

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



April 10, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

As we turn toward the end of the school year, we enter the season in which the Department provides updates on [statewide trends](#) in student skills and school performance. In the months ahead, the state will update trends in math skills, literacy, and social studies knowledge. The Department will also update ACT, graduation, Advanced Placement, financial aid, and industry credential trends. In each case, the individual trend provides one instrument by which to evaluate the health of the state's education system.

This annual cycle of updating trends started this week with two updates to long-term trend lines. Earlier today, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) made available results from the 2017 administration of the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). Results indicate that gaps among high-performing and low-performing students in the U.S. and in Louisiana are widening. Data also indicate that long-term trends in Louisiana are positive, though performance among struggling students depressed gains in Louisiana this round. I expressed some concern to NCES that technology conditions in all states were not equivalent. However, the results indicate first and foremost that we have a lot to be proud of over the long run, while we have important issues to address immediately.

Earlier today, the Department also issued a [report](#) updating the statewide trend in the number of Louisiana graduates annually eligible for TOPS. The report indicates that the number of students eligible for TOPS in the class of 2017 is 17 percent greater than was the number of eligible students in the class of 2016. This is remarkable progress, achieved over five consecutive years of growth. It also supports a [conclusion](#) reached by the Center for American Progress that Louisiana is one of only two states with full alignment of its diplomas to college admissions and scholarship requirements. This does not make things easier for high schools and school systems, but the reward for graduates is critical and lasts a lifetime.

You can find more information about NAEP and TOPS outcomes in this [presentation](#).

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [April School System Planning Call](#): April 11 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Weekly Support Calls for Special Education Planning \(Strategy 2\)](#): April 11 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Jump Start Summers Applicant Webinar](#): April 11 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar](#): April 12 at 1:00 p.m.
- [STS Office Hours Webinar](#): April 12 at 3:15 p.m.
- [Weekly Support Calls for Special Education Planning \(Strategy 3\)](#): April 18 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Teacher Leader Summit registration opens](#): April 23

Important Deadlines

- [JAG-LA 2018-2019 Intent to Continue Grant Application](#): April 11
- [2018-2019 Data System Changes Feedback Survey](#): April 13
- [2018-2019 Kindergarten Entry Assessment and K-3 Literacy Assessment Survey](#): April 27

School System Support

New: April School System Planning Call

The [April School System Planning Call](#) will take place tomorrow, **April 11 at 1:00 p.m.** The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- Curriculum supervisors
- Teacher Leader and mentor teacher supervisors
- High school and career and technical supervisors

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc> and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; or
- dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter PIN # 89147656.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Coming Soon - Teacher Leader Summit Registration

The [2018 Louisiana Teacher Leader Summit](#) will take place May 30 - June 1 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

- **All sessions, including those that require pre-registration, will be available for registration the week of April 23.**
- **The deadline to register is May 18.**
- Educators must register for each day they plan to attend the Summit.
- Registration is open to all and no school system code is required; however, some sessions require pre-registration.
- All general sessions are first come, first served.

As a reminder, registrants need to coordinate with their school system's Teacher Leader Coordinator if requiring their school system to cover travel expenses.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions related to the 2018 Summit.

Family Engagement

New: Parent Guides to the ELPT and LEAP Connect Student Reports

Today the Department released parent guides for the new English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) and LEAP Connect student reports. These guides provide families with information on:

- student achievement level by content or domain;
- a comparison of the student's progress to others; and
- information to help parents understand how to use these results to guide discussions with their child's teacher.

Schools should send the parent guides home to parents along with the student reports in May.

Both of these guides, and all other assessment resources, can be found in the [Family Support Toolbox](#). Translated versions will be available in the Toolbox next week.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

General

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

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 Interim assessment District Item Response Files, School Test Session Summary Reports, and Test Session Summary Reports were posted for all forms on March 23. The remaining scheduled postings will be April 23, May 7, May 21, June 4, and June 18.

LEAP 2025

- Test setup for grades 3-8 and high school are now open. 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.

- **Now - May 4:** LEAP 2025 grades 3-8 computer-based testing window
- **April 23 - May 18:** LEAP 2025 high school computer-based testing window
- **April 30 - May 4:** LEAP 2025 grades 3-4 paper-based testing window
- DTCs should ensure schools are running the readiness check before testing each day. Schools should open INSIGHT, select the purple check mark in the bottom left corner, and type 7745. If the screen does not show all green check marks, the technology coordinator should be notified.
- DTCs needing the unsent response flags cleared can now contact the Department assessment hotline to have those flags removed. Please check and ensure all responses are cleared from the TSM prior to calling the Department.

ELPT

- Results will be available in [eDIRECT](#) in May.
- [Parent Guide to the ELPT Student Reports](#) available in the [Family Support Toolbox](#). Translated versions will be available next week.

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- Results will be available in the [Online Reporting System](#) in May.
- [Parent Guide to the LEAP Connect Student Reports](#) available in the [Family Support Toolbox](#). Translated versions will be available next week.

