October 6, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

We’re providing an additional set of supports this week to help students catch up and move ahead in math. Our math refresh will focus on funding to support math materials and instructional practices.

We’re hosted a special webinar this Thursday, October 6, at 10 a.m. for school and system leaders. I’m excited about the work we’re doing for kids and look forward to sharing these resources that I hope you will find helpful as you move Louisiana’s children forward.

Dr. Cade Brumley

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- School System Financial Services Business Manager Monthly Call: October 12 at 2 p.m.
- School-Based Medicaid Monthly Call: October 18 at 2:30 p.m.
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: October 19 at 2 p.m.
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: October 26 at 1 p.m

Upcoming Events

- Teacher/Principal and New Teacher of the Year Informational Webinar: October 11 at 9:30 a.m.
- Teacher/Principal and New Teacher of the Year Informational Webinar: October 13 at 11:30 a.m.
- AEMing for Success Conference: October 18-19
- Deadline to enter SLT and teacher observation data for 2021-2022 into CIS: October 21
- Fall 2022 Counselor Institutes: October 25-27
- School Support Institutes Session 2 (Virtual): October 25 - 28
- CiSA 2022 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security: November 1-3

School Choice

Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval and Brumfield V. Dodd

Nonpublic Schools Seeking State Approval must apply annually for approval by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Applications for the 2023-2024 are open through October 7th, 2022. Schools must submit a series of documents via a Jotform application in order to receive BESE approval for the 2023-2024 school year.

The application includes required forms and submissions for Brumfield V. Dodd approval. Forms are required for both new and continuing approvals. BESE and Brumfield v. Dodd approval is required for participation in the Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) and/or the School Choice Program (SCP). Schools interested in participating in either of those programs upon BESE approval must also submit their Notice of Intent To Participate (NOI).

- After submitting the form, schools will receive an email confirmation with a link to make any edits.
- The form closes on October 7th, 2022, after which no edits or new submissions will be accepted. Please do not submit more than one application. Complete applications will be submitted to BESE in December for approval.

If you have any questions or need support at nonpublicschools@la.gov.

Nonpublic School Annual Reporting (NPS)

As you may be aware of, the Department of Education is transitioning to using a new portal for schools to submit the annual Nonpublic School enrollment data (NPS) called EdLink. The portal opened for all schools on September 12, 2022. The deadline to submit has been extended through Friday, October 14th.
• The updated EdLink guidance manual “How to Navigate Edlink as an NPS School Manager” can be found here. School managers will need to create an account in EdLink and request to be an NPS school managers.
• Once that request is approved, school managers will be able to enter enrollment data. Detailed steps are provided in the manual named "How to Navigate EdLink as a NPS School Manager."

We appreciate your patience as the LDE transitions to a new portal. We will continue to support you in any way we can through this transition. You may email nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions about this process.

**Monthly Call**

Our October monthly call will be held on **October 19th at 2pm**. You can join the monthly calls using this link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93717548403

• You can access a copy of the September Monthly call deck here.

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE**: Nonpublic schools who need help with EdLink SHOULD email nonpublicschools@la.gov for assistance.

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 12:00 p.m.

You can book your Office Hours call using this link: https://www.picktime.com/LDEnonpublicschools

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**

**Quarter 1 Enrollment Follow Up**

Quarter 1 enrollment closed in LEADS on September 6th for the Louisiana Scholarship Program and the School Choice Program.

• If you have any errors on your Quarter 1 submission, please contact our office so that we may assist you with correcting your issue.
- **All Payment Adjustment Forms and verification for Quarter 1 must be submitted by October 7th.**

Any Payment Adjustment Forms for Quarter 1 submitted after October 7th **will be considered on an individual basis and must include an explanation for the late submission.** Please note that late Payment Adjustment Form submissions are not guaranteed payment.

**Annual Survey**

The annual survey is for participating Louisiana Scholarship Schools and School Choice Schools for Students with Certain Exceptionalities. The purpose of this survey is to measure program satisfaction with the training and support currently available to all participating schools.

These results will be gathered and shared within the Office of School Choice ONLY, meaning that your individual information and feedback shared will not be publicly reported. Only an overall summary of these results may be included in Department presentations and calls for informative purposes. You can access the survey [here](#).

