this session will close **Friday, June 3**. Only 35 spots are available so instructors should register as soon as possible if interested.

The Department will pay training costs for this session as well as provide lunch for secondary instructors attending SSI. LEAs are responsible for all travel expenses and a nominal registration fee (\$150.00/instructor) for which districts may use their Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2015-2016 Carl Perkins Funds. LEAs will receive an invoice, via email, in May indicating total SSI registration fees due by June 17, 2016. Each participating LEA should submit payment to:

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

Please direct all questions about Super Summer Institute to JumpStart@la.gov.

Course Choice/Supplemental Course Academy

Registration for SCA provided coursework will occur directly with the Course Provider facilitated by a school representative. Schools will be responsible for providing student contact information directly to the course provider. The [2016-2017 provider directory](#) provides detailed information for each BESE approved course provider on how to register. The directory also provides a brief description of each provider and their course list.

Funds allocated through SCA target the following type of courses for high school credit:

- Career and technical preparation
- Academic work required to achieve TOPS
- Advanced coursework not available at the school due to limited resources
- Dual enrollment
- Intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation

Students seeking dual enrollment coursework should continue to register directly with the post-secondary institution through the school counselor.

For additional questions please e-mail sca@la.gov.

Jump Start Career Development Fund (CDF): End of Year Report

Districts, charter schools and special schools received a 6 percent MFP adder (~\$240) for each student enrollment in a Career Development Fund (CDF) qualifying course and are reminded to complete the [2015-2016 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End-Of-Year \(EOY\) Report](#) and submit it to JumpStart@la.gov by **July 15, 2016**.

For more information about CDF, please contact JumpStart@la.gov.

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

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**.

For additional information, please contact Dianna.Keller@la.gov.

Data

Spring 2016 ELDA and LAA1 Assessment Results Released

Please forward to accountability contacts.

Spring 2016 LAA1 and ELDA student reports, school rosters and CSV files were posted in [eDirect](#) on May 13. Districts can now download these results and share them with principals, teachers and parents.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Finance

FY 2015-16 MFP Appropriation

The Department has completed the final calculations with regard to the FY 2015-2016 MFP Mid-Year Student Adjustment. The final net increase in allocations equals \$7 million. Currently, the MFP formula appropriation is short by this amount.

The current state budget situation will require that \$7 million of the \$16 million in Supplementary Budget Recommendations pay supplement funds appropriated outside of the MFP formula be moved into the formula to fulfill the total cost of the MFP for the current fiscal year. Specifically, these funds were appropriated for a "certificated classroom teacher pay raise, related employer retirement contributions and other expenditures in order to sustain the certificated classroom teacher pay raise provided for by appropriation in Fiscal Year 2013-14."

The movement of these funds from outside the formula to inside the formula leaves a shortfall of \$7 million in the funding outside of the formula for the pay supplement. This shortfall will require a decrease in the funds previously provided earlier this year for the pay supplement outside of the formula. Thus, a decrease in MFP funds will occur in the June 2016 MFP payments.

[Here](#) is a schedule which describes the impact of the movement of these funds.

FY2015-16 Projected Local Revenue Data

Please forward to business managers.

In order to complete the FY2016-2017 MFP calculations for charter schools, projected FY2015-2016 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.

Grants Management

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@la.gov.

Policy

Update on ESSA and Other Federal Policy

The U.S. Department of Education has released an updated [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) addressing states' and local school systems' transition to the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Last week, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Labor, Education & Pensions held a [hearing](#) to receive testimony from stakeholders on the implementation of ESSA. Also last week, the chairmen of the congressional House and Senate committees called for a bi-partisan overhaul of the federal Carl D. Perkins Act, which supports career and technical education. Learn more by watching this week's [episode](#) of Federal Flash by the Alliance for Excellent Education.

LDOE Contacts

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