



# Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**March 31, 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

[Last year](#), I encouraged school systems to join the [Louisiana Comeback](#) by committing a portion of their ESSER Funds to three key areas: attendance and well-being, recovery and acceleration, and professional learning. I am so proud of the tremendous dedication to the Louisiana Comeback we have seen across the state and the significant progress being made in classrooms every single day.

To acknowledge this great work, we are recognizing [Comeback Campuses](#)—elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate specific, significant gains.

- **Elementary and Middle Schools:** In 2022, achieved or exceeded percent proficient rates of 2019 and did not increase percent unsatisfactory from 2019.
- **High Schools:** In 2022, achieved or exceeded percent proficient rates of 2019 and did not increase percent unsatisfactory from 2019, **and** achieved or exceeded ACT average score of 2019.

Comeback Campus recognition includes access to additional funds, participation in best practices research and system leader roundtable discussions, and a special designation in School Finder. I look forward to seeing what comes next from our Comeback Campuses!

Sincerely,

Dr. Cade Brumley

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## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	<a href="#">April 4 at 4 p.m.</a>
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	<a href="#">April 5 at 10 a.m.</a>
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	<a href="#">April 5 at 3 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">April 5 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	<a href="#">April 12 at 12 p.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 1 at 9 a.m.</a>
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 5 at 1 p.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 7 at 1 p.m.</a>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 20 at 9:30 a.m.</a>
<b>Nonpublic Monthly Call</b>	<b><a href="#">April 20 at 3 p.m.</a></b>
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 21 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 21 at 3 p.m.</a>

Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 25 at 10 a.m.</a>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 26 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
Teaching and Learning Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 27 at 1 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">April 28 at 9 a.m.</a>
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the <a href="#">School Improvement Library</a>. View the <a href="#">School System Support Calendar</a> to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p>	
<b>Upcoming Deadlines</b>	
<a href="#">SPED Fellow Academy: Cohort 3 Application</a>	April 11-May 13

## School Choice

### Monthly Call

Our next monthly call will be held on **Wednesday, April 20th at 2pm**. Our monthly calls are used to provide useful information and training related to all scholarship programs and nonpublic reporting requirements.

- In case you missed March's call, a copy of the presentation can be found [here](#)
- You can join the monthly calls using [this link](#)

### Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP)

#### Louisiana Scholarship Application Timeline

PROCESS	DEADLINE
Roster Verification ( <i>see below</i> )	4/4-4-/8
School Informational Webinar ( <b>Mandatory for all participating LSP Schools</b> )	4/11
Parent Informational Webinar	4/12
Parent Notification Letters	4/18
Site Registration for 2022-23	4/18 - 5/20
Roster Certification Due (declined awards for non-registered students)	5/27
Transfer Window Opens	6/15
Transfer Window Closes	7/18

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

### **FTP logins**

Please make sure you are able to login to the FTP. If you cannot access the FTP please send an email to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) requesting assistance. **Remember to include your school code in the email request. The Deadline to test FTP logins is March 31, 2022.**

### **LSP Roster Verification**

All preliminary rosters for the 2022-23 school year will be placed on the FTP on April 4th, 2022. **An email will be sent once the rosters have been placed on the FTP.**

- You can access your FTP folder using this link:  
<https://sftp.doe.louisiana.gov/thinclient/Login.aspx?alert=timeout>
- To login to the FTP please enter your username and password.
  - Username: **[insert your sitecode]**@nonpublic
  - Enter your password for the FTP (*this is password that you should have set yourself*)
- Click on the folder labeled **“2022-23 LSP”** to access your roster for the upcoming year
- The roster will be labeled as follows: **schoolcode\_schoolname\_2022-23\_Student Rosters**
- Click on the roster to access your list of students for the upcoming year.
  - **Please make sure all rollover students are included on the roster**
  - If a rollover student is missing from the roster, add the student information at the end of the roster
    - Make sure all information is filled out completely. In the **“Other Changes Needed”** column please indicate addition. (last column in the file)
  - If the student information is correct, please enter **“no change”** in the last column
  - If the student information **needs to be changed**, **please enter a description of the changes needed in the last column (do not make the change to the original record).**
  - Once you have fully completed your roster, change name of file to the following:  
**Verified\_schoolcode\_schoolname\_2022-23\_Student Rosters**

**For additional information on how to complete the roster verification process, please review slides 20-27 from the March monthly call. You can access these slides [here](#).**

If you have any issues accessing the FTP or questions about the roster, please contact our office via email at [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) for assistance.

