

## Important News for Nonpublic Schools: March 21, 2024

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### Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

This morning [we announced](#) the teachers and leaders who are one step closer to being named the state's best. Congratulations to our semifinalists for Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year and our finalists for Louisiana New Teacher and Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year. Your commitment to excellence is truly commendable.

Educators are valued professionals and it's important we celebrate them. It's also crucial to remember the importance of creating the best possible working environment for all educators. On Friday, I hosted the first meeting of our Let Teachers Teach workgroup. This meeting centered on concerns that take teachers off task. One of the early takeaways was the need to significantly reduce mandated trainings that are not focused on academics. Future meetings are planned around student behavior and curriculum and instruction.

Outside of the parent, teachers have the greatest impact on student outcomes. It's an honor to celebrate their achievements and elevate their voices.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

# Important Dates for School Systems

## Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Monthly Practicing Principal Webinar: [March 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Monthly Call: [March 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours: [March 26 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [March 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [March 27 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [March 28 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [April 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [April 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [April 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [April 17 at 2 p.m.](#)

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [School Support Institutes Session 5](#): March 19-22
- [LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup Application](#) Deadline: March 22
- [\\$5 ACT Registration Voucher for School Counselors](#) Deadline: March 24
- Federal School Safety Clearinghouse [School Safety Grants Virtual Training](#): March 26
- Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities [Summer Workshop Application](#) Deadline: April 1
- [LCTCS Jump Start Construction Scholarship](#) Deadline: April 10
- [Robotics Lab Pilot Application](#) Deadline: April 10
- [Professional Learning Efficacy Evaluation](#) Survey Deadline: April 11
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: April 15
- Special Education Leader Collaborative: April 16
- [Teacher Leader Summit 2024](#): May 28-30, New Orleans
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

## School Choice

### Newsletter Transition

Please share with nonpublic school leaders, data managers and finance officials.

Beginning the week of March 25, Important News for Nonpublic Schools will be published in the LDOE Weekly Newsletter. Current subscribers to Important News for Nonpublic Schools will receive the LDOE Weekly Newsletter each Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Please contact [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with questions.

### Monthly Webinar Call

The next Nonpublic Monthly Call will be held on [April 17 at 2 p.m.](#)

- You can access the webinar using this 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](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with questions.

### Important Dates and Deadlines

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

Dates	Items	Participants
March 22	Last day for SCP schools to upload verified demand report to the FTP	SCP Schools
April 1	2024-2025 LSP Preliminary Rosters available on the FTP	LSP Schools
April 8	2024-2025 LSP Preliminary Rosters due on the FTP	LSP Schools
April 17	Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call	All Nonpublic Schools
April 22	LSP School Webinar on Roster Verification and Site Registration	LSP Schools
April 22	Final 2024-2025 LSP Roster Verification form available on FTP	LSP Schools
April 22	2024-25 LSP Award Notifications go out to families via email and mail	LSP Families
April 22	2024-25 LSP Site Registration Begins	LSP Schools and Families
April 23	LSP Parent Webinar on Site Registration	LSP Families
April 29	2024-25 SCP Award Notifications go out to families via email and mail	SCP Schools
April 29	Final 2024-2025 SCP Roster Verification Form available on FTP	SCP Schools

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

Please contact [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto: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](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) for assistance.

***This service is not available to families. Families with questions should submit them to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov).***

Please contact [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with questions.

## **Louisiana Scholarship Program**

### **Louisiana Scholarship Program Parent Survey**

In an effort to improve the program and meet the needs of our stakeholders, we are conducting our annual Parental Satisfaction Survey. Please join in our efforts by encouraging your families to complete this survey. Parents will be emailed a web link (<https://form.jotform.com/232964460470155>) to complete the survey online. It is important that parents complete the survey so that we can be aware of changes in the community and with the families of award recipients, and continue to be a vital option in educational choice.

**Please remind parents to complete the survey by Friday, April 19, 2024.** There are no risks to parent privacy rights by participating in the survey.

We appreciate your support with this effort and value your feedback. If you have any questions about the survey, contact our office at [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov).

## **School Choice Program for Students with Certain Exceptionalities**

### **2024-2025 School Choice Program Demand Reports**

The deadline for all participating 2024-2025 SCP schools to upload their final demand report to the FTP is **March 22, 2024**.

Please contact [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with questions.

## Career and College Readiness

### K-12 School Safety Funding Opportunities

**Please share with safety personnel, school principals, and system leaders.**

The Federal School Safety Clearinghouse will host a [virtual training on school safety grants](#) available to the K-12 community on March 26. Presenters will discuss funding opportunities available from the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Justice.

SchoolSafety.gov's [Grants Finder Tool](#) will also be highlighted.

Please contact [michael.comeaux@la.gov](mailto:michael.comeaux@la.gov) with questions.

