

Important News for Nonpublic Schools: February 1, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

January is School Board Recognition Month. Committed board members are pivotal in shaping the education landscape, making the often challenging decisions that keep students at the forefront. Strong school board governance is critical to establishing and maintaining a tone of academic excellence. These leaders must be intentional in directing time, resources, and strategies towards the foundational priorities we know make the greatest impact: elementary literacy and math, preparing graduates for success after high school, and investing in educators.

In particular, I want to express my gratitude to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Our new state board has quickly established themselves as student-centered and laser focused on raising the bar for academic excellence. Louisiana deserves nothing less. I look forward to a continued collaboration with all our education leaders as we move our state to its next level of success.

Dr Cade Brumley

State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- System Leaders Monthly Call: [February 2 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinar – Math and Literacy: [February 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [February 6 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Overview Webinar for Data Managers, EdTech Directors, and LEA Security Coordinators: [February 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [February 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [February 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [February 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [February 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [February 15 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [February 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Healthy Communities Monthly Call: [February 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 28 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Deadline to submit [high school diploma and seal orders](#): February 2
- Deadline for [Computer Science Standards Writing Committee](#) applications: Feb. 5
- 2024-2025 School Choice Program Application Opens: February 5
- [Spring 2024 Counselor Institutes](#): February 27-29
- [ACT Data Workshop](#): February 29, Baton Rouge

School Choice

Teacher Leader Summit

The 2024 Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional learning conference that brings together all Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. Public, nonpublic, and charter school educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. This year's [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will focus on our ability to lead the next level every single day. The [Teacher Leader Summit Overview](#) outlines the specifics of the Teacher Leader Summit.

- The TL Summit will take place from **May 28 - May 30, 2024** at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC) in New Orleans, LA.
- [Early bird registration](#) will close February 2 with regular registration opening February 3 and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. As space is limited, it is **strongly encouraged** to register early.
- Registration Fees: \$175 (Early Bird; ends February 2, 2024); \$200 (Regular)

Teacher Leader Summit Presenter Applications

LDOE is looking for talented professional learning partners and educators to apply to present sessions at this year's Summit. Interested public, nonpublic, and charter school teachers and leaders who want to share their knowledge, please complete a [Presenter applications](#) by February 2.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

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.

Monthly Webinar Call

Due to closures from the weather, January's monthly call was recorded and distributed to schools via email. A link to the webinar is available on the [LDOE YouTube channel](#).

The next Nonpublic Monthly Call will be held on [February 21 at 2 p.m.](#)

- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97285741594?pwd=ekFUcHJxa1Ywcm5GdnN6V2lra1VoQT09>

All presentations of each monthly call are currently available in the [School Systems Planning 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
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
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****All dates are tentative, please review future issues of the Nonpublic newsletter for all updates.***

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with questions.

Quarterly Scholarship Enrollment

Quarter 3 reporting for the Louisiana Scholarship Program (SEE) and School Choice Program (SCS) will open on February 1st and close on February 6th.

- If any information is incorrect or a student is missing from your roster, please contact us immediately at studentscholarships@la.gov for assistance.
- If the enrollment reports are not accurate and submitted on time, it affects the student enrollment counts and delays tuition payments.
- Each school is responsible for reviewing the final quarterly enrollment report as entered in the LEADS system.
- If a student drops from your school, please follow the drop procedures so that the student can be dropped from your roster.

***Please note that the payment report generated in LEADS does not accurately reflect final payment amounts.**

Schools will have 30 days from the last day of quarterly enrollment reporting period each quarter to report any enrollment issues.

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.

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.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Connect Materials Delivery

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

LEAP Connect materials, including manuals, will be delivered to school systems on Thursday, February 1. Additional materials such as graphic files, constructed response suggested materials lists, and test administrator quizzes are posted to the DRC INSIGHT portal.

- Test administrators must:
 - Make an 80% or higher on the TA quiz
 - Be familiar with student's response mode
 - Use Online Tools Training to be familiar with the format of the assessment
 - Sign oaths of security
 - Administer the assessment to each student individually
 - Not be a paraprofessional; paraprofessionals may only assist with reading prompts or questions to students
 - Not allow students to access the Directions for Test Administration

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT/WorkKeys

Please share with testing coordinators.

