Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Louisiana Believes

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP, TDC	6/15/18	Complete DRC online cleanup	School leaders or test coordinators
LSP, TDC	7/7/18	Return LEAP 360 MOU Amendment	School leaders or test coordinators
All nonpublics that received EEF funds	7/15/18	Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs	School leaders or finance managers

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: DRC Online Cleanup Window Closes 6/15

DRC is now open for the Online Cleanup System (OCS) until June 15. **This is the only opportunity that school systems and schools will have to apply accountability codes to impending zeroes before the new progress index is calculated.** The system will include student records from LEAP 2025, EOC, LEAP Connect, and LAA 1. School systems should not wait until the August data certification period to address impending zeroes.

Failure to properly update this information in DRC from 6/11 to 6/15 may impact a school's Scholarship Cohort Index (SCI) or Proficiency Rate.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Supplemental Payments Approved for 2017-18 School Year

On May 31st, the LDOE communicated to schools that the Legislature had approved a supplemental appropriation for the Louisiana Scholarship Program for the 2017-18 school year. Recently this supplemental appropriation was signed by the Governor, meaning all schools will receive full funding for their Scholarship students for 2017-18.

Schools can expect to receive their supplemental payments by early next week. The exact timing of the payment may vary for schools depending on the bank used.

New: 2018-19 Transfer Window Opened

Families that wish to transfer their Scholarship award from one school to another may complete the attached transfer form. The school leader or Scholarship contact of the student's new school must sign off on the transfer and submit to studentscholarships@la.gov. Transfer forms must be submitted by the school--forms submitted by parents will not be accepted.

Completion of the transfer form is not a guarantee that a transfer will be granted. Schools can not exceed their student enrollment caps. Additionally, newly-awarded students must have accepted their award by the May 25th deadline in order to be eligible for a transfer. Families should not buy uniforms or other supplies until the Department has approved the transfer.

New: ACT/WorkKeys MOU

Please share with Accountability Contacts

The Department has executed and posted a new data sharing agreement with ACT for other realms in the Data Sharing Agreement Library. This agreement allows ACT to deliver WorkKeys data from non-LDOE realms directly to the Department, eliminating the need to submit individual WorkKeys documentation for students during the August data certification period.

School systems wishing to participate should download the addendum, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to LDEData@la.gov no later than Friday, June 29 in order for the WorkKeys data to be applied to the ACT rosters delivered to school systems in August.

Please email LDEData@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Updated LEAP 2025 Parent Guide

The LEAP 2025 Parent Guide has been slightly updated and a new version is available in the Family Support Toolbox Library. Please send this report home with the student reports later this summer.

Email assessment@la.gov if you have questions.

Reminder: Important Information for District Testing Coordinators

General

- All changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts must be submitted to the Department using the DTC and Accountability Contact Update form found in the Assessment Library.
- On June 28, DRC will release an updated version of its DRC INSIGHT secure browser software. This is a required update, and it applies to all operating systems (Windows, MacOS, ChromeOS, and iOS). You will need to update to this latest version to complete any LEAP 2025 or LEAP 360 testing after June 28. If you configured your devices to auto-update when you installed INSIGHT, the software will automatically download and install this update upon launch. If you did not configure INSIGHT to auto-update, you will need to manually install INSIGHT before completing any testing.

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 will close for the 2017-2018 school year on June 18. Diagnostic and Interim test setup for 2018-2019 will be available on July 16 in eDIRECT.
- LEAP 360 Interim Assessment District Item Response Files, School Test Session Summary Reports, and Test Session Summary Reports were posted for all forms on May 22. The remaining scheduled posting will be June 18.
- A District's Guide to LEAP 360 serves as support tool for school systems to use when implementing the components of LEAP 360 in schools. School systems should use this guide and its resources to develop a plan for LEAP 360 training, administration, and data analysis and to guide instructional and assessment planning in schools.
- Updates have been made to A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360 to improve LEAP 360 instruction and implementation. The document is posted to the Assessment Library.
- The new Parent Guide to LEAP 360 can be used to facilitate communication between educators and parents is now available. Translated versions in Arabic, Spanish, and Vietnamese are also available.
- School systems that signed a LEAP 360 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2017-2018 school year may choose to continue using LEAP 360 through June 30, 2019, under the same terms and conditions. To opt-in and amend your school system's existing agreement, each Superintendent must sign an amendment to the original agreement and return an electronic copy to assessment@la.gov by July 7. School systems wishing to participate in LEAP 360 during the 2018-2019 school year need to ensure they also have a non-summative data sharing agreement on file with the

2018-2019 school year need to ensure they also have a non-summative data sharing agreement on file with the Department.

