



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Jan 10, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year, and welcome back from what I hope was a restful break. We all have goals for what we want to achieve in 2023, and the work to make those happen starts now.

One of our educational priorities is to provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment. To do that, we must develop and retain a highly-effective workforce. One of the ways we support our teachers and leaders is through regular statewide opportunities for targeted professional learning.

This school year, we launched a new series of in-person workshops called [Summit Extensions](#) that extend critical learning from the annual Teacher Leader Summit. These half-day events for key school system level leaders focus on implementation of the Professional Learning Roadmap. Our roadmap guides and supports school systems and school leaders in their implementation of essential professional learning structures: school system instructional leadership teams, school instructional leadership teams, and teacher collaboration.

The first round of sessions last fall were well attended and received positive feedback. I want to invite you to join us for our January extensions in Lafayette, Shreveport, or Baton Rouge. [You can find more information and register online.](#) If you are able to attend, I believe you will make connections between best instructional practices and efforts within your school. This is also an opportunity for system leaders to bring together their leadership team and have the time and space to strengthen your system-level ILTs as a team.

Dr. Cade Brumley

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- CWA Monthly Call: [January 11 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [January 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [January 11 at 11a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [January 11 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [January 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School-Based Medicaid Monthly Call: [January 17 at 2:30 p.m.](#)
- Well-Being Community of Practice Monthly Call: [January 18 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Business Manager Monthly Call: [January 18 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [January 24 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Office Hours: [January 26 at 9 a.m.](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: January 26 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 7 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [2023-24 Louisiana Scholarship Program Application Opens](#): December 12-January 27
- K-12 Computer Science Education [listening sessions](#) January 9-18
- [Teacher and Principal of the Year Applications](#) due January 11
- [Recognize School Leaders in the January Principal's Newsletter](#) by January 17
- High Cost Services Round 1 Application closes: January 27
- OpenSciEd K-12 Expansion Informational Webinar: [February 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- [2022-2023 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders](#) deadline: February 3
- [2023 Jump Start Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit](#): February 8

Operations

Super App CIR-Discipline

Please share with school system leaders, secondary and elementary supervisors, and principals.

In November, the LDOE released the [2022 Schools in Need of Intervention list](#), which identifies CIR, UIR-Academic, and UIR-Discipline labels. LDOE's state ESSA plan dictates that a school site that receives a UIR-D label for three consecutive years is moved to a CIR-Discipline label. This year, 17 schools now have a CIR label based on that criterion.

School systems can look in the 2022 School Intervention Summary file on their FTP site to determine which sites are CIR resulting from discipline. These CIR-Discipline sites will not follow the same planning process as other CIR schools and should not be included in any Super App response. The week of January 16, the LDOE will contact each school system with a CIR-Discipline site to begin an alternate planning process. Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions--"Super App" in the subject line.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants

Information for all LEAs participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

The USDA has awarded Louisiana \$521,423, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, and an additional funding amount of \$860,586 to be competitively awarded to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to improve the ability to serve healthier meals, support

scratch cooking, improve food safety, store fresh food, upgrade equipment, and help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Only those entities that participate in the NSLP will have access to online grant applications. 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 2022 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants. Online applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs Website](#). **The application period closes January 31.** Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Outstanding School Support Employees Award

Please share with teachers and school leaders.

The Outstanding School Support Employees Awards program recognizes, honors and celebrates outstanding school support staff who are going above and beyond. These staff members include teacher aides and paraprofessionals; school bus drivers; food service workers; clerical, custodial, and maintenance personnel; and any other non-certificated employee.

Nominations may be submitted through the [online portal](#) through February 14. Please join the upcoming informational webinar to learn more about the nomination process.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 19 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93462917415?pwd=YkpFb0VaTXZlNWn1YVBUbHpVRC9nUT09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 934 6291 7415

Please contact dana.dauzat@la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

EdFirst Initiative

Please share with school and school system leaders and testing coordinators.

The purpose of the EdFirst Initiative project is to develop

- a model for ELA curriculum--relevant through-year assessments that connect with multiple high-quality curricula,
- an assessment blueprint and then administer the assessment in the spring of 2023 in a small number of schools at grade 5, and
- innovative reports and supports for improved understanding of results with direct instructional applications.

The assessments will be designed to connect flexibly with high-quality curriculum across the state, based on analyses of commonalities in ELA curricula. In consultation with stakeholders, the Department will design innovative score reports connected to corresponding curriculum-relevant supports that provide more timely, actionable, and understandable information on student performance.

