

Important News for Nonpublic Schools: January 11, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year and welcome back from what I hope was a restful and reenergizing Christmas break.

It's great to have students back in school as we turn an exciting new page in Louisiana. The new year welcomes a new Governor, a new legislature, and a new state board with a bold vision for children and families.

You have helped Louisiana students make progress over the past few years. In a state that has been long challenged, we know more must be done. There are plenty of opportunities on the runway, and we are poised to accelerate.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [January 16 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [January 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [January 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [January 18 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [January 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [January 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Louisiana Scholarship Program Audit Webinar: [January 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Healthy Communities Monthly Call: [January 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- 2024-2025 School Choice Program-School Application Webinar: [January 30 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- 2024-2025 School Choice Program-Family Application Webinar: [January 31 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Deadline for [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year](#) state-level submissions: January 11
- Deadline for [Teacher and Principal of the Year](#) state-level submissions: January 11
- Deadline to submit [High Cost Services Round 2 Application](#): January 12
- Deadline to submit [Zearn - Impact Analysis Addendum for LEAs](#): January 12
- Deadline for [SCA spring reporting](#) (private providers): January 22
- [2024 Jump Start Convention and CWA Summit](#): January 23
- Deadline for [New Teacher of the Year](#) state-level submissions: January 26
- Deadline to complete [Act 567](#) school system actions: January 31
- Deadline to submit [high school diploma and seal orders](#): February 2
- [ACT Data Workshop](#): February 29

School Choice

Monthly Webinar Call

The next monthly webinar is January 17, 2024. LSP Auditors will be presenting information for all Nonpublic schools participating in LSP during the webinar. All schools should provide timely, informative materials and communications as necessary during the audit process. The audits are a statute requirement and each LSP school is required to participate. Our last Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call was held on Wednesday, November 15. Presentations of each monthly call are currently available in the [School Systems Planning Library](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

NEW: 2024-2025 BESE Approved Nonpublic Schools

The list of nonpublic schools seeking BESE approval for 2024-2025 was approved during the December 13 BESE Board meeting, and can be found in the [Nonpublic Library](#).

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

Important Dates and Deadlines

[Click to access the full Nonpublic Programs Scholarship Annual Calendar for 2023-24](#)

Date	Item	Participants
January 17	Nonpublic Schools Monthly call	All Nonpublic Schools

January 19	2024-2025 Louisiana Scholarship Program Application Closes	New and Returning LSP Families
January 22	Final date to receive transfers for Quarter 3 (LSP and SCP)	LSP and SCP Schools
January 24	Louisiana Scholarship Program Audit Webinar (Mandatory)	All 2023-2024 LSP Schools
January 26	Last day for families to submit Application documentation to LSP Schools	New and Returning LSP Families
January 30	2024-2025 School Choice Program School Application Webinar	SCP Schools
January 31	Last day for LSP schools to complete application verification in LEADS	LSP Schools
January 31	2024-2025 School Choice Program Family Application Webinar	New and Returning SCP Families
February 1	Quarter 3 enrollment opens (LSP and SCP)	LSP and SCP Schools
February 5	2024-2025 School Choice Program Application Opens	New and Returning SCP Families
February 6	Quarter 3 enrollment closes (LSP and SCP)	LSP and SCP Schools

****All dates are tentative, please review future issues of the Nonpublic newsletter for all updates.***

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

General Nonpublic School Office Hours

The Office of School Choice-Nonpublic Programs Team currently offers a service called [Office Hours](#). We are offering office hours to provide one-on-one assistance regarding any questions you may have regarding our scholarship programs.

Office hours will be offered each week for **school administrators and other school system employees**. Office hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

You can book your Office Hours call using this [link: https://www.picktime.com/LDNonpublicschools](https://www.picktime.com/LDNonpublicschools)

In order to make sure that every school gets an opportunity to schedule a call, each call will be limited to 15 minutes. When booking your call, you must include a description of what you'd like to discuss during the call in the "booking notes" section of the form. This will ensure that our staff is prepared ahead of the call and can effectively use the time to address your concerns.

If you miss your scheduled time, you will need to book a new appointment time. If you have any questions about Office Hours, please reach out to us at studentscholarships@la.gov for assistance.

This service is not available to families. Families with questions should submit them to studentscholarships@la.gov.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Scholarship Program

2024-2025 Louisiana Scholarship Program Application

The application for 2024-2025 Louisiana Scholarship Program opened on December 11, 2023 and will close on January 19, 2024.

All families (**including Orleans**) who need to submit applications for the 2024-2025 school year must apply using the LDOE website. Parents will be able to access the [application](#) on our [website](#).

