

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: January 30, 2024

In This Issue

- [Message from the Superintendent](#)
- [Important Dates for School Systems](#)
- [Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)
- [Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations](#)
- [Career and College Readiness](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

January is School Board Recognition Month. Committed board members are pivotal in shaping the education landscape, making the often challenging decisions that keep students at the forefront. Strong school board governance is critical to establishing and maintaining a tone of academic excellence. These leaders must be intentional in directing time, resources, and strategies towards the foundational priorities we know make the greatest impact: elementary literacy and math, preparing graduates for success after high school, and investing in educators.

In particular, I want to express my gratitude to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Our new state board has quickly established themselves as student-centered and laser focused on raising the bar for academic excellence. Louisiana deserves nothing less.

I look forward to a continued collaboration with all our education leaders as we move our state to its next level of success.

Dr Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 31 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Choice Program Family Application Webinar: [January 31 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [February 1 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [February 2 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinar – Math and Literacy: [February 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [February 6 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Overview Webinar for Data Managers, EdTech Directors, and LEA Security Coordinators: [February 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [February 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [February 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [February 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [February 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [February 15 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [February 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Healthy Communities Monthly Call: [February 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 28 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Deadline to complete [Counselor Evaluation Survey](#): January 30
- Deadline to complete [Act 567](#) school system actions: January 31
- Deadline for Louisiana Scholarship Program schools to complete application verification in LEADS: January 31
- Deadline to submit [high school diploma and seal orders](#): February 2
- Deadline for [Computer Science Standards Writing Committee](#) applications: Feb. 5
- 2024-2025 School Choice Program Application Opens: February 5
- [Spring 2024 Counselor Institutes](#): February 27-29
- [ACT Data Workshop](#): February 29, Baton Rouge

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Connect Materials Delivery

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

LEAP Connect materials, including manuals, will be delivered to school systems on Thursday, February 1. Additional materials such as graphic files, constructed response suggested materials lists, and test administrator quizzes are posted to the DRC INSIGHT portal.

- Test administrators must:
 - Make an 80% or higher on the TA quiz
 - Be familiar with student's response mode
 - Use Online Tools Training to be familiar with the format of the assessment
 - Sign oaths of security
 - Administer the assessment to each student individually
 - Not be a paraprofessional; paraprofessionals may only assist with reading prompts or questions to students
 - Not allow students to access the Directions for Test Administration

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT/WorkKeys

Please share with testing coordinators.

- **ACT**
 - **January 22-March 8:** Request qualified exceptions to the deadline for ACT-authorized accommodations and/or supports for eligible examinees in TAA using the [Qualified Exceptions to the Deadline](#) form. See the form for details.
 - **February 5- March 1:** Order accommodations and/or support materials for use in Test Window 1 by calling ACT Accommodations at 800-553-6244, ext.1788.
- **WorkKeys**
 - **Beginning Week of January 29:** Receive test materials at the district, based on the receipt window selected in PearsonAccess^{next}.
 - **February 5-22:** Conduct sessions for students to complete non-test information on the answer document for accommodated paper testing. **Note:** Non-test information also may be completed on test day, prior to the start of test 1 (Workplace Documents).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Literacy Initiative

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

The sixth session of the webinar series Effective Assessment Practices, hosted by the LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment, will be held Thursday, February 1. Each session will provide opportunities for Louisiana educators—both leaders and classroom educators—to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms. Webinars will be recorded.

February Topic: Interpreting and Using Interim and Benchmark Assessment Information: What Do Teachers and Leaders Need to Know and Do?

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 1 at 3:30 p.m.; Q & A: 4:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87132144508>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646 931 3860
- **Webinar ID#:** 871 3214 4508
- **Passcode:** 624654

The [Effective Assessment Practices webinar series flyer](#) provides a complete schedule, Zoom links, and monthly topics for the series.

Please contact danielle.ricks@la.gov with questions.

Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

2023 Louisiana Comeback Campus Banners

Please share with system leaders.

For the second consecutive year, the LDOE is proud to recognize Louisiana Comeback Campus honorees. To become a [2023 Louisiana Comeback Campus](#), a school must have achieved all of the following when compared to 2019 (please note that 2022 Louisiana Comeback Campus honorees are not eligible for the honor in 2023):

- Increased in percent of students scoring mastery and above on the statewide assessment in math and ELA
- Decreased in percent of students scoring unsatisfactory on the statewide assessment in math and ELA
- Increased in student ACT scores (high schools only)

The LDOE will mail 2023 Louisiana Comeback Campus banners to each school system so system leaders can decide how best to recognize those schools. School systems will receive a banner for each Louisiana Comeback Campus, along with a [letter](#) and [school list](#).

Please contact ted.beasley@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Organ Donation Education

Please share with teachers, principals, and system leaders.

[HB 289-Act 180](#) of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session requires each public high school to provide instruction relative to organ donation to its students. The Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency ([LOPA](#)) is offering in-person instruction at no cost to schools. Schools may contact one of the community educators to schedule in-person education:

- Shreveport: Ashley Davis, adavis@lopa.org
- Monroe/Alexandria: Leah Lopez, llopez@lopa.org
- Lafayette: Suzanna Morton, smorton@lopa.org
- Baton Rouge: Lori Steele, lsteELE@lopa.org
- New Orleans: Lana Stevens, lsteVENs@lopa.org

For those unable to schedule in-person instruction, the following are available:

- [General Education Presentation](#)
- [Students: Personal Story](#)
- [Educators: Donor Family Story](#)

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

Please share with business managers, principals, school nurses, school safety personnel and system leaders.

[SB 12](#) of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session requires AEDs at each elementary and secondary school and at athletic events. The legislature appropriated funds for this purpose and school systems were approved for funding allocations at the January BESE meeting. School systems should utilize the [state contract](#) to purchase the AEDs.

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Outstanding School Support Employee Award

Please share with school system leaders.

Congratulations to the Outstanding School Support Employee award finalists who were recently [announced](#). Ten finalists were selected from across the state, representing school support roles such as bus drivers, food service workers, clerical, custodial, paraprofessional, maintenance personnel, and other professions not requiring licenses.

The finalists will be recognized during the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting on April 10 when an overall honoree will be announced. Finalists were selected among more than 700 nominees submitted from across the state.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Updates

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and social studies teachers.

All grade 6 Bayou Bridges units are now available. Please navigate to the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#) to access. Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All grade 7 units will be published by February 28. Consult the [Professional Learning Partner Guide](#) for information on Bayou Bridges professional learning partners.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year Training

Please share with all school leaders and system leaders.

Training on the [Louisiana Educator Rubric and the Louisiana Leader Rubric](#), which will be used during the 2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year, will take place this summer for system and school leaders and designated observers. [Registration](#) will open on January 31. This training is required for all evaluators and designated observers utilizing these rubrics.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

EdLink and the School System Planning Guide

Please share with all data coordinators, human resources and system leaders.

Data is available in EdLink to assist with Super App submission for item P.4.10.9 “Using EdLink 360 Workforce Dashboard, identify the workforce data for your school system.” A webinar was held on January 10 to assist with this process. The [slide deck](#) is now available in the [Workforce Attribute Library](#) on [Louisiana Believes](#) for system leaders who were unable to attend the webinar.

If you would like to schedule time to review the EdLink Workforce Dashboard or if you have questions, please contact believeandprepare@la.gov.