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Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

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<tr>
<th>School Choice Program</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action, Event, or Deadline</th>
<th>Owners</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSP</td>
<td>10/19/18</td>
<td>Submit ICQ and Scholarship Program Budget</td>
<td>School leaders or finance directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSP</td>
<td>10/24/18</td>
<td>Submit Notice of Intent to participate for 2019-20 school year</td>
<td>School leaders or Scholarship contacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All nonpublics</td>
<td>10/31/18</td>
<td>Submit EEF application</td>
<td>School leaders or finance directors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: Louisiana Scholarship Program Notice of Intent Available

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to participate in the Louisiana Scholarship Program for the 2019-20 school year has been released. All schools that identified that they would like to participate in the Scholarship program for the 2019-20 school year on their Nonpublic School Approval form received a direct communication. On the NOI, schools will indicate whether they will take new Scholarship students next year, and in what grades they would like to open seats.

If you have any questions about the Notice of Intent process or have decided after submitting your Nonpublic School Approval form that you would like to participate in the Scholarship program, please contact studentscholarships@la.gov.

New: Release of 2018 ACT Data

On October 17, ACT released its 2018 "The Condition of College and Career Readiness" report outlining national trends in the
On October 17, ACT released its 2018 “The Condition of College and Career Readiness” report outlining national trends in the 2018 administration of the ACT. In preparation for this release, school system leaders have received an individual, unsuppressed school system and school-level summary file, named “LEA code_LEA Name_2018_ACT 12 Grade Best Score Results,” via the FTP. Suppressed statewide, school system, and school-level results were posted to the website.

In addition to the 2018 data, ACT has also posted updated District Profile Reports in PANext for students in grade 11 who tested in the spring of 2018.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

**New: Release of School and Center Performance Communications Toolkits**

Please share with family engagement coordinators, principals and early childhood directors.

Today, the Department released a [toolkit](#) to help school systems, schools, and early childhood centers communicate the release of their 2018 performance scores in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). The toolkit includes resources such as:

- School Finder flyer, poster, website button, and social media graphics
- Sample early childhood and K-12 news releases
- Animated videos to help explain early childhood performance profiles (coming week of Oct. 22)
- Early childhood and K-12 customizable parent night presentations (coming week of Oct. 22)

All resources are available in the [principal support library](#). All videos are available on the Department's [YouTube channel](#) on the "School Finder" playlist.

**Reminder: Timeline for Fall School System and School Performance Score Release**

Please share with principals.

The 2017-2018 school system and school-level performance scores will be released through the Louisiana School Finder on November 8. Below is a timeline of events that will take place before and after this release.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Cohort Indices and % of students earning Basic or above information will be dropped in school/Diocesan FTP sites</td>
<td>Week of 11/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briefing calls with Diocesan superintendents</td>
<td>Week of 11/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release of school and school system performance scores in School Finder</td>
<td>November 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briefing calls with individual schools</td>
<td>November 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

**Reminder: Scholarship Audit - Internal Control Questionnaire**

Participating Scholarship schools are required to complete the [Internal Control Questionnaire](#). This information is provided to assist in evaluating that financial operations are effective and efficient and that schools have a reliable financial reporting system and comply with applicable laws and regulations. The completed questionnaire is due by **Friday, October 19, 2018** via e-mail to staudit@la.gov.

**Reminder: Scholarship Program Budget**

The initial [Scholarship Program budget](#) is due **Friday, October 19, 2018**. Schools should provide specific details in this budget demonstrating how the total estimated SSEEP revenue will be allocated and spent for the 2018-2019 school year (No actual expenditures should be reported in the expenditures column at this time).

Submit your [budget form](#) via e-mail to staudit@la.gov.

Please reach out to Anindya.Ahmed@la.gov with any questions or concerns about the audit process.

**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 cannot exceed their student enrollment caps. Families should not buy uniforms or other supplies until the Department has approved the transfer.
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.
- Assessment windows for Program for International Assessment (PISA) and the International Early Learning Study (IELS) are listed below. These assessments are administered to selected schools by Westat.
  - PISA: Now - November 30
  - IELS: Now - December 7

LEAP 360

- The new Interactive Reporting tool is now available for teacher use to view student item responses and data in eDIRECT. To gain access to the tool, DRC IRS permissions must be assigned to school system, school, and teacher/test administrator users through the User Management tab in eDIRECT.
- Student access for all grades Interim Form 1, high school Forms 2-3, and grades 6-8 mathematics Form 2 will be available on October 23. Teacher access is available now through the Interim Quick Start Guide.

LEAP 2025

- School systems can now indicate the delivery mode, online or paper, in eDIRECT for grades 3 and 4 LEAP 2025 testing. In addition, school systems will verify or adjust the number of test booklets needed for the following conditions:
  - Grades 3 and 4 Regular Books (Paper Testers Only)
  - Grades 3 and 4 Accommodated Books (Paper Testers Only)
  - Grades 3 and 4 Large Print Books (Paper Testers Only)
  - Grades 3 and 4 Spanish Mathematics Books (Paper Tests Only)
  - Grades 3-8 Braille Kits
  - Grades 3-8 Communication Assistance Scripts

  Directions are available in eDIRECT. The window for selecting test delivery mode and verifying student counts will close on October 31.

