

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



January 30, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

A recent conversation with a group of superintendents reminded me of an important truth about our line of work: it's all about the plan. As leaders, we need to have priorities. And we have to have a sense as to how those priorities will become real for students, parents, and educators. The bridge between aspiration and reality is the plan. Effective classroom leaders, school leaders, district leaders, and state leaders always have thoughtful plans; in fact, many of you have already built out plans for your persistently struggling schools through your School Redesign application. I look forward to reviewing Round 2 applications that are due on March 1.

Today the annual state-local winter collaborations began in Baton Rouge. They will continue Thursday in New Orleans, and next week in Lafayette and Ruston. The collaborations, which occur several times over the course of the school year, are meant to provide school system leaders and principals with high-quality tools, resources, and professional development. At this moment in the annual planning cycle, those tools and trainings begin to focus on the 2018-2019 school year, helping the leaders of schools and school systems to articulate priorities, to design strategy, and to stay ahead of the implementation curve. When we are ahead of the curve, teachers are ahead of the curve; when teachers are ahead of the curve, the school year is simply more productive.

Sessions of interest at the collaborations this week and next include the new [secure reporting system for principals and superintendents](#), [accurate identification of students with disabilities](#), [supporting teacher residents](#), [understanding new STEM pathways](#) in high schools, and various curriculum updates. Supervisors will reconvene in March for a final set of collaborations to complete the planning process before the [Teacher Leader Summit](#), to be held May 29-June 1.

No parish and no school will ever have the same plan, but I hope the tools we are providing inform the plan you are putting in place for your students. The great challenge in education leadership is adapting universal principles of learning to the idiosyncratic challenges and opportunities that exist in each community. That process takes great time and effort. Done early and done well, it pays great dividends.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Jump Start Summer 2018 Conference Call](#): January 31 at 4:00 p.m.
- [Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar](#): February 1 at 1:00 p.m.
- New Orleans Supervisor and Principal Collaborations: February 1
- [Jump Start Summer 2018 Conference Call](#): February 1 at 3:00 p.m.
- [Accountability Commission Meeting](#): February 2 at 1:00 p.m.
- [ELPT and LEAP Connect Assessment Windows Open](#): February 5
- [Assessment Administration Support and Training](#): February 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- [SRCL Webinar for Round 1 Subgrant Recipients](#): February 6 at 2:15 p.m.
- Lafayette Supervisor and Principal Collaborations: February 7
- Ruston Supervisor and Principal Collaborations: February 8
- [EL Support/ELA Guidebook 2.0 Trainings](#): February 26-27 at 8:00 a.m.

Important Deadlines

- [Final Prep for ACT Administration](#): February 2
- Updates Due for [Mentor Teacher Data Collection Template](#): February 7

School System Support

New: SRCL Webinar for Round 1 Subgrant Recipients

The Department will host a webinar for Round 1 SRCL subgrant recipients on **February 6, 2:15-3:00 p.m.**, to discuss funding priorities and the timeline for budgeting and accessing funds in eGMS.

- To join the webinar: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/srclsubgrantee/>
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575
- Participant code: 11573430

For questions about SRCL, contact Jill Slack at (225) 329-4995 or jill.slack@la.gov. For questions about accessing the webinar, contact Patsy Palmer at (225) 405-7621 or patsy.palmer@la.gov.

New: Rescheduling EL Support Trainings

Please share with EL supervisors and teachers.

The EL Support/ELA Guidebook 2.0 trainings have been rescheduled for February 26-27, at the East Baton Rouge Professional Development Center, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional seating is available for these trainings, and registration is available in [WisdomWhere](#). Previously registered participants do not need to re-register.

Contact beverly.diaz@la.gov with any questions.

New: EAGLE Sets for Social Studies Released

The Department released thirteen new item sets for social studies in EAGLE. EAGLE 2.0 is an online assessment tool that supports formative assessment in the classroom and can be used to enhance student learning throughout the year. To access the new item sets listed below, log on to [eDirect](#) and then filter the item bank by grade and subject.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: February Accountability Commission Meeting

The Accountability Commission will meet on February 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the Thomas Jefferson room at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. The meeting will also be [live streamed](#) for individuals who are not able to attend the meeting in person.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2018 LA Regional Science Bowl Registration

The U.S. Department of Energy is looking for school teams to join the National Science Bowl being held at the University of New Orleans on March 10 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- There is no registration fee for the event, but teams will be selected on a first come, first served basis.
- The top four teams will receive cash prizes.
- First place winners will be invited on an all-expenses paid trip to compete for the national title in Washington DC.

Please view the Science Bowl Guide on the [DOE's website](#) for more information or contact Michael.Anderson@SPR.DOE.GOV with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

General

- INSIGHT now includes a Desmos graphing calculator for all high school summative and nonsummative assessments. Updated Help files will be included for high school math Online Tools Trainings. Supervisors can learn more about the new Desmos online graphing calculator at the January/February collaborations.
- All changes to the role of District Test Coordinator, Backup District Test Coordinator, Accountability Contact, or Backup Accountability Contact or secure shipping address must be submitted using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form.

LEAP 2025

- Teacher Access versions for grades 3-8 practice tests are now available in eDIRECT.

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 Grades 3-8 Math Interim 2 is now available in INSIGHT for students.
- Interim School and Test Session Summary Reports are now available in [eDIRECT](#).

