



# Important News for **NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**September 8, 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

Across Louisiana, educators are working with a sense of urgency for children. You're finding innovative ways to close the gaps created by two disruptive school years. But before even the most effective academic strategies can make a difference, students have to attend school on a regular basis.

September is Attendance Awareness Month in Louisiana and across the nation. Students who miss 10 percent or more of the school year are less likely to read on grade-level by third grade or graduate from high school. The last two years have taught us the value of in person instruction. Every day a student is in school is an opportunity to learn, grow, and access supports they may otherwise go without.

We recently launched Louisiana's Success Through Attendance Recovery (STAR) Task Force. This task force was designed to identify critical student truancy, attendance, and dropout issues, and to develop recommendations for statewide action that support all stakeholders. Their goals include:

- Analyzing statewide and system-level attendance and truancy data
- Understanding and providing solutions for the top two or three attendance and truancy critical barriers
- Establishing multi-state agency coordination opportunities to improve structural changes to support attendance and truancy recovery initiatives
- Researching other SEA's and LEA's chronic absenteeism data and initiatives · Creating a strategic plan with recommendations to address the current attendance and truancy crisis
- Establishing measurable STAR Task Force goals/key performance indicators to progress monitor and report quarterly

I'll keep you updated on the progress of this new task force and the resources developed through their collaboration. Something all system leaders should be doing now is collaborating with local government and community stakeholders to keep families informed of the policies and the value of regular attendance. Let's do our part this and every month to emphasize the importance of being in class and ready to learn every day.

Dr. Cade Brumley

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## Important Dates for School Systems

### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- CWA Liaisons and Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Call: [September 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Leaders Monthly Call: [September 7 at 10 a.m.](#)
- K-2 Learning Year: Phase I Office Hours: [September 7 at 12 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services AFR Office Hours: [September 8 at 2:00 p.m.](#)
- [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: September 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [September 19 at 10:30 a.m.](#) School
- Medicaid Monthly Call: [September 20 at 2:30 p.m.](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: September 20 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Well-Being Monthly Call: [September 21 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [September 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [September 22, 2022 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [September 28 at 1 p.m.](#)

### Upcoming Events

- 2022 SPED Leader Back-to-School Webinar: [September 8 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Paraprofessional and Support Staff Literacy Support Webinar Session 1: [September 12 at 9:30 a.m.](#), [September 13 at 1 p.m.](#), and [September 16 at 11 a.m.](#)
- 2022-2023 Student of the Year Award Program Webinar: [September 13 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Grades 3-12 Foundations and Content Literacy Support Webinar: [September 14 at 3:30 p.m.](#)
- REAL Webinar: [September 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- [School Support Institutes](#) Session 1: Sept 27-30
- [AEMing for Success Conference](#): October 18-19
- [CISA 2022 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security](#): [November 1-3](#)

## School Choice

### **Nonpublic School Annual Reporting (NPS)**

All nonpublic schools approved by BESE (nonpublic schools seeking state approval) must submit an annual enrollment report each fall. 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 will open for all schools on September 12<sup>th</sup>. EdLink information along with guidance manuals will be available on the [NonPublic School webpage](#) on Monday September 12<sup>th</sup>. The submissions portal will be from September 12<sup>th</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The LDE will be hosting office hours in which any nonpublic school may join with any questions or support. Information is available on the webpage linked above.

If you have any questions, please email our office at [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) for assistance.

### **Monthly Call**

Our next monthly call will be held next week on **September 21st at 2pm**. You can join the monthly calls using [this link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93717548403](https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93717548403)

### **Office Hours**

The Office of School Choice-Nonpublic Schools Team will be offering a new service called [Office Hours](#). We are offering office hours to provide one-on-one assistance regarding any questions you may have.