- New: Social Studies Test Reduction Webinar
  - Social studies teachers and instructional supervisors/coaches should join the Social Studies Test Reduction Webinar to learn about how the reduction affects instruction and test administration.
  - Webinar Date and Time: November 1 at 3:30 p.m.
  - Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/391641404
  - Webinar Phone Number: 669-900-6833
  - Meeting ID#: 391641404

- New: Deconstructing Mathematics Constructed-Response Items Webinar
  - Mathematics teachers and instructional supervisors/coaches should join the Deconstructing Mathematics Constructed-Response Items Webinar to learn about the components necessary to effectively assess reasoning and modeling using constructed-response items.
  - Webinar Date and Time: November 8 at 3:30 p.m.
  - Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/991846723
  - Webinar Phone Number: 669-900-6833
  - Meeting ID#: 991846723

LEAP Connect

- New: LEAP Connect Sample ELA Constructed-Response Items Webinars
  - Teachers of students with significant disabilities should join the LEAP Connect Sample ELA Constructed-Response Webinars to learn about new LEAP Connect sample ELA constructed-response items (available in November). There will be two webinars - one for grades 3-5 and one for grades 6-8 and 11.
  - Topic: LEAP Connect Sample ELA Constructed-Response Items for Grades 3-5
    - Webinar Date and Time: November 13 at 3:00 p.m.
    - Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/990649066
    - Webinar Phone Number: 669-900-6833
    - Meeting ID#: 990649066
  - Topic: LEAP Connect Sample ELA Constructed-Response Items for Grades 6-8 and 11
    - Webinar Date and Time: November 14 at 3:30 p.m.
    - Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/620633169
    - Webinar Phone Number: 669-900-6833
    - Meeting ID#: 620633169

ACT and WorkKeys

- ACT provides practice test material for students to prepare for the WorkKeys assessments.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.
ACT provides **practice test material** for students to prepare for the WorkKeys assessments.

**WorkKeys: Non-LDOE Realms ONLY**

- ACT has provided guidance to assist schools when ordering materials for the administration of the WorkKeys assessment on non-LDOE realms.
- The instructions are ONLY to be followed by non-LDOE realms users. A [video illustrating the ordering process](https://actcareercurriculum@act.org) is also available through ACT.
- All matters concerning WorkKeys administration on non-LDOE realms can be addressed by calling 800-967-5539 (800-WorkKey) or emailing [actcareercurriculum@act.org](mailto:actcareercurriculum@act.org).
- If orders for paper materials for a non-LDOE realm were placed in PearsonAccessnext, please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) for instructions on how to proceed.
- **PANext** is ONLY used for materials orders for students testing on LDOE realms.
  - Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.: Register for [ACT WorkKeys Online Administration Training](https://ldoe.zoom.us/) offered weekly. The link lists all current available dates and times.
  - Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.: Register for [ACT WorkKeys Groups and Batch Load Training](https://ldoe.zoom.us/) offered weekly. The link lists all current available dates and times.

**Assessment Administration Support and Training**
The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours is October 23.

- Webinar Date and Time: October 23 at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link: [https://ldoe.zoom.us/](https://ldoe.zoom.us/)
- Webinar Phone Number: 669-900-6833
- Meeting ID#: 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](https://ldoe.zoom.us/) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](https://ldoe.zoom.us/).
Mathematics teachers and instructional supervisors/coaches should join the Deconstructing Mathematics Constructed-Response Items Webinar to learn about the components necessary to effectively assess reasoning and modeling using constructed-response items.

- Webinar Date and Time: November 8 at 3:30 p.m.
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Tuition Organization</th>
<th>Regional Focus</th>
<th>STO Website</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACE Scholarships Louisiana</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acescholarships.org">www.acescholarships.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:TDR@acescholarships.org">TDR@acescholarships.org</a></td>
<td>504-491-1813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arete Scholars Louisiana</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aretescholars.org">www.aretescholars.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:maryhw@aretescholars.org">maryhw@aretescholars.org</a></td>
<td>225-245-3610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>Baton Rouge</td>
<td>newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brandy@newschoolsbr.org">brandy@newschoolsbr.org</a></td>
<td>225-384-0271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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: 2019 College & Career Readiness Champion Applications**
Applications for the ACT College and Career Readiness Champion Awards are now open. This award program recognizes individuals' exemplary efforts in advancing college and career readiness in four categories:

- Student Champion (student in the graduating class of 2019)
- K-12 Champion
- Postsecondary Champion
- Workforce Champion

Applications are now available. The submission deadline is October 31. One Champion per category will be selected in each state. All Champions receive individual certificates and recognition by the Louisiana ACT Council. Additionally, Student Champions receive a $500 non-renewable scholarship. View the selection criteria and learn more about the process at www.act.org/readinesschampions. State Champions will be notified on or before January 31, 2019.

