

Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



August 2, 2018

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP	8/23/18	Attend Scholarship Program Kickoff Webinar	School leaders, Scholarship contacts, and Diocesan personnel
All nonpublics that participate in Child Nutrition Program	9/10/18	Complete off-site Administrative Review Forms	Child nutrition supervisors
LSP, TDC	9/10/18	Complete Assessment Development Educator Review Committee Survey	School leaders or ELA teachers

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Save the Date--Scholarship Program Kickoff Webinar

The Louisiana Department of Education will be holding a webinar at 11:30am on August 23rd for all school leaders, Scholarship contacts, and Diocesan personnel who will take part in the Louisiana Scholarship Program in 2018-19. This meeting will give school leaders the opportunity to learn about assessment and accountability resources, and will review action items that must be completed at the beginning of the school year for all Scholarship schools.

A link and phone number to the conference call will be made available in subsequent newsletters.

New: Tuition Information for the 2018-19 School Year

The Louisiana Scholarship Program relies on an annual appropriation from the Louisiana Legislature for funding. The amount of this appropriation has varied from year to year. The demand from families for Scholarship awards continues to increase while Legislative appropriations have not kept pace with this need.

For the 2018-19 school year, the Louisiana Scholarship Program has been awarded approximately \$41.6 million. These funds will accommodate all the students that have already been admitted to the program. However, the increase in family demand means that the Department is requesting that all schools freeze Scholarship student tuition at 2017-18 levels. This tuition freeze will not impact the amount schools can charge tuition-paying students.

In the coming weeks, the Department will ask school leaders to complete a familiar series of action items related to student enrollment, programmatic compliance, and the amount schools will charge tuition-paying students for the 2018-19 school year. The need to keep Scholarship student tuition steady at 2017-18 levels does not impact these action items, and more guidance on completing these tasks will be sent in subsequent communications

New: August Superintendents Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the August Superintendents Call hosted by Superintendent John White on August 8, 10:30 a.m. Superintendents are encouraged to log on to the webinar at least 10-15 minutes in advanced if this is their first time using Zoom.

To join the August 8 meeting:

- Go to <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/462965483>
- Dial 1-844-264-8015
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #7186038
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

View the [Instructions for Joining a Zoom Webinar](#) for more information on how to access this call.

New: Assessment Resources

Please share with principals and teachers.

The following assessment resources are available now or will be available soon.

Grades 3-8	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies
Available Now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA Guidebooks • Assessment Guides • Rubrics • Practice Tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louisiana Guides to Implementing Tier I Math Curriculum • Assessment Guides • Practice Tests • Equation Builder Guides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Scope & Sequence Documents • Assessment Guides • LEAP 2025 Science Assessments Overview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies Scope & Sequence and Companion Documents • Assessment Guides • Sample item sets and task sets • Practice Tests
Coming Soon			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Tests 	

	English I & II	Algebra I & Geometry	Biology	U.S. History
Available Now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Guides • Practice Tests • Rubrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Guides • Practice Tests • Equation Builder Guide • Desmos links 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Guides • Practice Test • LEAP 2025 Science Assessments Overview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Guides • Practice Test • Sample Test Item Set and Task Set • US History Achievement Level Descriptors

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Release of 2017-2018 Advanced Placement Results

The Department will release 2018 school system-level AP results in the data management FTP on Wednesday, August 8. School

The Department will release the results of the system-level assessment of the data management system on Thursday, August 9. School system leaders and accountability contacts will receive an email from Assistant Superintendent Ken Bradford on Wednesday evening notifying them once the files are available.

State and school system-level results will be made public on Thursday, August 9 and will be available in the High School Results library.

Reminder: Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

Please share with principals and teachers.

The Department is now recruiting for [ELA Item Content and Bias Review Committees](#).

- Committees for ELA grades 3 and 4 will convene the week of September 22
- Committees for ELA grades 5-8 and English I and II will convene the week of October 22
- Selected participants will review newly developed ELA test items.

Committee participants have the opportunity to develop understanding of state assessments and ensure that tests are aligned to the standards, appropriate for the grade or course, and appropriate for Louisiana students. Additionally, the educators that do this work learn how to better use assessments in their classrooms or school systems.

To apply to be a participant, any interested educator needs to complete an interest survey themselves, and may complete surveys for more than one committee. Everyone who completes the interest survey is considered for selection but is not guaranteed a seat on the committee. Surveys close **August 10, 2018**.

Interest Survey Links:

- [ELA grades 3 and 4](#)
- [ELA grades 5-8, English I and English II](#)

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.
- The State Placement Test Administrator Manual is posted in [eDIRECT](#). Test setup and the additional materials window opens this Friday, August 3.
- Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese versions of the English Learner Checklist have been posted to the [Assessment Library](#).

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 Diagnostic Teacher Study Guides are now available in [eDIRECT](#), including answer keys, scoring guides, and copies of the assessments. Teacher Study Guides can be found in General Information under Documents; select the Diagnostic/Interim 18-19 administration and the Teacher Study Guides document type.
- Student data and accommodations will be managed via eScholar and SIS/SER. Updates to eScholar and SIS/SER will be refreshed nightly in [eDIRECT](#). Student data can be viewed/edited through the Student Management tab in [eDIRECT](#).
- Through the Student Groups tab in [eDIRECT](#), student groups can be created to associate students and teachers. Through this association, teachers can quickly access their students' information, testing status, and reports.

LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect

- DTCs can now manage users for LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect for the 2018-2019 school year in [eDIRECT](#).

