

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



May 22, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Much of the 2016-2017 school year was spent in discussions with educators, parents, and community members about [Louisiana's plan](#) for the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA. During that process, state officials had a chance to learn from partners and from constituents what they value in schools and in any system that rates school performance. Among the many lessons learned was the desire to expand the range of measures used in evaluating school performance and to reward schools for the benefits they provide students that are not measured by state tests or graduation rates. In particular, commenters focused on the lifelong interests and opportunities schools provide students. Students learn to appreciate the creative arts in schools, for example. They learn to be active and healthy. They learn foreign languages. And they learn enduring occupational skills. These are all assets of great value that stick with young people well after graduating from high school.

In order to value the effort schools put into these endeavors, BESE approved the concept of an Interests and Opportunities Index, accounting for five percent of a school's performance score starting with the 2019-2020 school year. The Department commissioned a working group to study the Interests and Opportunities Index soon after the policy was passed and began to develop a proposed means of measuring performance in this area.

As in all aspects of the accountability system, it is important that the index measure schools fairly and reliably. As expected, valid and reliable measurement instruments are not as of yet readily available in every area the index includes. For example, while the state may be able to ask school systems to provide an estimated number of minutes in elementary and middle school arts, no obvious instrument exists to determine the depth or comprehensiveness of that coursework in every school, in a comparable manner. As a result, this week, the state issued a [request for information](#) to statewide and nationwide organizations that support arts education, physical education, foreign language, technology, and career education. The request calls on these organizations to demonstrate the types of models they could implement to achieve reliable and fair measurement across these content areas. The result will be a first-of-its-kind, comprehensive system to measure excellence across the curriculum, rather than in the four core subjects alone.

Schools are essential institutions not just for producing literate, numerate citizens. They also provide children a view into the wider world. They spark children's imaginations. They forge lifelong interests. It is appropriate that we evaluate schools partially on their ability to do this, just as it is important that we conduct this evaluation in the fairest way possible. I'm looking forward to the results of this request for information and to the final design of the Interests and Opportunities Index.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): May 29 at 1:00 p.m.
- [2018 Teacher Leader Summit](#): May 29-June 1

Important Deadlines

- [2018-2019 Central Data and eGrant Training Registration](#) opens: May 22
- [2018 Homeless Liaison Summer Training Registration](#) opens: May 22

School System Support

New: Preparing for the Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with all Teacher Leader Summit participants

The [2018 Summit](#) is less than two weeks away! To ensure all participants get the most out of this inspiring, sold out event, they should take the following steps:

1. **Download the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit app** for the most up-to-date information about when and where sessions are happening, and to build a personalized schedule. Search for “Teacher Leader Summit” in the Apple or Android app store. Refer to the [app directions](#) for additional help downloading and using the app.
2. **Attend the plenary session.** The plenary session, which will take place from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 30, will feature a performance by [Landry-Walker's celebrated brass band](#), the announcement of our state's [Teacher and Principal of the year finalists](#), an address from Superintendent White, and more. Don't miss it!
3. **Attend an Ed Talk.** Led by national speakers Chris Stewart and Dr. Daniel Willingham, “[Ed Talks](#)” is a series of thought-provoking sessions designed to start conversations and idea sharing on how Louisiana schools can ensure meaningful growth for every child, every day.
4. **Download session materials.** Session materials are available in the [Teacher Leader library](#), and additional materials will be added next week.

Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

New: Tier 1 Science Curriculum Identified for 4th Grade

Great Minds has just completed their new grade 4 science curriculum. It is the first science curriculum to be rated Tier 1 in the [Louisiana IMR process](#). While only grade 4 has been completed and reviewed, 3rd and 5th grade units will be released throughout next year. Grades 3-5 educators can [register](#) to attend a two-day training July 25-26 in Baton Rouge.

All educators who attend the training will receive access to the PDFs of the grade 4 curriculum and released grades 3 and 5 units next year. School systems can contact margaret.goodner@greatminds.org for information regarding adoption.

Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

New: ELA Guidebooks Update

The next phase of development in ELA Guidebooks is [supports for diverse learners](#). The Department piloted units in grades 6-8 this spring and made updates based on feedback from teachers. Those [revised units](#) are now released.

The Department will also be piloting supports for diverse learners in the fall with grades 3-5 to ensure they work for Louisiana teachers and students. All updated units for grades 3-5 will be released by March 2019.

Learn more about the release of revised units in grades 6-8 and the grades 3-5 pilot by reading the [information sheet](#) or emailing classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov.

Reminder: Student Attendance Award Templates

The Department and BESE are pleased to support school systems and schools by providing printable certificates for students with outstanding school attendance. The Department encourages all school systems to plan and develop activities to recognize the thousands of students who attend school regularly. School systems should define the levels of attendance for the awards and issue the following certificates accordingly:

- [2018 Meritorious Attendance Award](#)
- [2018 Perfect Attendance Award](#)
- [2018 Excellence in Attendance Award](#)

Email janice.zube@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 May 22. The remaining scheduled postings will be June 4 and June 18.
- There will be sessions on A District's Guide to LEAP 360 and the updates to A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360 at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit.

