

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



March 13, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

BESE wrapped up two days of meetings earlier today. While there were no policy issues discussed that made for big newspaper headlines, the board took important steps toward policy changes that will be the subject of conversation in weeks and months to come.

The board heard a report from an alternative education working group, for example, endorsing a plan to define more specifically the term “alternative school” in policy, so that the board can create a unique accountability system for such schools later this fall. The board also endorsed the idea of such a rating system for schools that serve students with cognitive disabilities residing in residential facilities. Both policies will be discussed at next week’s Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC).

BESE also considered a report from the most recent SAC meeting and endorsed the creation of a system of testing compliance that requires fewer local investigations of administrative errors, that allows for results of such investigations to be presented to an external board, and that seeks independent investigation when large-scale irregularities are detected. The Department will begin developing a proposed policy in response.

As you may have read, the Department [responded](#) this week to an [independent report](#) evaluating the Special School District. The initial response includes re-envisioning the role of superintendent and launching a [national search](#) for a leader in this new capacity.

And finally, BESE reviewed five years of [Jump Start progress](#), specifically focusing on the types of industry-based credentials students pursuing Jump Start are earning. The board requested an independent analysis of the alignment of those credentials with statewide workforce needs; that report will be presented to the board in June.

These are likely not surprising steps, but they are each important. I look forward to discussing them with you, starting next week at the SAC meeting.

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

John

In This Issue

- [School System Support](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability](#)

- [High School Pathways](#)
- [Educator Preparation](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Statewide Monitoring](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Baton Rouge Supervisor Collaborations](#): March 14 at 8:00 a.m.
- [The Assessment and Accountability Monthly Office Hours](#): March 20 at 1:00 p.m.
- [March Superintendents' Call](#): March 21 at 10:30 a.m.
- [McKinney-Vento School Selection Rights Under ESSA Webinar](#): March 21 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Baton Rouge Supervisor Collaborations](#): March 23 at 8:00 a.m.
- [Accountability Commission Meeting](#): March 26 at 9:00 a.m.
- [McKinney-Vento 101: Understanding the Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness Webinar](#): March 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [Superintendent/Security Coordinator Review Final Revisions](#): March 15
- [Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Nomination Template](#): March 26
- [DRAFT Louisiana Connectors for Science for Students with Cognitive Disabilities Feedback Form](#): March 30
- [Teacher Leader Summit Session Application](#): April 2
- [Louisiana High School Redesign Network Application](#): April 6
- [Outstanding School Support Employee Awards Program Accepting Applications](#): April 9

School System Support

New: March Superintendents' Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **March 21 at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the call:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>;
- dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109;
- enter the Meeting ID # 2194077; and
- identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

Although not required, questions can be forwarded ahead of time to systemsupport@la.gov.

New: Illustrative Mathematics Update

[Illustrative Mathematics](#), a 6-8 grade math curriculum published and printed by [Open Up Resources](#), recently received a [Tier 1 review](#) in the Instructional Materials Review Process. **School systems who plan to adopt Illustrative Mathematics should place orders by March 26 to ensure delivery by August 1.** Illustrative Mathematics will offer sessions at the Teacher Leader Summit for new users.

Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

New: Free Registration for Louisiana High School Technology Challenge

Since 2007, over 6,000 high school students have participated online in the annual [Louisiana High School Technology Challenge](#). To broaden opportunities for all districts, the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) is allowing every superintendent to designate one high school to permanently participate in the event at no cost. The 13th Annual Louisiana High School Technology Challenge, hosted by ULM and sponsored by CenturyLink, will take place online on February 27, 2019.

If interested, please email [Dr. Mike Beutner](mailto:Dr.Mike.Beutner) with the name of the high school and principal you designate for free, permanent registration, including contact information.

Reminder: Apply to Lead a Session at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with principals and teachers.

The Department is looking for knowledgeable educators to share resources and best practices with others around the state by designing and facilitating sessions at the [2018 Teacher Leader Summit](#). This is a great way for educators to expand their impact and showcase the work they are doing in their classrooms, schools, and districts.

All types of Louisiana educators are welcome to apply to lead sessions at the Summit. Interested parties must submit their [application](#) online on or before April 2.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Registration Open for Eureka Institutes

The **Great Minds Professional Development Institute** schedule is now available on the Great Minds [website](#). The New Orleans Institute is scheduled for **June 26-29**. The Eureka Math team crafted a multiyear sequence of professional development. Sessions include foundational topics for year one, including critical coursework for teachers implementing Eureka Math for the first time. Seasoned practitioners who have completed foundational courses can register for advanced coursework to strengthen implementation.

Please contact jaimc.courtright@greatminds.org with questions or guidance to register a group of educators.