ACT and WorkKeys

- **April 13 – Deadline for ACT to receive materials for scoring**
(late-arriving answer documents will not be scored)
- **April 13 – Last day of the WorkKeys testing window**
- **April 16-20 – Districts receive ACT test materials** for makeup testing
- **April 18 – Deadline to order ACT accommodations materials** for makeup testing by calling ACT Accommodations, 800-553-6244 ext. 1788
- **April 23 – Deadline to conduct sessions for examinees to complete the non-test information** on the answer documents for paper testing
- **April 24 – Deadline to add students and update student information** in PearsonAccess^{next} for ACT makeup testing
- **April 24 – Administer the ACT on paper with standard time** on the makeup test date
- **April 24–30 – Administer the ACT on paper with accommodations and/or supports** during the makeup window **for students who are testing due to an administrative error only**
- **April 26 – Pre-scheduled FedEx pickup** for ACT test materials from the standard time makeup test date (May 4 – deadline for ACT to receive materials. Late arriving materials will not be scored)
- **May 2 – Pre-scheduled FedEx pickup for ACT test materials from the accommodations makeup test date.** (May 10 – deadline for ACT to receive materials. Late arriving materials will not be scored)

New: 2018-2019 Kindergarten Entry and K-3 Literacy Assessments

Please share with District Test Coordinators and K-3 ELA/Reading Supervisors.

The 2018-2019 Guidance on the Kindergarten Entry Assessment and K-3 Literacy Screening Assessment is now [here](#).

In order to provide better support and training to teachers, **the Department is asking districts to communicate their assessment choices by completing this short [survey](#) by April 27.**

Please email jill.slack@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: Scholarship for JAG Completers

The Department has executed and posted a data sharing agreement with Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) on the Department's [website](#) for the purposes of providing scholarships to students completing Jobs for American Graduates program. School systems should download the addendum from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to ldedata@la.gov in order to ensure that they will be able to share student information with LCTCS.

Please email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Jump Start Super Summer Institute Registration

Please share with CTE Supervisors, principals and Jump Start instructors.

Registration for the 2018 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) will close on May 1.

Sessions for basic and advanced statewide credentials will be offered at multiple locations and dates.

Sites and Dates:

- June 4-8: [Northwest \(Bossier City\)](#)
- June 11-15: [Bayou \(Lockport\)](#) and [Southwest \(Lake Charles\)](#)
- July 16-20: [Acadiana \(Lafayette\)](#), [Capital \(Gonzales and Livingston\)](#)
- July 23-27: [Northwest Louisiana \(Bossier City\)](#) and [Operation Spark \(New Orleans\)](#)
- May 1-July 20: [National EMS Academy \(Lafayette\)](#) – This site has sessions with online trainings which will begin May 1. Registrations for trainings at this site will close April 20. On-site training will be from July 9 - 20.

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/session) for which school systems may use their Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2017-2018 Carl Perkins Funds.

Schools systems will be invoiced after registration closes. All registration fees must be paid, at least, one week prior to the session beginning. For assistance in planning registration, view the [SSI 2018 Pre-Planning Document](#).

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

Reminder: AP® Test Fee Program

Please share with high school administrators and AP coordinators.

The AP® Test Fee Program has historically funded exam subsidies for low-income students who take AP within a given school year. However, with the passage of the ESSA, the AP Test Fee Program was not renewed.

To ensure that low-income students are not adversely affected by the changes in ESSA, the Department recommends that schools and districts use a combination of [funding options](#) to provide exam subsidies for low-income students, as was intended by the changes made to ESSA.

By subsidizing the AP exam fees for eligible public school students, schools and school districts will ensure that all students have access to opportunities to earn postsecondary credit at minimal cost.

To fully replace the federal exam subsidy amount, school systems should **budget \$53 for each eligible AP exam.**

For more information, please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov.

Reminder: Jump Start Summers Applicant Webinar

The Department will host a repeat webinar for Jump Start Summers (funded by SCA/Course Choice) applicants who received a “Proceed” rating in the interview and a “Favorable” rating in the independent panel review. The webinar will review the program and Interagency Agreement requirements for providers including the awarding of Carnegie Units, credentialing requirements, participant tracking, and funding. The webinar is a repeat of information previously presented and will be held on April 11 at 2:00 p.m.

To join the webinar go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/rhs12svm6gwk/>

Jump Start Summers providers will be recommended for approval at the April BESE meeting.

For more information, please contact jumpstart@la.gov.

Educator Preparation

New: Department Names the 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semi-Finalists

The Department is proud to announce the [2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year semi-finalists](#). From their commitment to their students to their breadth of teaching knowledge and skill, these educators exemplify Louisiana’s education profession.

Finalists will be announced live at the opening of the Teacher Leader Summit on May 30 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. All Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists and semi-finalists will be honored at the 12th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#), on July 27 at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: High Cost Services Round 2 Allocations

Allocations for Round 2 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 Rnd. 2 in eGMS. Amendment 1 must be created for all students for whom an allocation was received. The Department will review budget amendments for eligibility and allowability as they are submitted by school systems.

