

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



July 12, 2018

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
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: LEAP 2025 Data Released

The Department released the [2018 LEAP 2025 results](#) Tuesday. This release is the first step in a series of student progress data releases. Below is a timeline of relevant data release dates:

- **Friday, July 6:** 3-7 growth-to-mastery 2018-2019 target rosters were released in eDIRECT portal (for planning). The rosters provide student growth targets for the 2018-2019 school year.
- **August:** Annual rates of progress from one year to the next for students, schools, and school systems
- **Fall:** Scholarship Cohort Indexes that combine proficiency rates and progress rates, reported in School Finder

If you have questions about accessing the 2018 LEAP results for your school or individual students, reach out to assessment@la.gov.

New: Achievement Level Descriptors

Please share with principals and teachers

Please share with principals and teachers.

Achievement level descriptors (ALDs) are available in the [Assessment](#) library for grades 3-8 English language arts, mathematics, and social studies, and the English I, English II, Algebra I, and Geometry high school courses. After standard setting, the U.S. History ALDs will be finalized and added to the Assessment library in the fall. Biology and grades 3-8 science will follow in fall 2019.

ALDs provide educators with more detailed descriptions of the knowledge and skills the average student performing at each achievement level is expected to demonstrate on the LEAP 2025 test. Educators can look to ALDs to help answer questions like:

- What can I expect this student performing at Basic to know and demonstrate?
- What is the difference in expectation to move a student from Basic to Mastery?
- What instructional changes would support that movement?

[Additional information](#) is also available, by content area, on how ALDs can provide additional insight to educators when reviewing LEAP 2025 student performance.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Bulletin 118 Update

Please share with school test coordinators and principals.

[Bulletin 118](#) has been updated and the following changes regarding ACT WorkKeys will be in effect for the start of the 2018-2019 school year:

- Students shall be subject to a 30-day wait period before retesting on WorkKeys assessments, during which time LEAs shall provide remediation.
- For schools or systems that administer WorkKeys assessments on non-LDOE realms, there is a new [addendum to the ACT data sharing agreement](#) that can be signed and returned to idedata@la.gov.

Bulletin 118 also states that school systems must administer all assessments according to the testing schedule dates approved by BESE. The BESE approved testing window for WorkKeys is:

- October 1, 2018 - April 12, 2019 (CBT)
- October 1-12, 2018 - (PBT for fall accommodated paper)
- March 13-27, 2019 - (PBT for spring accommodated paper test)

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

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

- Data certification for ACT and DCAI will begin in early August. It is very important that all changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the Assessment Library.
- On June 28, DRC released 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). 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.
- In June BESE approved the Test Irregularity Review Committee comprised of national, state, and local testing experts. Any superintendent/charter leader wishing to nominate their accountability representative should email the individual's resume to assessment@la.gov by July 31.
- The State Placement Test Coordinator Manual is posted in [eDIRECT](#). Test setup and the additional materials window open on August 3.
- The deadline for DTCs and accountability contacts to complete the [End of Year Survey](#) is July 20.

- Diagnostic and Interim Quick Start Guides are posted in the [LEAP 360](#) Library.
- Diagnostic and Interim test setup for 2018-2019 will be available on July 16 in [eDIRECT](#).

LEAP 2025

- High School Practice Test Teacher Access is live. Teachers may access the online practice tests by copying and pasting the [teacher access link](#) into Google Chrome. The usernames and passwords are located in the [Practice Test Quick Start Guide](#).

ELPT and ELPS

- TIDE will close for the 2017-2018 school year on July 16. TIDE will open on July 23 for user and student management.
- ORS will close from July 18 - July 20 and in the first weeks of August. School systems should download any ELPT data that will be needed during these times.

ACT and WorkKeys

- Superintendents, finance contacts, and DTCs received an email containing the 2017-2018 ACT and WorkKeys invoice. Payments are due by July 15 and should be mailed to the following address including 2017-2018 ACT on the check (overpayments, if applicable, will be refunded to school systems by July 30):

Louisiana Department of Education
Division of Appropriation Control
PO Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

Assessment Administration Support and Training

The Assessment and Accountability Monthly Webinar will be held on July 17 at 1:00 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://ldoe.zoom.us/> and enter meeting ID# 393 463 942; or
- dial 1 (669) 900-6833 and enter meeting ID # 393 463 942.

Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

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[Additional information](#) is also available, by content area, on how ALDs can provide additional insight to educators when reviewing LEAP 2025 student performance.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

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.

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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: 2018-2019 Award Amount

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities award amount is 50% of MFP for the district in which the student resides. Award amount per school district can be found [here](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: 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: Department Transitions to Zoom Platform for All Webinars

Please share this information with all school system supervisors.

Starting July 1, the Department began using [Zoom](#) for all of its webinars and will no longer use the Adobe Connect platform. Therefore, school system leaders should pay close attention to the new links and meeting IDs for upcoming webinars, as all previously used links for regularly scheduled meetings are no longer valid.

Webinar participants are also encouraged to log on to their first Zoom webinar 10-15 minutes early to ensure that they are able to successfully open, or if needed download, the Zoom application.

Please email edtech@la.gov with questions.

New: Family Engagement Back-to-School Meeting

Please share with family engagement coordinators.

In preparation for the start of the 2018-2019 school year, the Department is hosting a meeting for family engagement coordinators to review back-to-school materials, and new legislation that will impact families this year.

School system family engagement coordinators are encouraged to attend this meeting on July 25, either in person or virtually.

- Meeting date: July 25 from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- In-person meeting location: Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, Arkansas Room
- Virtual meeting location: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/261499663>

Please email annie.morrison@la.gov with questions.

New: SCA Course Choice Fall 2018 Registration

Please share with professional school counselors and high school supervisors.

The Louisiana Course Choice program provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers. These course offerings enable schools to provide courses not currently available to students, including:

- career and technical preparation supporting the Jump Start program;
- academic work required to achieve TOPS;
- advanced coursework not available at the school due to limited resources;
- dual enrollment courses from colleges and universities; and
- intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation.

Registration for Course Choice for the 2018-2019 school year opened on July 1 and will close September 14 at 5:00 p.m. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process.

Schools will register students directly with the course providers, and must document all Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) Course Choice enrollments in the [Course Choice Registration System](#) by the end of registration deadlines in order to fund the courses using SCA.

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

New: 2018-2019 Louisiana Principal Fellowship Program Registration

The Louisiana Principal Fellowship Program is designed to support school leaders in their work as instructional leaders using the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL): Executive Development Program (EDP) model. This program is designed for principals, assistant principals, aspiring leaders, and school system staff. The cost per participant is \$7,100.

[Registration](#) is now open and will close on July 20.

New: July 2018 Budget Letter

Please share with business managers and finance managers.

A revised final [FY2018-2019 MFP](#) July allocation is now posted on the Department's website. The updates include slight revisions to audit adjustments.

New: 2018-2019 Child Nutrition Program Administrative Review (AR) Schedule

Please share with child nutrition supervisors.

As part of the Department's USDA Child Nutrition Program monitoring, the Department has released the [Annual Administrative Review Schedule for 2018-2019](#).

The Department's AR team leader will contact each school system that is scheduled for review. The off-site [Administrative Review Forms](#) are due on September 10.

Please email shanna.legier@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: June 2018 Budget Letter

Please share with business managers and finance managers.

The [June 2018 MFP allocations and payments](#) are available on the Department's website. A memo depicting changes to the [final MFP allocations for FY2017-2018](#) is also available.

For assistance with questions regarding the MFP allocations and these related matters, please email ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov.

Reminder: June BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on June 20 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A [summary](#) of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies is available.

Please email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Policy 2018 Legislative Update

Please review the [overview](#) of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session. Email erin.bendily@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Statistical Reasoning Approved as a Core Math Credit

In their recent joint meeting, BESE and the Board of Regents approved Statistical Reasoning as a core math credit for students on both a TOPS University Diploma and Jump Start TOPS Tech Diploma. School systems/schools interested in implementing this course can contact [Dr. Guillermo Ferreyra](#) for information regarding teacher training and curriculum materials.

Please email stem@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **July 10th District Newsletter** or the **June 28th 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](#)

[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

