



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Feb 28, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

These past few years have come with unprecedented challenges, but educators across Louisiana continue to meet the moment and move students forward. Success is not easy, but it is achievable. We're seeing it first-hand whether during our Louisiana Comeback Campus visits or our latest Models of Excellence award.

Models of Excellence is the highest honor given by the Louisiana Department of Education. Earlier this month, it was presented to the Calcasieu Parish School Board (CPSB) for their innovative approach to ensuring students at every CPSB high school have access to challenging courses taught by highly qualified teachers. CPSB's Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) provides students at all high schools with access to high quality courses such as STEM, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement. Teachers certified in hard-to-staff classes are housed in one location where they deliver synchronous virtual instruction to students in all CPSB high schools.

Thanks to the VIP model, students have access to 30 courses few CPSB high schools would be able to offer individually. VIP course offerings also provide an opportunity for over 60 hours of free college credits to students in every high school.

Models of Excellence was created to provide models and best practices for all Louisiana school systems. Resources will soon be available on the program in Calcasieu Parish. You can now learn more about previous MOE recipients such as high quality science curriculum in [Lafourche Parish](#), literacy interventions from [DeSoto Parish](#), pre-educator pathways from [Rapides Parish](#), summer learning programs from [East Feliciana Parish](#), and K-2 literacy from [Phillis Wheatley Community School in Orleans Parish](#).

CPSB is blazing a trail to ensure students have access to great teachers and courses that would otherwise not be available at every high school. This program is a model that should be considered across our state.

Dr. Cade Brumley

In This Issue

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Operations](#)

[Assessments, Accountability and Analytics](#)

[Career and College Readiness](#)

[School Choice](#)

[School System Financial Services](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [February 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [February 16 at 10 a.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.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [March 7 at 3:45 pm](#)
- CWA & Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Call: [March 8 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [March 8 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call: [March 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [March 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Well-Being Monthly Call: [March 15 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [March 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [March 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Based Medicaid Monthly Call: [March 21 at 2:30 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 23 at 3 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Business Manager Monthly Call: [March 29 at 2 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Revised Super App re-submitted to LDOE (as applicable): March 1
- April Dunn Act Training: Self-Assessment Guide Section Two: [March 1 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- [School Support Institutes Session 4 \(Virtual\)](#) February 28 - March 3
- Teacher Leader Summit [application](#) to present due: March 3
- April Dunn Act Training: Creating Local Procedures: [March 6 and March 8 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- [Jump Start Summers](#) Webinar: [March 8 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Early Bird registration for Teacher Leader Summit](#) closes: March 9
- March Principal's Newsletter shout outs due: [March 10](#)
- [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) due: March 10
- Recruitment and Retention Fellowship [Application](#) due: March 10.
- [Jump Start Summers Application](#) due: March 1 at 5 p.m.
- Outstanding School Support Award local-level honoree deadline: March 17
- April Dunn Act Training: Self-Assessment Guide Section One: [March 20 and March 22 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- Principal's [Newsletter](#) release: March 23
- Legislative Youth Advisory Council 2023-2024 application deadline: [March 24](#)
- IDEA Plan of Correction deadline: March 31

Operations

Outstanding School Support Employees Award

Please share with school system leaders.

The Outstanding School Support Employees Awards nominations portal closed on February 14. In early March, a nominee list and a link to the Outstanding School Support Award honoree portal will be sent to school systems.

School systems are encouraged to select up to three support staff, one per division (elementary, middle and high) from the nominations list or to create an alternative list. Selections should be based on the criteria outlined in the [Awards Overview](#). The deadline for school systems to enter the elementary, middle, and high school winners in the [Outstanding School Support Employees Award School System Selections portal](#) is **March 17**. Honorees will be announced on March 28 and will be recognized on April 19 at the BESE meeting with a reception to follow.

More information will be provided in the School Selections Overview webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 6 at 11 am
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92382198664?pwd=ZGITUDg3Y3lJWlVpV1BXTnVxNnFUdz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 923-8219-8664

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

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

Science and Social Studies Field Test

Please share with testing coordinators.

All school systems have been notified of schools selected for the grade 6 and grade 8 science field test. Field testing is an important step in the development of future assessments.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and accountability contacts.

Cohort graduation data certification is scheduled to open in La Data Review on Wednesday, March 1. Accountability contacts have been notified by email and were provided with resources to assist with completion of this important review. Official accountability contacts are the only persons who will be provided with access to the system. School systems that have had recent changes to accountability contacts should contact assessment@la.gov as soon as possible.

Data certification will close on March 17. This is the final opportunity for systems to request changes to important data that may affect the official graduation rate and graduation cohort indices used in school and district performance scores. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

School Emergency Management Training

Please share with school system leaders, school principals, and school safety staff.

LSU NCBRT/ACE and the Louisiana Department of Education is offering free virtual training to K-12 schools in Louisiana through the [Grants to States for School Emergency Management \(GSEM\) Program](#).

- [Surviving an Active Threat: Run. Hide. Fight.](#): March 1 at 8 - 12 p.m.
- [Developing an Active Threat Plan Using the Run. Hide. Fight. Response Paradigm](#): March 2 at 8 - 12 p.m.

Please contact adubuy@ncbrt.lsu.edu with questions.

School Choice

Portfolio Opportunities

Home Study Report and Nonpublic Schools Not Seeking State Approval Enrollment Reports

The January Monthly Home Study Report is available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named "LEACode_LEAName_HomeStudyReport_Jan23". The data includes entries from January 1 through January 31 for both home study approvals and nonpublic schools not seeking state approval enrollment.