## School Choice Program for Students with Certain Exceptionalities (SCP)

### **Roundtable Webinar**

The roundtable webinar for the School Choice Program has been rescheduled for Friday, **April 1st at 2:00pm**. **All participating schools are strongly encouraged to attend**. We will be discussing the following topics for the 2022-23 school year:

- SCP Application process
- Priority criteria for applicants
- School input and opinions
- You can join the webinar using this [link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94890385286](https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94890385286)

If you have any additional questions regarding the School Choice program, please contact our office via [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) for assistance.

### **Operations**

#### **Upcoming Webinar Opportunity: Understanding Childhood Obesity**

**Please share with school administrators, teachers, child nutrition program staff, health and wellness coordinators.**

The Department, in conjunction with Pennington Biomedical Research Center will host a free [webinar](#) for teachers, school administrators, guidance counselors, child nutrition professionals and other interested stakeholders. The third webinar in the ***Understanding Childhood Obesity*** series will take place Wednesday, April 6, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Online [registration](#) is now open. The webinar will feature a panel of experts from Pennington as well as Seattle Children's Hospital, and discuss prenatal influences on childhood obesity, treatment of childhood obesity in medical settings and opportunities for intervention. A panel discussion will follow, during which audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions.

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

#### **The 21st Century Community Learning Center RFA Released**

**Please share with Federal Program Directors.**

The Department has released the [21st CCLC RFA](#). The purpose of the RFA is to obtain competitive applications from qualified applicants who are interested in establishing a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Applicants will establish community learning centers, in partnership with local educational agencies, to provide students, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, with academic and enrichment opportunities to meet state and local academic achievement standards before and/or after school, as well as in the summer.

Please contact the Grants Management Help Desk at [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### LEAP 2025

Please share with district test coordinators.

- LEAP 2025 Field Test: DTCs for school systems that have schools selected for LEAP 2025 grades 5-8 science and/or social studies field tests were notified by email. Test session times for field tests are available in the [LEAP-at-a-Glance document](#) posted in the assessment library.
- Third year assessment cohort rosters will be posted to the ftp by Wednesday, March 30.
  - All students in high school grades must take an ELA, math assessment to meet federal law. The third year cohort rosters are designed to identify students who have not taken English I or II and/or Algebra I/Geometry.
  - Students must test even if they have not been enrolled in the course.
  - Students who transfer in from out of state, nonpublic school or home study with a credit do not have to test. The credit should be appropriately recorded in STS.
  - Students who participated in LEAP Connect in 2022 or a prior year do not have to test.
  - Test coordinators should not remove any third year assessment cohort students from DRC INSIGHT. The students must be tested or placed in a test session and assigned an accountability code if one can be documented.
- March 28: LEAP grades 3-8 test administration manuals delivered to school systems..

### ACT

Please share with district test coordinators.

- Now-March 31: Create and assign student to test sessions for the March 22-31 testing window
- Now- March 31: Precache test content for Testing Window 2 (if utilizing proctor caching)
- March 29-31: Administer ACT online with standard time or accommodations and supports for Window 2.
- March 31: After testing is complete, purge all cached test content from proctor caching computers
- Now-April 1: Administer ACT paper with accommodations and/or supports and non-college reportable tests (test only on weekdays)
- April 8: Deadline for accommodated paper materials to be returned to ACT to be scored. Late arriving materials will not be scored.
- See the Preparing for [State Testing FAQs](#)

### Innovative Assessment Program School Systems

Please share with test coordinators and data managers from participating systems.

- The *LEAP Testing Roster for IAP Schools* will be posted to the ftp by Wednesday, March 30. This roster includes students who have missed Window 1 and/or Window 2 of the IAP and will be required to participate in the LEAP 2025 grade 7 ELA assessment. Please note that students must participate in all three testing windows in order to receive an IAP end of year report. All students in grade 7 must have either an IAP end-of-year assessment score or a LEAP ELA grade 7 assessment score from the current year.

### Interests and Opportunities Preliminary Guidance

Please share this announcement with school system leaders and school leaders.



The preliminary Interests and Opportunities guidance has been published in the [Accountability Library](#). This guidance includes the menu, course codes, and general timeline information. Between now and June, information may be added to the guidance. Nothing will be removed from the menu or course offerings. A final guidance document will be published in June 2022.

