

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**May 1, 2018**

Dear Colleagues,

High schools are different from elementary and middle schools in essential ways. Students are older and more independent. The curriculum is more diverse. Teachers are often organized into departments rather than teams. It can be easy for kids to slip through the cracks of high schools.

Today, the Department [announced](#) that 31 high schools across the state – rural and urban, traditional and alternative, large and small – will join in a collaborative effort to increase dramatically the graduation rates and credentialing rates of their students. Partnering with nationally respected professor Robert Balfanz and his team at the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University, these schools will convene throughout 2018 and 2019 to design the structures and processes necessary to support high-needs students as they progress through high school. This will mean organizing schools so that teams of teachers are in touch with one another about the needs of specific students. It will mean long-term planning with students so that they can reflect on their path to a funded education after high school. And it will mean managing data in an organized fashion, so that when students are absent or struggling help is on the way.

The state will soon release class of 2017 graduation rates and credentialing rates. This announcement will highlight in one respect that our state has made great strides in advancing the education levels of high school students. Our [recent progress](#) in financial aid form completion is another testament to this. The future is brighter for many thousands of young Louisianans today because of our high schools' efforts.

But the report will also inevitably highlight that many young people in Louisiana fail to attain the most basic of benchmarks in our public education system, a high school diploma. Louisiana [tops the nation](#) in the percentage of its young adults who are neither enrolled in a school or college nor employed in a full-time job. That stat is perhaps the least promising indicator for the future of our state. And it is something we have to change.

That starts with high schools that are organized around the needs of students, that know their students and their daily lives, and that intervene when trouble is ahead. It is about high schools who make sure students are reflecting on their results and planning for the future. It is about high schools with systems and processes for making these simple things happen, so that more students go on to the next phase of their life with a chance of upward mobility and a productive life ahead. Thanks to these 31 schools for taking on that ambitious mission.

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

John

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## Important Dates for School Systems

### Upcoming Events

- [Weekly Support Call for Special Education Planning \(Program Administration and Support\)](#): May 2 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar](#): May 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Special Education Policy Monthly Webinar](#): May 3 at 2:00 p.m.
- [AEPS to TS GOLD Transition Support Webinar](#): May 7 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): May 8 at 1:00 p.m.
- [May Superintendents Call](#): May 9 at 10:30 a.m.
- [May School System Planning Call](#): May 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Career and Technical Education New User Data Entry Webinar](#): May 9 at 3:00 p.m.
- [Introduction to Mentor Teacher Webinar](#): May 9 at 4:00 p.m.
- [Compass 2017-2018 End of Year Webinar](#): May 10 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Weekly Support Call for Special Education Training \(CEIS\)](#): May 10 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Introduction to Mentor Teacher Webinar](#): May 10 at 4:30 p.m.
- [Career and Technical Education Current User Data Entry Webinar](#): May 10 at 3:00 p.m.

### Important Deadlines

- [Jump Start Super Summer Institute registration](#) ends: May 1
- [LEAP 2025 testing for Grades 3-8](#) concludes: May 4

## School System Support

### **New: May Superintendents Call**

You are invited to participate in the **Superintendents Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on May 9 at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below.

To join the call:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>;
- dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109;
- enter the Meeting ID #8695506; and
- identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

## **New: May School System Planning Call**

The **May School System Planning Call** will take place on **May 9 at 1:00 p.m.** The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- Curriculum supervisors
- Talent supervisors: Teacher Leader, Mentor, Content Leader and Principal
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Compass contacts and personnel directors
- Finance 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 participant PIN # 89147656.

Please contact [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Join the Compass 2017-2018 End of Year Webinar**

The Department is hosting a webinar on **May 10 at 1:00 p.m.** to provide Compass guidance to close out the 2017-2018 school year. The webinar will include information related to completing final evaluations and expectations for entering data into CIS. This includes how CIS will calculate VAM data and what is required of CIS users.

Additionally, more information about compass related sessions that will be offered at the Teacher Leader Summit and more information about training opportunities for new evaluators over the summer will be discussed.

To join the webinar (no preregistration is required):

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

Please email [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) for more information.

## **New: 2018 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirts**

Looking for a way to show your Teacher Leader pride at this year's Summit? Then **order your 2018 Teacher Leader t-shirt by May 21** to receive it before the event! A limited number of t-shirts will also be available for purchase at the Summit.

Email [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: Registration for 2018 Teacher Leader Summit Now Open**

**Please share with principals and Teacher Leaders.**

The **2018 Teacher Leader Summit** will take place **Wednesday, May 30 through Friday, June 1 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.** This event will bring together 6,500 educators and content experts from across the state to share their knowledge, and learn new skills to ensure meaningful growth for every child, every day in 2018-2019.

**Registration for the Summit is now open in [WisdomWhere](#)** and is based on a first come, first served basis, with a small subset of sessions requiring pre-registration. Registration will close in mid-May.

