



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 9, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Teacher Appreciation Week started Monday with good news for Louisiana educators. As you may have seen, [U.S. News & World Report released their PK-12 state rankings and Louisiana advanced from 46th to 41st overall](#). In fact, we improved in every category compared to other states (preschool enrollment, high school graduation, college readiness, math scores, and reading scores). We actually jumped 10 places in reading from 48th to 38th.

This would not be possible without you, your system leaders, school leaders, and teachers. It comes on the heels of the Nation's Report Card, which was released a few months back, where Louisiana's ranking among the states improved from 46th to 42nd.

Let's take a moment to celebrate and then get back to work. I remain excited and optimistic that we will continue to get stronger outcomes for our students.

Dr. Cade Brumley

In This Issue

- [Important Dates for School Systems](#)
- [Assessments, Accountability and Analytics](#)
- [Career and College Readiness](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 10 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [May 11 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [May 11 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office hours: [May 16 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [May 16 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Business Manager Monthly Call: [May 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [May 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [May 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Finance Support Office Hours: [May 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [May 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 30 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [June 6 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Mentor and Resident Spring Data Collection webinar: [May 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- [2023 Louisiana School Safety Summit](#): June 15
- Registration for [School Support Institutes 2023-2024](#): May 8 - June 8

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

ELPT Score Release

Please share with test coordinators and Title III supervisors.

ELPT score reports will be available in TIDE May 15. ELPT Connect scores will not be released until late fall. All students who qualified for and participated in ELPT Connect will have a new baseline set for the ELPT progress index. As with all ELPT initial testing, the ELPT Connect scores will not be in accountability results released with the fall 2023 school performance scores. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

National Merit Finalist BESE Recognition

Please share with school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education would like to recognize National Merit Finalists at the June 14 BESE meeting. Schools systems, public charter schools, and nonpublic schools with National Merit Finalist(s) are asked to provide the Department with the names of those students by completing the [National Merit Finalists form](#) no later than May 17.

Please contact jessica.vallelungo@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana ACT Data Workshop: Accelerating Your School and Student Success

Please share with the testing coordinator, counselors, and data specialists.

[Registration](#) is open for the Louisiana ACT® Data Workshop. This free workshop will develop a deep understanding of the ACT® Assessment Reports and how to utilize this data to improve school and student ACT® success. Two workshops will be offered:

- Baton Rouge: June 14, 9 a.m. - noon
- New Orleans: June 21, 9 a.m. - noon

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

AP Coordinator Back-to-School Workshops

Please share with the AP testing coordinator.

[Registration](#) is open for the AP® Coordinator Back-to-School workshops. These workshops run from July 24 until September 21 and are designed for new and experienced coordinators. Participants will receive updates and resources for the upcoming school year in whole group and small group sessions. College Board accounts must be active to register for the workshops. Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Deadline Extended: Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program

Please share with CTE supervisors, CTE instructors, and counselors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF) Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program is accepting applications for up to forty one-time \$1,000 scholarships. Students who earned Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diplomas, possess National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credentials, and plan to enroll in LCTCS campuses on construction pathways or in Associated Builders and Contractors training programs are encouraged to [apply](#) by May 26. Please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov with questions.

Department of Justice Youth Violence Prevention Grant Program

Please share with school leaders and school safety professionals.

The purpose of this program is to develop and enhance strategies to prevent youth violence, including youth gang or group involvement. Deliverables from this program include the development of new direct service programs or the enhancement of existing programs for youth with multiple risk factors for violence. The grant [application](#) deadline is June 12.

The U.S. Department of Justice is holding an informational [webinar](#) on May 18 from 1 - 2 p.m. For more information on this grant and others visit the [School Safety website](#); contact schoolsafety@hq.dhs.gov with questions.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education

Please share with school nurses, coaches, athletic trainers and athletic directors.

[House Bill 400](#) (Act 385) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session requires each public school nurse, coach, athletic trainer, and athletic director to annually complete a sudden cardiac arrest education program. The Department partnered with Code Ana to provide this free [Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education course](#) for any school or person to access. Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean School Bus Program

Please share with school bus transportation officials.

The EPA is offering at least \$400 million in grants for cleaner school buses to reduce harmful pollution and to protect children's health. The grants will fund electric, propane, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses that will produce either zero or low tailpipe emissions compared to older diesel predecessors.

This 2023 Grant Program is separate from the earlier 2022 Rebate Program. Grant applicants may submit proposals after the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is publicly posted on [EPA's Clean School Bus Program web page](#). This is a competitive program where applicants will be scored based on how well their proposal meets the criteria set forth within the NOFO. The Clean School Bus Grant Program **closes on August 22**. Please contact cleanschoolbus@epa.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

Please share with special education leaders.