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/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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** 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***

### **Sponsor Site Changes**

The Sponsor Site Change form must be completed for all schools making any of the following changes:

- Address change
- School leader/Superintendent changes

- Grade level changes
- School openings or closings

Link can be found [here](#)

### **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.***

Date	Item	Participants
September 12th	NPS annual data submission opens	All Nonpublic Schools
September 21st	LDE Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call	All Nonpublic Schools
September 23rd	Strategies for Success Bi-Weekly Meeting	All new scholarship managers All new scholarship schools**
September 30th	Notice of Intent 2023-24 (NOI) for LSP and SCS opens	LSP and SCP schools

## **Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP)**

### **Quarterly Enrollment Reporting**

Quarter 1 enrollment closed in LEADS on September 6th.

- **Schools that did not submit Q1 enrollment in LEADS will have delayed payments for Quarter 1 and should contact our office immediately at [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) for next steps.**
- If you have any errors on your Quarter 1 submission, please contact our office so that we may assist you with correcting your issue.

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

- **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.**

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

### **Quarterly Enrollment Reporting**

Quarter 1 enrollment closed in LEADS on September 6th. All participating SCS schools successfully submitted Q1 enrollment before the deadline.

- If you have any errors on your Quarter 1 submission, please contact our office so that we may assist you with correcting your issue.

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

- **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.**

## Operations

### **Farm to School and Childhood Obesity Conferences**

**Please share with principals, teachers, counselors and school nutrition staff.**

The Division of Nutrition Support is sponsoring two days of in-person events at Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge. On September 28, 2022, teachers, principals, and other school staff are invited to LSU Ag Center's annual Farm to School Conference. [Registration](#) via Eventbrite. On September 29, Pennington is hosting the 2022 Childhood Obesity and Public Health conference. This conference is designed for professionals engaged in a number of public health/education settings, including child nutrition professionals, nurses, health educators, and counselors. Registration for this event is at <https://pbrcsurveys.pbrc.edu/index.php/291382?>; the [agenda](#) is available on the [louisianafitkids](#) website.

Please contact [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov) for more information.

### **Constitution Day 2022**

**Please share with school system leaders.**

Please review the letter from Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer, addressed to state [superintendents](#), and the separate letter addressed to [principals](#) regarding Constitution Day 2022. Each letter contains instructions for if a system is interested in the opportunity for a judge to visit with students at their school or have their students visit the local courthouse. The JIC/SIC program is a means to support our state's educators in presenting civics education to students.

The Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court and the judges in our communities hope to help make a positive impact on the lives of our state's students through this valuable program. Please visit [the Louisiana Supreme Court website](#) for more materials and information.

### **2022-23 Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan**

**Share with federal program directors, IDEA supervisors and school system leaders.**

Please be student driven and data informed to adjust your Comeback Plans.

Visit [louisianabelieves.com](#) to access the [Pandemic Guidance and Resources Library](#) for resources to complete your plans. The Academic Recovery and Accelerations Plans FAQ document will be published by September 15 on the FSGR call.

**Plans are due September 30 via eGMS.** Please contact [LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov) for support.

## **Assessments, Accountability and Analytics**

### **Dropouts in DCAI Roster**

**Please share with accountability contacts.**

EdLink will be opened to correct student records that have been submitted in the Louisiana Data Review system. As soon as it opens, Jennifer Baird will send an announcement. If the dropout can no longer be corrected in EdLink, it will not be approved in data correction. Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) for questions.

### **Assessment Rosters**

**Please share with accountability contacts.**

Assessment rosters are now available for checking in La Data Review. **All submissions must be created no later than September 21.** Please note that progress rosters are not yet available and progress points will not be shown on the assessment roster. Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) with questions.

### **KEA and K-3 Screening**

**Please share with test coordinators, supervisors and school leaders.**

KEA and K-3 literacy screening must be administered to all students in the first 30 days of school. Systems and schools can refer to [PreK to Grade 3 Assessment Guidance](#) for scoring and reporting.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) or [bridgette.cupstid@la.gov](mailto:bridgette.cupstid@la.gov) for questions.