## School System Financial Services

### MFP - Career Development Fund (CDF) Final Allocation and Payments

**Please share with business managers.**

The final MFP payments for FY 2023-2024 CDF allocations will be released by the LDOE by March 31. For more details, please refer to the CDF Guidance and Allocation document available in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact [LDOEmphelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOEmphelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## School System Relations

### State-Level Honorees for Teacher/Principal of the Year and New Teacher of the Year

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

The LDOE is excited to announce the [2025 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#), the [2025 New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#) and the [2025 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All of the state-level honorees will be honored at the *18<sup>th</sup> Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala*, which will be held at the National World War II Museum on the evening of July 27. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Please contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov) with questions.

## Teaching and Learning

### Diverse Learners

#### Special Education Collaborative

**Please share with special education directors.**

Registration is now open for an [in person collaborative event](#) on April 16 from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. Special education directors are invited to join the diverse learner team for a day of discussion centered around special education updates, professional development, and networking.

Please contact [diverselearnersupport@la.gov](mailto:diverselearnersupport@la.gov) with questions.

## **Louisiana Center for Effective Transition: Effective Transitions Workgroup**

**Please share with administrators, community members, educators, parents, and students with disabilities.**

In the Fall of 2023, the LDOE was awarded a \$10 million Disability Innovation Fund Grant. This project establishes the Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET). Over the next five years, LCET will transform the current fragmented system of transition support offered to students with disabilities into a cohesive experience that improves success in post-secondary opportunities. As a vital link in the ongoing work of the LCET, the project has committed to establishing the [LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup](#). The LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup will engage with project leadership to provide insightful feedback on the tools, resources, and support necessary to assist students with disabilities.

To ensure the LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup reflects perspectives from across Louisiana, we are seeking representatives in each of the following areas:

- Children and Youth with Disabilities
- Family Members of Children and Youth with Disabilities
- Educators
- Administrators
- Private Sector Employers
- Policymakers
- Representatives from Disability Advocacy Organizations and Related Agencies

Individuals interested in participating in the LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup must complete the [LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup Application](#) by March 22. Eligible applicants will be invited to participate in a 30 minute interview with the LCET leadership team once the application period closes. Final members will be selected and notified no later than April 8.

Please contact [lauren.miley@la.gov](mailto:lauren.miley@la.gov) with questions.

## **Educator Talent and Workforce Development**

### **LDOE Out-of-Field Certification Support**

**Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and classroom teachers teaching on an out-of-field certificate.**

The LDOE is making [funding available to reduce barriers for certified teachers](#) teaching out of their field. Through this funding, the LDOE will be covering both the Praxis exam costs as well as the cost associated with updating teaching certificates. Interested system leaders should use [Edlink](#) to find and identify all teachers teaching out-of-field and send the [Out-of-Field Praxis Support Application](#) to those teachers. Educators should complete the application before July 19. Post application emails to teachers will explain next steps in greater detail.

Please contact [LouisianaLeaders@la.gov](mailto:LouisianaLeaders@la.gov) or [Kevin.Nanney@la.gov](mailto:Kevin.Nanney@la.gov) with questions.

## **Staffing and Scheduling Bootcamps**

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

Registration is 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 is of no cost to school systems. School systems are encouraged to send principal supervisors, school leaders, counselors, and those who are involved in the staffing and scheduling process at the school level.

In addition to the in-person sessions, participants will receive follow-up coaching calls with each team to discuss team-specific questions, concerns, and challenges related to staffing and scheduling decisions.

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

- April 15: [Elementary Staffing and Scheduling Baton Rouge](#)
- April 17: [Secondary Staffing and Scheduling Baton Rouge](#)
- April 18: [Elementary Staffing and Scheduling Natchitoches](#)
- April 19: [Secondary Staffing and Scheduling Natchitoches](#)

Please contact [louisianaleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianaleaders@la.gov) with questions.

## **Deadline Extended for Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Applications for 2024-2025**

**Please share with human resources directors.**

In an effort to support human resources professionals in recruitment and retention efforts, the LDOE is expanding the [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship](#) for a fifth cohort for 2024-2025 through a partnership with the national nonprofit organization [Urban Schools Human Capital Academy](#). The fellowship gives human resources professionals the opportunity to collaborate with human capital professionals from across the state and country to learn best practices for attracting and retaining effective educators.

The application deadline for the [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship](#) has been extended until March 29. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by April 19.

Please contact [louisianaleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianaleaders@la.gov) with questions.

## **School Improvement**

### **School Support Institutes Session 5**

**Please share with school leaders and system leaders.**

[School Support Institutes](#) Session 5 (face-to-face) is happening this week. Please see the [SSI logistics page](#) for updated parking, room assignments, lunch options, and pre-work for each venue and pathway.

- Wednesday, March 20 - Shreveport Cohort
- Thursday, March 21 - Lafayette Cohort
- Friday, March 22 - Baton Rouge Cohort

Registered participants will receive an email reminder. Attendees are reminded to have the information from their session 4 deliverable on hand for this session. Please see the [SSI logistics page](#) for zoom links and pre-work information.

Please contact [doessisupportteam@tnp.org](mailto:doessisupportteam@tnp.org) with questions.