

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



June 21, 2018

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
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

Reminder: 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.

Since the LDOE has received a large number of transfer requests, we appreciate schools patience as we process these requests in the order received.

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). Districts will need to update to this latest version to complete any LEAP 2025 or LEAP 360 testing after June 28. If LEAs configured devices to auto-update when INSIGHT was installed, the software will automatically download and install this update upon launch. If LEAs did not configure INSIGHT to auto-update, LEAs will need to manually install INSIGHT before completing any testing.
- The Department released [State Placement Test Guidance](#) in the Assessment Library. This test is for school systems to use for students seeking to transfer to a public school in grades 5 or 9 from any in-state nonpublic school, approved home study program, or out-of-state school.

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 closed 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](#).
- [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 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 eDIRECT 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: Financial Reports Due

According to Bulletin 134, STO's must submit to the LDOE a financial report at least six months following the end of their fiscal year. This report should be completed by a certified public account on behalf of the School Tuition Organizations, not individual schools.

Please see Chapter 7 of [Bulletin 134](#) or email Lindsey.Bush@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: 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: 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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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: Submit Final Expense Report for Education Excellence Fund

If your school or school system received a payment from the 2017-2018 [Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) this year, please be advised of the following important dates:

- June 30: Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds
- July 15: Deadline for EEF recipients to submit Final 6/30 Periodic Expense Reports (PERs)

Please note: Final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the following year, so EEF recipients that do not submit a Final PER by July 15 may experience delays in accessing their EEF funds for 2018-2019.

An important reminder: When completing the PER, notice on the first tab (labeled Expenditure Obligation Summary) that there is a box at the bottom with a checkbox for Final Expenditure. Check that, otherwise your PER will not be reported as Final and it will have to be corrected and resubmitted.

For further information, see [eGMS Payment Quick Reference](#), the [Periodic Expense Report Instructions](#) or contact tameca.jeanpierre@la.gov.

New: Registration Opens for Biology Teacher Training

Inquiry Hub contains open sourced resources for biology teachers. They have released several high quality biology units, which are linked in the Department's [Biology Sample Scope and Sequence document](#). The units are anchored in phenomena and aligned to Louisiana Student Standards for Science.

In order to support teachers in the use of these units, the Department is hosting two training opportunities, July 9-12 in Baton Rouge and Alexandria. To ensure every school system has the opportunity to send a Biology teacher, only one Biology teacher from each school system will have an opportunity to [register in SolutionWhere](#) using the registration code BioSci2. If more than one teacher from a school system registers for the session, the last person that registers will be removed from the training session. On June 25, any remaining open seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

New: STOP School Violence Federal Grant Announced

The U.S. Department of Justice is seeking applications for funding under the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act Program. Two grant solicitations have been released:

- [This solicitation](#) specifically seeks applications that address the development and operation of school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams and the development of technology for local or regional anonymous reporting systems.
- [This solicitation](#) specifically seeks applications that address training school personnel and educating students to prevent student violence and training school officials in responding to related mental health crises.

Units of local governments are eligible to apply and may issue subawards to local education agencies. Applications under both solicitations are due on July 23.

Reminder: 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.

School systems can contact margaret.goodner@greatminds.org for information regarding adoption or contact louisianastandards@la.gov with additional questions.

Reminder: 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.

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.

Reminder: 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.

For more information please contact carmichael@lpfa.com.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

For more information, please email elizabeth.conlon@act.org.

Reminder: 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.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **June 19th District Newsletter** or the **June 14th 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](#)
State Superintendent of Education
877.453.2721 (toll-free)
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
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