### **NAEP**

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

NAEP released the [2022 Long-Term Trends Report](#) on September 1. Results are only available for the nation and by regions. No state data will be available.

## **Career and College Readiness**

## **2022-2023 High School Planning Guide**

**Please share with system leaders, secondary supervisors, high school and middle school leaders, and school counselors.**

The [2022-2023 Louisiana High School Planning Guidebook](#) is now available. This guidebook consolidates the policies and programs that are most relevant to high school educators as they plan for the upcoming academic year and prepare every student for college and career success.

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

## **2022-2023 Student of the Year Award Program Webinar**

**Please share with Principals and Student of the Year Coordinators.**

Newly revised Student of the Year Guidelines and accompanying documents will be available to school systems in early September and a webinar has been scheduled to explain the changes.

Revisions include additional regions, changes in organizational structure as well as shifts in portfolio scoring weights.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 13, 2022; 1 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91787908534>
- **Meeting ID:** 917 8790 8534
- **Passcode:** 421010

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

## **School System Financial Services**

### **FY2021-2022 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Collection Timelines**

**Please forward to business managers and financial officials of city/parish school systems, Type 1, Type 2, 3B, Type 3 and Type 5 Charter Schools, LSMSA, NOCCA, OJJ, THRIVE, LSU Lab, and Southern Lab.**

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires that local school systems and schools provide financial data to the Department no later than September 30 each year. The data is submitted via the LEADS portal. Visit <https://leads13.doe.louisiana.gov/lug/AFR/AFR.htm> for AFR documents to assist in the submission of data.

Please contact [staudit@la.gov](mailto:staudit@la.gov) with questions concerning the preparation of the financial information or account classification; contact [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions regarding technical issues such as the electronic submission or online update process.

### **Required Services Request for Reimbursements**

**Please share with Principals and financial officials.**

The LDOE is currently accepting Required Services requests for reimbursement for the School Year 2021-2022. Please see the attached [Memo](#) for details and links to resource materials.



Submissions must be submitted electronically and are due by September 30, 2022. For questions please contact [nonpublicschoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov)

## 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
Savvas Learning Company LLC	enVision Math, Grades 6-8	Math	Tier 1

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

#### **Celebrate Freedom Week Resources**

**Please share with social studies content leaders and school leaders.**

[Legislation](#) passed during this year's session that requires each public school to recognize Celebrate Freedom Week. Each September, in conjunction with Constitution Day and Constitution Week, each public school shall observe Celebrate Freedom Week. As part of this observance, all students should receive age and grade-appropriate instruction, in a social studies or other appropriate course, on topics related to freedom. Topics may include but are not limited to instruction related to the nation's founding and the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights. LDOE has compiled [resources from the Library of Congress and National Constitution Center](#) that schools and school systems can choose to utilize in recognition of Celebrate Freedom Week in their system. LDOE is recognizing Celebrate Freedom Week September 12-16. Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

### Diverse Learners

#### **2022 SPED Leader Back-to-School Webinar**

**Please share with special education directors/supervisors.**

The Department will be holding a back-to-school webinar to kick-off the 2022-2023 school year with important updates and helpful resources to assist school systems in supporting students with diverse needs. Information to attend the September 8 webinar is as follows:

**Webinar Date and Time:** September 8 at 2 p.m.  
**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96791988170>  
**Dial-in Number:** 1-346-248-7799  
**Meeting ID:** 967 9198 8170

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

## **Educator Development**

### **Rater Reliability Evaluator Training**

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

All evaluators are required to renew certification annually to evaluate, per [Bulletin 130](#). The 2022-2023 [Rater Reliability Evaluator Training](#) and [companion](#) are now available in the [Compass Library](#). This training should be completed by all evaluators, even those using approved alternate observation rubrics. Upon completion of the training, evaluators should submit the survey located in the companion to assure participation.

