



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Feb 14, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Just over two years ago, we unveiled our comprehensive plan to tackle our state's literacy crisis. Data released this school year shows our fourth graders led the nation in reading growth on NAEP and ELA Mastery rates improved by three points for students in grades 3-8 on LEAP. While I know we are far from our ultimate goals, this is encouraging progress that shows our literacy plan is working.

Literacy is foundational to success. Whether it's scoring Mastery on an assessment or filling out a job application, our graduates must be able to read. Math is another building block for success. Just like we did two years ago for reading, Louisiana is laying the groundwork for future math growth. This school year, we launched our Math Refresh. We're equipping educators with the tools to provide the highest quality teaching and learning environments for students.

As part of our Math Refresh, we've partnered with Zearn to provide access to school accounts for all public elementary and middle schools at no additional cost to systems. Schools have full access to Zearn materials through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. The resources can be used as core materials or alongside other high-quality materials as acceleration support during extra learning time such as tutoring and within summer learning programs.

These accounts include school and system data to help drive intentional instruction. Even if you traditionally utilize other platforms, I encourage you to take advantage of Zearn and strive for students to access three lessons a week. It uses a true accelerated learning approach. Students practice in pre-requisite skills as needed so they can move into grade-level content. For more information, please reach out to STEM@la.gov. Our Teaching and Learning team loves to support educators in the field, and we are happy to help with Zearn implementation or any other support needed to enhance instruction in your classrooms.

As my team and I travel the state to visit schools or host professional learning sessions, we are constantly amazed by the talented professionals serving Louisiana's children. We're seeing growth from our literacy efforts, and I look forward to the similar results that will come from our Math Refresh.

Dr. Jenna Chiasson
Deputy Superintendent

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Well-Being Monthly Call: [February 15 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: February 15 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Business Manager Monthly Call: [February 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [February 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [February 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: none on February 21 (state holiday)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [February 23 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Office Hours: [February 23 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learner Support Monthly Office Hours: [February 27 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [March 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call: [March 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [March 9 at 9 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- April Dunn Act Training: Self-Assessment Guide: Section One: [February 15 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- April Dunn Act Training: Self-Assessment Guide Section Two: [February 27 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- SPED Fellow Academy Informational Meeting: [February 28 at 9 a.m.](#)
- [School Support Institutes Session 4 \(Virtual\)](#) February 28 - March 3
- Legislative Youth Advisory Council 2023-2024 application deadline: [March 24](#)

Operations

House of Representatives Resolution 145 Survey

Please share with school system leaders.

During the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, the Louisiana House of Representatives passed House Resolution 145, which requires the LDOE to survey all systems and charter schools regarding policies and procedures for parental/community access to instructional materials. It also required the LDOE to compile a report of these mechanisms and submit it to the legislature prior to the 2023 Regular Legislative Session.

Please complete the [HR 145 System Survey](#) by **February 24**; contact ethan.melancon@la.gov with questions or concerns.

Legislative Youth Advisory Council 2023-2024

Please share with school and system leaders.

The Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) is accepting applications for membership from high school students interested in representing the voices of young people around the state. LYAC is an annually appointed body composed entirely of students tackling issues affecting Louisiana's youth. The purpose of LYAC is to facilitate communication between youth and the legislature and to give students a unique opportunity to be involved in the workings of state government.

Members of the Council are selected from a large pool of applicants who display a strong interest in civic involvement. The thirty-one members include three students representing each of the six congressional districts, and the remaining serve at large.

Applicants must be between the ages of fourteen and nineteen and enrolled in a public or private high school, charter school, home school, or GED skills program during the 2023-2024 school year. The deadline to [apply](#) is March 24. Please visit the [Louisiana Commission on Civic Education](#) website for more information; contact bellam@legis.la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

ELPT/ELPT Connect

Please share with testing coordinators.

- The ELPT and ELPT Connect testing window opened on February 13 and will close on March 24. Please send any testing irregularities to assessment@la.gov.
- All students who are identified as EL in EdLink must participate in ELPT or ELPT Connect (ELPT Connect is for students who qualify to participate in alternate assessment.) Scores from these assessments are used in Louisiana accountability calculations.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts.

- Cohort graduation data certification for the 2022 graduation cohort is tentatively scheduled to open March 1 in La Data Review. This will be the final opportunity to review data used to calculate 2022 graduation rates and 2023 school performance scores.
- Official accountability contacts will receive an email with login information, as well as resources to support reviews, prior to opening.
- It is extremely important that any recent changes to the accountability contact for a school system be reported to assessment@la.gov as soon as possible in order to assign accounts.
- Some school systems received a file that included students who have been exited from enrollment as graduates, but do not have a graduation date on their transcripts. Files were posted to the data manager ftp. School systems must apply graduation dates to the transcripts in STS by Friday, February 17 in order for these students to be identified as graduates on the cohort rosters released on March 1.
- A webinar has been scheduled for district accountability contacts only to review cohort graduation policy and to provide guidance for completing reviews in La Data Review.
 - **Webinar Date and Time:** February 28 at 1 p.m.
 - **Webinar Link:** [Cohort Graduation Data Certification](#)
 - **Meeting ID#:** 945 9586 8616
 - **Webinar Phone Number:** US: +14703812552, 94595868616# or 3126266799, 94595868616#

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect

Please share with testing coordinators.

