

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 27, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) creates a rare moment for the state, for school systems, and for individual schools to review their academic goals and their plans to use federal funds in achieving those goals. Over the last two months, the Department has been gathering input from parents, educators, civil rights advocates, business leaders, and others as to how the state's ESSA plan can be put to best use for the children of this generation and the next generation to come. You can find a report summarizing the comments received [here](#).

Many comments inevitably focus on individual issues of policy, and it is important that the Department understand each proposal. But ESSA requires not a litany of policies so much as a comprehensive plan of interconnected policies, supports, resources, and processes, which, when combined, should have a positive and systemic impact on the lives of children.

Therefore, a comprehensive plan of interconnected policies requires that we view each policy as part of a larger whole. So as to further the state's dialogue on ESSA, and to capture all of the feedback received thus far on issues facing our educators and students, the Department will post tomorrow a [draft framework](#) showing one possible version of how these interconnected policies, supports, resources, and processes could work for students in Louisiana. The draft framework is not a proposal and will not be submitted to any policy making body for consideration. Instead, it is meant to represent a comprehensive response to the law, to surface questions, to further debate, and to prompt further comment.

The report also details a schedule of additional public meetings that will be held over the course of October and November to discuss the draft framework and questions or issues it surfaces. Those interested in submitting feedback on the plan can email their comments to essalouisiana@la.gov.

As ideas are raised and considered, one rule is of paramount importance: that each be judged based on evidence that its implementation would significantly benefit the lives of Louisiana's youth, especially those facing the greatest challenges. My faith remains high that this will continue to be the spirit of our statewide dialogue. I look forward to speaking with you about the draft framework in the weeks to come.

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

John

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

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District Support

October District Planning Call

This August district planning call is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 5, from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**

The following district supervisors should attend:

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

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

- Meeting Name: October District Planning Call
- Click here to join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Call-In Information: (646) 307-1380; meeting room #951154160

Email districtsupport@la.gov

September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations

Thank you to those of you who have already attended a September Teacher Leader or Supervisor Collaboration. We hope you found them helpful.

1. There are still seats at the **October 3 Supervisor Collaboration in Baton Rouge** available. Click [here](#) for more information about that event and how to register. There are no seats available for the Teacher Leader event on October 3.
2. Help us improve future events by completing this brief [survey](#) about the September Collaborations.
3. Materials from the Collaborations, including the sign-in sheets, are available in the [Supervisor Library](#) and the [Teacher Leader Library](#).

Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Principal Town Hall Meeting on ESSA

Please share with principals.

Superintendent White will host a live Principal Town Hall meeting on **Monday, October 10 from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.** to discuss the proposed challenges and solutions outlined in the state's draft ESSA framework. Click [here](#) to join the meeting. Principals may submit questions to Superintendent White during the town hall meeting through essalouisiana@la.gov.

Email essalouisiana@la.gov with questions.

2016-2017 Compass Action Steps and Tools

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The following tools are available to support Compass for the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year:

Goal Setting	Action	Timeline	Tools & Resources
Set Student Learning Targets	School leaders work with teachers, counselors and librarians to set SLTs	September 1, 2016 - December 1, 2016	Teacher Goal Setting Worksheet Teacher Goal-Setting Resources
Review & Accept Student Learning Targets	School leaders review and accept teacher's, counselor's and librarian's SLTs	September 1, 2016 - December 1, 2016	Louisiana Principal's Teaching and Learning Guidebook
Monitor SLT Completion	School leaders monitor teacher's, counselor's and librarian's SLTs	September 1, 2016 - December 1, 2016	
Observations	School leaders monitor, conduct and review observations	September 1, 2016 - May 1, 2017	
Deactivate Inactive Users	Compass Data Managers deactivate LEA Administrator and Supervisors no longer employed or inactive in CIS for over a year.	September 1, 2016 - May 1, 2017	CIS/CVR User Guide : Deleting Employee Data beginning on page 15

Observation and feedback:

- **Alternative Evaluation Rubric:** LEAs choosing to use alternative evaluation rubrics as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric for public school teachers for 2016-2017 must email the completed **Alternative Evaluation Rubric Waiver** found in the [Compass Library](#) to compass@la.gov by October 4, 2016.

Trainings:

- **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. To attend a Department-led training, check availability and register in [Coursewhere](#).
- **Compass Information Training (CIS):** CIS training/webinar will be available this October for Type 2 and Type 5 Charter Schools.

Evaluations:

- **2016-2017 CIS/CVR User Guide:** This document provides technical guidance to operate all systems related to Compass evaluations including CIS and CVR.

Email compass@la.gov for additional information or support.

Assessment & Accountability

District Test Coordinator Reminders

Please share with District Test and Technology Coordinators and Data Managers.

