

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



August 30, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Amidst the turmoil of the last two weeks, good news came to us by way of [ACT's national Condition of College and Career Readiness report](#) issued last week. This annual report summarizes nationwide and state-by-state, skills in English, mathematics, reading, and science. And while the report indicates that our state has yet to surmount some persistent challenges, it also tells a story in which there is much for Louisianans to be proud.

You can find a fact sheet detailing aspects of Louisiana student skills and performance [here](#). Within that document, you can find trends such as the following:

- Louisiana's composite ACT average of 19.5 ranks 13th of 18 states in which 100 percent of students take the test, nearly the 30th percentile of all such states. Louisiana now ranks third among seven such states in the South.
- Since 2014, Louisiana has closed the performance gap with the national average by 0.5. While the nation's average composite score has declined 0.2 since 2014, Louisiana's increased 0.3 points from 19.2 in 2014 to 19.5 in 2016.
- [The](#) average performance of Louisiana students on ACT's College and Career Readiness Benchmarks, indicating their readiness for college-level coursework, is closer now to the national average than in 2014 in every subject.

These numbers do not reflect the conclusion of our press for progress. But they are powerful indicators that progress is underway.

Similarly, these figures should not obscure some of the hard truths laid bare in the Louisiana-specific briefing [addendum](#) to the report. For example, less than one-third of graduating students met college-readiness benchmark scores in three of four ACT subjects. And the gap between African-American and white students achieving benchmarks remains troublingly large.

But measurable progress shows that, with a plan and with effort, we can together radically expand opportunity for Louisiana students, graduates, and young adults. In the months to come, we will discuss how [Louisiana's plan](#) to achieve the goals of the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) can be one that keeps students front and center, sustaining progress already achieved while addressing the most persistent struggles in the classrooms of our state.

In spite of all hardships we endure today as a state, we continue to improve. The nation knows that Louisiana is rising.

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](#)

Flood Recovery Actions

Assessment & Accountability

High School Opportunities

Data

Special Education

Other



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 **Tuesday, September 6, at 10 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the Superintendents' Conference Call on September 6, please see the webinar information below:

Webinar Login Information (**Please note new phone bridge and Meeting ID numbers*)

- Click here to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: (866) 244-4742
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # 1675873
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting

Monthly District Planning Call

This September district planning call is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 7, from 1 p.m.-2 p.m.**

The following district supervisors should attend:

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

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

- Meeting Name: **September District Planning Call**
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or visit <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.

Register for the September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations

The September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations will take place in the following locations:

- **September 14: Bossier** (Bossier Parish School for Technology & Innovative Learning)
- **September 19: Baton Rouge** (Claiborne Building)
- **September 20: Jefferson** (Jefferson Parish School Board Office)
- **October 3: Baton Rouge** (Claiborne Building)

Sessions at the [Supervisor Collaborations](#) will provide **district level supervisors** with important information related to assessment and accountability, curriculum and instruction, special education, data systems, and early childhood. **Click [here](#) for more information about the Supervisor Collaborations including session descriptions and how to register.**

Sessions at the [Teacher Leader Collaborations](#) will provide **classroom teachers** with a variety of instructional strategies and tools for ELA, math, and social studies, including but not limited to preparing for 2016-2017 assessments, and using data from 2015-2016 to inform instruction. **Please share this [overview document](#) with your Teacher Leaders and encourage them to register.**

Each meeting has a limited number of spots, which will be filled on a first come, first served basis. **Registration for both events closes September 9.** Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Flood Recovery

The [Disaster Recovery Policy and Systems Guidance](#) has been updated to include an additional waiver related to used school buses and information on lower per model costs on computer devices and access to free and low cost services and software for LEAs in parishes with disaster declarations.

The following statewide meetings or presentations have been rescheduled:

- New LEA Leader Meeting (originally scheduled for August 26): rescheduled for **Friday, September 9 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge**
- Science Standards Review: Baton Rouge (originally scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, and Thursday, August 18): Rescheduled for **Wednesday, August 31 and Thursday, September 1, at Pineville High School, Pineville, La.**
- Jobs for America's Graduates 1st Quarterly Meeting moved to **Tuesday, September 20 and Wednesday, September 21**
- Compass Training: Acadia (originally scheduled for August 25): rescheduled for **September 29**

The following data submission and grant deadlines have been extended:

- Compass final evaluations entered into CIS: extended to **August 31**
- PEP Closure: extended to **August 31**
- School Improvement Grants: extended to **September 1** for applicants in flood impacted areas
- Early Childhood and assessment data certification: extended to **September 9**
- SCA enrollment reporting extended to **September 26** (will work with affected districts individually if needed)
- TAP and Principal Fellowship Grant Applications: extended to **September 30**
- Pupil Progression Plan submissions: extended to **October 28**

McKinney-Vento Homeless Program

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth in homeless situations. Its key themes are school access and stability, support for educational success, and child-centered decision-making. In light of the recent natural disaster, LEAs need to take the actions below to comply with federal guidance and identify and provide services to students and families who are experiencing homelessness. Students qualify for homeless status if they are sharing housing with other persons, including doubled-up with family members, or are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate accommodations.