**Upcoming Dates**

You can access the 2022-23 Nonpublic Annual Reporting Calendar [here](#).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 30th</td>
<td>Notice of Intent 2023-24 (NOI) for LSP and SCS opens</td>
<td>LSP and SCP schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7th</td>
<td>Last day to submit Payment Adjustment Forms for Quarter 1</td>
<td>LSP and SCP schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31st</td>
<td>2023-24 Notice of Intent for LSP and SCS due</td>
<td>LSP and SCP schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31st</td>
<td>2022-23 Tuition and Fees Certification Sheets due</td>
<td>LSP Schools only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Louisiana Scholarship Program

Tuition and Fees
Tuition and Fees Certification sheets for the 2022-23 school year were sent out yesterday, October 5th via email to all participating scholarship schools. This form is used to confirm tuition and fees and is an important part of the auditing review at the end of the year.

- If you have any changes that need to be made, please write your changes directly on the form and submit it to studentscholarships@la.gov for review.
- Please carefully review the sheet, sign, and return the worksheets via email to studentscholarships@la.gov by October 31st.

If you have any questions regarding Tuition and Fee sheets, please contact our office at studentscholarships@la.gov for assistance.

Notice of Intent for LSP
The 2022-23 Louisiana Scholarship Program Notice of Intent is submitted to the Department each year in the fall by schools who wish to participate in our scholarship program and/or request *NEW* seats for the upcoming school year.

- Schools should not include returning/rollover or transfer students in this request.
- Returning schools must complete NOI for the scholarship program even if no new seats are being requested for the upcoming year.
- You can access the Louisiana Scholarship Program NOI here: https://form.jotform.com/222638588825167

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities

Notice of Intent for SCP
The 2022-23 School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities Notice of Intent is submitted to the Department each year in the fall by schools who wish to participate in our scholarship program and/or request *NEW* seats for the upcoming school year.

- Schools should not include returning/rollover or transfer students in this request.
- Returning schools must complete NOI for the scholarship program even if no new seats are being requested for the upcoming year.
- You can access the School Choice Program NOI here: https://form.jotform.com/222639107797163

Operations

2023-2024 School System Planning Launch
Please share with school system leadership team members responsible for annual school system planning.

On Thursday, October 20, LDOE will host the School System Planning Launch as part of the October FSGR Monthly Call. The information provided will support annual school system strategic
planning and the completion of Achieve!, Believe!, and Super App. During the launch, the Department will release the 2023-2024 Vision for Success School System Planning Guide and an editable 2023-2024 Strategic Planning and Budget Workbook as an optional tool for school systems to use in preparation to submit Super App.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Thursday, October 20, at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://ldeo.zoom.us/j/95258128918?pwd=c3FQVy92bVAwNnJkVkhJRmJHOXM0Zz09
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 952 5812 8918
- **Passcode:** $Y=64D

Please contact LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov with questions; include “School System Planning” in the subject.

**FY2021 ESEA Waiver Request**
Please share with superintendents and federal program directors.

The Louisiana Department of Education is requesting a waiver for federal fiscal year 2021 (FY2021), pursuant to section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), of the identified requirements as a result of ongoing challenges related to the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Relevant personnel can review the ESEA Waiver in the Federal Support and Grantee Relations Library (insert link) under the “Funding Guidance” heading, and submit questions or comments to ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with “ESEA Waiver” in the subject line by October 14, 2022.

**2022-2023 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application**
Please share with superintendents, EEF coordinators and business managers.

The FY 2022-2023 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application is now available in the LDOE Electronic Grants Management System (eGMS). The submission deadline is **October 17, 2022**. Please review the EEF application information (EEF Slide Deck) under the Announcements section on the eGMS logon page for assistance in completing the application.

Nonpublic applicants, please see below the sections of the LEA Central Data that must be completed for the application to appear.

1. EEF Contact Information
2. EEF Assurances

Please contact LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

**Assessments, Accountability and Analytics**

**LEAP Progress Index Rosters**
Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

LEAP progress index data are now available for 2021-2022 in La Data Review. The system can only be
accessed by district accountability contacts. There are two rosters in the data certification system that provide information about the data that will be used to calculate the 2021-2022 growth of students in ELA and math.

- The **Progress Points Student Roster** includes all students who are eligible for inclusion in the LEAP progress index, as well as the points awarded to them and the step used to award the points (annual target or VAM.)
- The **Progress Index VAM Exclusion Roster** includes students who were not eligible for VAM and the reasons that they were excluded.