In Louisiana, we believe that all students, even those that struggle the most, should have access to the best education. At this year's Teacher Leader Summit, **educators will have the opportunity to choose from over [300 sessions](#) led by content experts, and should plan to attend all three days.** Approximately 70 percent of sessions will focus on topics relevant to classroom teachers, therefore school systems are encouraged to ensure approximately 70 percent of their attendees are current classroom teachers.

**This year's event will also include "Ed Talks," a series of nationally recognized speakers and accompanying session tracks** that will provide schools and schools systems with innovative strategies to best support struggling students and schools. Details will be provided in early May via the newsletters.

Contact your Teacher Leader coordinator for information about attending this year's Summit, or contact [louisianateacherleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov) with additional questions about the event.

## 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 April 23. The remaining scheduled postings will be May 7, May 21, June 4, and June 18.

#### LEAP 2025

- Test setup for grades 3-8 and high school is 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
- **Now - May 18:** LEAP 2025 high school computer-based testing window
- **April 30 - May 4:** LEAP 2025 grades 3-4 paper-based testing window
- **May 7-8:** Grades 3-4 PBT makeup 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.

#### ACT and WorkKeys

- **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.)

#### LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The [Parent Guide to the LEAP Connect Student Reports](#) has been posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

- LEAP Connect/LAA 1 results will be available in [eDIRECT](#) in May. For directions on viewing score reports, reference pages 90-94 of the eDIRECT User Guide posted under General Information in [eDIRECT](#).

#### **ELPT**

- The [Parent Guide to the ELPT Student Reports](#) has been posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- ELPT results will be available in the [Online Reporting System](#) in May. An Online Reporting System User Guide will be posted to the [ELPT Portal](#) with the release of results that contains directions on viewing score reports.

#### **Assessment Administration Support and Training**

The Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be held on **May 8 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
- dial 1-646-307-1380 and enter participant PIN # 89147656.

#### **Reminder: Assessment Development Educator Review Committees**

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees convene from May through September. Throughout this process, selected educators review potential assessment items or provide recommendations for scoring tasks for LEAP 2025 tests.

The vendor will provide lodging, breakfast, lunch, and stipend, and reimburse for mileage and substitutes.

**Deadlines to complete many of the interest surveys have been extended.** Interest survey links, information about the different committees, and contact info for the assessment coordinators can be found in [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees](#) overview in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

The Assessment Development Team is in **most need of special education (low cognitive; learning disorder), English learner, and visually impaired, hard of hearing, or deaf teachers** to speak for our most vulnerable populations of students.

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **High School Pathways**

#### **New: Career and Technical Education Data Submission**

**Please share with school system secondary supervisors, career and technical education supervisors/coordinators, school leadership, and professional school counselors.**

The [Career and Technical Education \(C.A.T.E.\) Data System](#), will be open from May 15 to August 31 to submit 2017-2018 Career and Technical Education data as required for reporting of [Perkins Core Indicators](#) to the US Department of Education.

The Department will host two webinars to support school systems and schools with data entry.

**The first webinar will provide new users with introduction to the system's processes**, and will be offered on the following dates.

- May 9 at 3:00 p.m.

- May 16 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/newusers2018/>; and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

**The second webinar will provide current users with updates to the system, and will be offered on the following dates.**

- May 10 at 3:00 p.m.
- May 17 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/cate2018/>; and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

For further assistance, please contact [martha.moore@la.gov](mailto:martha.moore@la.gov).

### **Reminder: Financial Aid Planning Regional Events**

**Please share with professional school counselors and/or staff responsible for the implementation of financial aid planning policy in schools.**

It is a requirement that every graduating senior complete the [FAFSA](#), [TOPS application](#), have a parental [waiver](#), or hardship [waiver](#) on file. **Students not having met this requirement will not be considered graduates.**

There are regional events scheduled throughout the state for seniors who still need to submit the FAFSA to meet graduation requirements. Additional individual school events are scheduled and can be viewed at the [Regional Financial Aid Calendar](#).

- **May 2:** Iberia Parish FAFSA Event, Westgate High 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- **May 3:** Lafayette Parish FAFSA Event, Carencro High 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- **May 7:** East Baton Rouge Parish FAFSA Event Jewel M. Newman Community Center 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- **May 16:** East Baton Rouge Parish FAFSA Event Jewel M. Newman Community Center 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- **May 25:** East Baton Rouge Parish FAFSA Event Jewel M. Newman Community Center 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

If assistance with a FAFSA event is needed, the Department can make an onsite visit. Please email [ldefinancialaid@la.gov](mailto:ldefinancialaid@la.gov) to set up a date/time or for more information.

### **Reminder: Jump Start Super Summer Institute Registration**

**Please share with CTE Supervisors, school administrators, and instructors.**

Registration for the **2018 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI)** will be extended until **May 7**. Please contact [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov) with any questions. .

Please see the [SSI 2018 Pre-Planning Document](#) to view when and where sessions for basic and advanced statewide credentials will be offered.