- New applicants, students who wish to transfer to another participating scholarship school for the upcoming year, and **those in a terminal grade** will need to submit an application for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Families must submit all the required documentation to their first choice school by **January 26, 2024**.

For the latest information on the application process, please visit our [website](#) for more information or contact our office at studentscholarships@la.gov.

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Scholarship Program Audit Webinar

The Audit Team will be hosting an Informational Webinar for ALL participating Louisiana Scholarship Program Schools.

It is MANDATORY that all 2023-2024 participating Louisiana Scholarship Program schools attend.

Webinar Date and Time: January 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93717548403>

School Choice Program for Students with Certain Exceptionalities

2024-2025 School Choice Program Application

The 2024-2025 School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities application will open on February 5, 2024 and close on March 8, 2024.

Both new and returning SCP students must submit an application for the 2024-2025 school year. Families must apply using the LDOE online application, which will be available on the [LDOE website](#) on February 5th.

The Office of School Choice will be hosting two upcoming webinars to discuss the application process for the upcoming year.

- The [School Application Webinar](#) will be held on [January 30 at 2 p.m.](#) This webinar will provide guidance on the application process. **It is mandatory for all participating SCP schools to attend since there will be some changes to the application process for the upcoming year.**
- The [Family Application Webinar](#) will be held on [January 31 at 2pm.](#) This webinar will provide guidance on the application process for both new and continuing students.

For the latest information on the application process, please visit our [website](#) for more information or contact our office at studentscholarships@la.gov.

Executive

January System Leaders Call

Please share with system leaders.

Due to some school systems still being on holiday break, the January System Leaders Call was recorded. System

leaders can now view a [recording](#) of the call and the [presentation deck](#).

Please contact ted.beasley@la.gov with questions.

Graduation Appeal Process Veto

Please share with system leaders.

On January 8, 2024, Governor Landry [vetoed](#) the graduation appeals process for students who fail to pass required LEAP 2025 assessments. This veto immediately goes into effect, preventing any additional appeals from being submitted to the LDOE. [Please see the letter from the State Superintendent](#).

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Innovative Assessment for ELA

Please share with testing coordinators.

For districts participating in the Innovative Assessment for ELA, please note the following key dates:

- Now: access rosters and accommodations
- January 16: submit testing schedules to assessment@la.gov
- January 18: assign students to assessments and classes

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Literacy Initiative

Please share with school leaders, school system leaders, and teachers.

The fifth session of the webinar series [Effective Assessment Practices](#), hosted by the LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment, takes place this Thursday, January 11. Each session will provide opportunities for Louisiana educators—both leaders and classroom educators—to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms. Webinars will be recorded.

January's topic is Beyond Multiple Choice: How Can Teachers Use Quality Classroom Assessments? How Can Leaders Support the Use of Quality Classroom Assessments?

Webinar Date and Time: January 11 at 3:30 p.m.; Q & A: 4:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83183752599>

Webinar Phone Number: 646 931 3860

Webinar ID#: 831 8375 2599

Passcode: 817705

Please contact danielle.ricks@la.gov with questions.

Act 567 Information for School Systems

Please share with data coordinators and system leaders.

[Act No. 567](#) of the 2022 Regular Session allows for data sharing for the sole purpose of evaluating state and federal programs that prepare students for postsecondary education, workforce training, and employment. This information will be used to report trends on students entering the workforce and evaluate state and federal programs to ensure students are career-ready when they exit high school.

Per legislation, every public secondary school governing authority must do the following:

1. Collect the social security number of each student who is pursuing a diploma, not later than the beginning of the student's senior year, subject to the permission of the student's parent or legal guardian or the

permission of the student if he has reached the age of 18 majority.

2. Disclose the social security numbers they have permission to share to the company with which the state has contracted to develop unique student identifiers (eScholar) who will then share with the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC).

School System actions needed:

- Collect parental consent that allows school systems to share the SSN with LWC.
 - School systems should work with their legal team to draft their own parental consent for this purpose.
 - [Blank examples of parental consent forms](#) are available for reference on our website.
- Submit the SSN with the student record in eScholar.
- Submit the consent flag to the LDOE via the student transcript system.
 - Information on this data collection will be provided in the monthly webinars with data managers.
- Opt into the data sharing agreement which allows this data to be shared with LWC.
 - [LWC Act 567 Agreement](#)
 - [LWC Act 567 LEA Opt In Addendum](#)
 - [LWC Act 567 Jotform submission](#)

Please complete the above actions by January 31. Contact ldedata@la.gov for questions.

