

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



March 20, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Three years ago, educators from around the state gathered for a [series of forums](#) to discuss the state of financial aid access in Louisiana. Too often, it was revealed, students eligible for Pell Grants or TOPS Tech were not completing financial aid forms and were thus ineligible for financial support to attend college or workforce training. A [working group](#) formed in response, and Louisiana got to work.

Fast forward three years. Louisiana is the nation's [most improved state](#) in the rate of FAFSA completions. Working with [LOSFA](#) and other support organizations, parishes and schools around the state are hosting events, counseling families, and providing customized support for all seniors. As of today, [Louisiana's FAFSA completion rate is 8th highest in the nation](#).

Later this week, the Department will announce that there are 100 days left until June 30, the deadline by which FAFSA completions will be counted. The Department will include in this announcement a detailed, school-by-school accounting of FAFSA completion rates as of March 9. Please note that all graduates must complete a FAFSA, a TOPS form, or an indication that they do not plan to apply for financial aid. If they do not complete one of these steps, they either will require a hardship waiver or will not be considered a graduate. You can find more information on this policy on the Department's [financial aid webpage](#).

We are going to put Louisiana at the top of the college and training access leader board. More important than that, we are providing life opportunity to tens of thousands of young people in our state. The last 100 days is a time for leadership, in every community and in every school. Please make sure to get this done for our graduates. Geaux Louisiana!

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](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Safe and Healthy Schools](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [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.
- [McKinney-Vento 101: Understanding the Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness Webinar](#): March 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [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
- [JAG-LA 2018-2019 Intent to Continue Grant Application](#): April 11

School System Support

Reminder: 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.

Moving forward, the Superintendents Calls will occur bi-monthly, with the next call taking place on May 9. This will be the last call for the 2017-2018 school year, and calls will resume again in August. Please send any questions to systemsupport@la.gov.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

General

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

LEAP 360

- The reporting filters in [eDIRECT](#) for LEAP 360 have been updated to filter by grade band.

LEAP 2025

- **High school assessment schedules are due to assessment@la.gov by this Friday, March 23.**
- Test setup for grades 3-8 testing opened Monday, March 19 and will open for high school on Monday, March 26. 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.
- DTCs should support STCs with delivery of test security, preparation, and administration training for spring testing to TAs and other school personnel for applicable assessments.

ELPT

- There is no pre-scheduled pickup day for ELPT materials. Follow the [Packing Materials for Return](#) document for directions on packaging materials and scheduling pickup. **Materials must be shipped for return by this Friday, March 23.**
- Test administrators must complete the Post-Administration Oath located in the [ELPT Summative TAM](#).

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- School test coordinators and test administrators must complete the respective Post-Administration Oaths found in the Test Coordinator Manual and Test Administrator Manual posted in [eDIRECT](#).

ACT

- **March 20:** ACT initial test date.
- **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).
- **Now – March 29:** Create test sessions and assign students to test sessions for ACT online.
- **March 30:** deadline to purge cached content from all proctor caching computers (ACT online only).

New: March Accountability Commission Meeting Cancelled

The Accountability Commission scheduled for March 26 has been cancelled. The next meeting will take place on May 18 at 1:00 p.m. in the Thomas Jefferson room at the Claiborne Building (1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge).

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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 an 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.

Reminder: 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](#).

High School Pathways

New: JAG-LA 2018-2019 Intent to Continue Grant Application

Please share with JAG-LA Supervisors and Principals.

Recipients of the JAG-LA 2017-2018 Grant are eligible to apply for the [JAG-LA 2018-2019 Intent to Continue Grant](#). Continuation is contingent upon (1) verification that previous year's program requirements were met and (2) availability of funds. [Grant requirements](#) have been revised. The grant application and requirements are available under the JAG-LA tab on the Department's website and is due prior to 4:00 p.m. on April 11.

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

New: Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) Updates and Reminders

Please share this information with middle and high school principals and counselors.

By the end of 8th grade, counselors should work with students to

- develop a plan to guide 9th grade academic coursework and assist with exploring educational and career possibilities;
- list the required core courses to be taken through 10th grade; and
- identify elective courses to be taken in 9th grade, including remedial courses.

Note: IGP for students in transitional ninth grade must also include a plan for remediation supports. Per [Bulletin 1566](#) §503. Regular Placement. B. Requirements for High School Students:

B.1.f.iii. Students enrolled in transitional ninth grade shall receive remediation in any subjects in which they did not score at or above proficient, as determined by BESE. **A plan outlining such remediation shall be included in the student's individual graduation plan.**

Progress pursuant to such specified academic supports shall be reviewed **at least once** during the school year in order to determine the effectiveness of the plan and allow for any necessary adjustments. The IGP [fillable form](#) has been updated to allow schools to indicate that a student's T9 support plan is attached.

Please contact leslie.gilliland@la.gov for IGP support.

Reminder: Johns Hopkins High School Redesign Cohort

Please share with principals.

The Department and Johns Hopkins University have launched 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.

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 will submit the template using the secure FTP process no later than **March 26**.

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

Special Education

Reminder: 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.

Finance

New: Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Fiscal Requirements

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

Meeting yearly Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements are part of the business process to confirm compliance and determine eligibility of federal grant funds for Every Student Succeeds Act (formerly NCLB) and IDEA grants. The USDOE requires an annual review that determines if each LEA: 1) has not decreased spending of general fund dollars, and 2) is budgeting expenditures to meet the MOE standards.

There are three MOE measurements submitted in the eGMS system:

- 2017 IDEA MOE Confirmation (Compliance Review) deadline for submission is **Friday, April 27**.
- 2019 ESSA MOE Verification updates are in progress and will be available in the near future.
- 2019 IDEA MOE Verification (Eligibility review) updates are in progress and will be available in the near future.

A [Quick Reference Guide](#) is available to assist in submitting all three MOE applications.

If you have questions regarding the MOE review process, chakera.bell2@la.gov. For technical inquiries or support, please contact jason.berard@la.gov.

New: New ESSA Title I Supplement Not Supplant Provision

To comply with ESSA's new Title I supplement, not supplant rules, school systems must adopt a methodology for allocating state and local funds that is "neutral" to the Title I status of schools. This methodology applies only to Title I; the previous tests for supplement, not supplant remain for all other ESEA titles.

Originally, the reauthorization of ESEA required that school systems meet this compliance requirement by Dec. 10, 2017. USED, however, extended the deadline to the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

Please note:

- School systems do not submit Title I supplement, not supplant methodologies to Department. School systems should be able to produce the methodology for monitoring and audit purposes, and be able to demonstrate that they allocated state and local resources to schools for the 2018-2019 school year according to the methodology adopted.
- This ESSA supplement, not supplant compliance requirement does not apply to single-site school systems or those that have one school per grade span (e.g. the school system has one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school).

For guidance regarding this provision, school systems can access the [presentation slides](#) and [recording](#) of the webinar.

If you have any questions, please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: School Attendance Awards

Please share with principals and counselors.

The Department and BESE are pleased to provide certificates that may be used by school systems to recognize students with outstanding school attendance during the current school year. The [Attendance Award](#), [Perfect Attendance Award](#), and [Excellence in Attendance Award](#) are made available for schools to determine the appropriate level of "Perfect Attendance" for the awards.

For more information, please contact janice.zube@la.gov.