All requests to review requested data changes must be made in La Data Review no later than Friday, October 7.

Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

**LEAP 2025 Grade 3-8 Spring 2023 Enrollment Verification**

Please share with school and district test coordinators.

LEAP 2025 grade 3 through 8 enrollment verification is now open until October 28. To enter the enrollment information for the LEAP 2025 Gr. 3-8 Spring 2023 administration

1. Log into the DRC INSIGHT Portal.
2. Go to My Applications > Materials > Enrollments.
3. Select the LEAP 2025 Gr. 3-8 Spring 2023 Administration, your District and School, then click Show Enrollments.
4. Select your school’s testing mode for grade 3 and enter the testing materials counts for LEAP 2025 Gr. 3-8 Spring 2023. Additional instructions for completing this enrollment is provided by clicking the plus sign next to the instructions.
5. Click Save or Complete

Please submit questions to assessment@la.gov or contact DRC Louisiana Customer Service at 888.718.4836 or LAHelpDesk@datarecognitioncorp.com.

**Dropout Cleanup for DCAI**

Please share with accountability contacts.

School systems have until Wednesday, October 5 to update student records in EdLink to remove 2021-2022 dropout flags assigned to students who are included in the DCAI index. No new submissions can be entered for students in La Data Review, but accountability contacts should let the department know when EdLink corrections are completed for submissions that are still pending.

Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

**WorkKeys**

Please share with school and district test coordinators.

The WorkKeys testing window opens on Thursday, October 6 and will remain open through April 21, 2023. To be considered for use in accountability:

- All assessments must be administered in the designated testing window regardless of the realm used to test students.
- There must be a full 30 days between administrations to allow for the provision of meaningful remediation.
- All testing security protocols and requirements must be followed during the administration of the assessments, including training in test security for all persons administering the
assessments.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Career and College Readiness

**Fall CTE Leaders Retreat**
Please share with CTE supervisors and Perkins grant coordinators.

Registration is open for the Fall CTE Leaders Retreat. This retreat is designed with the intention for Perkins V Coordinators to foster a brave environment that allows for strengthening connections, deepening knowledge, and supporting leadership development. With November designated as National Career Development Month, sessions will highlight career development and high quality CTE programs of study. The Retreat will take place on November 1 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Lafayette. Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

**School Health Service Provider of the Year Nominations**
Please share with system leaders, school administrators, related service coordinators, and nursing administrators.

The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that student health plays a vital role in education and that school health providers are the critical link in ensuring health service delivery to students. The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes and celebrates some of the state’s most exceptional school health providers through the School Health Service Provider of the Year program.

Beginning October 10, we are inviting nominations of any of the following school employees or contractors: occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, nurses, and licensed behavioral health providers (LCSW/LMSW, LPC, psychologists). More information about the award can be found in the overview.

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

**SCA Portal Fall and Full Year Reporting**
Please share with school system administrators, school leaders and school counselors.

The deadline for reporting fall and full year SCA dual enrollment courses with Public Higher Education Providers to LDOE is 5 p.m. on Monday, October 10. Late submissions will not be accepted. The SCA Portal will reopen on November 21 for spring 2023 reporting. Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

**Fall 2022 Counselor Institutes**
Please share with middle and high school counselors, assistant principals, CTE supervisors and secondary supervisors.

The LDOE Fall 2022 Counselor Institutes are scheduled to take place October 25 through 27. Although these regional events are best suited for middle and high school counselors, all are welcome to attend. These institutes will provide policy updates, resources, and communications that
are pertinent to middle and high school counselors. **Participants should plan on attending one event as the same information will be presented at all locations.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>8 - 11 a.m.</th>
<th>1 - 4 p.m.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>West Monroe</td>
<td>Bossier City</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>Lake Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Harahan</td>
<td>Walker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**School System Financial Services**

**FY2022-2023 Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program Audit**

Please share with principals and financial officials.

Pursuant to Section 1303 of Bulletin 133, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education requires the Department to audit the financial performance and capacity of Scholarship schools as a criterion for continued participation in the Scholarship program.

1. Scholarship Audit – Internal Control Questionnaire
Participating schools are required to complete the [Internal Control Questionnaire](mailto:). 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 21, 2022 via e-mail to staudit@la.gov.