- The LEAP Connect testing window opened on February 13 and will close on March 24. Please send any testing irregularities to assessment@la.gov.
- All students who qualify for alternate assessment in grades 3-8 and 11 must participate in ELA and math assessments. LEAP Connect students in grade 4, 8, and 11 must also participate in the science assessment. Scores from these assessments are used in Louisiana accountability calculations.

- Students who pursue a diploma through the Jump Start pathway and take alternate assessments must participate in all three high school subject assessments.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Simulation Medical Training & Education

Please share with Louisiana simulation educators.

The Simulation Medical Training and Education Council of Louisiana is inviting Louisiana simulation educators to a free, 60-minute webinar. Join this live Lunch and Learn virtual session to learn about the characteristics of effective debriefing in a simulation-based learning environment, the essential features of effective feedback, and facilitators' strategies to enhance debriefing.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 2 at noon
- **Webinar Link:** <https://lsuhsc.zoom.us/j/92130443233>

Please contact elizabeth.duncan@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY23 Year-End Deadlines

Please share with business managers and finance officials.

The deadlines noted below have been established by LDOE to ensure it uses all of its FY23 funding. Failure to meet these deadlines risks funding availability. The Department cannot guarantee the payment of late claims and/or late claims might have to wait until the following fiscal year (June 2024) for funds to be available. We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for helping us be good stewards of our funds.

- **June 19:** 8g claims due in eGMS
- **July 5:** Carl Perkins claims for June expenses due in eGMS
- **July 14:** All state and federal awards (excluding 8g and Carl Perkins) ending June 30, 2023, due in eGMS

Please contact LDOE.federalclaims@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Educator Development

Principal's Webinar Series

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

February's webinar will feature best practices in human capital strategies and will be facilitated by the Department's professional learning partner, the Urban Schools Human Capital Academy. Participants will learn about the critical role that principals play in attracting, selecting, developing, and retaining talent aligned with student needs and instructional priorities at their schools.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** February 27, 1-2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98516144298?pwd=VHoxSlhaNWwhFZUNrQWICS05MRHlZz09>
- **Meeting ID:** 985 1614 4298
- **Passcode:** 125571

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Aspiring Principal Fellowship 2023-2024 Application Available

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The Department is expanding the Aspiring Principal Fellowship (APF) for the 2023-2024 school year. APF cohort participants meet throughout the year to explore best practices with regional experts, participate in school visits, and reflect on leadership practices. 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 must cover travel costs and the \$1,000 tuition for presenters and materials. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than **March 10**.

Please see the [APF overview document](#) for more information; contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship 2023-2024 Application Available

Please share with human resources leaders.

The Department is expanding the Recruitment and Retention Fellowship for 2023-2024 through a partnership with the national nonprofit 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.

HR Directors who are interested in participating in the Recruitment and Retention Fellowship should complete this short [application](#) by **March 10**. Fellowship applicants will be notified of acceptance by April 15. Please see the [overview](#) document for more information; contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Please share with summer learning coordinators.

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the upcoming months, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) document to continue planning for their 2023 program. Some of the checklist items include

- determining staffing needs for site leaders, faculty, and support staff;
- planning for a well-rounded academic program, including [STEM Summer Learning](#);
- creating a list of resources and materials needed;
- taking stock of available enrichment opportunities and staff; and
- engaging with community partners for support.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priorities Survey

Please share with administrators, educators, parents and community members.

Each year, the Department submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the Department is seeking feedback from special educators and members of the special education community on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete the survey by March 10. Please contact specialeducation@la.gov for more information.

SPED Camera Implementation Survey

Please share with special education leaders.

The Department is seeking an update from school systems on their implementation of cameras in special education classrooms across the state per R.S. 17:1948. Please complete one [survey](#) per school system by February 28. Please contact specialeducation@la.gov for more information.

Literacy

Free Virtual Session to Support Act 517

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

This Thursday, The Center for Literacy and Learning and the Louisiana Department of Education is presenting a free session to provide participants with an understanding of the three-cueing approach to reading and how it differs from a science of reading-aligned, code-based approach. The session explains how to identify curricula that use a three-cueing approach and what steps to take to ensure students receive code-based phonics instruction.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 16 at 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsfu-urDkpGtOdmB0XqP796DovqMSd_p02

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.