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

## **2021-2022 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM**

The [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analysis. The data in CVR will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, Math, Social Studies (grades 4-8), and Algebra I, Geometry, English I and English II EOC courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores.

- **Monday, April 4-Friday, April 22, 2022: CVR Open for View-only**

During this time, users can view and check roster data for accuracy, but cannot make changes in the CVR Portal. System Support will be available to assist with any issues that a school system must correct in EdLink 360.

- **Monday, May 2-Friday, May 20, 2022 (3 weeks): CVR Open for Roster Verification**

This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school system and school level in the system.

An updated user guide for CVR is available [here](#).

Contact [LDOFCVR@la.gov](mailto:LDOFCVR@la.gov) with questions regarding roster verification, and [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with general Compass related questions.

## **Social Studies Assessment Advisory Group**

**Please share this announcement with social studies supervisors, school leaders, and K–12 social studies teachers.**

The Division of Assessment Content is accepting applications for a Social Studies Assessments Advisory Group in addition to ongoing assessment development committees. The group will be comprised of social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers and coordinators. They will provide input as the Department develops new LEAP Social Studies assessments aligned to the 2022 Louisiana Standards for Social Studies and related assessment resources.

The advisory group will convene over the course of two academic school years, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024. There will be approximately six to eight meetings per year. All meetings will be held virtually after school for no more than two hours. Participation is entirely voluntary.

**The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is May 4.**

Please contact Beth Carney at [elizabeth.carney@la.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carney@la.gov) and Kelly Pizani at [kelly.pizani@la.gov](mailto:kelly.pizani@la.gov) with questions.

### **Social Studies Source Review Committees**

**Please share this announcement with social studies supervisors, school leaders, and grades 3–8 and high school social studies teachers.**

The Division of Assessment Content plans to convene Social Studies Source Review Committees for grades 3–8 and high school Civics. Each committee will

- include 4–6 social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge or grade-level expertise;
- review proposed sources to ensure that materials are fair and appropriate for all students and will support the development of items that allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in social studies and align to the 2022 Louisiana Standards for Social Studies;
- convene for the first time in summer 2022 and on a regular basis during the 2022–2023 school year; and
- complete synchronous and asynchronous reviews during the 2022–2023 school year, with approximately 5 to 6 virtual meetings held outside of school hours.

Interested educators can access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for committee details and links to apply to participate on specific committees.

**The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is May 4.**

Please contact Beth Carney at [elizabeth.carney@la.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carney@la.gov) and Kelly Pizani at [kelly.pizani@la.gov](mailto:kelly.pizani@la.gov) with questions

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Academic Content**

#### **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](#).

<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Title and Grade Levels</b>	<b>Core Subject</b>	<b>Tiered Rating</b>
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Into Literature, Grades 6-8	ELA	Tier 1
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Into Literature, English I-IV	ELA	Tier 1

Great Minds PBC	Eureka Math Squared, Algebra I	Math	Tier 1
Center for the Collaborative Classroom	SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words), Grades 3-8	ELA Intervention	Tier 1

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

## Diverse Learners Supports

### **Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs**

**Please share with school system leaders and special education directors/supervisors.**

This week, the department released its third issue of Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs: [Staff Well-Being](#). School system leaders are encouraged to review the guidance document along with special education supervisors and attend the hour-long webinar to support implementation on [April 8 at 1 p.m.](#)

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

## Educator Development

### **Spring Reach University Informational Session**

**Please share with human resource directors.**

Do you have paraprofessionals or other school employees who would make excellent teachers? Do they need support earning a Bachelor's degree? There is an opportunity for these employees to become teachers without having to leave their current position and at a cost of only \$75 per month. The Department will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, March 31 at 10 a.m. to share additional details about this opportunity through Reach university.

**Webinar Date and Time:** March 31 at 10 a.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

**Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

**Phone Number:** 1-470-381-2552

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

## **Educator Workforce Reports**

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

The 2021-2022 Educator Workforce Report will be released as a live dashboard with information that is updated in real-time. The data release will shift to real-time reports in lieu of annual, static reporting. The dashboard will be released and housed on EdLink 360 by early summer. EdLink 360 Workforce Reports will:

- Grant access for system and school leaders, as well as data managers, to real-time workforce data

- Provide data inclusive of Out-of-Field/Uncertified teachers; salary over time; incentive pay over time; experience of departing teachers; effectiveness of departing teachers; certified teacher need for students with disabilities; percentage of SPED classes being taught by certified teachers

Dates for system and site leader trainings for this new platform will be forthcoming this summer.