2. Scholarship Audit Engagement Letters
Beginning Monday, October 10, the audit firms conducting the financial audits will begin contacting schools via an engagement letter. The letter will include audit dates and an in-depth description of the process and school responsibilities.

The [audit firm assigned to your school](mailto:) is based on the district in which it is located. If your school has not been contacted by the assigned audit firm by October 14, or if you have any questions, please contact staudit@la.gov.

3. 2022-23 Scholarship Financial Audit Information
As an additional resource, the School System Financial Services state audit team has prepared a financial [audit presentation](mailto:) which includes instructions on how to ensure your school is prepared for the FY2022-2023 financial audit.

You may contact staudit@la.gov with audit-specific questions and studentscholarships@la.gov with Scholarship program-specific questions.
4. Scholarship Program Budget
The initial Scholarship Program budget is due Friday, October 21, 2022. Schools should provide specific details in this budget demonstrating how the total estimated SSEEP revenue will be allocated and spent for the 2022-2023 school year.

Items to note:
1. No actual expenditures should be reported in the expenditures column at this time.
2. The total enrollment on the budget should exclude Pre-K students.

Submit your budget form via e-mail to staudit@la.gov.

Please contact staudit@la.gov with any questions about the audit process.

**Monthly Call for Business Managers**
Please share with business managers and finance officials.

The next monthly call of the 2022-23 fiscal year for business managers and finance officials will be October 12 at 2 p.m. via Zoom. The agenda will include information regarding upcoming due dates and other pertinent topics.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 12 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99726217222?pwd=ZWZ2NTgxeXRpTmxXK3g1eG1TQzN3Zz09
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 997 2621 7222

Please contact SchoolFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov with questions.

**70 Percent Instructional Expenditure Requirement**
Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Per the MFP Resolution, school systems must ensure that 70 percent of the local school system general fund expenditures are in the areas of instruction and school administration at the school building level. Compliance with this expenditure requirement is calculated annually and results will be placed in the edFin FTP site soon. Supporting documents will also be available in the edFin FTP site soon. A report of the results for all school systems will be received by BESE at the October 2022 meeting.

Please refer to 70 Percent Instructional Requirement Process for more information; contact ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

**School System Relations**

**Louisiana Teacher/Principal and New Teacher of the Year Application Process Opening Soon**
Please share with teachers, school and school system leaders.

On October 11, the Teacher/Principal and New of the Year application process for the 2022-2023
school year will open. At that time, the application materials and timeline will be available on the Awards web page.

All school systems are encouraged to submit up to three teachers, three principals, and three new teachers (with less than one year teaching experience) -- one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

State-level applications are due by January 11, 2023 and must be submitted via an online application portal that will open in late 2022.

The Department will host two optional informational Zoom calls to share details regarding this year’s Teacher and Principal of the Year process.

Interested stakeholders may click the link(s) below to join a call. Please save a date on your calendar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 11 at 9:30 a.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** [https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98106387818](https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98106387818)
  - **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
  - **Meeting ID#:** 981 0638 7818

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 13 at 11:30 a.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** [https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92561219996](https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92561219996)
  - **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
  - **Meeting ID#:** 925 6121 9996

**Contact**
- [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov) for information about Teacher and Principal of the Year
- [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) for information about New Teacher of the Year

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**Teaching and Learning**

**Academic Content**

**Eureka Math² High School Algebra I Pilot Applications are Open**

Please share with academic officers and math supervisors.

As part of the Louisiana Math Refresh, the Department is providing systems with the opportunity to apply for funding to support a spring 2023 high school pilot of the newly identified high-quality math curriculum, Eureka Math² Algebra I. The purpose of this opportunity is to provide early access for interested systems to try out the new resources in one or more Algebra I classes. Systems selected for the pilot will receive a special funding allocation to support the purchase of the high-quality materials and related professional learning. Applications are due October 18. Notification will be made in early November with anticipated allocations sent to BESE for approval in December. Consult the Eureka Math² Algebra I Pilot Overview for details and eligibility requirements.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.
2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies Webinars
Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-12 social studies teachers

The 2022 K-12 Student Standards for Social Studies will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. The Department will host webinars throughout the 2022-2023 school year to support district leaders, school leaders, and teachers as they prepare for the transition.