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

### **Compass Information System (CIS) Updates**

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

All 2021-2022 observation and student learning target (SLT) data should be entered or [uploaded](#) into CIS by September 30. All non-VAM teacher evaluations should also be finalized by this date. The 2021-2022 VAM data will be released into CIS on October 7. Following the VAM release, systems will have until October 21 to make final adjustments. All evaluations will then automatically be finalized in CIS on October 22.

The [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#) will be open for the 2022-2023 school year following the release of VAM. Rosters may be updated once the system is opened for 2022-2023. Systems are encouraged to begin setting [Student Learning Targets \(SLTs\)](#) and conducting observations prior to this date. Two observations will be required for the 2022-2023 school year. Scores may be collected and entered into the system after rosters are complete.

Resources for [goal setting](#) and [updating rosters](#) are located in the [Compass Library](#). Please contact [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with questions.

### **Grow Your Own Program Implementation and Instruction Best Practices**

#### **Office Hours**

**Please share with system leaders, human resource directors, and teacher leaders.**

During monthly, virtual office hours, the Educator Development team will share updates related to aspiring educator initiatives. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance from the LDOE and other attendees.

**Webinar Date and Time:** September 28, 4 – 5 p.m.  
**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>  
**Dial-in Number:** +13462487799,,3455048179#  
**Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## Literacy

### **Real-time Early Access to Literacy School System Webinar**

**Please share with school system supervisors.**

Real-time Early Access to Literacy (REAL) provides individualized support for students in pre-K through grade 3 to make progress in their literacy development. REAL provides tutoring services to eligible students in pre-K through grade 3 attending a CIR/UIR-A school. The Department will host a spring REAL School System webinar on **September 15 at 10 a.m.** to provide school systems with updated information on the REAL tutoring program.

**Webinar Date and Time:** September 15 at 10 a.m.  
**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92035221260>  
**Dial-in Number:** 470-250-9358  
**Meeting ID:** 920 3522 1260

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

## School Improvement

### **Beginning-of-Year Conversations**

The [Division of School Improvement](#) provides differentiated and targeted support to school systems and leaders in the implementation of LDOE School Improvement Best Practices. During the 2021-2022 school year, 38 school systems across the state chose to receive this support. These systems actively participated in reflective conversations centered on current instructional needs that were identified through 473 observations conducted in classrooms, ILT settings, and teacher collaboration sessions. As a result, 84% of these systems saw increases in the percentage of students scoring mastery and above on the LEAP assessment. This school year brings opportunities for additional school systems to receive support in the implementation of LDOE School Improvement Best Practices. The School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS) are currently facilitating beginning of year conversations across the state to celebrate successes from 2021–2022,

- reflect on 2021-2022 data,
- discuss past best practice implementation efforts, and
- consider how implementation will continue supporting school improvement efforts.

Please contact [schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov](mailto:schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov) with information requests.

## Reminders

### Executive Office Reminders

#### **LDOE Response to Title IX Federal Guidance Documents**

**Please share with system leaders.**

The Louisiana Department of Education has released updated guidance on the U.S. Department of Education's proposed changes to Title IX Regulations. The [LDOE's updated guidance can be viewed online](#).

### Operations Reminders

#### **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance**

**Grants Please share with system leaders and child nutrition service providers.**

The USDA has awarded Louisiana \$521,423, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program. Only those entities that participate in the (NSLP) will have access to online grant applications. Schools approved for participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) that participate(d) in SSO/SFSP as part of COVID-19 flexibilities are eligible to apply for the grant opportunity. Priority will be given to schools where the greatest percentage of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Grant related information is located at this link [2022 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants](#). Online applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs Website](#). The application period will tentatively open October 3, 2022 and close on November 4, 2022. For questions, please contact Nutrition Support at [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov)

### Assessments, Accountability and Analytics Reminders

#### **LEAP 2025**

**Please share with test coordinators and school leaders.**

The 2022-2023 growth to mastery rosters with new targets for students in grade 4-8 is available in DRC INSIGHT. High school rosters will be created after the October 1 collection closes to allow the department to assign the student based on current enrollment rather than enrollment for testing. When the high school rosters are released, grades 4-8 will be updated with new site codes as well.