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

### **CLASS® Train-the-Trainer Funding Opportunity**

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

During the 2022-2023 school year, schools are encouraged to choose CLASS® or NIET (Tap/Best Practices) as an option to replace Compass for [K-2 Professional Practice](#).

Maintaining trained, certified observers is an important component sustaining the use of CLASS® in K-2. Funding is available for the [CLASS® Observer Train-the-Trainer](#) model for systems with CIR/UIR-A schools. At the school system level, the Train-the-Trainer model will allow school system leaders to build and sustain a cadre of certified observers.

Systems are asked to complete the [K-2 Professional Practice Information Survey](#) to provide information on current K-2 teacher observation rubrics and to help allocate seats for affiliate training.

For more information, email [lori.pennison@la.gov](mailto:lori.pennison@la.gov).

### **CIS End of Year Closeout for Teacher Evaluations**

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

The Department has issued a [CIS Timeline](#) to guide all school systems through the evaluation process deadlines for the 2021-2022 school year. To create a streamlined teacher evaluation upload process at the end of the year, it is recommended that all sites complete the following tasks in [CIS](#):

- Update rosters to reflect only 2021-2022 educators
- Assign evaluators and correct evaluation types to each educator
- Assign SLTs to each educator

The Compass Information System (CIS) will shut down for the 2021-2022 school year on September 1, 2022. Following this date, no teacher evaluation data for the 2021-2022 school year will be able to be amended or added. Please prepare to complete the followin no later than August 26, 2022, in [CIS](#):

- Rate both SLTs for teachers and staff
- Enter professional practice scores for teachers and staff (A reminder that any teacher scoring a 2.5 or above is only required to have one professional practice score for the 2021-2022 school year only. This will be entered two times to ensure the CIS average is correct. Further guidance will be forthcoming.)
- Once data is uploaded, finalize teacher evaluations

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

## **Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Listening Session Nominations**

**Please share with superintendents.**

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will be hosting a series of listening sessions across the state in response to the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force Preliminary Report. The listening sessions will 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. Stakeholders will include teachers, support staff, principals, district central office staff, superintendents, student teachers/teacher residents, teacher preparation providers, and parents/guardians of students. Each stakeholder group will participate in a facilitated listening session led by the Region 14 Comprehensive Center, an outside organization that is a partner with the LDOE in improving education in our state.

In addition to indicating interest in participation, we will ask that superintendents recommend chief talent officers, human resource directors, school principals, and teacher preparation providers from your parish for subsequent focus groups. From your recommendations, the Region 14 Comprehensive Center will ask participating school principals to recommend teachers and support staff who will be featured in the first listening sessions. It is important that the listening sessions include representation from across our state. To that end, the Region 14 Comprehensive Center will review inquiries from interested stakeholders to ensure representation. Please complete this short [survey](#) by Friday, April 15 to indicate your interest and recommendations for participants for the listening sessions.

Please reach out to [brandy.branigan@la.gov](mailto:brandy.branigan@la.gov) for more information.

## **Recruitment and Retention Fellowship**

**Please share with human resources directors.**

Human resources professionals have the opportunity to participate in the third cohort of the recruitment and retention fellowship through a partnership with the national non-profit organization, [Urban Schools Human Capital Academy](#). The fellowship gives Louisiana human resources professionals the opportunity to collaborate with human capital professionals from across Louisiana and the country to learn best practices for attracting and retaining effective educators. The fellowship also focuses on how systems can adjust their strategies during emergency events such as natural disasters and pandemics. The goals of the fellowship program are to:

- Transform HR departments into highly-functioning, strategic partners within their systems to meet the mission of improved student outcomes;
- Build a network of human capital leaders across the state; and
- Change the perception of HR in education to ensure sustainable, long-term success.

HR Directors should complete this short [application](#) to indicate interest and key recruitment challenges from your school system. Applications are due **April 30**. Fellowship applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 13, 2022.

Additional information can be found in this [overview](#) of the fellowship.

Please reach out to [louisianaleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianaleaders@la.gov) for more information.

