



August 30, 2018

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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP, TDC	9/6/18	Register for Supervisor and Principal Collaborations	Principals, Testing Coordinators, and Curriculum Coordinators
LSP, SCP	9/7/18	Complete Q1 enrollment count	School leaders or Scholarship contacts
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
All nonpublics	9/28/18	Complete BESE approval required submissions	School leaders

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Quarter One Count Opens September 5th

The quarter one count for Scholarships schools will be September 5th-7th. Enrollment counts are completed in [SEE](#). Instructions on reporting enrollment will be sent to schools via email once enrollment opens.

Please remember that LEADs passwords expire every 30 days and must be reset at <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov/>. If you

need access to SEE, please reach out to studentscholarships@la.gov for an access form.

Additionally, student absences and suspensions are now required to be reported in SEE. This information is used towards VAM results that factor in to a school's Progress Index at the end of the year and will impact a school's academic accountability. Progress Index is part of the formula for calculating the Scholarship Cohort Index.

If you have any questions about the Q1 count, please reach out to studentscholarships@la.gov.

New: Release of 2017-2018 LEAP 2025 Progress Data

Earlier this week, the Department released 2017-2018 LEAP 2025 progress data to the public. School system leaders have received a copy of state, school-system, and school-level top growth progress summaries via email. These files were also posted to the [PK-8](#) and [High School Performance](#) libraries.

The following progress data are currently available to school system leaders.

File	Location
2018 LEAP 2025 Subgroup Progress Summary (School System Only)	Louisiana Data Review available to accountability contacts under "Downloadable Roster Files"
2017-2018 Progress Index VAM Exclusion Rosters	
2017-2018 Progress Index Point Roster	
2018 LEAP 2025 Progress Summary	Secure FTP
2016-2017 Progress Index Rosters	Louisiana Secure Portal

Last week, the Department hosted a webinar to provide school system leaders with an overview of the student progress measure and how this data should be used to improve student achievement. A copy of the [presentation](#) and [recording of the webinar](#) are now available.

Please email assessment@la.gov with additional questions.

New: Practice Test Access and Webinars

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

Practice Test Access

- Practice tests for high school have been available in [teacher access](#) since July and will be available for student access in September.
- Practice tests for grades 3-8 will be available in [teacher access](#) in September and in student access in January.

Practice Test Webinars

The Department will host three webinars in October and January for individuals who may need a refresher on using practice tests or those who are new to this resource.

- October 3 at 4:00 p.m.
- October 16 at 3:00 p.m.
- January 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Teachers and supervisors who attend this webinar will learn general information about resources and specific information about best uses and common misuses. Additional details regarding these webinars will be provided in the newsletter in September.

New: Entering Students in eScholar

In order to use LEAP360, students must be entered into eScholar. Before entering information into eScholar, it is necessary for you to enter into data sharing agreements with both eScholar and LEAP360 (DRC) to ensure the privacy, security, and confidentiality of student data. Please follow the steps below:

- Review the agreement (see below). Use the opt-in link to download and sign the addendum.
- Email the signed addendum to LDEData@la.gov.
- Email Anantha.Lakkakula@la.gov to request an eScholar account.
- Submit your enrollment data to eScholar. This can be done via file upload or online entry. Anantha.Lakkakula@la.gov can also assist with this process.

Contractor	Purpose	Action
eScholar	Developing, deploying, and maintaining a unique statewide student identifier system - LA Secure ID system.	If opted in last school year, no action is needed at this time. If not, opt in as applicable.

DRC (Data Recognition Corporation) Non-Summative Assessments	Provide statewide non-summative assessment administration, scoring, and reporting services for all non-summative assessments. This tool is a replacement for EAGLE.	applicable. If opted in last school year, no action is needed at this time. If not, opt in as applicable.
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New: September School System Planning Call

The September School System Planning Call will take place on September 5 at 1:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- Curriculum and instruction supervisors
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Personnel directors
- Talent (Mentors, Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders) supervisors
- Meeting Date and Time: September 5 at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- Meeting ID#: 398875849
- Please enter your full name, and school system name when logging in.

Please reach out to studentscholarships@la.gov with any 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

- 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](#).
- BESE approved [revision](#) to the state placement test policy for out-of-state, nonpublic, and home study students enrolling in grades 5 or 9. These students are still required to take the state placement test, but passing with Basic or above is no longer required. School systems should use a preponderance of evidence to determine promotion or retention.
- State Placement Test student reports will be available in eDIRECT within the week.
- School systems wishing to appeal LDOE assessment voids must send a complete appeal request to assessment@la.gov by September 7.
- August 31 is the opening period to purchase Caveon Services.
- School Systems selected for test security plan audits must submit their test security plans to assessment@la.gov by August 31.
- Prior to testing in INSIGHT all schools and school systems should run the system readiness check to ensure devices are ready for testing. Instructions can be found in the [Technology User Guide](#).

LEAP 2025

- Access LEAP 2025 Online Tools Training (OTT) in INSIGHT or via website in Google Chrome and available Student Tutorials in eDIRECT.
- Begin installing TSMs and INSIGHT on devices that will be used for online assessments using the [eDIRECT Technology User Guide](#).

LEAP 360

- Version 6 of [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#) is now available. New EAGLE items have been added to the Appendix.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be held on September 4 at 1:00 p.m.

- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- Webinar Phone Number: 669-900-6833
- Meeting ID#: 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

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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	brandy@newschoolsbr.org	225-384-0271

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

New: Quarter One Count Opens September 5th

The quarter one count for School Choice schools will be September 5th-7th. Enrollment counts are completed in [SCS](#). Instructions on reporting enrollment will be sent to schools via email once enrollment opens.