The growth to mastery results file will not be available in August. Jennifer Baird will communicate with all system contacts when they become available for review. The subgroup csv data file will be available to test coordinators in DRC INSIGHT on August 31. Please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov) or [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

#### **ACT**

**Please share with test coordinators and technology directors.**

Beginning spring 2023, ACT will support the use of Apple iPad devices on the ACT test taken as part of ACT state and district computer-based testing. The ACT national test currently is not available for digital devices. Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **Innovative Assessment Program**

**Please share with test coordinators and school leaders at participating sites.**

BESE approved cut scores and achievement levels for the 2022 Innovative Assessment Program (IAP) Grade 7 Operational Assessments. Reports were released in ADAM on August 25. Students who completed all three administrations of the IAP were eligible to receive end of year reports. Students who did not complete all three administrations were required to take the regular LEAP 2025 ELA for grade 7. The IAP scores will be included on assessment rosters when they become available in La Data Review the week of August 29. Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **Career and College Readiness Reminders**

### **NCCER ICTP/Core Instructor Training**

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

NCCER ICTP/Core teacher certification will be held virtually from September 19 - 23 and continues September 26-30. The class will be instructed by NCCER Master Trainer Chance Plaisance. The master trainer will work with craft instructors to complete performance profiles. The cost of the certification class for ICTP/Core is \$700.00. Registration costs will be paid directly to the trainer. Perkins and/or CDF funds can pay for training costs.

Prior to registering for the training, all potential craft instructors are required to submit documentation of skill for the requested craft areas in which the potential craft instructor wishes to teach to [Troy Borne](#). Include NCCER card number.

Documentation of skill may be any or all of the following:

- Resume with industry experience, or teaching experience in craft requested, including professional contacts to verify experience in requested craft area(s)
- Diploma with transcript from postsecondary institution in requested craft area(s)

Submit requests for training and documentation to [troy.borne@la.gov](mailto:troy.borne@la.gov).

**CISA 2022 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security Please share with system leaders, school administrators, school-based law enforcement, mental health professionals, and other school safety and security professionals.**

Join the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for the [2022 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security](#), November 1-3, 2022. This three-day, virtual event will convene school safety experts, practitioners, and leaders from across the country to discuss current threats in school safety and explore research-informed strategies for addressing security challenges and risks in K-12 schools.

[Registration](#) is now open for the Summit, and attendance is free of charge. Sessions are planned for all members of the K-12 community and will include keynote remarks, one-on-one interviews, and panel discussions on issues such as targeted violence, violence prevention, cybersecurity, emergency planning, and physical security.

The event is designed to foster a nationwide dialogue on school safety and equip school stakeholders and personnel with resources, training, and expertise to apply in their local school settings and communities.

**Webinar Date and Time:** November 1-3; 1 - 3 p.m.

**Registration Link:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-national-summit-on-k-12-school-safety-and-security-tickets-405269852037>

Please contact the CISA School Safety Task Force at [SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov) with questions.

## **School System Financial Services Reminders**

### **Annual Financial Report (AFR) Assistance**

**Please share with Business Managers and Financial Officials.**

Special weekly AFR-specific office hours will be offered during September. Staff will be available to provide assistance with questions regarding completing the AFR submission process and technical guidance with the upload of information. Business Managers and other system-level Financial Officials with questions are encouraged to join one or all of the sessions.

#### **Office Hour Dates and Times:**

- September 8 at 2:00 p.m.
- September 15 at 2:00 p.m.
- September 22 at 2:00 p.m.
- September 29 at 2:00 p.m.

