

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 21, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

While Louisiana schools and students have made [great gains](#) in recent years, it remains true that some schools have persistent struggles. In 88 elementary and middle schools across the state, for example, the percentage of students achieving "mastery" on state tests has never exceeded 12 percent. In 14 high schools, the share of students graduating on time has never exceeded two thirds. These challenges are not the fault of any group or individual, and they are the result of complex circumstances in every affected community. But the challenges also create a moral calling to do everything we can to improve the situation for impacted students, no matter the causes.

Like No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the recently passed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to develop criteria and a list for those schools in need of "comprehensive support." Under the new law, states will develop options for how local education agencies can plan for and fund such schools. These criteria and options will feature prominently in discussions of the state's ESSA plans over the next several months. You can find resources and updates on these discussions on the state's [ESSA web page](#).

The 2016-2017 school year is a transition year, away from NCLB toward full implementation of ESSA. Later this week, the Department will announce school systems may apply for School Improvement Grants for [eligible schools](#) that cover additional costs of improvement over 2016-2017 and the subsequent one to five years, bridging NCLB and ESSA.

Already districts around the state such as Caddo Parish and Rapides Parish are seeing the positive effects of sustained, comprehensive improvement efforts in struggling schools. Other systems, such as that in St. Landry Parish, have participated in discussions on opportunities presented by the grant. The ideas schools and districts are considering include expanding the [TAP](#) model in Louisiana schools, as well as partnership with outside entities such as [IBM's P-Tech](#) for redesigning high schools or creating schools within schools.

The state's [request for proposals](#) asks eligible schools and school systems to seek support for similarly comprehensive and ambitious plans. School systems may develop proposals and requests for funds, submitting the application to the state no later than July 18. Awards will be considered at the August meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

I look forward to reviewing the proposals, now and in future years.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

In This Issue:

[Superintendent's Message](#)

[District Support](#)



CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS

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

District Support

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 2600 Tower Drive., Monroe *UPDATED	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 201 Stadium Dr., Houma	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 2	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.

District Test Coordinator Reminders

This entry provides DTCs with reminders and updates related to testing.

- **End-of-Course Tests**

- **June 20-24** is the EOC Summer 2016 administration window. To ensure successful EOC test administration, school test coordinators and technology coordinators should review the [EOC Tests Technology Guidelines](#) for information on preparing computers and internal networks for online testing.
- **July 22** is the June administration deadline for EOC rescores. School test coordinators should submit requests to assessment@la.gov.

- **Test Security**

- District test coordinators should report EOC voids and irregularities to assessment@la.gov. EOC irregularity forms can be found online in the *Test Coordinators Manual* at www.louisianaec.org.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

June Accountability Commission Meeting

Meeting:	When/Where:
Accountability Commission: June 27 Meeting	Monday, June 27 1:00 p.m. Iowa Room Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions

High School Opportunities

2016-2017 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.

The updated [2016-17 Pupil Progression Plan Template](#) is now available. Each district should submit a plan in PDF format to PPP@la.gov by October 14, 2016.

An informational webinar will be held to provide updates and to assist districts in completing and submitting the 2016-17 Pupil Progression Plan. District personnel are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- Wednesday, June 29 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 20 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Webinar Login Information (*no pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: 2016-17 Pupil Progression Plan Information Webinar
- To join the meeting go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/pupilprogressionplan/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Audio access: (800) 832-0736 / room number: 2834406

For additional information please contact PPP@la.gov.

2016 Jump Start Super Summer Institute - "NEW" Computer Coding Training Course

Registration for a new *Creative Coding Through Games and Apps* training course being offered at 2016 Super Summer Institute (SSI) will remain open through Friday, June 24. The training is 2-days and being provided by Microsoft. Please review the [one-pager](#) detailing the training purpose, objectives and two-day agenda.

The training session is posted on [Coursewhere](#) and open for immediate registration. Only 35 spots are available, so interested instructors should register as soon as possible.