Join the next 2022 LSSSS Social Studies Webinar on October 13 at 3:30 p.m., which will focus on Grades K-3: preparing for the transition and crosswalks.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 13 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97047352000?pwd=dVNWTTJEVm1iM2VbCUNxek1ZWI3QT09
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
  - **Meeting ID:** 97047352000
  - **Passcode:** 529847

Department staff will be present and available to answer questions during all sessions and will post recordings of all presentations on the K-12 social studies resource page.

Updated information on implementation of the 2022 LSSSS can be found in the 2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies FAQ.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

**Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews**
Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

The Department conducts ongoing 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 webpage. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the Weekly Report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Title and Grade Levels</th>
<th>Core Subject</th>
<th>Tiered Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savvas Learning Company LLC</td>
<td>enVision Math, Grades K-2</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Tier 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The College Board</td>
<td>Springboard English Language Arts, Grades 6</td>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>Tier 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The College Board</td>
<td>Springboard English Language Arts, English III-IV</td>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>Tier 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.
**ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022)**

Please share with ELA teachers and leaders of grades 3-5.

The Department conducted a pilot of the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) and collected feedback on the units from across the state in order to ensure that these materials are of the highest quality and meet the needs of Louisiana teachers and students. ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) updates are underway and they will include more anticipated responses, detailed supports for diverse learners, and the development of a new level three unit for each grade level. The new supports will include strategies for English Learners, as well as specific Literacy supports to be used as just in time supports during instruction. Additionally, the new units will give systems an alternative option for the level three unit. These updates are being made by teachers, for teachers, including educators who participated in the pilot, and will be released for the 2023-2024 school year.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

**ELA Guidebooks Grades 6-8 Updates**

Please share with ELA teachers and leaders of grades 6-8.

The Department is currently updating ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2018) to incorporate embedded writing instruction that will follow an explicit writing progression. Louisiana teachers and instructional leaders are collaborating on this work utilizing educator feedback from the field.

ELA Guidebook 6-8 (2023) units will be released Spring 2024 for implementation during the 2024-2025 school year. Additional information, including specific unit release dates will be announced in future newsletter communications and at the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

**Educator Development**

**Compass Information System (CIS) Updates**

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

The 2021-2022 VAM data will be released into CIS on October 7. Following tVAM release, systems will have until October 21 to ensure that all teacher observation scores and SLT data ratings are entered or uploaded. All complete evaluations will then be automatically finalized in CIS on October 22.

The Compass Information System (CIS) will be open for the 2022-2023 school year on October 24. Following this roll-over, systems may begin updating rosters and entering data.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

**Certification**

**Legislative and Policy Updates**

During the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, there were many bills passed that affect certification. LDOE reviewed all legislation, its impact on BESE policy, and has updated policy to align with law. This includes legislation around:
Praxis I Core
• Master's degrees
• Out-of-State reciprocity
• Criminal History Checks for Certification
• GPA for teacher preparation program entry

Acts 707 and 244 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session were passed removing the requirement of a core academic skills assessment (e.g. Praxis Core, ACT, SAT) as a requirement for entering the profession and for teacher licensure.

In August, BESE approved the removal of the requirement of a core academic skills assessment (e.g. Praxis Core) for both entrance into a Teacher Preparation Program and for licensure. All other requirements (Praxis II (Content), PLT, one-year residency, etc.) remain the same. The Certification Office has updated all applications related to the recent legislation and policy changes. The new applications were posted and available on teachlouisiana.net on September 15. There will be a little over a one-month grace period where either version of the application can be submitted. However, the new version of the application will be required by November 1. Since policy was approved as emergency rule regarding these changes, any unprocessed application that is currently “unassigned” can have additional supporting documentation uploaded via the “history” option if needed.

Application Updates

Updates to the Renewal/Higher (RH) and Nonpublic Higher (NH) applications include more generic requests to reduce the number of declinations. Options are now simply listed as higher level, extend/renew, reactivate/reinstate, and status change. This will allow schools to request a higher level certificate subject to the documentation submitted instead of the specific certificate. Based on the documents included, we will process the request. For status change requests, there is now also an option to start at issuance/renewal.