- **ACT**
 - **January 22-March 8:** Request qualified exceptions to the deadline for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees in TAA using the [Qualified Exceptions to the Deadline](#) form. See the form for details.
 - **February 5- March 1:** Order accommodations and/or support materials for use in Test Window 1 by calling ACT Accommodations at 800-553-6244, ext.1788.
- **WorkKeys**
 - **Beginning Week of January 29:** Receive test materials at the district, based on the receipt window selected in PearsonAccess^{next}.
 - **February 5-22:** Conduct sessions for students to complete non-test information on the answer document for accommodated paper testing. **Note:** Non-test information also may be completed on test day, prior to the start of test 1 (Workplace Documents).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Literacy Initiative

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

The sixth session of the webinar series Effective Assessment Practices, hosted by the LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment, will be held Thursday, February 1. 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.

February Topic: Interpreting and Using Interim and Benchmark Assessment Information: What Do Teachers and Leaders Need to Know and Do?

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 1 at 3:30 p.m.; Q & A: 4:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87132144508>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646 931 3860
- **Webinar ID#:** 871 3214 4508
- **Passcode:** 624654

The [Effective Assessment Practices webinar series flyer](#) provides a complete schedule, Zoom links, and monthly topics for the series.

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

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2023 Louisiana Comeback Campus Banners

Please share with system leaders.

For the second consecutive year, the LDOE is proud to recognize Louisiana Comeback Campus honorees. To become a [2023 Louisiana Comeback Campus](#), a school must have achieved all of the following when compared to 2019 (please note that 2022 Louisiana Comeback Campus honorees are not eligible for the honor in 2023):

- Increased in percent of students scoring mastery and above on the statewide assessment in math and ELA
- Decreased in percent of students scoring unsatisfactory on the statewide assessment in math and ELA
- Increased in student ACT scores (high schools only)

The LDOE will mail 2023 Louisiana Comeback Campus banners to each school system so system leaders can decide how best to recognize those schools. School systems will receive a banner for each Louisiana Comeback Campus, along with a [letter](#) and [school list](#).

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

Career and College Readiness

Organ Donation Education

Please share with teachers, principals, and system leaders.

[HB 289-Act 180](#) of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session requires each public high school to provide instruction relative to organ donation to its students. The Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency ([LOPA](#)) is offering in-person instruction at no cost to schools. Schools may contact one of the community educators to schedule in-person education:

- Shreveport: Ashley Davis, adavis@lopa.org
- Monroe/Alexandria: Leah Lopez, llopez@lopa.org

- Lafayette: Suzanna Morton, smorton@lopa.org
- Baton Rouge: Lori Steele, lstele@lopa.org
- New Orleans: Lana Stevens, lstevens@lopa.org

For those unable to schedule in-person instruction, the following are available:

- [General Education Presentation](#)
- [Students: Personal Story](#)
- [Educators: Donor Family Story](#)

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

Please share business managers, principals, school nurses, school safety personnel and system leaders.

[SB 12](#) of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session requires AEDs at each elementary and secondary school and at athletic events. The legislature appropriated funds for this purpose and school systems were approved for funding allocations at the January BESE meeting. School systems should utilize the [state contract](#) to purchase the AEDs.

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Outstanding School Support Employee Award

Please share with school system leaders.

Congratulations to the Outstanding School Support Employee award finalists who were recently [announced](#). Ten finalists were selected from across the state, representing school support roles such as bus drivers, food service workers, clerical, custodial, paraprofessional, maintenance personnel, and other professions not requiring licenses.

The finalists will be recognized during the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting on April 10 when an overall honoree will be announced. Finalists were selected among more than 700 nominees submitted from across the state.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Updates

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and social studies teachers.

All grade 6 Bayou Bridges units are now available. Please navigate to the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#) to access. Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All grade 7 units will be published by February 28. Consult the [Professional Learning Partner Guide](#) for information on Bayou Bridges professional learning partners.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year Training

Please share with all school leaders and system leaders.

Training on the [Louisiana Educator Rubric and the Louisiana Leader Rubric](#), which will be used during the

2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year, will take place this summer for system and school leaders and designated observers.

[Registration](#) will open on January 31. This training is required for all evaluators and designated observers utilizing these rubrics.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

EdLink and the School System Planning Guide

Please share with all data coordinators, human resources and system leaders.

Data is available in EdLink to assist with Super App submission for item P.4.10.9 “Using EdLink 360 Workforce Dashboard, identify the workforce data for your school system.” A webinar was held on January 10 to assist with this process. The [slide deck](#) is now available in the [Workforce Attribute Library](#) on [Louisiana Believes](#) for system leaders who were unable to attend the webinar.

If you would like to schedule time to review the EdLink Workforce Dashboard or if you have questions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.