

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: February 27, 2024

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### In This Issue

[Message from the Superintendent](#)  
[Important Dates for School Systems](#)  
[Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations](#)  
[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)  
[Career and College Readiness](#)  
[Early Childhood](#)  
[School System Relations](#)  
[Teaching and Learning](#)

### Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana was recently recognized for our state's comprehensive early literacy policy. ExcelinEd's new [Early Literacy Matters](#) resource rates [Louisiana](#) as one of only three states taking action on all 18 of the organization's early literacy fundamental principles.

The report found it noteworthy that Louisiana requires all school systems and schools to develop a literacy plan and provides guidance for creation of these plans through several resources. Among the areas where Louisiana was recognized for full implementation, the report found:

- Science of reading training is required for all K–3 teachers
- Universal reading screener for K–3 students
- Parental notification of students identified with reading difficulties
- Elimination of three-cueing systems
- Individual reading plans for students identified as having a reading deficiency
- Monitoring students' progress within a multi-tiered system of support
- Targeting students' needs by adopting interventions grounded in the science of reading

I was intentional about calling out our state's literacy crisis early in my tenure and am pleased to see Louisiana leading the way with common sense reading reforms. With the support of our policy-makers, educators, and parents, Louisiana students will benefit from these bold efforts.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

### Important Dates for School Systems

#### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 28 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinars – Math and Literacy: [March 4 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [March 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Human Capital Handbook Webinar Series: [March 5 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [March 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [March 5 at 3:45 p.m.](#)

- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [March 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Zearn Support for Middle School Leaders: [March 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [March 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [March 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [March 18 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [March 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 21 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [March 28 at 2 p.m.](#)

## **Upcoming Events and Deadlines**

- [Spring 2024 Counselor Institutes](#): February 27-29; statewide locations
- Deadline to submit [Math Teacher Leader Advisors](#) applications: March 1
- Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission: March 4 10 a.m. Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge
- SFA Summer Feeding Plan Deadline: March 15
- [\\$5 ACT Registration Voucher for School Counselors](#) Deadline: March 24
- [LCTCS Jump Start Construction Scholarship](#) Deadline: April 10
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: April 15
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

## **Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations**

### **Title I, Part A – TIA & TAS Consolidated State Performance Data Report**

**Please share with federal program directors.**

The LDOE must report student data for participation in Title I, Part A in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR). The data is required for those receiving Title I, Part A funds and will be collected in the [LEADS portal](#). The portal has been re-opened for data submission and will close on March 8.

#### Data Submission Instructions

- Title I, Part A (TIA): Log into the portal and enter student counts in Table 1 under the TAS column or the Title I Schoolwide (SWP) column. Utilize the October 2022 student count in Table 1 to provide the Title I, Part A student participation counts.
- Targeted Assistance Title I, Part A (TAS): Complete Tables 1-5 and those that are SWP will only complete Table 1.

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

## **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**

### **LEAP 2025 Spring Administration**

**Please share with testing coordinators, special education staff, and school leaders.**

All accommodations for LEAP 2025 spring testing must be finalized no later than March 15. The testing team will not review any requests for late accommodations. IEP teams should be aware that state testing accommodations should have been used routinely by students in classes well in advance of testing.

There is no accountability code to excuse students from testing for parental opt-outs. There is no formal process for opting students out, but the LDOE recommends that parents be required to submit a refusal of permission to test their child in writing to the principal in advance of the testing window. Schools cannot refuse to allow students to attend school on testing days, and should provide instructional activities for students.

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

## **Assessment Literacy Initiative**

**Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and teachers.**

The LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment will host the March session of the monthly webinar series on March 7. The focus of this session is Local Assessment System Audits: How Do Teachers and Leaders Know if the Collection of Assessments They Administer is Any Good? (Part 1)

Each session in the [Effective Assessment Practices](#) series will provide opportunities for Louisiana educators—both leaders and classroom educators—to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms. An optional question-and-answer session will take place immediately following the webinar. The webinar will be recorded.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 7 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82217294500>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 646 931 3860
- **Webinar ID#:** 822 1729 4500
- **Passcode:** 959799

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

## **Assessment Development Educator Review Committees**

**Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and teachers.**

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP assessment in June. The assessment committees will review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and develop expectations for the scoring of field-tested LEAP constructed-response items as well as extended-response tasks (science, math, and social studies).

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees](#) document for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links and deadlines to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete applications is March 24.

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

## **K-3 Literacy Screening**

**Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and testing coordinators.**

The mCLASS Admin Portal will be closed from March 1-16, as Amplify uploads students for end-of-year. The LDOE sent a new student file to the vendor that will include all students who were enrolled with school systems in EdLink by the end of February. All other functions, such as progress monitoring and reporting, will remain available to users.

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

## **ACT**

**Please share with testing coordinators.**

The deadline to order accommodations and/or support materials for use in test window 1, and submitting ACT testing schedules is March 1. Please contact ACT Accommodations at 800 553 6244, ext. 1788.

The deadline to request qualified exceptions to the deadline for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees in TAA using the [Qualified Exceptions to the Deadline](#) form is March 8.

Students who take the ACT using state accommodations that are not approved by ACT may be eligible for a score report that cannot be used for college reporting. While the results can be included in state accountability, parents should be aware that colleges and universities will not accept these reports, and they will not be made available from ACT for college reporting.

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

## Career and College Readiness

### **Career and College Readiness February Monthly Call**

Please share with CTE supervisors, high school counselors & principals, system leaders, and secondary supervisors.

