

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 7, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

It was wonderful to see so many of you last week at the [Teacher Leader Summit](#). I had the privilege of facilitating some initial discussions that were about student successes and challenges in Louisiana, as well as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). You can find a copy of my opening comments at the Summit [here](#). You can also find a copy of the presentation on which the conversations about results and ESSA were based [here](#).

In our discussions, teachers, administrators, superintendents, and I were able to touch on recent successes in the classroom.

Four years ago, for example, our state ranked last in the nation in 4th grade reading. Today, on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), we are the fastest improved state in America, vaulting in that short period to a ranking of 43rd with no plans to stop there.

The class of 2015 in Louisiana achieved record gains on the ACT, leading the nation in annual improvement, above all other states using the ACT as their high school test. Our state average score now places third of six states in the South, outpacing Mississippi, outpacing North Carolina, and beating Alabama.

As you may have heard, the class of 2015 also achieved an all-time record high school graduation rate. And not only are more students than ever before going to college but also more are going with college credits in hand. In 2015, Louisiana was the 2nd most improved state in the nation for the number of students graduating with an AP credit finishing second only to Massachusetts, the highest achieving state in the nation.

At the same time, challenges in Louisiana persist.

Even as we celebrate our success at graduating students and sending them to college, 61 percent of students entering community colleges after high school are required to complete remedial courses, repeating learning not completed in high school. This means more time, more debt, and more reason to walk away from a college degree.

Even as we raise expectations to prepare fully more students for college and for work, we must be conscious of those students with the greatest challenges. In 2015, as our expectations rose, we did not close pernicious performance gaps that exist between students with disabilities and their peers, or students of color and their peers.

And we must be honest about the opportunities afforded all young people to have an enriching education and to find that one thing that sparks lifelong interest. While 67 percent of our state's population, for example, qualifies as low income, among gifted students only 36 percent qualify as low income, meaning that low-income students are roughly half as likely to be identified as gifted as are middle income students.

We can solve these problems, and ESSA offers us a chance to keep students front of mind, creating a plan that addresses the most critical needs in our state's schools.

Tuesday, June 14, at 1 p.m. in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, I will host a discussion among statewide education leaders on ESSA. I hope you will be able to join. Later in the summer, we will continue our discussions on the subject, this time through open meetings held across the state's regions. You can find a [schedule](#) in the presentation delivered on this week's Superintendent Call.

This fall and winter we will gradually develop and refine the state's plan together, working through the respective commissions

The task and winter working group will gradually develop and refine this state plan together, working through the respective committees charged with making the policy recommendations ESSA will require of our state, and continuing the dialogue started this summer. The final product should address the needs of Louisiana's students and should provide all teachers and administrators with time and guidance to digest the plan in advance of the 2017-2018 school year.

We have an awesome responsibility and an awesome opportunity in front of us. Working together, we will keep students front of mind and increase their opportunity for success in school and beyond.

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

John

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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, June 8, at 10:30 a.m. You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the Superintendents' Conference Call on June 8, 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) 814-8449**
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # **1673068**
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting

Summit Follow-Up

Thank you for joining us for the Teacher Leader Summit! We hope that you had the opportunity to learn something new, try out some helpful tools and resources, collaborate with peers, and leave feeling inspired about what's possible in your classroom in the upcoming school year.

- Complete this brief [survey](#) to share what you enjoyed about this year's event and ideas you have for making next year's event even more successful. The [survey](#) closes **Monday, June 13**.
- Watch the [video](#) of the welcome ceremony, including a tribute to some of our state's most outstanding educators and an [address by Superintendent White](#)
- [Download](#) and share materials from the summit

Please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Apply to be a 2016-2017 Teacher Leader Advisor

This is the last week to apply to be a 2016-2017 Teacher Leader Advisor. Applications are due on Monday, June 13.

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.

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

Please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Statewide ESSA Meetings Announced

Superintendent White will host a series of statewide meetings this summer to discuss creating educational opportunities for students through the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). All district and school leaders and teachers are encouraged to attend these meeting and share their feedback with the Department.