- January/February Principal and Supervisor Collaborations will include a LEAP 360: Making Connections session. The participants in this session will explore LEAP 360 Diagnostic and Interim assessments. This session will highlight ways that LEAP 360 can be used to encourage conversation and inform instruction and assessment.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The ELPT assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- Districts received ELPT materials January 23. The additional material window will open February 5. Additional material orders are placed through [TIDE](#).
- The ELPT [Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) is posted in the [ELPT Portal](#).
- Training Modules for the ELPT summative test are available in the Resources section of the [ELPT Portal](#).
- DTCs may access Security Checklists through [TIDE](#). Go to Paper Ordering, choose Order History, choose the "+" next to the name of the school, click Reports, and open the file labeled "Online-_SecurityChecklist."

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window is February 5 – March 16.
- The additional materials window opened January 29. Additional material orders are placed through [eDIRECT](#).
- The LEAP Connect *Procedures for Assessing Students Who Are Blind, Deaf, or Deaf-Blind* guide is posted in [eDIRECT](#). The directions for grades 3-4 Foundation Reading sections will be securely shipped to LEAs.
- The LEAP Connect TA Quiz is posted in [eDIRECT](#). DTCs and STCs should use this as a part of test administration training.
- LEAP Connect/LAA1 Security Checklists are posted in [eDIRECT](#). Go to Report Delivery, choose View Reports, and choose the LEAP Connect/LAA1 Spring 2018 administration.
- Districts will receive all LEAP Connect materials by February 1.
- TAs should review the LEAP Connect DTA up to two days prior to the test to ensure they are prepared to administer the assessment.

ACT

- **February 2** is the deadline to:
 - verify and upload students in to PANext
 - submit requests for ACT-approved accommodations in TAA
 - order ACT accommodated materials
 - install ProctorCache software and setup proctor caching in PANext for ACT online testing only
- DTCs are required to make changes to any school test coordinators in the district in PANext. Refer to the [PANext User Guide](#).
- The ACT Test Administration Q&A held on January 23 will be posted to the [ACT State Testing](#) site this week.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

- Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380; Participant PIN code: 89147656

New: Science Field Test

This spring, all school systems will participate in the LEAP 2025 science field test. In order to support school systems in their preparation for this test, the Department released the LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Guides in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

In early January, the Department hosted science field test webinars for teachers. These guides and webinars include:

- the new science assessment vision,
- the shifts in science instruction necessary for mastery of the new science standards,
- administration of the science field tests, and
- science field test design.

Science field test webinars were recorded. The presentations and recordings are available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

New: LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry Graphing Calculator

All LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry tests and resources (spring summative tests, practice tests, OTT, interim and diagnostic tests) now have a fully functional online graphing calculator available. This graphing calculator, provided by Desmos, permanently replaces the graphing tool that has been available. Desmos has a free online graphing calculator available at www.desmos.com that students can use with any internet capable device.

Hands-on practice with the new graphing calculator and information on student use of the math equation builder tool will be provided in the [Using Online Mathematics Assessment Tools](#) session at the January and February collaborations.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

New: Jump Start Summers 2018 Request for Applications

Please share with School District Staff, School Administrators, Counselors, and Instructors.

Last week, the Department released the 2018 Jump Start Summers [Request for Applications](#) to help students prepare for college, career, and life success through summer training sessions. The Department is seeking school systems, charter management organizations, and third-party course providers willing to sponsor summer training sessions in collaboration with industry partners.

Program providers must have at least one committed industry partner willing to provide students with on-site job shadowing and/or internships with student stipends, in order to be considered for Course Choice SCA funding to launch and sustain their student summer training programs.

The Department will hold conference calls to outline the application and approval process and answer questions. Conference calls are scheduled for:

- When: January 31, at 4:00 p.m. and February 1, at 3:00 p.m.
- Call 1-855-240-2575
- Enter participant code: 45167329

Information about Jump Start Summers will be shared at the January and February Supervisor/Principal Collaborations. For additional information, or application requirements, please email jumpstart@la.gov.

New: 2018 Jump Start Convention Presentations Online

Thank you for attending the 2018 Jump Start Convention. All session presentations may be found on the [All Things Jump Start web portal](#).

For more information, please email jumpstart@la.gov.

New: National School Counseling Week

Please share this information with school principals and counselors.

[National School Counseling Week](#) is right around the corner! From February 5-9, schools across the country will be recognizing the role of professional school counselors. The Department will be sharing ideas and resources to let our Louisiana professional school counselors know how much we appreciate the valuable work they do to ensure the success of their students. Please follow the Department on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) for the latest information, and share your own posts to show us how you celebrate!

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for more information.

Data

New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

Please forward to data coordinators.

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers of SPC, SIS, SER, TSDL, STS, and AFR on Thursday, February 1, at 1:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices. No pre-registration is required.

To join the Data Coordinator Webinar at 1:00 p.m.

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only mode."

We understand some users may be attending face-to-face data management trainings at the regional collaborations during this time. For that reason, important updates from this presentation will also be included in those trainings.

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT coordinator's portal under Monthly DC Webinars by Wednesday, January 31. Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: CSPR Part II Data Collection for Title I, Part A and Part D – LEADSPortal TIA and TID

The CSPR Part II Data Collection for Title I, Part A and Part D – LEADSPortal TIA and TID files will be available via the Data Management FTP the week of January 15 (with usernames ending in @datamgmt) named "LEACode_LEAName_CSPR Part II Data Collection" will remain on the FTP until February 1, 2018. Please supply this information to the Title I manager.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with FTP questions.

Safe and Healthy Schools

Reminder: Flu Season Update

The Louisiana Department of Public Health has released a [memo](#) updating Louisiana schools and day care centers of the severe flu season occurring across the state. If school or center leaders suspect a flu outbreak in their school or daycare, they should immediately contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at 800-256-2748 for assistance.