Due to network connectivity issues, the Career and College Readiness February Monthly Call was canceled. The [slide deck](#) is available for your review. Should you have any questions please reach out to the contact listed on the slide. The next monthly call is scheduled for the third Thursday in March.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 21 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92322549210>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 923 2254 9210
- **Passcode:** 130834

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

### **Perkins Grant Technical Assistance Virtual Series**

Please share with Perkins CTE supervisors.

The LDOE will host a series of virtual technical assistance meetings to help support school systems in understanding their Perkins data, completing the newly modified [Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment](#) (CLNA) for secondary systems, and completing the narratives and budget for the Perkins section of the Super App. The completion of the CLNA is required in order to receive Perkins funding. The first webinar topic will be: Understanding Perkins data necessary for the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Part A.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 18 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93913804985>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 939 1380 4985

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

### **Jump Start Training Catalog**

Please share with assistant principals, CTE instructors, CTE supervisors, and principals.

The [Jump Start Training Catalog](#) provides a list of professional development and training opportunities available this summer. Please note that it is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed. School systems can submit training opportunities and/or training requests to [charmaine.cureton@la.gov](mailto:charmaine.cureton@la.gov) for review. Training registration and associated costs for sessions are handled directly between the registrant(s) and the provider; not to LDOE. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration costs.

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

## Early Childhood

### **Early Childhood Networks Request for Applications**

Please share with early childhood administrators, school leaders, and system leaders.

On March 5, the LDOE will release two Requests for Applications (RFAs) to support early childhood education work across the state; the Community Network Lead Agency RFA and the Ready Start Network Lead Agencies RFA.

- Community Network Lead Agencies coordinate CLASS® observations, the birth-to-age-five child count, and enrollment; submit the state funding application; and serve as the fiscal agent for Early Childhood Community Networks.

- Ready Start Networks Lead Agencies establish local advisory councils, develop strategic plans, and implement strategies focused on increasing access to high-quality early childhood care and education at the local level.

All interested applicants are encouraged to attend an informational webinar to learn about the requirements of the RFA and receive a link to the applications.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 5 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96912330590?pwd=Y0lQbXJSS1BZNGNU3c3cvdkpkc2JyUT09>
- **Meeting ID:** 969 1233 0590
- **Passcode:** 420266

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

## School System Relations

### **Louisiana's Milken Educator Award Honorees**

**Please share with school system leaders and teachers.**

Hailed as the “Oscars of Teaching,” the Milken Educator Awards will honor up to 75 recipients across the country in 2023-24 as part of the Milken Family Foundation’s Journey to the 3,000th Milken Educator. In February, four educators from Louisiana were named Milken Educator Award recipients during surprise school ceremonies:

- [Derrick Winn](#), East Baton Rouge Parish
- [Christine Bayard](#), Iberia Parish
- [Lauren Waguespack](#), St. Charles Parish
- [Kelly Ryan](#), St. Tammany Parish

Along with each honoree receiving an unrestricted cash prize of \$25,000, the honorees will attend the Milken Educator Awards Forum in Los Angeles this June, where they will network with their new colleagues as well as veteran Milken Educators and other education leaders about how to broaden their impact on K-12 education. Congratulations to these excellent educators.

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

## Teaching and Learning

### Academic Content

### **Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews**

**Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.**

The LDOE is excited to announce the addition of the Professional Learning Efficacy Indicators to the Instructional Materials Professional Learning Partner Guide evaluation process in order to inform systems about the effectiveness of our professional learning partners who are featured in our [Instructional Materials Professional Learning Partner Guide](#). The Professional Learning Efficacy Indicators are a framework emphasizing key elements that impact the value of educators' learning experiences. Aligned with our commitment to excellence, these indicators are now part of the submission and evaluation process in our Instructional Materials Professional Learning Guide for partners.

During the data collection period from March 11 to April 11, system leaders can anticipate receiving an email requesting their participation in a survey. This survey is designed to gather data for this initiative, enabling the LDOE to convey a clear message about the quality and effectiveness of learning providers to educators and stakeholders.

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

## Educator Talent and Workforce Development

### **Pre-Educator Pathway Curriculum**

**Please share with counselors, principals, teachers, system leaders, and teachers.**

The LDOE is excited to announce that we are working in partnership with A.L. Development to create an open-sourced Pre-Educator Pathway Curriculum. The anticipated release of the curriculum will be the 2025-2026 academic school year. If you have experience teaching pre-educator courses and would like to help build content for the new curriculum, please contact Stacie Austin at [saustin.creative@gmail.com](mailto:saustin.creative@gmail.com) no later than February 28.

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

### **Proposed Louisiana Counselor Rubric**

**Please share with school counselors.**

The LDOE is currently collecting feedback on the proposed [Louisiana Counselor Rubric](#) (LCR). Counselors are asked to review the rubric and provide [feedback](#) by March 11. Feedback will inform adjustments to the final rubric. During the 2024-2025 school year, systems may opt-in to use the new evaluation system, including the LCR, prior to full implementation in 2025-2026.

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

### **2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year**

**Please share with school and system leaders.**

Systems should complete the [2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Learning Year Options Form](#) by March 30. The [Options Guidance Document](#) provides additional information on evaluation options. Systems opting to transition to the Louisiana Educator, Leader and Counselor Evaluation System during the 2024-2025 school year may register for summer training. All system-level leaders, evaluators, and designated observers are required to attend training and pass a certification assessment prior to utilizing the rubrics. The [registration landing page](#) has been updated to include a waiting list.

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