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday, July 26	Lafayette Middle School 1301 W. University Ave., Lafayette	9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, July 26	Lake Charles Boston Academy of Learning 1509 Enterprise Blvd. Lake Charles	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 27	Aiken Virtual Program Building 2121 Mason St., Alexandria	9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, July 27	Wanda Gunn Professional Development Auditorium 1961 Midway, Shreveport	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 28	City of Monroe School Board 2101 Roselawn Ave., Monroe	9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Friday, July 29	McKinley Middle Magnet School Auditorium 1550 Eddie Robinson Sr Drv., Baton Rouge	9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Monday, August 1	Terrebonne Parish School Board	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 2	201 Stadium Dr., Houma Fontainebleau High School 100 Bulldog Dr., Mandeville	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 2	Woodson/KIPP Central City Academy 2514 Third St., New Orleans	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Please email districtsupport@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.

Assessment & Accountability

June District Test Coordinator Call

The June Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call and Webinar is scheduled for **Thursday, June 9, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.**

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

- Meeting Name: District Test Coordinator Monthly Meetings
- 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.
- Access audio via phone bridge: 1-800-832-0736 / room number: 3423602
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

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.**

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

Data

2014 LEA Determinations

Please share with LEA Special Education Directors and FTP coordinators.

The 2014 LEA Determinations are now available on the Data Management FTP. This file is to provide Special Education Directors an opportunity to preview their Determination before final LEA Determinations are issued in July. FTP coordinators, please download and provide the data file with filename LEACode_LEAName_FFY 2014 LEA Determinations to your Special Education Director.

Files will be available on the FTP through **July 1.**

If your Special Education Director has a question about the contents of the file, please refer them to Kristi-Lo Preston at

Special Education

Special Education Data

The 2014-2015 Special Education Data Profile is now available. Click [here](#) to view the full report.

Draft LEA Determinations will be distributed to LEAs through sFTP on **Friday, June 10, 2016**. SPED Directors should reach out to their data coordinators for the file. Final LEA Determinations will be issued to Superintendents/School Directors and SPED Directors through sFTP on Friday, July 8, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi-Jo Preston at KristiJo.Preston@la.gov.

Policy

ESSA Update

The U.S. Department of Education's proposed regulations on accountability, consolidated state plans, and data reporting were published in the Federal Register on Tuesday, May 31 and are open for public comment **through August 1, 2016**.

According to the U.S. Department of Education's [press release](#), the proposed regulations focus on four key themes: creating a more comprehensive picture of school success, tailoring support for struggling schools, clarifying data and information for parents and communities, and creating streamlined state plans.

Follow the links to read the [proposed regulations](#) or the U.S. Department of Education's [summary](#).

Finance

FY 2015-2016 MFP Appropriation

The Department identified a net need of \$7 million in order to fully fund the entire cost of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Minimum Foundation Program (MFP), including formula allocations and supplemental program allocations outside of the formula. The Legislature was able to identify these funds during the closing days of the 2016 Regular Session. The identification of this funding signifies that one hundred percent of the outstanding funds allocated to school districts and schools in FY 16 will be provided in the June 2016 payment.

Attached [here](#) is a schedule which describes the June 2016 payments to school districts and schools.

Grant Claim Submission Deadline

Final claim submission deadlines **for awards ending June 30** each year are listed below. These include claims submitted through eGMS as well as paper claims, purchase orders, and contracts. All requests for funds must include goods and services **received by June 30**.

Deadlines:

- **8 (g) claims due:** July 7
- **TANF claims due:** July 7
- **Perkins claims due:** July 7
- **Federal claims due:** July 15
- **State claims due:** July 15

All claims for reimbursement with supporting documentation must be emailed to ldoe.federalclaims@la.gov or ldoe.stateclaims@la.gov. (Please do NOT mail or fax claims.)

Grants Management

High Cost Services Competitive Application Release

Please forward this item to federal program directors and business managers.

The Department is able to provide a High Cost Services Grant to LEAs through the eGMS application process. The application process is now open in eGMS and applications are due by **July 15, 2016**.

For further information, contact Randy Littleton at Randy.Littleton@la.gov.

Talent

2017 Teacher and Principal of the Year Finalists Announced

The Department is proud to announce the [2017 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists](#).

All Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees will be celebrated at the [10th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Symposium and Celebration](#) on **Friday, July 15, 2016** at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. On this evening, the grade-level and statewide winners will also be named.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

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