The Out-of-State (OS) application has not changed significantly. However, since the law changed to allow exam exemption with only three years of prior successful out-of-state experience, for educators meeting exemption, the Out-of-State Experience Verification Attestation form will be required at time of initial application if the educator wishes to use that experience to be issued a higher level certificate in lieu of an OS.

We will be processing/issuing credentials based on the documents submitted at the time of application.

The Teaching Authorization (TA), as required by Act 634 of the 2018 Legislative session, now includes a risk assessment scale that is required to be completed. The options on the form now include classification of risks, based on what an LEA sees on the CBC.

Risk categories are as follows:

• Critical - conviction(s) for prohibited offenses in R.S. 15:587.1 or for felony offenses
• High - conviction(s) for R.S. 15.587.1 drug offenses, offenses regarding weapons, violence, childrens, sex, or drugs; less than 5 years post-conviction, more than 10 conviction entries
• Moderate - subsequent convictions, at least 5 years post-conviction
• Low - Over 10 years post-conviction, no new convictions
Criminal Background Checks (CBCs) are still not permitted to be sent to LDOE. Court documentation is required to be included for any records on the CBC.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes
Please share with systems and school leaders

School Support Institutes (SSI) officially kicked off last week with sessions in Monroe, Shreveport, Lafayette and New Orleans. We were so excited to see instructional leadership teams and system leaders from around the state dedicated to improving outcomes for their students! Thank you to all participants for your high level of engagement and for submitting feedback.

SSI Session #2 is a virtual session and serves as a follow up to session #1 learning. All virtual sessions are half days from 9 am to 12 pm.

SSI Session #2 (Virtual) dates:
- Monroe cohort: October 25
- Shreveport cohort: October 26
- Lafayette cohort: October 27
- New Orleans cohort: October 28

All participants will receive a link and materials for the virtual session via email from TNTP. Please make sure you have completed next steps from Session #1 and are ready to share and discuss.

Please contact Nadia.Stewart@tntp.org with questions.

Literacy

Foundational Skills Lessons for Grades 3-5
Please share with ELA teachers and school literacy leaders.

The second units of Foundational Instruction for Reading Excellence (FIRE) lessons for grades 3-5 have been posted in the Literacy Library. FIRE is an instructional resource designed to support teachers in providing students advanced reading foundational skills in grades 3-5. Each unit consists of 40 quick lessons and brief student activities focused on either spelling, grammar, or morphology - skills that are essential for proficient reading and writing. Lessons can be taught concurrently with any other ELA knowledge-building curriculum as part of whole-group core instruction. There are three units per grade level. The third unit will be released in late fall/early winter.

- Grade 3 Unit 2 - Teacher’s Guide
- Grade 3 Unit 2 - Student Activity Book
- Grade 4 Unit 2 - Teacher’s Guide
- Grade 4 Unit 2 - Student Activity Book
- Grade 5 Unit 2 - Teacher’s Guide
- Grade 5 Unit 2 - Student Activity Book

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.
Content Literacy Support for Middle and High School
Please share with middle and high school teachers and leaders.

The Literacy Division has released additional resources to support middle and high school teachers in providing targeted literacy support in all content areas. These documents can be found in the Literacy Library under Instruction, Intervention, and Extensions. The Content Literacy Support documents provide guidance for teachers in all content areas with ways to naturally incorporate best practices that support content acquisition and literacy skills. Five new support documents have been added to the growing library of resources.

- Creating a Claim
- Direct and Explicit Vocabulary Instruction
- Reading and Writing for a Purpose
- Summary Writing to Develop Comprehension
- Writing Frames

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

Assessments, Accountability and Analytics

Dropout Cleanup Open in EdLink
Please share with accountability contacts and data managers.

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Please contact Jennifer.Baird@la.gov with questions.

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- Interests and Opportunities Menu Based Approach Guidance 2022-2023

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Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](https://www.usyouthprogram.org) to submit a Louisiana application packet.

The names of the students selected by each high school and their application portfolios should be emailed to marian.johnson@la.gov no later than **October 4, 2022**.

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

**School Medicaid Monthly Webinars**

*Please share with school based Medicaid coordinators, special education directors and school business managers.*

The LDOE hosts a Medicaid Monthly Update for school based Medicaid program coordinators on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Each meeting will review recent updates from the Louisiana Department of Health and review different components of Medicaid program requirements. We have updated the link to the webinar. **There will be no webinar in the months of November, December and February.**

- **Webinar Dates and Time:** October 18, 2022; 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96590694307](https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96590694307)
- **Webinar Phone Number:** +14703812552
- **Meeting ID:** 965 9069 4307
Passcode: 077921

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

Teaching and Learning

**IDEA Child Count and LEA Determination Data Verification Extensions**

Please share with special education leaders.