ACT and WorkKeys

- All emails from ACT will now come from statetesting@operations.act.org. To continue receiving email from ACT, make sure your email system's list of allowed addresses (whitelist) includes all of the following: statetesting@operations.act.org, statetesting@act.org, @operations.act.org or @act.org

- [Bulletin 118](#) has been updated and effective beginning in SY 2018-19 as follows:
 - Students shall be subject to a 30-day wait period before retesting on WorkKeys assessments, during which time school systems shall provide remediation.
- DTCs can now manage participation and shipping dates in PearsonAccessnext and place orders for initial test materials for accommodated WorkKeys.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

The Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call for nonpublic schools will be held on August 7 at 2:00 p.m. See webinar details below.

- Webinar Link: www.ldoe.zoom.us
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 (669) 900-6833
- Meeting ID#: 393 463 942

The [2017-2018 Assessment and Accountability Monthly Calls](#) are now located in one reference document in the [Assessment Library](#).

Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

New: Assessment Resources

Please share with principals and teachers.

The following assessment resources are available now or will be available soon.

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LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect

- DTCs can now manage users for LEAP 2025 and LEAP Connect for the 2018-2019 school year in [eDIRECT](#).

Assessment Administration Support and Training

The Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be held on August 7 at 1:00 p.m. See webinar details below.

- Webinar Link: www.ldoe.zoom.us
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 (669) 900-6833
- Meeting ID#: 393 463 942

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

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

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: Legislative Update: Teaching Authorizations

Act 634 of the 2018 Legislative session went into effect and requires the Department to issue teaching authorizations to substitute teachers in public schools, as well as to substitute teachers, teachers, and administrators in public charter schools and nonpublic schools in which teaching certification is not required.

As a result of this legal requirement, school systems must apply for a teaching authorization for all substitute teachers hired on or after July 1, 2018. The application for the authorization will be available on [Teach LA Live!](#) by August 15.

The Department will hold webinars after the application is released to provide additional details about the application. The invitation for the webinar will be sent directly to HR Directors.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

New: Family Engagement Coordinator Meeting

New: Family Engagement Meeting

The Department hosted a back-to-school meeting for Family Engagement Coordinators on July 25. Below are the materials shared during this meeting.

- [Family Engagement Coordinator Meeting presentation](#)
- [2018-2019 Educator Resource Guide](#) highlighting instructional priorities and resources to support educators with the start of the 2018-2019 school year.
- [Back-to-School Night Presentation](#): Customizable presentation that school leaders and teachers can use to provide parents with information on 2018-2019 academic goals, standards, and assessments which help to meet ESSA parent engagement requirements.
- [Parent Back-to-School Guides](#): provide families with information and resources to support learning at home for the 2018-2019 school year.

The 2018 Family-Focused Legislation Guide will be available in the newsletter on August 7. Please email annie.morrison@la.gov with questions.

New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers of STS. Topics will include 2018-2019 startup information for data submissions, upcoming deadlines, system enhancements, other updates and best practices.

- Meeting Date & Time: August 9 at 1:00 pm.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929>
- Phone: 1-408-638-0968
- Meeting ID: 976 397 929

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Back-to-School Materials Released

Please share these resources with principals and teachers.

The Department is committed to providing all educators-teachers, principals, and school system leaders-with the supports and resources they need to continue raising the bar for students in Louisiana.

Here are resources released today by Department to support the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

- [2018-2019 Educator Resource Guide](#) highlighting instructional priorities and resources to support educators with the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The guide is located in the [School System](#), [Principal](#) and [Teacher](#) Toolboxes and will be updated each month.
- [Updated 2018-2019 School System Support Calendar](#): Schedule of in-person trainings, virtual support, tools and resources, and communication streams designed to support educators
- [Back-to-School Night Presentation](#): Customizable presentation that school leaders and teachers can use to provide parents with information on 2018-2019 academic goals, standards, and assessments.
- [Parent Back-to-School Guides](#): provide families with information and resources to support learning at home for the 2018-2019 school year.
 - Guides are currently available for parents of 3-12 students, English learners, and students with disabilities.
 - Guide for parents of PK-2 students and translated versions of all guides will be available by early August.

Email ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Immunizations and School Admissions Requirements

Please note when registering students for the 2018-19 school year that unvaccinated students cannot be denied admittance to a school if a parent or guardian submits a written dissent or a written statement from a physician to school leadership. For more information, please see [R.S. 17:170, 170.3, and 170.4](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

Reminder: Louisiana STEM Advisory Council Statewide Summit

Please share with STEM Coordinators

The inaugural LaSTEM Statewide summit will be held on September 7 at Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. The Summit will:

- showcase some of the most effective, resourceful, and impactful STEM activities and programs in Louisiana, as well as some federal STEM agencies, through interactive exhibits and demonstrations;
- provide a venue for STEM teacher professional development programs to host up to a full day of training for K-12 STEM educators;
- host informative and engaging breakout sessions for educators, administrators, legislators and leaders from PK-

Postsecondary education about STEM policy trends, school and industry partnerships, the creation and development of Regional STEM Hubs in Louisiana, and success stories of existing STEM ecosystems in Louisiana and throughout the country; and

- function as a fundraiser for the support of LaSTEM initiatives and LaSTEM-endorsed programs.

There is no cost to attend the event, but interested participants must [register](#) using their school system email address. Lunch will be provided.

For additional information please contact lastem@regents.la.gov.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **July 31st District Newsletter** or the **July 26th 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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