Reminder: Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice

Please share with principals and counselors.

The 38th Annual Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice will provide training on new trends in Juvenile Justice. National and state experts will present on the current state of the system and offering innovative solutions to problems facing our juvenile justice professionals. **The 38th Annual Louisiana Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice will be held in Baton Rouge from April 18 through April 20.**

Additional information regarding the conference and registration can be found on their [website](#). Please contact [Dana Menard](#) with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Update: ACT Match/No Match Lists

ACT Match/No Match lists have been updated and posted to the FTP. The updated rosters include additional scores for students who tested in a prior year and provide school systems with information for students who transferred to them since November.

- All students enrolled in grade 12 are expected to have an ACT score unless they participated in alternate assessment.
- Students who are listed on the ACT Match list have an ACT score on record with the Department and can be retested at the expense of the school system.
- Students who are listed on the No Match list do not have an ACT score. They should be tested in March unless they participate in alternate assessment.
- School systems should not send any change or update requests at this time. ACT data certification will be conducted in August prior to release of school performance scores.

Please send all questions to assessment@la.gov.

NEW: 2018 Advanced Placement (AP[®]) Exam Administration

Please share this entry with Advanced Placement testing coordinators.

[AP[®] Exams](#) start the week of May 7. Testing coordinators should review their school's online [AP coordinator account](#) to ensure that all orders have been properly placed and processed.

- March 30 is the deadline to order pre administration materials.
- All orders placed after the April 13 extension deadline will incur a \$55 late fee.
- April 20 is the final deadline to order AP exams.

As an additional resource, please take a moment to review the [AP Coordinator Planning Calendar](#) for important dates and deadlines.

For more information contact the College Board at 877-274-6474 or submit an inquiry using the [AP Services Form](#).

New: Accountability Commission Meeting Time Change

The Accountability Commission will meet on **March 26 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Thomas Jefferson room at the Claiborne Building (1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge). Please note the meeting time has changed from previous communications and will be [livestreamed](#) for those not able to attend in person.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

General

- All changes to DTC or accountability staff must be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the Assessment Library.

LEAP 360

- March Supervisor Collaborations will include a session on improvements for the 2018-2019 school year. Remaining Supervisor Collaborations will be on March 14 in Baton Rouge and March 23 in Baton Rouge.

LEAP 2025

- **LEAP 2025 grades 3-8 online test schedules must be submitted to assessment@la.gov by this Friday, March 16.**
- Manuals for grades 3-8 testing were delivered to school system offices last week.
- Test setup for grades 3-8 testing opens March 19. Test coordinators can schedule test sessions, assign students to sessions, and verify accommodations. STCs can use the [eDIRECT User Guide](#) for step-by-step directions.
- LEAP 2025 At a Glance documents by [grade band](#) and [content area](#) are now posted in the Assessment Library.

ELPT

- The ELPT assessment window closes this Friday, March 16.
- The additional material window is open and orders can be placed through [TIDE](#).
- District and school test coordinators should enter non-participation codes into [TIDE](#) at the end of the testing window. Directions for entering non-participation codes can be found in the TIDE User Guide posted in the [ELPT Resources Portal](#).
- Large print and braille test responses must be entered into the [Data Entry Interface \(DEI\)](#) by March 16.
- Test administrators must complete the Post-Administration Oath located in the [ELPT Summative TAM](#).
- There is no pre-scheduled pickup day for ELPT materials. Follow the Packing Materials for Return document that arrived with your secure shipment to arrange materials pickup.
Materials must be returned no later than five business days after testing is complete.

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window closes this Friday, March 16.
- The additional materials window is open and orders can be placed through [eDIRECT](#).
- District and school test coordinators should do accountability coding in [eDIRECT](#) at the end of the testing window. Directions for entering non-participation codes can be found in the eDIRECT User Guide posted in [eDIRECT](#).
- All test ticket voids must be completed by March 19.
- LEAP Connect/LAA1 materials will be picked up on March 19. Complete the Accountability Form and Return Verification form in [eDIRECT](#) as soon as UPS has picked up all test materials.

ACT

- **By tomorrow, March 14**
 - Order additional materials for ACT initial testing and WorkKeys Accommodations materials
 - Add students and update student information in PearsonAccess^{next}
- **By Friday, March 16:** Request ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT for eligible examinees through TAA using the ACT-Approved Late Consideration Form.
- **By March 19:** Conduct sessions for examinees to complete non-test information on the answer document for paper ACT testing.
- **By March 29:** Create test sessions and assign students to test sessions for ACT online.
- **March 20:** Administer standard time ACT on paper.
- **March 20 – April 3: Administer ACT on paper** with accommodation and/or supports.
- **March 21 – April 4: Administer WorkKeys on paper** with accommodations and/or supports.
- **March 20 – March 29: Administer the ACT online** with standard time and accommodations and/or supports (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday only).