## **Aspiring Principal Fellowship**

**Please share with school leaders and school leader supervisors.**

In order to prepare future principals for success in their first year as a principal, the Aspiring Principal Fellowship will support the development of aspiring school leaders across the state. The Louisiana Department of Education launched a pilot cohort in 2021-2022 for aspiring principals and is expanding the Aspiring Principal Fellowship for the 2022-2023 school year. The fellowship will prepare up to 50 individuals with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve in the principal role. This selective statewide fellowship is rooted in Louisiana's five priorities:

1. Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.
2. Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.
3. Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.
4. Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.
5. Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships

APF cohort participants will meet monthly (Orientation at Teacher Leader Summit, commencing monthly in September) and explore best practices with regional experts, school visits, and reflection. Participants will exit this fellowship with a robust leadership portfolio, the guidance of Louisiana's most successful principals, and a strong network of lifelong colleagues.

Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems need to cover the cost of the \$1000 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than April 30.

Additional information in this [overview](#) of the fellowship.

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

## **Summer Learning Programs**

**Please share with summer learning program coordinators.**

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the months of January through April, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2022 program.

Earlier this year, the Department hosted a webinar to provide systems with updated guidance on planning and implementing summer learning programs. A copy of the [Summer Learning Program Overview webinar presentation is available in the School System Support Toolbox](#).

Beginning summer 2022, all CIR and UIR-A schools must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students.

Please contact [Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov](mailto:Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov) with any questions.

## **School Improvement Best Practices**

**Please share with system leaders.**

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy is designed to support schools in adopting the essential components that drive professional and student growth and will continue during the 2022-2023 school year. LDOE has partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to develop,

implement, and support five [School Improvement Best Practices](#). The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support;
- teacher collaboration support;
- teaching standards support;
- principal standards support; and
- career pipeline support.

Educators may use this [link](#) to learn more about the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy training sessions, what's new for Summer 2022, and the requirements for CIR and UIR-A schools. School systems may apply for funds through their Achieve! application or use other funding sources for schools without an intervention label.

School systems should complete this [form](#) to indicate the training they anticipate their schools will participate in. Upon receipt of the form, NIET will connect with the school system contact to begin planning. Completing the form does not commit systems to selecting these trainings, but it helps to inform the planning with NIET.

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

### **Staffing and Scheduling Initiative**

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

School systems may use the [staffing and scheduling best practices](#) document for guidance in making staffing and scheduling decisions in preparation for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Staffing and Scheduling initiative launched last spring provides system and school leaders robust [guidance](#) and implementation support on developing strong staffing and scheduling models aligned to the best practices below.

1. High-quality core instruction is the foundation.
2. Effective literacy instruction is central to student success.
3. Students with unfinished learning and diverse learners need extra instructional time to catch up.
4. Both core instruction and acceleration must be provided by content strong staff.
5. Meeting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students supports academic achievement.
6. Equity should be at the forefront of all these strategies.

Additional staffing and scheduling best practices resources can be found in the [School System Support Library](#).

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit**

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

The [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both "Making a Comeback" and our 10th year for this event. [Regular registration](#) will close on April 15 or at sellout. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

**UPDATE:** New Orleans lifted the mask and vaccination mandate for entering facilities. Under the updated

guidelines, Teacher Leader Summit will not require these.

The following educators would directly benefit from the sessions provided:

- Teachers
- Teacher Leaders
- Early Childhood Directors
- Teacher Preparation Providers
- Arts Teachers
- Librarians
- Counselors
- School Leaders
- System Leaders

When selecting educators to attend, systems should prioritize sending those that work directly within content areas such as:

- Career and Technical Education
- Arts
- High School Experience
- Diverse Learners
- ELA
- Early Childhood
- STEM
- Science
- Literacy
- Social Studies
- Technology
- Instructional Best Practices
- Student Well-being
- System/School Planning
- Curriculum and Assessment
- World Languages

Based on participant feedback, enhancements have been made to Teacher Leader Summit, including:

- An improved event app that allows networking with other attendees, Whova
- Increased registration value by including t-shirts and tote bags in the ticket price
- Networking opportunities throughout the event, including evening socials
- Length of day adjusted to meet the needs of participants

The Education Expo returns with high quality professional learning partners and non-profit organizations.

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

## Literacy

### **Middle and High School Professional Development Series**

**Please share with middle and high school teachers, leaders, and support staff.**

The [eighth session](#) of a new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy was released today! This session shares ways to build reading comprehension and implement support for struggling readers by using graphic organizers. All sessions in this series have been released in the [Literacy Library](#). Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a



complete listing of session titles, session descriptions, and release dates. Feedback, suggestions, and requests for additional topics and sessions are welcomed.

