

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 6, 2016

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Passed by Congress in December of 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a federal law that requires states to have a plan for spending federal funds, for measuring the skills students learn, and for supporting students in making academic progress. ESSA, which replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), is largely focused on the needs of historically disadvantaged students, including students from low-income homes, students whose home language is not English, and students with disabilities. The law is not a federal plan; it is a federal law requiring states to develop plans of their own.

Over the past two months, Department staff and I have traveled the state, convening public meetings on ESSA and meeting individually with professional associations, civil rights advocates, business leaders, and institutions of higher learning. In those meetings, we have shared data on the profound successes achieved by Louisiana students and the profound challenges yet to be overcome. You can find a copy of the presentation detailing this information [here](#), and you can find recorded public discussions [here](#).

Later this week, the Department will release a report summarizing the organizations involved in the Louisiana ESSA discussion to date, the process undertaken so far, commonly shared thoughts and ideas, and the timeline for plan development. Largely based on this report, the Department will release later in the fall a draft framework for the state's plan. This draft will be intended primarily to elicit further and more specific feedback. As the fall and winter proceed, the Department will continue to refine and issue further draft plans, until final submission to the U.S. Department of Education in 2017. We estimate and hope that the process will take roughly one full year in total, allowing for educators and families to return to school next school year fully aware of the approved state plan. You can find a timeline summarizing this process [here](#).

If you are interested in hosting a discussion related to ESSA in your schools or community, please contact me directly or contact Department staff at [essalouisiana@la.gov](mailto:essalouisiana@la.gov). Otherwise, I look forward to continued conversation about our students' successes, their challenges, and how we can support them in the future.

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

**John**

John White  
Louisiana Department of Education  
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

## In This Issue:

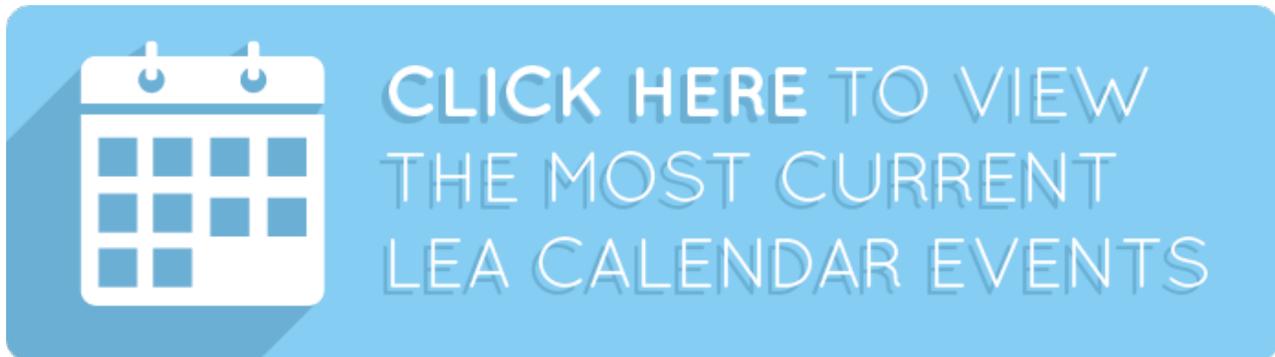
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To view the current District Support Calendar, please click [here](#).

## District Support

### Monthly District Planning Call

This September district planning call is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 7, from 1 p.m.-2 p.m.** You may now view the [presentation](#).

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](mailto: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) **FULL**
- **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](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov) with questions.

## **2016-2017 Compass Action Steps and Tools**

**Please share with principals and principal supervisors.**

The Compass tool supports teachers and principals in defining expectations for student learning and monitoring progress against those goals throughout the year. The following action steps and tools support the Compass process for the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

- **New Evaluator Training:** All new evaluators must complete a training to be certified to complete Compass evaluations. This requirement can be met by attending department-led trainings or those led by local education agencies. More information about these trainings, including dates and locations, is available in Coursewhere. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Rescheduled Trainings Due to Flooding:**
  - Acadia (originally scheduled for Aug 25): Rescheduled for September 29
  - Baton Rouge (originally scheduled for Aug 19): Rescheduled for October 28
- **The Compass Information System (CIS) opened September 1:** CIS is now open for the 2016-2017 school year, therefore district supervisors and compass contacts, and school leaders can begin completing the following tasks.
  - Updating school staff rosters
  - Adding new employees to school rosters
  - Assigning district or school-based evaluation rubrics to employees
  - Assigning evaluators to employees

### **[View 2016-2017 CIS-CVR User Guide](#)**

- **2016-2017 Goal-Setting:** District and school leaders can begin:
  - working with teachers, counselors and librarians to set student learning targets (SLTs);
  - reviewing and accepting SLTs in CIS; and
  - monitoring SLT completion.
- **Resources:**
  - [Teacher Goal-Setting Resources](#)
  - [Principal Goal-Setting Resources](#)
  - [Louisiana Principal's Teaching and Learning Guidebook](#): supports the goal-setting process and includes detailed examples of how goal setting connects to principals' work as instructional leaders.

Email [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) for additional information or support.

## **Flood Recovery**

The [Disaster Recovery Policy and Systems Guidance](#) has been updated to include a Spanish version of the parent certification letter and additional technology vendor offers.