The IDEA Child Count date is October 3, and school systems should ensure current IEPs are in place, current evaluations and services are being provided. The Department will run the official IDEA Child Count on December 16, which gives school systems additional time to enter student data and ensure an accurate child count.

For courses where the April Dunn Act will be applied, individual performance criteria (IEP goals and objectives) must be established within 30 days of a student entering the course. School systems struggling to meet this deadline due to technical issues should email the contact below.

Additionally, the Department is providing additional time for special education and system leaders to verify the LEA Determinations released to the FTP on September 12, and the new deadline is October 7.

Please continue to send questions and concerns to specialeducation@la.gov.

Educator Development

**Certification Reminders**

The last TCAC meeting for this year will be held on November 10. The deadline to submit an appeal for the November meeting is October 13. Please keep in mind that to be eligible to appeal, an applicant must first be denied certification by the certification office. Appellants must appeal within 90 days of declination. All decisions of TCAC are final, as outlined in law.

The Certification Office will now have a monthly call devoted solely to certification. They will generally fall on the third Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Any changes due to BESE meetings or holidays will be included on the school system support calendar.

Certification Monthly Call details:
Webinar link: [https://ldeo.zoom.us/j/97801045748?pwd=N1JobWlDU1gvNnNYQk40WjJ3YmpxUT09](https://ldeo.zoom.us/j/97801045748?pwd=N1JobWlDU1gvNnNYQk40WjJ3YmpxUT09)
Meeting ID: 978 0104 5748
Passcode: 959091
For questions, please contact certification@la.gov.

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Please share with superintendents and senior cabinet members.

To extend critical learning from the Teacher Leader Summit, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is launching 2022-2023 Summit Extensions. These half-day events for key school system level leaders will focus on implementation of the Professional Learning Roadmap which underpins the state’s Vision for Success. The [Summit Extensions Overview](https://ldeo.zoom.us/j/97801045748?pwd=N1JobWlDU1gvNnNYQk40WjJ3YmpxUT09) provides more details about the event.
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Please contact LDOEEvents@la.gov with questions about this event.

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*Please share with superintendents, human resources directors, and chief financial officers.*

In response to the shortage of educators in Louisiana, the House of Representatives in the Louisiana Legislature created the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force to research strategies to overcome the state’s current and future teacher shortage challenge and secure a stronger education workforce.

The Task Force developed a robust set of recommendations which includes conducting a total compensation study with recommendations for improvement. The Department, in partnership with SSA Consultants, is conducting this compensation study. This study will provide a report on the current state of total compensation and incentives for educators in the 191 school systems in Louisiana, conduct a gap analysis to compare Louisiana to other southern states, as well as develop recommendations to improve the recruitment and retention of educators in Louisiana. In order to have a state-of-the-state analysis on compensation and incentives in Louisiana.

LDOE is asking each school system superintendent or his/her designee to work collaboratively with the school system’s human resources department and finance office to complete the Compensation and Incentives Study Survey by October 14. To access a PDF version of the entire survey, please click [here](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

**Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Listening Sessions**
*Please share with principals and teachers.*

The Department, in partnership with the Region 14 Comprehensive Center, will be hosting an additional series of facilitated listening sessions across the state to provide the opportunity for stakeholders to describe their experiences and perceptions as well as offer suggestions on issues related to teacher recruitment, recovery, and retention.
To join a session, stakeholders will follow the steps below.

1. Choose the session below that best fits his/her schedule.
2. Click the link for the session and complete the registration form.
3. Once he/she has completed the registration he/she will receive a Zoom link for the session.

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Grades 3-12 Foundational Skills and Content Literacy Support Series

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**Reminders**

**Assessments, Accountability and Analytics**

**LEAP 2025 High School**
**Please share with district test coordinators.**

Schools must verify enrollment in DRC INSIGHT for fall high school assessment no later than September 30. One of two fall administration windows must be selected. If a window is not selected, the district will be assigned to the second window.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.
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Teaching and Learning
Diverse Learners

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