Systems who choose to participate in the project will be included in assessment planning and implementation for the new through-course assessment for grade 5. The LDOE will work closely with systems to get input from all stakeholders through focus groups and surveys. Professional learning will be designed to guide educators in using assessment results to implement supports to improve instruction and classroom practices that meet the needs of all students.

School systems interested in learning more about the project should complete this [survey](#); please contact ruth.caillouet@la.gov with questions.

ACT Match/No Match Lists

Please share with testing coordinators and accountability contacts.

ACT Match/No Match Lists will be available on district FTPs the week of January 16. These important lists are designed to

- Provide the highest current score for students in grade 12 on the ACT Match List. Students on the match list may participate in the spring administration to improve their score; however, school systems will be required to pay for the administration.
- Provide a list of students on the ACT No Match List who have no ACT score on file with the department and will need to test during the spring administration. Students on the ACT No Match list should participate in ACT testing and the department will pay for the administration.
 - All grade 12 students, regardless of expected graduation year, must have an ACT score on file unless they participated in LEAP Connect at the high school level.
 - Students in grade 12 who do not have an ACT score will receive a zero in the ACT index portion of the school performance score.
 - WorkKeys certification can only be used for a student in accountability if there is also an ACT score on file.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Dropout Correction in EdLink 360

Please share with data managers, accountability contacts and school leaders.

The snapshot for Dropout Corrections that was originally scheduled for January 9 has been extended to Friday, January 13. This extension is being made to allow systems extra time to review and update data.

- Any corrections should be made in the EdLink Dropout Application Tool, **no later than 5:00 p.m., January 12.**
- Please visit the [EdLink360 Support page](#) for the latest information on collection timelines.

Please note that it is extremely important to accountability calculations that all dropout corrections be completed in EdLink. There will be no opportunity to correct dropouts during the cohort graduation data certification process for students who were not corrected in EdLink.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov for questions regarding system cleanup; contact assessment@la.gov for questions about dropouts used in the cohort graduation rate and other accountability indices.

LEAP Connect and ELPT/ELPT Connect

Please share with testing coordinators.

- LEAP Connect and ELPT/ELPT Connect testing schedules are due by January 17 to assessment@la.gov.
- School systems that operate learning pods must include schedules for the pods along with their schools and state monitors may be assigned to them.
- All accommodations for LEAP Connect, ELPT and ELPT Connect must be finalized no later than January 13. This includes identification of students who are eligible to participate in alternate assessments.

Career and College Readiness

School Health Survey

Please share with physical education, health, wellness staff and/or staff that oversee bullying and suicide prevention programs.

As required by state law, the LDOE monitors and evaluates health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature. Participation is critical to providing accurate, high-quality data to the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare. As such, each school should complete the [2022-2023 School Health Survey](#) by **January 24**. Although information may be collected from staff that oversee physical education/health, or bullying and suicide prevention, **only one survey should be submitted per school**. Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Dual Enrollment Webinar

Please share with school system leaders, school administrators, and school counselors.

The Board of Regents will be hosting a one-hour webinar to provide information about Louisiana Dual Enrollment at **10 a.m. on January 25**. The webinar will cover the recently revised dual enrollment policies and updates. After [registering](#), a confirmation email will be sent containing information about joining the webinar. Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

2022-2023 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders

Please share with principals, professional school counselors, and data coordinators.

The deadline to order diplomas and seals for 2022-2023 graduates is **February 3**. Please use the [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) to submit an order for 2022-2023 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the electronic form, and only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution. Please contact transcripts@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Scholarships for AP Summer Institutes

Please share with AP teachers, school counselors, and administrators.

The [College Board](#) is offering several competitive scholarship programs to teachers to defray the cost of valuable professional development. For 2023, the College Board is offering three different scholarship programs.

- [AP Fellows](#): Provides scholarships of up to \$1,000 to AP teachers at schools serving underrepresented and/or low-income students.
- [AP Rural Fellows](#): Provides scholarships of up to \$1,500 to AP teachers at rural schools serving low-income students.
- [AP Capstone™](#): Provides fee waivers covering tuition for AP Capstone professional development to AP Seminar and AP Research teachers at schools meeting specific criteria.

The deadline for all applications is February 14. Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Spring 2023 Counselor Institutes

Please share with middle and high school counselors, assistant principals, CTE supervisors and secondary supervisors.

Registration for the Spring 2023 Counselor Institute sessions is now open. Each participant will need to register through Eventbrite, and registration is on a first come, first served basis. These institutes will

provide policy updates, resources, and communications that are pertinent to middle and high school counselors. Maximum registration is based on location capacity.