Results of the 2021-2022 parent involvement survey for school systems selected to participate are available in the data management FTP. Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Summer OSERS Kickoff Event

Please share with special education teachers, related service providers, and families of students with disabilities.

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) is hosting an upcoming virtual kickoff event for the transition initiative, Expect, Engage, Empower: Successful Transitions for All. The virtual event will address transition services for youth with disabilities and their families. The webinar will be held this Wednesday, May 10, from noon until 1:30 p.m. [Registration](#) is free. Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for more information.

Summer Transitions: Lunch and Learn

Please share with special education teachers and related service providers.

LASARD is hosting Summer Transitions: Lunch and Learn. This webinar will explore strategies to help learners transition from school to summer and will be held this Friday, May 12, from noon until 12:30 p.m. [Registration](#) is free and open for all. Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for more information.

Louisiana Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Summit

Please share with special educators, service providers and families.

The Human Development Center at LSU Health New Orleans is hosting a free educational workshop, [Louisiana Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Summit](#), featuring national experts, families and self-advocates to learn more about fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and developmental delays, June 16-17 in New Orleans. Participants can [register](#) to attend virtually or in person. Families with children with FASD may [apply](#) for stipends to attend.

Educator Development

2023 Believe and Prepare End-of-Year Surveys

Please share with Mentor Teachers and school leaders.

The LDOE hopes to gather the experiences and opinions of Mentor Teachers and their principals to steer the future of our Teacher Leader Initiatives through two end-of-year surveys.

The [2023 Believe and Prepare: Principal Survey](#) is offered to all principals with teachers that completed Mentor or Content Leader training in the past seven years, have Mentors that served on their campus as a mentor to an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate resident this school year (2022-2023), or have Content Leaders serving in the role this school year.

Mentors who have completed training in the past seven years or served as a mentor to an undergraduate or post baccalaureate resident this school year are invited to complete the [2023 Believe and Prepare: Mentor Survey](#).

Both surveys must be completed by **June 14**. Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

2023 Louisiana Aspiring Educator Summer Academy

Please share with teacher leaders and school leaders.

The [Louisiana Aspiring Educator Summer Academy](#) is a one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience for high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators.

Hosted by the Louisiana Department of Education and staffed by a team of advisors and coaches from around the state, the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Academy will take place at the University of Louisiana Monroe July 10-14. Each high school offering Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway coursework is eligible to [nominate](#) one student and one alternate to attend the 2023 Academy. Review the [Summer Academy Overview](#) for more details about the student nomination and registration process. [School system nominations](#) will be accepted until all academy slots have been filled. Contact toriano.hayward@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 13 Released

Please share with teachers, school leaders, and school system leaders.

Season 2, Episode 13, Creating a Culture of Success: Insights from Lafayette's Comeback School Principals: In [Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) listeners hear from five inspiring educational leaders from the Lafayette Parish School System who share the experiences and insights that led to them receiving the Louisiana Comeback Campus distinction. Richland Parish makes Em Cooper smile this week with their celebration of teachers for literacy improvements.

Share Your Stories: Educators can submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in schools for the What's Making Me Smile segment. Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

2023-2024 Program Approval Application Portal Now Open

Please share with school system leaders, school leaders, and human resource directors.

Teacher, early childhood ancillary certificate program, educational leader proposals for initial approval, and Mentor and content leader training proposals are accepted and considered by BESE twice per year. A panel of reviewers evaluate proposals meeting all initial submission requirements to ensure they meet policy requirements. The [portal](#) is now open to accept the Notice of Intent (NOI).

See the [Preparation Library](#) for program approval resources, including notices of intent and application rubrics. Programs submitting applications for review should use these materials to ensure their applications align with policy requirements.

Application Portal Opens	Notice of Intent Submission Deadline	Application Submission Deadline	Evaluation Period	Notification of Evaluation Results	BESE Considers (if recommended for approval)
May 1	June 1	July 10	July 17 – August 1	September 12	October 11

School Improvement

Registration for School Support Institutes 2023-2024 Now Open

Please share with school system leaders and school leaders.

In collaboration with our high-quality vendor partner, TNTP, School Support Institutes 2023-2024 will focus on cultivating coherence and supporting Louisiana leaders to establish and maintain well-organized instructional programs that meet the diverse needs of all students.

Each CIR school is required to register three members of their ILT for School Support Institutes 2023-2024. Leadership teams from UIR-A and unlabeled schools are also invited to register and attend. Please see our [SSI 2023-2024 Overview and Registration document](#) for more information, including system-level seat allocation and learning pathway descriptions. [Registration for School Support Institutes 2023-2024](#) will close June 8. Please contact schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov with questions.