**Session Links:**

[Recording: Session 8 - Building Comprehension - Graphic Organizers](#)

[Slide deck: Session 8 - Reading Comprehension - Graphic Organizers](#)

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

## Reminders

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- [School System Relations](#)
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## Operations

### **2021 – 2022 High Cost Services (HCS) Round 2 Application Release**

**Please share with IDEA directors.**

The 2021-2022 High Cost Services (HCS) Round 2 application was released on March 14. The application submission process will close on Friday, April 8.

Special note, that the HCS Round 2 applications should only contain new students. Students who received an allocation in Round 1 cannot be included in the Round 2 application process.

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

### **Ready to Achieve Operational Guidelines Masking and Transportation Update**

**Please share with system leaders, site administrators and school nurses.**

The Louisiana Department of Health and the CDC released COVID-19 Community Levels to help communities and individuals make masking decisions based on their local context.

- Universal masking is recommended for any school in a parish with a High Community Level.
- Schools may continue to require universal masking regardless of Community Level.
- Individuals attending schools that do not require masking may choose to mask regardless of Community Level.
- School buses are no longer included in the federal mask requirement for transit.

- Schools should use Community Levels to determine their policy for wearing masks on school buses, but can continue to require universal masking regardless of Community Level.

[Community Levels](#) should be checked weekly to evaluate the need for masking in school systems.

Please contact [LDOECOVID19support@la.gov](mailto:LDOECOVID19support@la.gov) with questions.

## ***Career and College Readiness***

### **Jump Start Training Catalog**

**Please share with CTE supervisors, principals, assistant principals, and CTE instructors.**

The [Jump Start Training Catalog](#) provides a list of professional development and training opportunities available this summer. Please note that it is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed. School systems can submit training opportunities and/or training requests to [erica.spencer@la.gov](mailto:erica.spencer@la.gov) for review.

Training registration and associated costs for sessions are handled directly between the registrant(s) and the provider; not to LDOE. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration costs. The catalog includes virtual, in-person, and hybrid training options for many IBCs on the State Focus list.

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

### **Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application Deadline Extended**

**Please share with professional school counselors, CTE supervisors, and CTE instructors.**

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF) Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program is accepting [applications](#) for up to forty one-time \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarship is geared toward students who have a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma, earned a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential, and plan to enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

[Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Applications](#) are due May 20.

Please contact [megan.thompson2@la.gov](mailto:megan.thompson2@la.gov) with questions.

## ***School System Relations***

### **New Teacher Of the Year Finalists**

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

The Department is excited to announce the nine finalists for the *New Teacher of the Year* award. These amazing educators have demonstrated excellence in their very first year in the classroom. Finalists will participate in an interview process, and the overall New Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Dream Teachers gala in late July. Please congratulate this outstanding group of new teachers.

<b>Elementary</b>	Riley Benjamin	West Baton Rouge
<b>Elementary</b>	Ally Coburn	Ouachita
<b>Elementary</b>	Charli Hauk	Avoyelles
<b>Middle</b>	Juliana Habisreitinger	West Feliciana
<b>Middle</b>	Annanaquia Smith	Rapides
<b>Middle</b>	Jamie Young	Calcasieu
<b>High</b>	Robert Daly	Collegiate Academy
<b>High</b>	Rachel Ryan	Bossier
<b>High</b>	Jordyn Vicknair	Ascension

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

### **Department Names the 2023 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists**

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

The Department is proud to announce the [2023 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana’s teaching profession.

All Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists will be honored at the *16<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellent Educators Awards Gala* that will be held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans on the evening of July 30, 2022. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

### **Three Louisiana Educators Receive National Milken Educator Awards**

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

This month, three exceptional Louisiana educators were named as national [Milken Educator Award](#) recipients. Each received an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize during surprise school assemblies.

The recipients were Laura Laiche of East Feliciana Parish, Jay Weisman of Benjamin Franklin High School, and Marco French of Caddo Parish.

- [Learn more about recipient Laura Laiche.](#)
- [Learn more about recipient Jay Weisman.](#)
- [Learn more about recipient Marco French.](#)

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

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

### **Models of Excellence**

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

On March 16, Dr. Cade Brumley and the Louisiana Department of Education held a special ceremony honoring Mansfield Elementary School in DeSoto Parish as a Louisiana Models of Excellence recipient. The [Louisiana Models of Excellence](#) is a statewide award that recognizes schools and school systems that serve as a state model in meeting one of the Louisiana Department of Education’s [Believe to Achieve](#) priorities.