Assessment Support and Training:

- **October DTC Call:** Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 1:00 PM
 - Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
 - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
 - Call-In Information: (646) 307-1380; meeting room #951155484
- **Weekly Office Hours:** Held each Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
 - Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
 - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
 - Call-In Information: (646) 307-1380; meeting room #951155484
- **EAGLE and EOC Training:** The Department will host hands-on EAGLE and EOC training for district test and technology coordinators in October. These trainings will be posted in Coursewhere later this week and can be redelivered to teachers. Participants may sign up for either a morning or afternoon session.
 - Monroe: October 6
 - Bossier: October 7
 - Jefferson Davis: October 10
 - Rapides: October 11
 - Baton Rouge: October 18
 - Jefferson: October 20

Assessment Administration:

- **TSM/INSIGHT Install:** Districts should begin setting up TSMs and installing INSIGHT on all devices students will test on this fall.
- **Updated Accessibility and Accommodation Forms:** The Department has made minor updates to the [PNP](#), [LEP](#), [IAP](#), and [IEP](#) forms including new features and clarifications. The [Summary of Updates to Accommodations Forms](#) guidance document and all updated forms can be found in the [Assessment Library](#). The October 5 Special Education Director meeting and District Test Coordinator monthly call on October 3 will review these updates in more detail.
- **K-3 Assessment Reporting:** All LEAs are required to report kindergarten-readiness and K-3 literacy screening assessment results by September 30, 2016.
 - K-readiness literacy screenings: LEAs using the DSC will report results through the [DSC Web Application](#). LEAs using pilot assessments will report using the assessment vendor's system. Contact your district security coordinator for access to students' Louisiana Secure IDs, if necessary.
 - K-3 Literacy screening: Submit K-3 literacy screening assessment results using this [form](#). The completed form(s) should then be placed into the district Data Management folder on the [FTP Server](#). Contact your district security coordinator for access to the folder, if necessary.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

FAFSA Becomes Available October 1

The 2017-2018 [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will become available on October 1, 2016. The FAFSA can be completed by current high school seniors and current college students. The FAFSA acts as the application for federal aid programs including the Pell Grant, Federal Work Study Program, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Stafford Loans (subsidized, unsubsidized and parent PLUS loans). The FAFSA also acts as the application for state aid programs including the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) and the Louisiana Go Grant.

For more information visit the Department's [FAFSA webpage](#).

AP Course Audit Webinar

To support AP[®] programs statewide, the Department will host a webinar providing AP[®] teachers and administrators with clear guidelines on building and sustaining an AP[®] program as well as curricular and resource requirements that must be in place for AP[®] courses. Teachers of AP[®] courses, whether for the first time or as a refresher course, are invited to participate.

Teachers and administrators are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- **Thursday, September 29, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

- Thursday, October 6, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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

- Meeting Name: AP Course Audit Process
- Click [here](https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/apcourseaudit/) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/apcourseaudit/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Audio access: (855)240-2575 / participant code: 38582295

For more information, please email CollegeReadiness@la.gov.

2016 Department 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 in [Coursewhere](#). For questions regarding registration, please email JumpStart@la.gov.

Date	Network	Location	Time
October 4	C	Louisiana School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge	9:00 a.m.
October 6	C	Treen Center, 2024 Livingston Street, Mandeville	9:00 a.m.
October 11	B	Acadia Instructional Center, 2124 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley	9:00 a.m.
October 12	B	Terrebone Parish Library, 4130 West Park Avenue, Gray	9:00 a.m.
October 17	A	Bossier Instructional Center, 2719 Airline Drive, Bossier City	1:00 p.m.
October 18	A	Natchitoches Parish Media Center, 310 Royal Street, Natchitoches	1:00 p.m.
October 19	A	Ouachita Parish Student Support Services, 800 Claiborne Street, West Monroe	1:00 p.m.
October 20	A	Avoyelles Parish Media Center, 136 S. Fair Street, Marksville	1:00 p.m.

Data

2016 ACT PLAN Letters

Please forward to all FTP Coordinators and Secondary Directors and/or Coordinators.

The Department has provided each LEA with a template and guidance for generating a set of ACT PLAN letters for dissemination to 11th grade students and parents. **These files, titled LEAcode_LEAname_2016_ACTPLANLetters, are available in the Data Management FTP through October 21.** FTP coordinators should share these files with Secondary Directors and/or Coordinators.

ACT PLAN letters highlight individual student's Advanced Placement potential and/or student's career interest aligned with Jump Start career pathways. These letters are developed based on student performance on the PLAN assessment as well as student responses to the career World of Work inventory.

For additional information, please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov. For FTP issues, contact SystemSupport@la.gov.