Questions may be directed to ccrc@act.org.

New: AP® Update Webinar

To support Advanced Placement (AP®) programs statewide, the Department will host a webinar providing AP® teachers and administrators with tips related to completing and preparing for the AP® Course Audit. Topics include current and future developments related to important dates, resources, and training requirements. New and experienced AP® teachers, coordinators, and administrators are encouraged to participate. The webinar will be held on November 1 at 3:30 p.m. and again on December 4 at 3:30 p.m.

- Topic: Advanced Placement Program Updates
- Webinar Date and Time: November 1 at 3:30 p.m.
- Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/188879112
- Webinar Phone Number: 408-638-0968
- Meeting ID: 188879112

For more information, please email raphael.curtis@la.gov.

New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

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

- Webinar Date and Time: November 1 at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Healthy Schools Collaborative

Please share with school leaders.

The Department, in partnership with Well-Ahead Louisiana, is hosting a Healthy Schools Collaborative on November 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans for school leaders.

School leaders must register by November 1, as space is limited.

Reminder: Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application Released

The FY 2018-2019 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application is currently available in the electronic grants management system (eGMS). The submission deadline is October 31. New to the application this year are revised Education Improvement Codes (EIC) that bring budgeted items in closer alignment with state regulations.

For further information about the Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application submission, please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Reminder: Request for Nominations for the 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The nomination process for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is now open. Each state can nominate up to 25 students for one of the following categories:

- General: outstanding academic performance on the ACT or SAT
- Career and Technical Education (CTE): outstanding performance in CTE (new this year)
The Department invites school systems to submit nominations for up to three outstanding students. The nominations must include a male and female student for the general category, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in career and technical education. Students must be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January-June of 2019. Additional program requirements are available on the U.S. Department of Education's website.

Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total), signed by the local superintendent or charter school leader, and emailed to leslie.hill@la.gov no later than November 2 at 4:30 p.m. with "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line. In the letter, please include the following information for each nominee:

- the student's name, home mailing address, gender, and email address; and
- high school name, mailing address, and (College Entrance Examination Board) CEEB code.

Please contact leslie.hill@la.gov with questions.

**Reminder: Inquiry Hub High School Biology**

High school biology teachers have the opportunity to receive training on and pilot high quality units by Inquiry Hub, an open source biology resource. Inquiry Hub released several units, which are linked in the Biology Sample Scope and Sequence. The units are anchored in phenomena and aligned to Louisiana Student Standards for Science.

In order to support implementation, Inquiry Hub is hosting a two-day training on November 15-16 in Baton Rouge. [Registration](#) is now open.

Email stem@la.gov with questions.

**Reminder: BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Spring 2019 Application Released**

Applications for Spring 2019 funding through the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers will be available this Friday, October 12. This program provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana.

The application deadline is November 9. Applicants will be notified in early December regarding acceptance. [Learn more about the program](#) or contact stem@la.gov with questions.

**Reminder: November Supervisor Collaborations**

Please share with the counselors.

Each year, the Department hosts biannual Counselor Collaborations in order to give middle and high school counselors an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Department and to network with other school counselors in their region. Topics to be discussed in the fall collaboration include reminders for school testing coordinators, individual graduation plans, and policy updates. School counselors are encouraged to register in Wisdomwhere for one of the collaboration events listed below.

- **October 17 at St. Charles Professional Learning Center**, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- **October 18 at Acadia Parish Educational Center**, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- **October 29 at Bossier Instructional Center**, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- **October 29 at Monroe City School Board**, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- **October 30 at Avoyelles Parish Media Center**, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Please email lesliegilliland@la.gov with questions.

**Reminder: Science Pilot and Professional Development Opportunities**

The Department is helping educators transition to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS) in the 2018-2019 school year by offering a series of pilots and professional development opportunities.

**Great Minds: Grades 3-5**
Great Minds is 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 the school year. Great Minds is hosting one-day trainings for grade 3 through 5 educators in October. School systems can also review the PD Vendor Guide for additional professional development information. [Registration](#) is now open for sessions in Kenner on October 19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Registration Information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Kenner, LA</td>
<td><a href="#">Registration Link</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1 or 2</td>
<td>Ruston, LA</td>
<td><a href="#">Registration Link</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OpenSciEd: Middle School
Middle School Science teachers have the opportunity to receive training on and pilot high quality units by OpenSciEd, a project that is building out a full middle school curriculum. Middle school educators can register for the pilot and four-day professional development using the links below. **Registration is now open.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Registration Information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 26-27</td>
<td>LSU Cain Center</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td>[Registration Link]</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3-4 and 10-11</td>
<td>Louisiana Tech</td>
<td>Ruston, LA</td>
<td>[Registration Link]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

Other Department Newsletters
To view the **October 16th District Newsletter** or the **October 11th 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