

LDOE Weekly Newsletter: March 12, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this year, I informed you about a new workgroup aimed at removing disruptions from the classroom that keep our teachers from doing what they do best — teach. This week, we're hosting the first meeting of Louisiana's [Let Teachers Teach workgroup](#). Chaired by Louisiana Teacher of the Year Kylie Altier, the workgroup is composed of around 30 teachers from across Louisiana. They will tackle issues I've heard from educators over the past few years, such as excessive training and paperwork, scripted lessons, and classroom disruptions that keep teachers from teaching and students from learning.

I'll task this new group with finding recommendations and solutions we can put into place to improve their working environment and ultimately increase student outcomes.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- EdLink Office Hours: [March 13 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [March 13 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [March 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [March 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [March 14 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [March 18 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [March 19 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [March 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [March 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 21 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Monthly Call: [March 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours: [March 26 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [March 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [March 27 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [March 28 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [April 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [April 5 at 9 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- SFA Summer Feeding Plan Deadline: March 15
- Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council Deadline: March 15
- Final Accommodations for LEAP 2025: March 15
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists Announced: March 19
- [\\$5 ACT Registration Voucher for School Counselors](#) Deadline: March 24
- Endowment for the Humanities [Summer Intensive Teacher Workshop](#) Deadline: April 1
- [LCTCS Jump Start Construction Scholarship](#) Deadline: April 10
- [Robotics Lab Pilot Application](#) Deadline: April 10
- [Professional Learning Efficacy Evaluation](#) Survey Deadline: April 11
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: April 15
- [Teacher Leader Summit 2024](#): May 28-30, New Orleans
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP 2025

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

- March 15: All accommodations for LEAP 2025 grades 3-8 and high school assessments must be final in eSER or EdLink.
- March 18: LEAP 2025 grade 3-8 and high school testing schedules are due to assessment@la.gov.
- Science Field Testing: All district test coordinators have been notified of the science field test selection for grades 5-8. The field tests will appear as a third session in DRC INSIGHT. All students at the site are expected to participate unless they participate in LEAP Connect. Students should not be told that the session is a field test.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT/WorkKeys

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

ACT March 18-22

- Administer Online standard time, accommodation online and paper for the second week of the Test Window
- Administer the ACT with non-college reportable materials

ACT March 12-29

- Place orders for:
 - Accommodations and/or supports materials for use in this test window by calling ACT Accommodations at 800 553 6244, ext. 1788.
 - Non-college reportable materials for use in Test Window 2 in PearsonAccess^{next}
- 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
- Contact ACT to obtain the Make-up Order form, which is required to order materials for approved qualified exceptions

ACT March 26

- FedEx pickup will be scheduled. Have all materials ready to be picked up the day after the testing window closes.
 - Return test booklets, used answer documents, and test administration forms from the accommodations and/or supports testing window to ACT
 - If materials have not been picked up within three days, contact FedEx
 - Keep unused answer documents for a future test date

ACT March 29

- Receipt deadline. Late-arriving answer documents will not be scored.

WorkKeys March 13-25

- Accommodated Spring Window 2. (Testing occurs on weekdays only)

WorkKeys March 27

- FedEx pickup will be scheduled for March 27
- Return test booklets, used answer documents, and test administration forms from the accommodations and/or supports testing window to ACT

WorkKeys April 5

- Receipt deadline at ACT. Late-arriving answer documents will not be scored.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

K-3 Literacy

Please share with school leaders and testing coordinators.

The K-2 end-of-year literacy screener is a secure document. All test security measures outlined in Bulletin 118 apply to this document.

- The screener will only be available online in the mCLASS system. There will be no paper copies for test administrators or students.
- The K-2 end of year screener cannot be administered remotely.
- Accountability codes can be applied for K-2 end-of-year screeners with appropriate documentation.
- The grade 3 end-of-year screener is not a secure document but the screener should be administered in a secure setting. Paper copies are available and remote screening can be administered.
- The end-of-year remote administration PowerPoint is now available on the K-3 Literacy Screener page. It is the only deck that can be used with the end-of-year administration.
- All other grade level and screening window remote administration PowerPoints have been removed from the page and should not be used.