School System Financial Services

Mentor Teacher Stipend Payments

Please share with business managers and finance officials.

Per the FY 2023-24 Minimum Foundation Program formula, a stipend of \$2,000 will be provided for teacher mentors serving as assigned mentors of record, responsible for supporting undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents. Apart from the regular MFP monthly payment, a separate payment is currently being processed and should be released by January 15th. FAQs and payment information are posted in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact LDOEmpfhelpdesk@la.gov with payment-related questions. Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with participation and qualification questions.

Single Audit Submission

Please share with business managers and finance officials.

The Single Audit Report Submission Portal is available for business managers and school finance officials to assist with timely submittals of annual single audits. A Quick Link to the portal is available at www.louisianabelieves.com.

Please contact dudley.garidel@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

State-Level Award Applications Due in January

Please share with educators, school, and school system leaders.

Teacher/Principal of the Year applications and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications are due by midnight on January 11. Applications for New Teacher of the Year are due by midnight on January 26. All application materials and resources are available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

The LDOE will host informational Zooms for candidates and coordinators regarding the application process and submitting applications. Please see the details listed below.

Teacher and Principal of the Year Portal Help Desk Call

Webinar Date and Time: January 11 at 12

p.m. Webinar Link:

<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98315609685> Webinar

Phone Number: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 983 1560 9685

New Teacher of the Year

Webinar Date and Time: January 11 at 4 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91584721542?pwd=L1VMR1lBc1NhNGZJeDFTNWdUUGg5Zz09>

For Teacher and Principal of the Year candidates/coordinators only, please complete the [Online Portal Help Desk Form](#) if any issues are anticipated or encountered when submitting information into the online portals.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov (Teacher/Principal of the Year), shallan.jones@la.gov (Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year) and laurie.carlton@la.gov (New Teacher of the Year) with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [annotated reviews](#) web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#).

- Lexia Learning Systems LLC - Lexia PowerUp Literacy - ELA Intervention Grades 6-8 (©2018)
- Gallopade International Inc. - Gallopade Curriculum Social Studies, Grade 3 (©2023)

The LDOE is reviewing currently posted Tier 1 and 2 ELA curricula which include foundational skills for [Act 517](#) (2022) compliance. Upon completion, a cover page is added to the posted review noting the impact of the review on compliance. The materials listed below have been reviewed for compliance and posted to the [Tiered Reviews](#) web page.

- Tier 1: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Into Reading, Grades 3-5 (©2020)
- Tier 1: Pearson dba Savvas - myView Literacy, Grades 3-5 (©2020)

The [Act 517 Compliance Reviews Status Report](#) lists the status of all Act 517 compliance reviews, including reviews that have been completed, are under review, and are ready for review. For any materials not reviewed for compliance under Act 517, the LDOE recommends that school systems engage in a [local review process](#) using the [Act 517 Three-Cueing System Ban Guidance](#) located on the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension](#) web page.

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

January Summit Extensions

Please share with system leaders.

January [Summit Extensions](#) will continue to support school systems in utilizing the [Professional Learning Roadmap](#) and the implementation of system-level long range plans that have clear alignment to school ILTs and Teacher Collaboration. The Shreveport Summit Extension has been canceled.

Registration is currently open for the Lake Charles Summit Extension.

- January 23: [Shreveport](#) (Canceled)
- January 24: [Baton Rouge](#) (At Capacity)
- January 26: [Lake Charles](#)

Contact events@emergentmethod.com with any questions.

LDOE Releasing Professional Learning Platform for all Educators

Please share with all school system employees.

The LDOE will be releasing a [Professional Learning Platform](#) this spring for all school system employees at no cost to the school system. This user-friendly, statewide platform will house all professional learning and the [Professional Learning Partner Guide](#) in this one platform; professional learning modules and webinars will no longer live on the LDOE website. The Professional Learning Platform Overview includes additional information on:

- creating EdLink credentials.
- requesting Canopy permissions.
- participating in Canopy Informational Webinars.
- completing online training in the Professional Learning Platform.

School systems can continue providing their employees EdLink credentials and Canopy permissions. Trainings for school systems will begin in March. Please contact amanda.slaughter@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with principal supervisors, school leaders, and system leaders.

[Teacher Leader Summit](#) Early Bird [registration](#) opened January 5 with regular registration opening February 3. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis. Registration closes on March 15 or at sellout.

Teacher Leader Summit [Presenter applications](#) also opened January 5 and are due February 2. Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Bootcamps: Registration Now Open

Please share with guidance counselors, principal supervisors, school leaders, and system leaders.