The zipped file includes

- statewide enrollment numbers of BESE-approved home study students;
- statewide enrollment numbers of nonpublic schools not seeking state approval;
- detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in the home study program;
- detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in nonpublic schools not seeking state approval; and
- each student's home study approval notification letter.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Procurement Guidance and Compliance Requirement Update

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

To comply with procurement standards mandated by federal and state guidelines, LEAs should access the [Procurement Thresholds Update 2023](#) chart to identify the type and the process requirements for each type of purchase, and use the requirement with the most restrictive state and federal guidelines.

Please contact fedaudit@la.gov for more information.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

New Zearn Professional Learning Dates and Resources

Please share with math teachers, content supervisors, and administrators.

As part of the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#), the Department is partnering with [Zearn](#) to provide school accounts through June 2024 to all public schools serving K-8 students. Dates have been added and **registration is now open** for professional learning sessions to support [teachers](#) and [leaders](#) with successful implementation of Zearn math.

Zearn has created a special collection of downloadable [bulletin board supplies](#), including special [Louisiana Printables](#), to help teachers build excitement and celebrate students' accomplishments as they learn math with Zearn. Resources include [printable files](#), [cricut files](#), [anchor charts](#), and much more.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New Math Refresh Resources Posted

Please share with math teachers, content supervisors, and administrators.

The [Math Refresh Library](#) is a suite of resources focused on supporting teachers' implementation of high-quality math instruction. New resources recently added this month include the following:

- [Accelerating Learning in High School Math](#) points high school teachers to resources available to support addressing unfinished learning with high school students in tutoring or classroom instruction.
- The [Eureka Math Transition FAQ document](#) includes answers to frequently asked questions from teachers and leaders in response to the recently announced archiving of the original (copyright 2013) Eureka Math program's Tier 1 status.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

The Department is reviewing currently posted Tier 1 and 2 ELA curricula that include foundational skills for [Act 517](#) compliance. Upon completion, a cover page is added to the posted review noting the impact of the review for compliance. The Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) 2nd Edition (©2017) has been reviewed for compliance and posted to the [Tiered Reviews](#) web page.

For any materials [Not Reviewed for Compliance Under Act 517](#), the LDOE recommends that school systems engage in a [local review process](#) of the materials using the [Act 517 Three-Cueing System Ban Guidance](#) located on the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension](#) web page to ensure that teachers and students are utilizing high-quality instructional materials that are in compliance with Act 517.

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@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 [SY23-24 Stakeholder Input Survey](#) by March 10.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov for more information.

IDEA Annual Performance Report (APR) Monitoring Outreach for School Systems

Please share with IDEA directors.

Annually, the Department is required to analyze special education data and conduct outreach regarding outcomes for particular indicators as part of the IDEA, Part B State Performance Plan and report these in the special education annual performance report (APR).

Results will be provided to school systems via APR outreach packets in the FTP on February 28. Any school system identified as needing improvement in one or more targeted indicators will be required to submit a plan of correction to the Department by **March 31**.

Additional details on this process, including the timeline, will be provided in the APR outreach packets.

Please contact iris.jones@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Act 517 Virtual PD Opportunity

Please share with teachers, content supervisors, administrators, and teachers.

In partnership with The Center for Literacy and Learning, the Department is offering free virtual professional learning webinars to support educators in aligning their instruction to the Science of Reading. Teachers, instructional coaches, and supervisors should register for each of these sessions, which focus on research-based instructional strategies to use instead of those banned in [Act 517](#). Session titles are listed below and registration is required to attend. **Please see this week's [Teacher Leaders Newsletter](#) for a detailed description of each session.**

- Small Group Instruction – A New Way of Thinking: [February 28 at 3:30 p.m.](#)
- Sight Word Recognition – Beyond the Eye and into the Brain: [March 16 at 3:30 p.m.](#)
- Reading Prescription – Conferencing with Parents about their Student's Academic Progress: [March 28 at 3:30 p.m.](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

School Literacy Plans

Please share with school leaders.

[Bulletin 741](#), Section 2307 requires schools to develop and submit foundational literacy skills plans for students in kindergarten through third grade beginning June 1, 2023, and triennially thereafter. The [Literacy Plan Development Guide and Rubric](#), a new resource found in the [Literacy Goals Library](#), provides explicit criteria for school literacy plans. The Library also includes planning resources such as webinars, guidance, and a literacy plan template.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Lagniappe: New Episode Released

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

LDOE's podcast, [Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) provides a little something extra for educators to stay inspired, motivated, and connected in the work with students.

Season 2, Episode 11: Healthy and Happy with State School Health Provider Winners Dawn Sonnier and Camelita Alexander

We are chatting with Dawn Sonnier and Camelita Alexander, Louisiana's 2022 School Health Winners. We learn about their educational careers and what motivates them to continue to make an impact on students, teachers, and parents. We also discuss how occupational therapists and counselors make a positive difference in school systems.

Educators can [submit pictures and stories](#) of the great work happening in their systems to be highlighted on the podcast. Subscribe through [Apple](#) Podcasts, Google Play, [Spotify](#), or other apps.

Please email em.cooper@la.gov with any questions.

2021-2022 Teacher Exit Survey Report

Please share with system leaders, site leaders, human resource directors, and data managers.

The 2021-2022 Teacher Exit Survey Report was released at January BESE. As mandated by [Act 466 of the 2008 regular legislative session \(R. S. 17:7\(27\)\)](#), system human resource managers submitted teacher exit data for the 2021-2022 academic year in fall 2023. Data included reasons for teacher exits and were submitted at the system level. Based on the [2021-2022 Teacher Exit Survey Report](#), the top three reasons for teacher departure are consistent with previous years: (1) resigned - personal circumstances, (2) accepted a teaching or leadership position within Louisiana, and (3) retirement.

Please contact donna.baudoin@la.gov with questions.