Please remember that LEADs passwords expire every 30 days and must be reset at <https://password.doe.louisiana.gov>.

If you have any questions or need access to SCS, please reach out to nonpublicschools@la.gov.

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: Shortage Areas for Federal Loan Forgiveness--Feedback Requested

The Department is finalizing the shortage areas that are reported to the U.S. Department of Education each year. This information is used to determine eligibility for loan deferment, loan cancellation, or reduction of teaching obligations for participants in the Family Federal Education Loan (FFEL) Program; the Federal Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) Program; the Federal Perkins Loan Program; the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program; or the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program.

For 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, the Department plans to report the below areas, which align with the areas that have the highest percentage of classes being taught by out-of-field/uncertified teachers, as well as foreign language and ESL.

- Special Education
- Middle and Secondary Mathematics
- Middle and Secondary Science
- Middle and Secondary Foreign Language
- ESL

Please reach out to Sara DeLano at sara.delano@la.gov by Friday, 9/7 with any feedback regarding these shortage areas.

New: Date Change for 2019 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with principals and teachers.

The dates previously announced for the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit have changed. The Summit will now take place June 26-28, 2019 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The [2018-2019 School System Planning Calendar](#) has been updated to reflect this change.

Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

New: Opportunity for Early Childhood Community Networks

Louisiana has worked to establish a foundation of fundamental quality standards in early childhood care and education. To address the challenges of access and quality, the Department will release a Request for Applications later this week seeking community networks ready to lead the state with bold ideas. An informational webinar will be scheduled and linked in the RFA.

New: Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid (LOSFA) Workshops

Please share with professional school counselors.

The LOSFA Professional School Counselor Workshops are designed to help students gain college access and persist through the first year of postsecondary education. Topics include LOSFA's 5-Point Match, FAFSA updates from the Department and LOSFA, college admissions procedures, and TOPS application processing.

[Register](#) for one of the following dates:

- Baton Rouge: September 17
- New Orleans: September 18
- Lafayette: September 19
- Lake Charles: September 20
- Shreveport: September 24
- Monroe: September 25
- Alexandria: September 26

Schools can register up to eight counselors at once. Counselors who wish to attend a different or additional workshop must register for that location separately.

Please contact rhonda.bridevaux@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Completing the Nonpublic School Approval Process

All schools must submit a series of documents to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to receive BESE approval for the 2019-20 school year.

The LDOE has sent a communication regarding the 2019-20 nonpublic school approval process to all schools that are BESE-approved for the 2018-19 school year. If your school leader has changed since Fall of 2018, please email Nonpublicschools@LA.gov with the name and email address of your new school leader to ensure that they receive this communication as well as submit a [change form](#) so that we can update our systems with correct school information.

The LDOE has created an [online survey](#) to collect all required documentation. Schools will no longer need to log in to the FTP to complete the NPS approval process. Completing this only survey is expected to take 10-15 minutes. This survey and required submissions are due by **September 28th**.

After reviewing the [attached checklist](#), access the [online survey](#) and submit your school's documents.

Reminder: Registration for September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations

Registration for the September [Supervisor](#) and [Teacher Leader](#) Collaborations opened on August 17 in Wisdomwhere and will close September 6.

- Supervisors can [register](#) for the event using the key code "SUPC2018."
- Teacher Leaders should [register](#) directly in Wisdomwhere. No code is required.

This year, each collaboration will begin with a general session that will frame the Department's priorities for the 2018-2019 school year. Sessions will be focused on two areas: supporting the implementation of School System Redesign Plans for 2018-2019 and planning for 2019-2020 to support early childhood, curriculum and instruction, special education, assessments and accountability, workforce, and high school opportunities.

The Collaborations will be offered on the following dates and locations:

- September 10: Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third St, Baton Rouge
- September 13: Jefferson Parish School Board Building, 501 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey
- September 17: Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third St, Baton Rouge
- September 18: Trinity United Methodist Church, 1000 Woodward Avenue, Ruston

The Supervisor Collaboration sessions run from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m, and the Teacher Leader Collaboration sessions run from 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at each event. Additional details, including session information, are available in the [Supervisor](#) and [Teacher Leader](#) overview documents.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov if you have any questions regarding these events.

Reminder: Quest for Success Course

Please share with Career and Technical Education (CTE) supervisors and school leadership.

The Department is excited to announce the launch of a new course, [Quest for Success](#) - an innovative, new, high school-level, career exploration course being piloted this fall. The new course will help students to:

- develop essential 21st century workforce skills - the ability to communicate, collaborate, and lead;
- explore new and exciting careers and industry sectors; and
- learn about themselves and their interests to successfully navigate high school, postsecondary education, and career pathways.

The course will eventually replace the current Journey to Careers course, and was written by leading educators from across the state as part of the [Louisiana Educator Voice Fellowship](#), a partnership between the Department and [America Achieves](#), a national non-profit organization.

This fall, the course will be piloted by teachers who received Quest for Success training at Jump Start Super Summer Institute. Any school system interested in administering this course during the 2019-2020 school year should reach out to tedrick.holmes@la.gov for additional information.

Reminder: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers of eScholar and STS on September 6 at 1:00 p.m. Topics will include 2018-2019 data submissions, upcoming deadlines, system enhancements, other updates and best practices.

- Meeting Date and Time: September 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929>

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: August BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on August 15 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A [summary](#) of the approvals that directly impact the activities of school systems is now available.

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

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **August 28th District Newsletter** or the **August 23rd 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