- School systems should review the following Summit presentations on LEAP 360.
  - LEAP 360 Overview
  - A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360
  - A District's Guide to LEAP 360
  - LEAP 360: ELA Deep Dive
  - LEAP 360: Math Deep Dive

LEAP 2025

- LEAP 2025 school system and school-level results will be available in the FTP by June 30. The public release of state, school system and school-level data will occur in early July.
- Summer EOC/LEAP 2025 test setup is open. Schools should ensure all accommodations and test sessions are created prior to summer \LEAP 2025 HS/EOC administration. DTCs can use the eDIRECT User Guide for step by step directions.
- School systems should review the following summit session materials on LEAP 2025.
  - Math Assessment Make the Case 3-5
  - Math Assessment Make the Case 6-8
  - Math Assessment Make the Case A1-GM
  - Social Studies Assessment Results Make the Case
  - Social Studies Assessment Results Make the Case

LEAP Connect and LAA 1

- Interpretive Guides for understanding LEAP Connect and LAA1 scoring and reporting are posted to the Assessment Library.
- The LEAP Connect Online Tools Training (OTT) is now posted for ELA and math grades 3-8 and 11. The OTT can be accessed through the INSIGHT Portal or through the LEAP OTT site, and the OTT DTAs are posted in eDIRECT under General Information.
- School Systems should review the Summit presentations LEAP Connect Grades 3-8 Results and LEAP Connect High School Overview.

ELPT and ELPS

- Beginning August 1, the English Language Proficiency Screener (ELPS) will be available for school system use. The ELPS is a tool to determine if students entering Kindergarten through grade 12 are English learners (ELs) who require supplementary support services to continue developing language proficiency in English. Students who do not score proficient on the ELPS will be identified as an EL and can receive an EL Accommodations Plan. The Summit ELPS presentation and ELPS Guidance document are posted in the Assessment Library.
- School systems should review the Summit presentation ELPT Results: Next Steps.

Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

New: DRC Online Cleanup Window Closes on 6/15

DRC has now opened the Online Cleanup System (OCS) until June 15. **This is the only opportunity that school systems and schools will have to apply accountability codes to impending zeroes before the new progress index is calculated.** The system will include student records from LEAP 2025, EOC, LEAP Connect, and LAA 1. School systems should not wait until the August data certification period to address impending zeroes.

Failure to properly update this information in DRC from 6/11 to 6/15 may impact a school's data in the annual Tuition Donation Credit report.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Donor Credit Report Available

Donor credit reports are required to be submitted at the conclusion of the Spring application process. STOs may also submit donor credit reports prior to the required deadlines. STOs should submit this report via the secure FTP site and notify LDOE personnel when the report has been submitted. The LDOE uses this information in the Donor Credit Report to prepare appropriate tax credit documentation.

Please contact lindsey.bush@la.gov with additional questions.

Reminder: Updated LEAP 2025 Parent Guide

The LEAP 2025 Parent Guide has been slightly updated and a new version is available in the Family Support Toolbox Library. Please send this report home with the student reports later this summer.

Email assessment@la.gov if you have questions.

Reminder: Prior School Checks Process Open

All students who apply for the TDC program must go through the prior school check process. The Department is accepting prior school checks for all TDC applicants. Prior school checks will be accepted every two weeks on Tuesdays. Please upload the template found here to your organizations FTP and email lindsey.bush@la.gov.

STO's will receive the verified prior school checks within one week. The next prior school check information should be turned in by STOs by Tuesday, June 26th. These will be returned to STOs by Tuesday, July 3rd.

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- School Systems should review the Summit presentations LEAP Connect Grades 3-8 Results and LEAP Connect High

School Overview.

Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information

Information about the Tuition Donation Credit Program can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions and Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart. Currently, Louisiana has four School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Credit Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund, and Son of a Saint. Schools interested in participating in the TDC program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

School Tuition Organization	Regional Focus	STO Website	Email	Phone
ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	225-245-3610
New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund	Baton Rouge	newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund	esf@newschoolsbr.org	225-395-1686
Son of a Saint	New Orleans	www.sonofasaint.org	hello@sonofasaint.org	504-561-7508

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

New: Transfer Request Form Available

In order to transfer a School Choice award from one participating school to another, families and receiving schools should complete a transfer form. Please submit transfer forms to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

All Nonpublics

New: Teacher Leader Summit Follow-Up

Thank you to those that attended the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit! If you attended the Summit, please complete this brief survey by June 15 so the Department can improve future events.

Educators can find materials from most sessions in the Teacher Leader library. In case you missed it, check out the video from the plenary highlighting the outstanding work that educators at Sallie Humble Elementary in Monroe City have done to ensure meaningful growth for every student, every day.

New: Additional Training Dates for Great Minds Tier 1 Science Curriculum

Great Minds has the first science curriculum to be rated Tier 1 in the Louisiana IMR process. While only grade 4 has been completed and reviewed, grades 3 and 5 units will be released throughout next year. Grades 3-5 educators can register to attend a two-day training, though grade 4 teachers should be prioritized.

- July 25-26 in Baton Rouge
- July 30-31 in Baton Rouge (added due to high demand)
- August 1-2 in Alexandria (added due to high demand)

All educators who attend a training will receive access to the PDFs of the grade 4 curriculum and released grades 3 and 5 units next year.

New: Fix the FAFSA Event

Please share with professional school counselors and staff responsible for financial aid planning.