Registration is now open for the [Staffing and Scheduling Bootcamps](#) which are designed to assist schools and systems in developing dynamic and effective schedules aligned to best practices. The full day Bootcamp will include an overview of the staffing and scheduling best practices and allow system/school leaders to build effective schedules aligned to best practices. Participation in the Staffing and Scheduling Bootcamp is of no cost to school systems. School systems are encouraged to send those who are involved in the staffing and scheduling process at the school level to the Bootcamp.

Registration is currently open on a first-come, first-served basis.

- February 21: [Elementary Staffing and Scheduling at University View in Baton Rouge](#)
- February 22: [Secondary Staffing and Scheduling at University View in Baton Rouge](#)
- February 28: [Elementary Staffing and Scheduling at DeSoto Parish School Board](#)
- February 29: [Secondary Staffing and Scheduling at DeSoto Parish School Board](#)

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Please share with summer learning coordinators.

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the upcoming months, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2024 program. Some of the checklist items include:

- Releasing summer learning program dates to educators and families
- Developing a needs assessment with stakeholder input
- Conducting outreach for community support
- Developing and distributing an interest survey for students
- Developing and distributing an interest survey for staff

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Annual Teacher Exit Survey Released

Please share with data managers, human resource directors, school leaders, and systems leaders.

The annual [Teacher Exit Survey](#) highlights the progress of Louisiana's comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy. This report includes data Louisiana Teacher Preparation Providers may use to inform educational and recruitment strategies. The 2022-2023 [Teacher Exit Survey](#) is available in the [Workforce Attributes Library](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Career and College Readiness

School Physical Activity Award Overview Call

Please share this with health and physical educators, principals, school staff, and school systems leaders.

To recognize outstanding public elementary and secondary schools implementing an outstanding physical activity program, the LDOE will recognize and honor exemplary schools through the [School Physical Activity Award](#).

From January 5 through February 2 applications are being accepted for elementary and secondary public schools that are demonstrating a [comprehensive physical activity program](#) (CSPAP).

A CSPAP is a multi-component approach by which school districts and schools use all opportunities for students to be physically active, meet the recommendations of physical activity each day, and develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be physically active for a lifetime. A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during, and after school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 10 at 11:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96960075378>
- **Webinar ID:** 969 6007 5378
- **Passcode:** 699766

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

New Fast Forward Career Option Codes

Share with counselors, CTE supervisors, principals, and secondary supervisors.

Postsecondary Readiness will host a webinar discussing the recent updates to the Fast Forward Pathways and Course Codes. The new codes became effective during the 2023-2024 school year.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 17 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99482276597>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312.626.6799
- **Meeting ID:** 994 8227 6597
- **Passcode:** 859060

Please contact caronda.bean@la.gov with questions.

Spring 2024 Training for Medicaid School Health Services

Please share with business managers, school administrators, and special education directors.

The LDOE and the Louisiana Department of Health will host an in-person training on Medicaid Funding for School Based Services. School systems are encouraged to register teams including the Medicaid coordinator of school based services, time study coordinator, business manager, nursing coordinator, and coordinators of behavioral health and therapy services.

The training will be hosted in five different locations. [Register](#) your team for a convenient location and time to learn more about funding for school health services through Medicaid. The deadline to register is February 24.

Please contact elizabeth.duncan@la.gov with questions.

ACT® Data: Accelerating Your School and Student Success 2.0

Please share with counselors, principals, teachers, and testing coordinators.

[Registration](#) is open for the ACT® Data Workshop. This workshop will involve a deep dive into student, school, and district ACT® assessment reports through ACT's Online Reporting System. Participants should bring their laptop and have access to their school/district's ACT® Online Reporting System through ACT's Success Portal.

- When: February 29; 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Where: 1201 N Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802
- Cost: Free

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Spring 2024 Counselor Institutes

Please share with assistant principals, CTE supervisors, high school counselors, JAG instructors, middle school counselors, and secondary supervisors.

Registration for the Spring 2024 Counselor Institute sessions is now open. Please share with your JAG, ROTC and CTE colleagues. Counselor Institute sessions are a great opportunity for counselors and others who work with students on their journey towards graduation and beyond. Participants will gain updated information on policy, resources, and best practice.

Please register individually. Maximum registration is based on location capacity.

Date	8 - 11 a.m.	1 - 4 p.m.
February 27	Bossier Parish	Ouachita Parish
February 28	Rapides Parish	Calcasieu Parish
February 29	Livingston Parish	Jefferson Parish

Please contact angela.jordan@la.gov with questions.