**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**
- Jobs for America's Graduates 1st Quarterly Meeting moved to **Tuesday, September 20 and Wednesday, September 21**

**The following data submission and grant deadlines have been extended:**

- 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**

## **Flexibility Granted to Assist Child Nutrition Programs in Parishes Subject to a Major Disaster Declaration**

USDA has granted some flexibility to assist participating Child Nutrition Programs in parishes subject to a Major Disaster Declaration pursuant to FEMA-4277-DR. USDA has allowed SEAs flexibility in the meal time and meal pattern (foods served).

Declaration pursuant to EMTA-4277-DR. USDA has allowed SFAs flexibility in the meal time and meal pattern (foods served) through **September 30, 2016**, and Schools in Disaster Declared Parishes to claim ALL meals served from the time they open after the flood through **September 30, 2016**, at the free reimbursement rate.

For more information please visit the [Child Nutrition Program webpage](#)

## 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

### District Test Coordinator Reminders

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

#### 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.

#### 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**.
- **LEAP Subgroup with Subclaim Reports:** District and school subgroup with subclaims CSV file **will be available in DRC eDirect on Friday, September 9**. The file includes Spring 2016 LEAP ELA, math and science results for all students in grades 3 through 8, as well as targeted subgroups, by subclaim (ELA and math only). The data can be used by districts and schools as they plan to address subgroup performance gaps and develop targeted instructional strategies. The data are also useful for inclusion in grant submissions, development of programs and interventions, and budgets.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with any questions.

## High School Opportunities

### NCCER Webinar and Registry Update - For CTE Supervisors & School Administrators

The Office of Student Opportunities will host a second webinar (originally presented August 30, 2016) for CTE Supervisors and school administrators to review NCCER Guidelines for the 2016-2017 school year. The webinar will also review the following: District Assurance Letter, Instructor requirements, LDE processes, "Helper" Pathways, and Registry update. There will also be time for Q & A.

Webinar is scheduled for:

- **Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

#### **Webinar Login Information** (\*no pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: NCCER CTE Supervisor and School Administrator Webinar
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to [https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccer\\_cte\\_2016/](https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccer_cte_2016/)
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name

Please contact [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov) with questions.

### **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 [JumpStart@la.gov](mailto:JumpStart@la.gov).

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.

## **Data**

### **Data Sharing Agreement Update**

#### **New Agreements**

The Department has executed and posted a new [data sharing agreement](#) with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for NAEP, PISA, PIRLS, TIMSS, and ICILS assessments on the Department website. Participating districts and charters should download the addendum from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to [LDEData@la.gov](mailto:LDEData@la.gov) in order to ensure that they will be able to share student information with NCES for the purposes of these assessments.

#### **Terminated Agreements**

The contract with Pacific Metrics for the purpose of providing services related to the Online Assessment System (OAS for EOC) has ended; therefore, the Department has terminated the corresponding data-sharing agreement with Pacific Metrics. This announcement is notification to LEAs who opted into the agreement of this termination.

#### **Existing Agreements**

The Department has prepared [guidance and next steps](#) regarding previously established MOUs and addenda. To verify which agreements LEAs and charters have already opted into, please review the [tracking chart](#). The tracking chart is updated weekly as additional addenda are submitted to the Department.

Please email [LDEData@la.gov](mailto:LDEData@la.gov) with questions.

## **Special Education**

### **Monthly Special Education Leader Webinar**

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA directors and supervisors of special education on **Thursday, September 8 at 2:00 p.m.**

Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

## Webinar Login Information: (\*no pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: Special Education Policy
- Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/sped/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Select the "listen only mode."
- If you are listening in from a phone and not using a computer, the audio conference details are:
  - Conference Number(s):
    - Toll access number (Toll): 1-646-307-1380
    - Toll free access number (Toll Free): 1-855-240-2575
- Participant pin code: 174284453

Once you log into the conference site, you can download the presentation. It will also be available in the Special Education Library after the event.

Please email [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

## **AEPSi Webinars for Administrators**

Early Childhood Special Education Supervisors are invited to participate in two webinars, hosted by Brookes Publishing Company, on the administration and reporting of the Assessment Evaluation and Programming System Interactive (AEPSiTM), a tool Louisiana uses to measure outcomes for children ages 3-5 with disabilities.

- Webinar 1: Introduction to AEPSiTM for Administrators
- **September 28 at 1:00 p.m.**
- Click [here](#) to register
  
- Webinar 2: OSEP Reporting with AEPSiTM
- **September 30 at 1:00 p.m.**
- Link to register will be provided next week

Please contact Patsy Palmer at 225-219-4536 or [Patsy.Palmer@LA.Gov](mailto:Patsy.Palmer@LA.Gov) with questions.

## **Louisiana Teacher Training Conference on Blindness and Low Vision**

Louisiana Center for the Blind in Ruston will be the site for the regional conference focused on current trends, technologies, and information related to educating our youth and young adults who are blind or have low vision. Some of the topics will include:

- Unified English Braille: How are we progressing?
- Nemeth versus UEB Math: What's the difference?
- What to do when you discover a VI child in your classroom
- Contemporary teaching strategies and services
- Finding and utilizing resources
- Administration and interpretation of appropriate assessments and diagnostic tools
- Trends in Access Technology

The conference is **September 30 - October 1**. [Registration information](#) is now available.

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

## Other

### **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.

## LDOE Contacts

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State Superintendent of Education

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## LDOE Links

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