- Use and share the Homeless Hotline for inquiries and referrals - **Homeless Hotline: 844-533-4187.**
- Ensure parents or guardians complete the [Residency Questionnaire](#) for current students, whose residential status has changed, and newly-enrolled/displaced students to identify homeless children and youth.
- Complete the [Title X, Part C McKinney-Vento Referral Form](#) for eligible students and provide a copy to the LEA homeless liaison.
- Code students experiencing Homelessness due to recent floods in the Student Information System (SIS) to code **02-Flooding**.
- Coordinate wrap-around services within the LEA, such as the National School Lunch Program.
- Coordinate and provide transportation services for displaced students to schools of origin, as applicable.
- Update Homeless Tracking System (HTS) to reflect services provided and support federal data reporting.

LEAs should remember to adhere to FERPA, Act 837, and Act 677 when sharing personally identifiable information to protect student privacy.

Assessment & Accountability

School and District Performance Score Webinars Released

Please share with accountability coordinators and principals.

The Department released two new, recorded webinars for districts and schools to review the process for calculating school and district performance scores, and inform them of accountability updates for the 2016-2017 academic year.

- [2016-2017 District Performance Score Updates](#)
- [2016-2017 School Performance Score Updates](#)

Both webinars can be found in the [Accountability Resources library](#). Please contact assessment@la.gov for additional assistance.

District Test Coordinator Reminders

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

Resources:

- [Updated 2016-2017 Assessment Month by Month Checklist](#): Updates include AP and CLEP dates.
- **District Test Coordinator Monthly Call**
 - The August Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call and Webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 6, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. *Please note new time***
 - 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
- **Weekly Office Hours**: Held each **Tuesday at 1:00 PM beginning Tuesday, September 13**
 - Office Hours Webinar Link: <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

Training and Support:

- **New DTC Training** will be held at the September Collaborative as a Supervisor session. All new District Test Coordinators should attend this training.
- **ACT/WorkKeys**
 - **WorkKeys Training**
 - A [list](#) of all WorkKeys open enrollment training sessions sponsored by ACT.
 - **Upcoming trainings include:**
 - Aug. 30: [ACT WorkKeys Test Administration Training for Online Testing Webinar](#)
 - Sept. 1: [ACT WorkKeys Groups and Batch Load Training for Online Testing Webinar](#)
 - Sept. 2: [ACT WorkKeys Test Administration Training for Paper Testing Webinar](#)

Assessments:

- **Update Technology fall 2016 Device requirements**: The [Fall 2016 Technology Device Requirements](#) have been updated. Sites that tested online using DRC INSIGHT in 2015-2016 with satisfactory results should be able to use the same testing devices in the 2016-2017 school year.
- **2016-2017 K-3 Assessment Administration**:
 - LEAs must report screening results for K-readiness and K-3 literacy to the Department
 - **no later than September 30, 2016**
 - **Kindergarten-readiness**: administered within the first 30 days of school. LEAs administering the DSC will enter K-readiness results in the [DSC web application](#).
 - **K-3 Literacy Assessment**: administration begins one week after the first day of school, and continues for 15 school days; LEAs will use the [K-3 Literacy Assessment Reporting Form](#), located in the [Assessment Library](#) for reporting
- **Test Security**
 - **August 31**: Last day for LEAs to submit 2016-2017 test security policies to assessment@la.gov. LEAs should use the [Statement of Assurance Checklist](#) to develop test security policies. Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.
- **Accountability**

- DCAI and ACT Rosters: LA Data Review is closed for new submissions to DCAI and ACT. The system remains open for communication and updates of previously-submitted requests. Districts should not submit requests for Carnegie credit updates. Official transcripts in STS must be updated by September 9 in order to update Carnegie credits.
- Assessment Rosters: Data certification for Spring 2016 assessments is open and has been extended to September 9.
- Cohort Graduation Rosters: A final certification of cohort graduation rosters was provided for review of index points affected by Dual Enrollment issues and CLEP scores. All requests for review should now be posted to the ftp. Please send an email to assessment@la.gov if documentation is available for review.
- K8 Progress Point Rosters: K8 progress point eligibility flags are available on the assessment rosters. An eligibility flag of Yes indicates that a student has a 2014-2015 non-proficient score and a 2015-2016 state assessment score. The flag does not indicate that the student exceeded the VAM goal. Individual goals will be included on the K8 progress point rosters to be released after assessment data certification closes.
- District/school accountability staff should contact assessment@la.gov if flood-related extensions are needed.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

High School Opportunities

Updated Jump Start Graduation Pathways

All 47 [Jump Start graduation pathways](#) have been updated to include more courses and new features that make them more user-friendly. To ensure that your students are provided the greatest number of options and opportunities for graduation, always use the most recent version of the graduation pathways available on the redesigned [All Things Jump Start](#) web portal. The new and expanded list of courses qualifying for Career Development Fund (CDF) funding adders has been included in the [updated Jump Start policy document](#).