Graduation has passed, but it's not too late for students to fix the FAFSA. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will be holding their Fix the FAFSA event for recent high school graduates and parents who need assistance with correcting errors and completing the FAFSA before the Louisiana July 1 priority deadline. This event is open to anyone who needs assistance with the financial aid application process.

assistance with the financial aid application process.

Where: Goodwood Library, 7711 Goodwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, 70806
When: June 30 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Please email brittani.williams@la.gov for more information about Fix the FAFSA, or see the LDOE Regional Financial Aid Calendar for other events being held throughout the state.

New: LELA FAFSA Support

Please share with professional school counselors and staff responsible for financial aid planning.

The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA) is available via phone to help any recent high school graduate in need of completing or correcting the FAFSA this summer. Call 1-844-463-2372 for live assistance with any FAFSA related question or to receive assistance working through the form. LELA also has scholarships available for recent graduates. Online registration is now available.

New: 2018 ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop

Please share with administrators, counselors, and teachers.

The 2018 ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop will be offered in multiple locations in Louisiana this fall.

- September 25: Baton Rouge- Lod Cook Alumni Center
- September 26: New Orleans- University of New Orleans
- September 27: Lafayette- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- October 3: Shreveport- Centenary College of Louisiana

During this free, half-day workshop participants will::

- get answers to the questions you have about your data and the tools you use,
- get advice on educational measurement, and
- be introduced to free personalized instructional resources.

Registration is now open and will close two weeks before each event.

Please contact tristen.guillory@la.gov with questions.

New: ACT Workforce Summit 2018

The 2018 ACT Workforce Summit will take place in New Orleans October 8-10. At the 2018 ACT Workforce Summit, educators, workforce and economic developers, Work Ready Community leaders, employers, and industry partners will unveil collaborative and innovative approaches, best practices and success stories that help students and job seekers achieve career and workplace success and employers find the talent they need to be competitive.

New: Praxis Support Guide Released

Today the Department released the Praxis Support Guide. This guide is designed to assist aspiring teachers with test preparation for the Praxis exams necessary for teacher certification.

The guide includes information about required Praxis exams for each certification area. In addition, it includes directions for creating an individualized study plan, recommendations for how to provide follow up support to someone on a study plan, and a list of test preparation resources.

If you have questions or would like to suggest additional resources to add to the guide please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.

Reminder: Correctly Coding Courses in Student Transcript System (STS)

Please share with school leaders, and counselors.

As processing begins for the graduating class of 2018, it has been observed that courses qualifying for the TOPS weighted GPA are being coded incorrectly in the Student Transcript System (STS). This error could affect students' TOPS GPA, possibly resulting in students being found ineligible or awarded the incorrect level of TOPS.

For example, if the course is English IV: Honors, the course code that should be used is 120342. If it is entered as 120334 English IV and typed in as a 5.00 scale course, the system will not recognize the course as a 5.00 course. The course will only be counted as a 4.00 course.

For a complete list of courses and course codes eligible for the TOPS weighted GPA, click here. Please validate that courses are

being entered correctly in STS.

For questions, please contact tristen.guillory@la.gov.

Reminder: End of Year Submissions and Validation Reports

Please share with data coordinators.

To assist with data submissions and error correction for STS, Validation Reports and Validation Rosters are available on the data management FTP in the Data Validation folder.

Data managers for STS should download the validation reports, analyze the data and make any necessary corrections in the source systems. This will help identify any issues before the systems close.

Please refer to the 2017-2018 Benchmark Calendar for upcoming deadlines for STS.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Sponsor Site (SPS) Changes for the 2018-2019 school year

School systems are now able to access electronic forms to request updates/changes to their system and school information that must be reviewed/approved by the Department. SPS rolled over to the 2018-2019 school year on June 1.

Please refer to the 2017-2018 Benchmark Calendar for upcoming SPS deadlines for identifying new schools and other types of updates (e.g. grade configuration, address changes, administrator changes, Alternative Schools, Alternative Programs, etc.).

Please contact kaylie.loupe@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Equitable Services Regional Meetings

The Division of Federal Programs will conduct two regional meetings on implementing effective and compliant equitable services programs to service Non-Public schools. All federal program directors, private school officials and Non-public support staff are encouraged to attend one of the regional meetings below.

Participants must register at the link below. Registration opens June 6, 2018.
WisdomWhere

Date	Region and Location	Time
Thursday, June 21, 2018	Northern Region St. Joseph Catholic Center 4400 Coliseum Blvd. Alexandria, LA 71303	8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Sign-in 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 2018	Southern Region St. Rita School 65 Fontainebleau Dr. New Orleans, LA 70125	8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Sign-in 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Meeting

If any additional information is required, please contact LDEGrant@la.gov

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **June 12th District Newsletter** or the **June 7th Nonpublic Newsletter**, please visit the LDOE Newsroom.

To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

LDOE Contacts
John White

LDOE Links

John White
State Superintendent of Education
877.453.2721 (toll-free)
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

LDOE Website

Contact Us

STAY CONNECTED