Please direct all questions about Super Summer Institute to [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

## Educator Preparation

### **New: 2018-2019 Mentor Teacher Training Informational Webinar**

The Department received over 1,200 nominations from school systems for both Mentor Teacher training and Content Leader training for 2018-2019. Thank you for submitting your nominations. The Department has notified school systems of their nominees' acceptance, as well as the nominees themselves.

To kick off 2018-2019 Mentor Teacher training, the Department will host an informational webinar for all nominees. The webinar will provide an overview of the training and prepare participants for the first day of training. Training will begin for Mentor Teachers at this year's [Teacher Leader Summit](#) or during the week of June 5. School system leaders are also welcome to join the webinar. No pre-registration is required.

#### **Introduction to Mentor Teacher Webinar**

##### Option 1

May 9 at 4:00 p.m.

##### Option 2

May 10 at 4:30 p.m.

#### **To join the webinar:**

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ldoeprofdev/>;
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; or
- dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter participant PIN # 8914765.

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

## Special Education

### **New: AEPS to TS GOLD Transition Deadline and Supports**

**Please share with Special Education Directors, school administrators, and staff responsible for AEPS.**

As of July 1, Teaching Strategies Gold (TS GOLD) will replace AEPS as the assessment tool used to measure the progress and growth of 3-5 year old children with disabilities. In order to ensure timely and accurate communication regarding the transition from AEPS to TS GOLD, all Special Education Directors should complete [this form](#) by **May 30**, using information for the 2018-2019 school year.

For more information, consider registering for one of the AEPS to TS GOLD transition sessions at the Teacher Leader Summit. In addition, school system staff responsible for managing the data and reporting in AEPS are encouraged to join a support webinar scheduled for **May 7 at 2:00 p.m.** Pre-registration is not required.

#### **To join the webinar:**

- go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/academiccontent/>; or
- dial 1-646-307-1380 and enter participant PIN # 89147656.

For more information, please email [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov).

## **Reminder: Join the Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar**

The Department will hold its **monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on May 3 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/specialedmay18/> and enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; or
- dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter participant PIN # 30160130.

For more information, please email [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov).

## **Data**

### **New: 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 data (TSGD) 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, Math, 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 the teacher's final evaluation.
- Teachers in other grades and subjects will not receive VAM or TSGD scores.

**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](#) with information on this process. Additionally, please email [ldoecvr@la.gov](mailto:ldoecvr@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar**

**Please forward to data coordinators.**

The Department will hold its **monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers of SPC, SIS, SER, PEP and STS on May 3 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."

Please email [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## Policy

### **New: 2018-2019 BESE Regulation Waiver Request Submission**

The Department continues to streamline its process for receiving and reviewing BESE regulation waiver requests. BESE regulation waiver requests for the 2018-2019 school year should be submitted to the Department via the [BESE Regulation Waiver Request Form](#) no later than **May 31**. BESE will review all waiver requests received by the Department at its June meeting.

Please email [ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov](mailto:ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov) for more information.

### **New: April BESE Meeting Summary**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on on April 18 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A summary of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies may be accessed [here](#).

Please email [ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov](mailto:ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov) for more information.

## Grants Management

### **New: eGMS SY2017-2018 8(g) Amendment Deadline**

**May 15 is the final date to submit SY2017-2018 amendments for 8(g) grants ending June 15.** School systems are to make all final SY2017-2018 program budget changes to ensure that applications can be approved.

Please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: FY2017-2018 High Cost Services Round 1 and Round 2 Funds Expire on June 30**

School system that have not submitted their FY2017-2018 High Cost Services Round 1 or Round 2 budget (Amendment 1) should submit them in [eGMS](#) as soon as possible

The majority of the HCS Round 1 funding is from FY2017-2018 state funds (MFP). All of the HCS Round 2 funding is from FY2017-2018 state funds (MFP). These funds will expire on June 30. Any obligations on these funds must be made by that date.

Please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## Finance

### **Reminder: Career Development Funds (CDF)**

**Please share with school system business managers and financial officials.**

In FY2017-2018 CDF pay for 8<sup>th</sup> graders enrolled in Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) courses. For school systems and schools that reported these courses, a [supplemental CDF](#) payment is being provided.

Please refer to this [spreadsheet](#) that shows the initial amount allocated to school systems and schools for their respective JAG courses and provides the amount of CDF funds that are allocated to JAG.

If you have questions regarding the CDF payments, please contact [ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoemfphelpdesk@la.gov).

## Safe and Healthy Schools

### **Reminder: Heroin and Opioid Prevention Education Survey**

The Department is interested in learning about existing substance abuse and prevention programming in Louisiana school systems and schools and would appreciate input from the professional(s) with the most knowledge in substance abuse prevention within each school system.

**Please have these individuals answer a brief [survey](#) no later than May 18; this may include wellness/health teachers, coordinators, or supervisors.**

Additionally, if an employee in your school system is interested in working with the Department to provide opioid-specific resources to schools across the state, please contact [michael.comeaux@la.gov](mailto:michael.comeaux@la.gov).