All screening invalidations or incomplete screenings must be reported to assessment@la.gov as a testing irregularity.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Updated FAFSA Policy for 2024-2025 School Year

Please share with system leaders.

The [linked memorandum](#) outlines the updated FAFSA policy for next school year. During its March 2024 meeting, BESE approved a repeal of the policy requiring graduating seniors to complete steps related to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applications. This policy change will be effective starting with the graduation cohort of 2024-2025 and does not remove the requirement of local education agencies (LEAs) to provide students and their parents or guardians with information regarding financial aid programs to support postsecondary education and training. LEAs must ensure that each student receives adequate support in completing and submitting an application for financial aid. However, a student action related to FAFSA completion will not be required.

An updated parent and student financial aid planning toolkit will be made available to school systems.

Please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Projected Local Revenue Data

Please share with business managers.

In order to complete the FY 2024-2025 MFP calculations for charter schools, projected FY 2023-2024 local revenue data and expenditures related to the collection of revenue must be submitted to the LDOE by each school district. The projected FY 2023-2024 local revenue data is being collected through the LEADS portal, which will be available beginning March 15, 2024. The deadline to submit this data is Friday, April 5, 2024.

Please contact LDOEmpheldesk@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 7 Bayou Bridges units are now available on the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#). Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All grade 8 units will be published by April 12.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Professional Learning Efficacy Indicators: Request to Participate

Please share with school and system leaders.

The LDOE is excited to announce the addition of the Professional Learning Efficacy Indicators to inform systems about the effectiveness of the professional learning partners who are featured in our [Instructional Materials Professional Learning Partner Guide](#). The Professional Learning Efficacy Indicators are a framework emphasizing key elements that impact the value of educators' learning experiences. School and system leaders are invited to participate in this initiative by completing the [Professional Learning Efficacy Evaluation](#) survey. This survey will close on April 11.

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Middle Grades (7-8) Robotics Lab Pilot Application Now Available

Please share with school and system leaders.

Next school year, the LDOE will offer a unique opportunity to engage students in an innovative Robotics Lab Pilot (grades 7 and 8), blending mathematics and technology to provide exposure to beginning concepts in robotics and computational thinking through hands-on learning. Students will utilize block based coding to accomplish mathematics tasks within a context that fosters a strong connection between abstract concepts and real-world applications. Review the [Robotics Lab Pilot overview](#) to learn more about program details and commitments involved. A two-day in-person teacher training will be held at the end of June for participating schools. Interested leaders are invited to complete the [Robotics Lab Pilot application](#) no later than April 10.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

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

Please share with IDEA directors.

The LDOE is required to annually 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 March 15. 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 April 15.

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

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

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

EdLink Workforce Office Hours

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

Educator Workforce will begin hosting [office hours](#) on the second Monday and Wednesday of each month to assist with navigating the [EdLink](#) workforce dashboard. The first office hour will be held on March 13. Before [booking an appointment](#), ensure that all employees attending [office hours](#) have access to [EdLink](#). Refer to the [EdLink 360 Permission Guide](#) to see the current permission levels for [EdLink](#) users and [instructions](#) on gaining access to [EdLink](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 LEADS Evaluation Learning Year Options

Please share with system and school leaders.

Systems should use the [options guidance document](#) to make decisions on educator evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year. The [2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Learning Year options form](#) should be completed by March 30. There are currently 53 systems opting to transition to the Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS). Systems opting to transition to LEADS during the 2024-2025 school year may register for summer training. All system-level leaders, evaluators, and designated observers must attend training and pass a certification assessment before utilizing the rubrics. The [registration landing page](#) has been updated to include a waiting list.

Please contact compass@la.gov or arthur.joffrion@la.gov with questions.