Grants Management

Title I, Part A - Annual Comparability Report 2016-2017 SY

The Department released the **Title I Comparability** section of the 2016-2017SY eGrant.

Title I - Comparability requires that local education agencies (LEAs) be able to document that the services provided with state and local funds in Title I schools are comparable to those provided in non-Title I schools in the district or are substantially comparable for districts with all Title I schools. LEAs with one school per grade span do not need to submit a 2016-2017 Title I Comparability report. Also, single charter LEAs (Type 2, 5, and 3B) are exempt from submitting the report. If you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact [Madeline Swift](#).

To further assist in the completion of the report please see the [Comparability FAQs](#). Submit the on-line Comparability Report by **Friday, October 7, 2016**.

Statewide Monitoring

2016-2017 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule for School Districts and Charter Schools

The Division of Statewide Monitoring conducts annual monitoring activities of local education agencies (LEAs) to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist our school districts and charter schools in thoughtful planning and preparation for the upcoming school year, we have provided the annual, [consolidated monitoring schedule](#) for the 2016-2017 school year. The schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

For the 2016-2017 monitoring year, the Department has implemented a risk-based monitoring selection process which incorporates both compliance and performance risks. We expect this approach to be beneficial in identifying key areas which may be targeted for monitoring. Additionally, other programs may have been identified for monitoring support as a result of a targeted or cyclical monitoring as determined by a specific program or affiliated program grant requirement. A monitoring rubric, which is equivalent to a monitoring report card, will be made available to every LEA upon request. This document will provide a detailed preview of risk indicators, both compliance and performance, analyzed to determine the most appropriate monitoring experience for LEAs.

Quarterly updates will follow this newsletter announcement. Additionally, the assigned Statewide Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder along with any necessary planning documents or instructions directly to the District Superintendent, Federal Programs Director, and/or IDEA Director of each school district or charter school appearing on the monitoring schedule. The second quarter schedule can be viewed [here](#).

If you have any questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), please contact [Linda Tindall](#) or [Dr. Chauncey McElwee](#) for monitoring related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Questions related to Early Childhood monitoring may be directed to [Terry Simoneaux](#).

Special Education

October 5 Special Education Leader Collaborative

The next Special Education Leader Collaborative will be held on **Wednesday, October 5 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** in the Thomas Jefferson Room of the Claiborne Building. This meeting will follow the meeting with the Special Education Advisory Panel. You are invited to attend both. Special education administrators are invited and encouraged to attend both meetings.

Education Technology

Upcoming E-Rate Trainings

Please share with District technology coordinators, E-Rate coordinators and procurement staff.

In order to assist and facilitate districts, charters, and schools with filing for 2017- 2018 E-Rate funding, in-person trainings will be conducted in late October and early November as noted below. District technology coordinators, E-Rate coordinators and procurement staff are invited to attend to learn more about program changes, rules and the EPC application software system.

This will be both an informational and hands-on look at USAC's EPC tool. Registration is available in [Coursewhere](#).

- October 21- Baton Rouge
- October 27- Monroe
- October 28- Rapides
- November 2- Jefferson Davis

Policy

Student Fee Survey

During the 2016 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed [House Concurrent Resolution 137](#) regarding fees charged to students attending Louisiana public schools. In this resolution the legislature requested that State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education conduct a thorough study of the prevalence and use of student fees and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature by March 1, 2017.

In order to gather the information needed to respond to this request, the Department is requesting that each local education agency

(LEA) complete this [survey](#) no later than October 14, 2016. Please ensure that only one response is submitted for each LEA.

Questions may be directed to Erin Bendily, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs, at erin.bendily@la.gov.

Other

Flood Relief Book Donations

[First Book](#) is donating books to restore school and classroom libraries in flooded areas of Louisiana. If your district, school, or classroom was impacted and you would like to apply for support, fill out the [request form](#). For more information about First Book's relief efforts, visit their [blog](#). First Book is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing new books and educational resources to children in need. Learn more about the organization by visiting [First Book Marketplace](#) or their [website](#).

Flood Relief Assistance from the Red Cross

The American Red Cross has begun recovery efforts and limited financial assistance to help Louisiana flood victims. Financial assistance is available for those who do not qualify for federal disaster assistance and have had major damage to their homes due to the recent flooding. Persons who meet the qualifications would be eligible for \$125 per person to support recovery efforts.

The Red Cross will also help create recovery plans and locate assistance from other agencies to help get families back on their feet. If your staff members or your students and their families need assistance, they can register [online](#) or call 855-224-2490.

Click [here](#) to read the press release on Louisiana flood assistance from the American Red Cross and to learn more about their recovery efforts. The American Red Cross also has printed fliers that can be delivered to your school for dissemination.

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 than October 7, 2017. Finalists will be notified by October 24.

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

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