2016 Counselor Collaboratives

The 2016 Counselor Collaboratives scheduled below will focus on Financial Aid Access for all students and Implementing Appropriate Student Graduation Pathways. Counselors are encouraged to attend a collaborative in their area; however, they may attend a collaborative outside their area if necessary.

Participants are asked to register on [Coursewhere](#). For questions regarding registration, please email [Larry Alexander](#).

Date	Network	Location	Time
October 4	C	EBR TBD	9:00 a.m.
October 6	C	Treen Center, Mandeville	9:00 a.m.
October 11	B	Acadia Instructional Center	9:00 a.m.
October 12	B	Terrebone Parish Library	9:00 a.m.
October 17	A	Shreveport	1:00 p.m.
October 18	A	Natchitoches	1:00 p.m.
October 19	A	West Monroe	1:00 p.m.
October 20	A	Marksville	1:00 p.m.

LOSFA College Application Month

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), along with key education stakeholders in the State of Louisiana, collaborated to develop and implement Louisiana College Application and Access Month (LCAAM).

Beginning October 1, admissions professionals will be available to assist students and parents with college applications. If you plan to invite admissions professionals to your high school to assist with college applications, please complete the [2016 LCAAM Registration Form](#) and submit it to [Brandi Morrison](#) at by **September 15, 2016**.

College Board 2016 Fall Counselor Workshops

To encourage and enrich growth of AP® programs statewide, the Louisiana Department of Education is inviting school counselors to participate in an exciting professional development opportunity. The 2016 Fall Counselor Workshops will include:

- Updates on the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and AP® Programs
- A briefing on the ways the College Board delivers opportunity
- Spotlight on critical websites for counselors
- An in-depth presentation on financial aid
- Counseling tips from seasoned counseling practitioners

In addition, practical resources and tools will be dispensed to assist counselors in their daily work.

Workshops begin in early August and seating is limited. Registration as well as start dates and times can be found on the [College Board website](#). For additional information, please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov.

Data

Data Coordinator's Monthly Call

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on **Thursday, September 1, at 1:00 p.m.** (Please note the **new time**.)

Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, best practices, system changes and details on enrolling and reporting displaced students.

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

- Meeting Name: **System Data Coordinator Webinar**
- To join the meeting: <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, August 31**.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Updated Fall 2016 Technology Device Requirements

The [Fall 2016 technology device requirements](#) have been updated. Sites that tested online using DRC INSIGHT in 2015-2016 with satisfactory results should be able to use the same testing devices in the 2016-2017 school year.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

Scholarships for Teachers Pursuing Certification in Blind/Visually Impaired

Through a federal grant from the Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana Tech University will be offering financial support for individuals who wish to complete coursework and training to become certified in the state as a teacher of the Blind/Visually Impaired. Most coursework can be completed online. Classes begin September 7. To be considered, the application process can be found in the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness [informational document](#).

For more information, please email [Dr. Edward Bell](#) or call 318-257-4554.

Special Education Advisory Panel Vacancy Announcement

The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) is accepting applications for three panel vacancies in roles of a parent of a child with a disability, a teacher, and a representative from the State juvenile and adult correction agencies. [Applications](#) for each position should be emailed to specialeducation@la.gov by **September 1, 2016**. Qualified applicants will be scheduled for phone interviews between **9 a.m. -12 p.m. on September 6, 2016** and those selected for the positions will be asked to attend the panel retreat on from **9 a.m. -12 p.m. on September 13, 2016**. Please email specialeducation@la.gov with any additional questions.

Other

Application for the 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Awards

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Department of Education, announces [applications for the 2017 Green Ribbon Schools Awards are now open](#).

The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Award recognizes schools and school districts that have made significant strides toward sustainability by reducing resource consumption, improving student health, and increasing environmental literacy. For more information about the award, and to download an application packet visit the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries [Green Ribbon Schools webpage](#).

Pre-K-12 schools, school districts and postsecondary institutes that are interested in applying for the award are encouraged to attend a webinar to learn details about the application process on **September 1 at 3:30 p.m. or September 8 at 1:00 p.m. (added date)**.

Webinar Login Information (*no preregistration required)

- Meeting Name: **U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award**
- Click here to join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/greenribbonschools/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Call-In Information: **1-855-240-2575**; meeting room **#78249734**

For questions about the award or help with your schools green initiatives, contact [Brian Gautreau](#).

2017 U.S. Senate Youth Program Application

Please share with principals.

The Louisiana Department of Education and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation are pleased to announce the launch of the 2017 United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to spend a week in Washington, D.C. in March of 2017 and will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Hearst Foundation.

The Department encourages principals to distribute [national program brochure](#) and the [logistics memo](#) which includes the application and selection procedures to juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups. View the [Hearst Foundation news release](#) for more information.

The names of the students selected and their application portfolios must be submitted to [Marian Johnson](#) no later October 7, 2017. Finalists will be notified by October 24.

Please contact [Marian Johnson](#), Program Coordinator, with questions.

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