Date	8 – 11 a.m.	1 – 4 p.m.
February 28	Bossier Parish	Ouachita Parish
March 1	Rapides Parish	TBD
March 2	East Baton Rouge Parish	St Tammany Parish

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

School Choice

Excellence in Authorizing Application Open

Please share with school system leaders.

Applications for the [Excellence in Authorizing Fellowship](#) will be accepted until **January 20**. The Fellowship was developed to build the individual and collective capacities of school systems in Louisiana to authorize using best practices. In conjunction with the LDOE, The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) will provide fellows with resources, professional development, and collaboration opportunities targeting charter school authorizing. Throughout the year-long fellowship, fellows will attend a series of hybrid courses aimed to enhance the expertise of local authorizers and introduce national best practices in charter school authorizing. Please contact schoolchoice@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Curriculum Development

The Department has partnered with Core Knowledge® to create Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum. Materials for grades 4-5 will be available by Spring 2023 for piloting in Fall 2023. The complete Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum for grades K-8 will be available for implementation by June 30, 2024. More details about this partnership and future release dates will be announced in future communications. Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Grades 3-5 ELA Guidebooks (2022)

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and 3rd grade ELA teachers.

Beginning March 2023, the anchor text in the 3rd grade ELA Guidebooks (2018) and (2022) unit, *Stories Julian Tells*, *Stories Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron, will be published with revisions to the first chapter. The current version of the text that is used in the ELA Guidebooks (2018) and (2022) unit will not be reprinted and will only be available on the [American Reading Company](#) portal as long as the current stock lasts.

For successful implementation, ensure that all class sets are the same version of *Stories Julian Tells* and double check your order, especially if you are not purchasing through the [American Reading Company](#)

portal. Class sets purchased through the portal will contain the same version of the text within orders. Additionally, the Department will begin revising the unit to align with the new version of the text. The updated unit will be available through a new unit icon on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). Additional information about the availability of the revised text and the updated unit will be shared in future communications. Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

OpenSciEd K-12 Expansion Informational Webinar

Please share with science supervisors and administrators.

The Department will host an informational webinar to outline the expansion of the freely available [OpenSciEd science curriculum](#) to grades K-12. School and system leaders will receive details regarding participation in the upcoming K-5 pilot and hear success stories of implementation in grades 6-12. For additional information, please complete the short [OpenSciEd Elementary Pilot Interest Form](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 1 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91862304359>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799 US
- **Meeting ID#:** 918 6230 4359
- **Passcode:** 348496

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

ELA Teacher Survey

Please share with ELA teachers.

The Department is partnering with the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy to analyze teachers' classroom practices and utilization of instructional materials. The information gathered in the [John Hopkins survey](#) will demonstrate how ELA teachers in grades 3-8 understand and utilize their curricula. Survey results will remain confidential. The survey is now open and will close **January 27**.

Diverse Learners

Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4 - 8 Online Learning Series

Please share with system leaders, special education leaders, special educators, interventionists, and EL educators.

The Department has partnered with Public Consulting Group (PCG) to offer five free progressive reading modules. Grounded in the science of reading, [Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4–8](#) is a comprehensive, online professional learning series for developing successful adolescent readers. The series specifically addresses the most current research on adolescent literacy and how to meet the unique needs of intermediate and middle school students to accelerate literacy growth. The first module will be released this month. Annual access will be provided to complete the modules by January 2024. [Registration](#) is open. For those who have previously registered, an email will be sent from PCG/Pepper with instructions on how to access the course.

Please utilize the [online form](#) to submit questions regarding the online professional learning series. An email response will be provided within two business day.

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

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

The Department is excited to release the eighth issue of [Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs: Supporting Attendance for Students with Disabilities](#). School system leaders are

encouraged to review the guidance document along with special education supervisors and are invited to attend an hour-long webinar to support implementation on January 17.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 17 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92146347598>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 917 1539 0151

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

SKI-HI Training for Early Interventionist Supporting Deaf/Hard of Hearing Birth - 5 **Please share with school system leaders, special education directors/supervisors, early interventionists and teachers of children who are deaf/hard of hearing.**

The SKI-HI Model of Early Intervention Program is designed for early intervention providers who are working with birth to five-year-old children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. The Bright School is hosting a [SKI-HI training](#) funded by the Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat (EENT) Foundation of New Orleans. Training consists of two three-day sessions offered January 18 - 20 and April 19 - 21 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the LSU Health Sciences in New Orleans. The registration fee is \$150.00, which includes a complete set of curriculum. Space is limited to twenty participants.

Please contact Linda@thebrightschool.org for a registration application and with any questions.