Assessment Administration Support and Training

[The Assessment and Accountability Monthly](#) Office Hours will be held on **March 20 at 1:00 p.m.**

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/> and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; or
- call 1-646-307-1380 and enter participant PIN # 89147656.

Reminder: Parent Guidance for the Spring LEAP 2025 Tests

The Department released two new parent guides to help parents better understand what students should know and be able to do on the spring LEAP 2025 assessments.

- [Parent Guide to the LEAP 2025 Tests](#): guidance for parents on what tests their child will take, when and how they can support their preparation at home
- [Parent Guide to the LEAP 2025 Practice Tests](#): guidance for parents on how to access both online and paper practice tests

Translated versions of both documents are available in Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese and can be found in the [Family Support Toolbox](#).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: Become an Advanced Placement (AP[®]) Reader

Please share with Advanced Placement teachers and testing coordinators.

College Board is currently seeking AP readers from Louisiana for this year's AP tests. Every June, over 15,000 AP teachers and college faculty members from around the world gather to score the free-response sections of the AP Exams. AP Readers often describe the AP Reading as one of the best professional development experiences available.

Please visit the College Board [AP Reader web page](#) for more information.

New: Johns Hopkins High School Redesign Cohort

Please share this entry with principals.

The Department and Johns Hopkins University launched today the Louisiana High School Redesign Cohort. This Cohort will include approximately **25 high schools—alternative and traditional—that will work together to re-think the core components of high school design**. The redesign cohort is an opportunity for high schools to collaborate with their peers and national experts on how to prepare students for the 21st century. This cohort will reimagine both high school structures and services to maximize positive student outcomes, and better prepare students for post-secondary and careers.

In order to be eligible to participate in the initial cohort of 25 sites, a school must be listed on the **Comprehensive Intervention Required list** and submit an [application](#). All applications must be submitted by 3pm on **April 6**. The Department will notify schools of their status by **April 30**.

Schools and school systems will be responsible for their own travel and accommodations for the two convenings, but there will be no other associated costs with cohort membership.

For more information, contact tristen.guillory@la.gov.

New: Update on Jump Start Super Summer Institute

Please share with CTE supervisors and principals.

Registration for the 2018 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) opens on March 26 and closes on May 1. Sessions for basic and statewide credentials will be offered at multiple locations and dates around the state.

- **June 4-8:** Bossier
- **June 11-15:** Calcasieu and Lafourche
- **July 16-20:** Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and National Emergency Medical Services Academy

The Department will pay training costs and provide lunch for educators attending SSI. School systems are responsible for all travel expenses, textbooks, and a registration fee (\$250/educator) for which school systems may use their Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2017-2018 Carl Perkins Funds.

Please direct all questions about Super Summer Institute to jumpstart@la.gov.

Reminder: SAME/Army Engineering and Construction Camp

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) is accepting applications from qualified high school sophomores and juniors interested in attending the SAME/Army Engineering and Construction Camp, June 10-16, in Vicksburg, MS.

Forty students from across the nation will be competitively selected to attend the camp. The students will engage in hands-on engineering and construction activities under the mentorship and supervision of SAME professionals and others from the local engineering community. The program includes interaction with representatives of architecture/ engineering firms, construction companies, Military leaders, and Corps of Engineers' employees. The camp fee is \$100 for selected campers, and **the deadline for applications is April 1.**

Students can apply online at <http://www.same.org/STEMCAMPS>.

Reminder: JAG National Training Seminar

Please share with district supervisors, school administrators and JAG-LA specialists.

The JAG-LA team, Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana, will host the JAG National Training Seminar in New Orleans. The Pre-NTS Professional Development workshops are day long sessions for JAG leaders to learn more about program implementation at an advanced state level. Those workshops will take place from July 9-11.

JAG-LA Specialists should attend the National Training Seminar from July 11-13 where a plethora of sessions will be held concerning best practices and techniques specific to the JAG classroom, effective follow-up strategies for JAG seniors, JAG leadership accountability, and other topics to help specialists grow and learn as leaders in the JAG program.

You can [register now on the JAG website](#) through June 1.

For more information, please contact dianna.keller@la.gov.

Educator Preparation

Reminder: 2018-2019 Mentor Teacher and Content Leader Nomination Process

This year, the Mentor Teacher and Content Leader nomination process will happen simultaneously. Don't miss the opportunity to nominate teachers for statewide Mentor Teacher and Content Leader training for 2018-2019.