For support, please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

New: High Cost Services Add/Drop

The deadline for school systems to add or drop students in High Cost Services Round 1 and Round 2 applications is April 20.

For support with this process, please contact terri.byrd@la.gov.

Reminder: Weekly Support Calls for Special Education Planning

Please share with Special Education Directors, Federal Programs and IDEA managers, and Curriculum & Instruction supervisors.

The Department will host a series of weekly calls designed to support school systems in completing the [strategy-based planning template](#) that was introduced at the March Supervisors Collaboratives and is intended to be a helpful tool for planning special education programs in the 2018-2019 school year. **All calls will be on Wednesdays from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.** The schedule for the series is below:

- April 11: Provide high quality instruction (Strategy 2)
- April 18: Specialized supports and related services (Strategy 3)
- April 25: Coordinate effective transitions (Strategy 4)
- May 2: Program administration and support
- May 9: Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS)

To join the **April 11 call:**

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/strategy2/>; and
- dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter the PIN #: 30160130

To join the **April 18 call:**

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/strategy3/>; and
- dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter the PIN #: 30160130

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with any questions

Data

New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

Please share with data coordinators.

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers of SPC, SIS, SER, PEP and STS on **April 12 at 1:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices. No pre-registration is required.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>;
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; and
- select the "listen only mode."

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT Coordinator's portal under Monthly DC Webinars by April 11. Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: STS Office Hours Webinar

Please forward to data coordinators and STS data managers.

The Department will hold office hours for data coordinators and data managers of STS on **April 12 at 3:15 p.m.** The data management team will be on hand to answer STS questions. No pre-registration is required.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>;
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; and
- select the "listen only mode."

New: 2018-2019 System Enhancements Review

Please forward to data coordinators and data managers.

At the March collaborations, the Department provided data managers with [proposed changes to data systems for next school year](#); these changes included updates to the Department systems, DRC assessment file layouts/workflow, and eScholar.

Data managers and program office staff should sync to review changes to the data systems and submit the [feedback survey](#) by April 13. This feedback will be used to finalize 2018-2019 data system changes.

New: Third Year Assessment Cohort Rosters

ESSA statute and BESE policy require that all high school students participate at least one time in both an English language arts and math assessment. In Louisiana, students are required to take the English II and Algebra I LEAP 2025 high school assessments by their third year of high school regardless of course enrollment or diploma pathway.

The Department has posted a file named LEA Code_LEA Name_EOC_Third Year Assessment Cohort to the FTP, along with a Third Year Assessment Cohort FAQ that includes all students who are required to test or have an accountability code applied to their testing record. Please see the FAQ provided with the file for specific details on how to add students to test sessions. There are a limited number of students who are not required to participate based on one of the reasons listed below.

1. Accountability Codes 1-44, 97: Student is no longer enrolled in school.
2. Accountability Code 80: Student has a doctor's letter excusing the student from testing
3. Accountability Code 94: Student took a LAA 1 ELA and math assessment.
4. Accountability Code 96: Student earned an English II credit and/or Algebra I credit from an out of state or nonpublic school as evidenced by the official transcript.
5. Students who take the English III and/or Geometry tests in spring do not need to take the English II and/or Algebra I tests unless they are also enrolled in the courses.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Update Regarding Cohort Graduation Data Certification

The CLEP scores for students who are members of the 2016-2017 graduation cohort have been posted to the FTP, and includes all students who earned a score of 50 or greater. The state cohort file has been updated to reflect additional points earned in the strength of diploma index, so it is not necessary to submit these students in the LA Data Review system. Submissions that were completed prior to this notice will be reviewed and approved.

The data certification system will close for new submissions at the end of the day today, April 10. Students who were selected for exit code review must have documentation provided in LA Data Review to avoid being reclassified as dropouts.

Please send questions to assessment@la.gov.

Reminder: 2017-2018 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM and TSG

The Curriculum Verification and Results (CVR) Reporting Portal roster verification process ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters for the purposes of value-added (VAM) and transitional student growth (TSG) data analyses.

In 2017-2018, VAM results will account for 35 percent of the Student Growth component of the teacher's final evaluation. Teachers in grades 4-8 in ELA, Mathematics, and Social Studies will receive VAM results. Teachers in Algebra I, Geometry, and English I will receive TSG results in 2017-2018 because these assessments are in transition to new achievement levels. These TSG results are for information purposes only and will not count in teachers' final evaluation.

Now - April 20: The CVR portal will be open for view only. During this time, users can view and check the roster data for accuracy but **cannot** make changes in CVR. The CVR Help Desk will be able to assist with any issues that a district must correct in the source data systems.

May 7- 18: The CVR portal will be open for roster verification. During this time, users can view and check the roster data for accuracy, and make changes in the system.

An updated user guide for CVR is available in the [Compass Library](#).

Please email ldoecvr@la.gov with questions regarding roster verification.