**Office Hours Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91239613750?pwd=bWtZa1dCNERkRjVKNmhPNIUrWXZ6UT09>

**Office Hours Phone Number:** 470-381-2552

**Meeting ID:** 912 3961 3750

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

## **Teaching and Learning Reminders**

### **Educator Development**

#### **New Podcast Episode Released: “Episode 4: Changing the Culture of Attendance with Judith Rhodes”**

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

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) is the podcast that offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. In Season 2, Episode 4, Judith Rhodes, an Associate Professor of Research at Louisiana State University’s School of Social Work and Director of Research for the American Council for School Social Work, talks with us about school attendance in a post-pandemic world and how we can re-engage students and parents to improve and maintain overall enrollment. We also highlight a mentor teacher at Hynes Charter School.

Share your stories! Submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in your school and system for the What’s Making Me Smile segment. Please contact [em.cooper@la.gov](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

### **Continuous Learning**

**Please share with system leaders.**

In accordance with BESE policy, school systems shall have a continuous learning plan for extended school closures, updated annually by June 30 of each year. The plan should be connected to the

four focus areas of continuous learning: school and system planning, technology, instructional quality, and family engagement. The Department has released a [Continuous Learning Toolkit](#) to support system leaders in developing plans for continuous learning outside of normal practices. Summer continuous learning webinars were hosted by the Department to provide guidance to system leaders on how to develop a continuous learning plan. Please contact [keisha.thomas2@la.gov](mailto:keisha.thomas2@la.gov) with questions.

### **Praxis Core Updates**

**Please share with human resource directors and system leaders.**

Last fall, the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force studied the barrier of Praxis Core on recruiting teachers into the profession. As a result of the study, the Task Force unanimously endorsed a proposal to remove the requirement of a core academic skills assessment (e.g. Praxis Core, ACT, SAT) from entry into a teacher preparation program and for initial licensure. 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. 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 at the August meeting. All other requirements (Praxis II, GPA, etc.) remain the same. Additional guidance will be shared with school systems in future newsletters. Please contact [em.cooper@la.gov](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

### **Para-to-Teacher Webinar**

**Please share with school leaders and 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, at a cost of only \$75 per month. The Department will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, September 22 at 12 p.m. to share additional details about this opportunity through Reach University.

**Webinar Date and Time:** September 22, 12 – 1 p.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.

### **2022-2023 Mentor Waiver Application Now Open**

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

At the April BESE meeting, the Board approved a waiver for the Mentor policy for the 2022-2023 school year. Mentor teacher waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDOE and at no fee to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation provider.

The [2022-2023 Mentor Waiver Application](#) is now open.

Mentor Waiver Applications must be created by the system leader responsible for resident placement and/or Mentor recruitment and support. Mentor waivers should be in place prior to October 1.

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

**Teacher Preparation Program Approval Applications**

**Please share with teacher preparation providers and school system leaders.**

Teacher preparation programs, early childhood ancillary certificate programs, Mentor and content leader programs, and educational leader preparation programs for initial approval are accepted and considered by BESE twice per year. For the upcoming cycle, the Survey Monkey Apply portal will open to receive notices of intent on September 1 and will close for new notices of intent on October 1. The chart below includes the new timelines for the 2022-2023 application cycles.

<b>Program Approvals Timeline</b>					
<i>Application Portal Opens By</i>	<i>Notice of Intent Submitted By</i>	<i>Application Submission Deadline</i>	<i>Evaluation Period</i>	<i>Notification of Evaluation Results</i>	<i>BESE Considers (if recommended for approval)</i>
05/03/2022	6/1/2022	6/30/2022	07/01/2022 - 08/19/2022	09/12/2022	10/12/2022
09/01/2022	10/01/2022	12/09/2022	12/19/2022 – 02/17/2023	03/09/2023	04/19/2023
05/01/2023	06/01/2023	07/10/2023	07/17/2023 – 08/01/2023	9/12/2023	10/11/2023