October 1 Data Collection Deadline January 19 **Please share with data managers and special education directors/supervisors.**

In order to provide the most current update on our IDEA October 1 Data Collection process, the Department extended the IDEA October 1 data collection through January 19. There are now additional reports available to system leaders verifying this information, including child count, crosscheck, personnel, compliance and discipline reports. Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Registered Apprenticeship in Teaching **Please share with system leaders and human resources directors.**

In November 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor approved the K-12 teacher occupation as eligible for a registered apprenticeship. A registered apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where states and school districts can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience and receive progressive wage increases, rigorous and relevant classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally-recognized credential.

The LDOE will serve as the **sponsor for the entire state** and will seek a registered apprenticeship that is **competency based** using the current [Louisiana Teacher Preparation Competencies](#).

Ultimately, the registered apprenticeship allows for access to potential funding sources to help make a grow-your-own program expand and be financially sustainable. Once Louisiana has approval from the federal government, the LDOE will work with school systems and teacher preparation programs to register their programs through LDOE for an apprenticeship. Funds can be pursued at the federal, state, or local level via the U.S. Department of Labor, a state's department of labor, regional workforce boards and American Job Centers once this is done.

By having a registered teaching apprenticeship in the state of Louisiana, we will be able to attract more candidates into the teaching profession, strengthening our pipeline of educators in Louisiana.

Additional information about the registered apprenticeship in teaching will be shared on the Department's monthly calls and in the weekly school system newsletter. Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Principal's Webinar Series

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The LDOE hosts a monthly webinar series for current school leaders and principal supervisors on best practices in school leadership aligned to the state's priorities. Each month, the webinar features national and Louisiana experts sharing strategies and tools on a specific topic necessary for being effective in the school leader role. January's one-hour webinar, led by the Department's Math Division, will feature [Louisiana's Math Refresh](#).

- **Webinar Date/Time:** January 30 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98516144298?pwd=VHoxSlhaNWZhFZUNrQWICS05MRHlzZz09>
- **Meeting ID:** 985 1614 4298
- **Passcode:** 125571

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Funding Available for Aspiring Educators to Attend the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with school and system leaders.

Aspiring educators from across the state are invited to attend the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans. Funding is available for all aspiring educators enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway, involved in Educators Rising, or enrolled in a Post-Secondary Teacher Preparation Program to attend our statewide, professional development, networking event. System and Teacher Preparation leads may [request funding](#) to offset registration, lodging, and transportation costs by completing a funding request no later than this Friday, **January 13**.

More information about aspiring educator registration and session sign-up will be made available following funding allocations in March 2023. [Funding Request Form](#). Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Literacy

Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program

Please share with school and system literacy leaders.

The Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program is live! Advertising for the Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program will begin soon through social media, television, and radio. For more information on this program, access the [Steve Carter Information Overview Flyer](#). Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Heggerty Training Opportunity

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

The Department is excited to provide the opportunity for all pre-K through first grade teachers to be trained in Heggerty, a program that supports essential learning in phonemic awareness skills. Phonemic awareness is one of the best early predictors for reading success and an essential part of a child's ability to become a fluent reader. School systems that are already using Heggerty are seeing significant gains on their phonemic awareness screeners. Therefore, the Department has dedicated funding to provide the

training and materials to implement these 8 - 12 minute lessons. This program is meant to complement your current high-quality instructional materials.

School systems can choose training dates through August 15. Schools interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should email louisianaliteracy@la.gov.

Foundational Skills Lessons for Grades 3-5

Please share with ELA teachers and school literacy leaders.

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

- [Grade 3 Unit 3 - Teacher's Guide](#)
- [Grade 3 Unit 3 - Student Activity Book](#)
- [Grade 4 Unit 3 - Teacher's Guide](#)
- [Grade 4 Unit 3 - Student Activity Book](#)
- [Grade 5 Unit 3 - Teacher's Guide](#)
- [Grade 5 Unit 3 - Student Activity Book](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes Session 3

Please share with system/school leaders

School Support Institutes (SSI) Session 3 marks the midpoint in SSI and attendance is critical as we collaborate to reflect on our implementation of best practices and move forward toward greater effectiveness. We look forward to seeing all our SSI participants at their cohort location as we continue this journey together.

Dates	Cohort Locations
January 31	Monroe Cohort: The Hanger at ULM, 700 University Avenue, Monroe, LA 71209
February 1	Shreveport Cohort: Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo Street, Shreveport, LA 71101
February 2	Lafayette Cohort: University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Union, 620 McKinley Street, Lafayette, LA 70503
February 3	<i>New Orleans Cohort:</i> Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA

Please see the [SSI logistics page](#) for detailed venue, parking and pre-work information. Contact nadia.stewart@tntp.org if any changes need to be made to registrations/cohort locations.