School systems should complete the [Mentor Teacher and Content Leader nomination template](#) in order to submit nominees for both Mentor Teacher training and Content Leader training. Specific details regarding criteria for selecting teachers for these roles, as well as additional logistical details for each training are available in the template. **School systems should submit the template using the secure FTP process no later than March 26.**

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov for questions about Mentor Teacher training and teacherleaders@la.gov for questions regarding Content Leader training.

Special Education

New: Feedback on DRAFT Science Connectors for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

The Department is in the process of creating aligned Science Connectors for the Louisiana Student Standards for Science adopted in Spring 2017, and is currently seeking public feedback on a [draft](#) of these connectors for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

The survey results will be used to inform the final version of the Louisiana Connectors for Science slated for consideration by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) during its April meeting. Please use the [feedback form](#) to provide voluntary feedback by March 30.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: High Cost Services Round 1 Allocations

Allocations for Round 1 of the High Cost Services grant will be visible in eGMS this week. School systems that have been approved through the application process must now create budgets by creating an amendment in High Cost Services Round 1 in eGMS. Amendment 1 must be created for each student for whom an allocation was received. Budget amendments will be reviewed for eligibility and allowability as they are submitted by school systems.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Special School District Seeks Athletes for Track and Field Games

The Special School District (SSD) will host the First Annual SSD Track and Field Games on **April 16 at 9:00 a.m.** on the campus of The Louisiana School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired (LSDVI) in Baton Rouge. These SSD games are designed to give all Louisiana students with an Orthopedic

Disability, Visual Impairment, or who are Deaf, or Hard of Hearing the opportunity to compete in athletic ventures and to demonstrate physical fitness and skill levels. To sign up athletes in your school system, please see registration information [here](#). **Registration ends April 2.**

For additional information, please contact the LSDVI Athletic Director, [Ben Cupit](#).

Data

Reminder: 2017-2018 Educator Workforce Data

The 2017-2018 educator workforce data will be released on the secure site in March. This information will enable school and school system leaders to make critical decisions around the following areas:

- Recruiting and hiring
- Retention, promotion, and granting tenure
- Compensation
- Evaluating results

The data can be used to identify workforce needs in order to develop strategic partnerships with teacher preparation providers that meet these needs.

During the [March Supervisor Collaborations](#) this week and next, the Department will offer a [session](#) on how to use the secure site to understand educator workforce data and to inform partnerships with teacher preparation providers.

Please send questions to believeandprepare@la.gov.

Reminder: Updating/Adding Users to the Superintendent and Principal Secure Reporting System

School systems have requested access rights for additional school system and school staff within the secure reporting system. The Division of Administration Office of Technology Services (OTS) has not yet completed the work needed to allow school systems to assign permissions to different user groups within the secure reporting system. The Department has identified an interim solution to assist school systems with setting up the appropriate staff while OTS continues to build a permanent solution.

The Department has created a file of secure portal users for superintendent/security coordinator review that, once finalized, will be used to perform an update. This file has been placed on the FTP and is named (LEA Code)_(LEA Name)_SecurePortalUserList.xlsx. Data management FTP coordinators should retrieve the file and provide to superintendents and security coordinators. Directions on how to complete the work are included in the file.

Once the work is completed, save the file with “_Completed” at the end of the name (ex: 001_Acadia_SecurePortalUserList_Completed.xlsx) and have your data management FTP coordinator upload the file in the same location as the original. **Superintendents will also need to send an email to systemsupport@la.gov confirming the filename that has been uploaded and providing his/her consent for the Department to add the users contained in that file** (e.g. “I have reviewed the file named 001_Acadia_SecurePortalUserList_Completed.xlsx and give consent to the Department to provide those users access to the secure portal.”).

Please finalize all file revisions by **March 15** to be included in the update and direct any questions to systemsupport@la.gov.

Reminder: February 2018 Data File of Economically Disadvantaged Students

The Department has released the February 2018 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system. The single Excel file, LEACode_LEA Name_Feb 2018 Economically Disadvantaged.xlsx, will be available through June 30, on the Data Management FTP site. FTP coordinators should locate their individual district file and share it with their federal program and finance staff. The data include students eligible for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and those who are limited English proficient (LEP), homeless, migrant, foster care, incarcerated, or receive reduced priced lunch (for non-CEP LEAs only). These data will be used by the Department to inform grants, federal funding, and subgroup determinations.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Statewide Monitoring

Reminder: Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for SY 2017-2018

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department is releasing the [consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2017-2018 school year](#). The schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

Quarterly updates will continue to follow this newsletter announcement. Additionally, the assigned Statewide Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to superintendents and federal program directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule. The [third quarter monitoring schedule](#) is also available.

If you have any questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), please contact tasha.anthony@la.gov for monitoring related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).