The Department will pay training costs for this session as well as provide lunch for secondary instructors attending SSI. Districts 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. Districts / charters will receive an invoice, via email, in May indicating total SSI registration fees due by June 17, 2016. Each district / charter should submit payment to:

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

Data

Data Sharing Agreements and NEW Teaching Strategies GOLD

Pursuant to R.S. 17:3914, LEAs must have a contract or data sharing agreement in place with private vendors that deliver services in order to share personally identifiable student data. Many LEAs and charters have already submitted addenda to become party to our existing data sharing agreements during the 2015-2016 school year. During the month of July, the Department will provide guidance and next steps regarding previously established MOUs and addenda.

The Department has executed and posted a **new** data sharing agreement with **Teaching Strategies GOLD** on the LDOE [website](#). Districts and charters should download the addendum from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to LDEData@la.gov to ensure that they will be able to share student information with Teaching Strategies for reporting purposes.

Please email LDEData@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Resources

The information below includes details about testing materials and resources that LEAs may use to support assessment preparation.

ACT BILLING ROSTERS

Districts will receive invoices and student rosters during the week of June 27, 2016, per the ACT Memorandum of Understanding, for the following students who participated in ACT testing:

- **ACT:** All grade 12 students who had an ACT score and were retested in the spring
- **Explore:** All students who participated in testing
- **WorkKeys testing and certificates:**
 - Grade 11 students who were not on a career diploma pathway
 - All grade 12 students

The Department will place student rosters on the district secure FTP under the filenames described below.

- **ACT:** LEACode_LEAName_2016_ACT_Billing_Student Rosters
- **Explore:** LEACode_LEAName_2016_Explore_Billing_Student Rosters
- **WorkKeys testing and certificates:** LEACode_LEAName_2016_WorkKeys_Billing_Student Rosters

Districts should remit payment to the LDOE no later than July 15, 2016.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

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 2016-2017 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Requirements

Meeting yearly Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements are part of the business process to confirm compliance and determine eligibility of federal grant funds for NCLB and IDEA grants. The USDE requires an annual review that determines if each LEA: 1.) has not decreased spending of general fund dollars, and 2.) is budgeting expenditures to meet the MOE standards. There are 3 MOE measurements accessible for submission in the eGMS system.

Previously available:

1. 2015 IDEA MOE Confirmation (Compliance review) - Deadline for submission was May 20, 2016.

Newly available:

1. 2017 IDEA MOE Verification (Eligibility review) - Deadline for submission is June 22, 2016
2. 2017 NCLB MOE Verification - Deadline for submission is June 22, 2016

Click [here](#) for Quick Reference Guidance on submitting these applications in eGMS.

If you have questions regarding the MOE review process, contact Nakia Jason at Nakia.Jason@la.gov. For technical inquiries or support, contact Jason Berard at Jason.Berard@la.gov.

Grants Management

2016 School Improvement Grant Application

The Louisiana Department of Education is committed to ensuring all students have access to high quality school options. In order to support LEAs, The Department released a draft version of the 2016 School Improvement Grant application on Monday, June 20, 2016. LEAs may apply for 3- to 5-year grants to implement evidence-based changes at eligible Focus and Priority schools, which can be found [here](#).

The application and budget forms, a list of eligible schools, the rubric against which applications will be evaluated, and more information about the program will be published [here](#). Applications are due by **Monday, July 18, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. CT**.

LEAs are encouraged to participate in an informational webinar held **Wednesday, June 22 at 11:00 a.m.** The webinar can be accessed [here](#).

For further information, contact David Shepard at David.Shepard@la.gov.

2016-2017 NCLB and IDEA Consolidated Applications

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

The submit function for NCLB and IDEA Consolidated applications has been activated in eGMS. Districts should begin submitting their applications in eGMS. Applications must be submitted by **Thursday, June 30, 2016** in order to be considered substantially approved. Note that currently there are no allocations for Extended School Year Services grant applications in eGMS.

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

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

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.)

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

(toll-free) 877.453.2721

Twitter @LouisianaSupe

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  twitter

View our videos on  YouTube