Mansfield Elementary School was nominated for this award by the Office of Teaching and Learning for their literacy intervention initiative, Strategic Literacy Focus, based on the priority of providing the highest quality teaching and learning environment. Under the Department’s guidance, [literacy interventions](#) are designed to improve literacy outcomes for students by providing students with high-quality core instruction together with explicit literacy interventions and extensions based on individual student needs. Mansfield Elementary School was named a Models of Excellence recipient for the use of an established intervention program, frequently analyzing and discussing literacy data in Instructional Leadership Teams (ILT) and clusters, and utilizing the data to meet the needs of students. Following the ceremony, guests and educational stakeholders were invited to learn more about the literacy intervention program.

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

## Teaching and Learning

### Academic Content

#### **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](#).

Publisher	Title and Grade Levels	Core Subject	Tiered Rating
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Into Literature, Grades 6-8	ELA	Tier 1
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Into Literature, Grades 9-10	ELA	Tier 1

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

#### **Louisiana’s ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Overview**

**Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and grades 3-5 ELA teachers.**

[Louisiana’s ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Overview document](#) has been updated to include the most up-to-date information about revisions to the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units. The overview document contains the following important information to support school systems in implementing these updated units:

- An overview of updates to ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022)
- Curriculum access and text purchasing information
- Unit text and topic overviews with release schedule
- Master text lists

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

## **Social Studies Standards Review Update**

**Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-12 social studies teachers**

On March 8, 2022, [BESF unanimously approved](#) the [2022 K-12 Student Standards for Social Studies](#). Initial [implementation information](#) can be found in the [Standards Review Library](#). The Department will provide resources and educator professional development to support the implementation of the new social studies standards starting at this year's Teacher Leader Summit.

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

## **Diverse Learners Supports**

### **National Down Syndrome Congress Hosting 2022 Convention in New Orleans**

**Please share with special educators, students with Down syndrome and their families.**

The [National Down Syndrome Congress Convention](#) is a 4-day event designed to provide a meaningful and educational experience for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, caregivers, and medical and educational professionals who dedicate their lives to the Down syndrome community. Attendees will choose one of three conferences that run simultaneously during the Convention:

- the General Conference, intended for parents, grandparents, adult siblings, and professionals
- the Youth & Adults Conference, for individuals with Down syndrome age 15 (by June 23) and older
- the Siblings Conference, a place for siblings only, who are rising 4th through 12th graders in the 2022-23 school year

[Registration](#) opened March 14. The convention will be held in New Orleans June 23-26, 2022.

Please contact [info@ndscenter.org](mailto:info@ndscenter.org) with questions.

### **LA-AEM Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Network**

**Please share with Special Education Directors, Pupil Appraisal Supervisors, Special Educators and Related Service Providers.**

The Louisiana Accessible Education Materials Center is seeking educators, related service providers and families to join a network aimed at supporting students with significant cognitive disabilities. Network participants will learn about assistive technology supports, communication supports and accessible educational materials and increasing opportunities for student participation with high quality curriculum and instruction. Interested individuals should [register](#) to join the network.

Please contact [administrator@ssdla-aem.org](mailto:administrator@ssdla-aem.org) with questions.

## **FFY2 IDEA Draft Grant Application**

**Please share with special education leaders, educators, families and community members.**

Stakeholders across Louisiana submitted 553 comments during the stakeholder input phase of our IDEA budget application process. The Department is now seeking [public comment](#) on our FFY22 IDEA [Draft Budget Application](#). Please submit [public comment](#) by 5 p.m. April 22, 2022.

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

## **Literacy**

### **Middle and High School Professional Development Series**

**Please share with middle and high school teachers, leaders, and support staff.**

The [seventh session](#) of a new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy was released today! This session shares ways to build reading comprehension and implement support for struggling readers by identifying topics and utilizing writing strategies. Additional sessions will be released weekly on Tuesdays in the [Literacy Library](#). Pre-recorded sessions will include topics designed to build knowledge around implementing literacy strategies and best practices across all content areas in the middle and high school grades. Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a listing of session titles, session descriptions, and release dates.

#### **Session Links:**

- [Recording: Session 7 - Building Comprehension - Writing](#)
- [Slide deck: Session 7 - Reading Comprehension - Writing](#)

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