LEAP 2025

- The Summer TAM and TCM are posted in [eDIRECT](#).
- A LEAP 2025 high school CSV file of student results has been posted to [eDIRECT](#). Last week, schools began to receive student score reports, with the exception of US History, in [eDIRECT](#). For directions on viewing score reports, reference pages 90-94 of the eDIRECT

User Guide posted under General Information in [eDIRECT](#). The [Parent Guide to the LEAP 2025 Student Reports](#) is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

LEAP Connect and LAA 1

- LEAP Connect/LAA 1 results are available in [eDIRECT](#). For directions on viewing score reports, reference pages 90-94 of the eDIRECT User Guide posted under General Information in [eDIRECT](#).
- Parent guides are available in the [Assessment Library](#), and should be sent home with the student reports. Translated versions in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic are also available in the library.
- The LEAP Connect Online Tools Training (OTT) will be updated in the summer to include items for grade 11 ELA and math. The OTT can be accessed through the INSIGHT Portal or through the [LEAP OTT site](#), and the OTT DTAs will be posted in [eDIRECT](#) under General Information.

ELPT and ELPS

- ELPT results are available in the [Online Reporting System](#). The Online Reporting System User Guide is posted in the [ELPT Portal](#) which contains directions on viewing score reports.
- Parent guides are available in the [Assessment Library](#), and should be sent home with the student reports. Translated versions in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic are also available in the library.
- Beginning on August 1, the English Language Proficiency Screener (ELPS) will be available for school system use. The ELPS is a tool to determine if students entering Kindergarten through grade 12 are English learners (ELs) who require supplementary support services to continue developing language proficiency in English. Students who do not score proficient on the ELPS will be identified as an EL and can receive an [EL Accommodations Plan](#).
- There will be a session on ELPS at the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

The Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be held on **May 29 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.

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the Assessment Library.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: DRC Online Cleanup

DRC will open the Online Cleanup System (OCS) from June 11 to June 15. This is the only opportunity that school systems and schools will have to apply accountability codes to impending zeroes before the new progress index is calculated. The system will include student records from LEAP 2025, EOC, LEAP Connect, and LAA 1. School systems should not wait until the August data certification period to address impending zeroes.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

Reminder: Financial Aid Planning

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

All students graduating from public high schools this year are required to submit a state or federal financial aid form, a hardship waiver, or a signed letter from parents who wish not to seek financial aid. The response from Louisiana's students and families has been overwhelmingly positive. Already Louisiana is a national leader, and thousands more students will have their job training or college tuition paid for as a result.

1. If you would like to have financial aid form support stations at your schools before or after graduation ceremonies so that parents can complete their forms, please email ldefinancialaid@la.gov.
2. If parents are signing a letter of non-participation, please make sure letters are signed and stored for graduation cohort verification.
3. If you would like to be featured in a future counselor or school spotlight, please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov.
4. If you have success stories about specific students you would like to share, please email ldoecommunications@la.gov.

With your leadership, we will make sure every student who wants financial support for future training or education receives that support.

For more information, please email ldefinancialaid@la.gov.

Special Education

New: 2016-2017 Draft LEA Determinations Packages

Each year, the Department is required to issue LEA Determinations, which assess the performance of school systems on the provision of special education and related services. The **draft 2016-2017 LEA Determination packages are now available for review** on the FTP site with the name "LEA Code_LEA Name_2016-2017 Draft LEA Determinations." **If school systems have questions about the results or wish to seek additional clarification, they must do so by May 25.** The Department will issue final results to school systems in early June.

To submit clarifications or for more information, please email specialeducation@la.gov.

New: Significant Disproportionality Results Available

Please share with superintendents and special education directors.

Each year the Department is required to determine whether school systems are significantly disproportionate in the:

- identification of students with disabilities, including particular impairments;
- placement of children with disabilities in certain educational settings; and
- discipline of children with disabilities, including suspensions and expulsions, by race or ethnicity.

If a school system is identified as significantly disproportionate, they must set aside 15 percent of their IDEA Part B funding for coordinated early intervening services (CEIS). These services can reduce disproportionality over time by creating equitable outcomes for all students with disabilities and those students who simply need additional academic and behavior support to succeed.

This year's results are now [available](#) along with tools and resources to help school systems understand their data and plan for CEIS as part of the upcoming IDEA grant application.

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

Data

Reminder FTP File: January and April Quarterly Home Study Reports

Please share with superintendents, child welfare/attendance offices, home study personnel, and data management FTP coordinators.

The home study report, "LEACode_LEAName_JanandApril2018QuarterlyHomeStudy," is available on the Data Management FTP site (with user names ending in @datamgmt) and will remain on the FTP until July 31. These rosters can be used by LEAs to verify enrollments/exits. The zipped file contains the following:

- Cover letter
- Statewide enrollment numbers of BESE-approved home study students
- Detailed list of students from your school system enrolled in home study program from January through April
- Each student's home study approval notification letter for January through April
- Statewide enrollment numbers of registered nonpublic schools and student enrollment
- Detailed list of registered schools and student enrollment from your school system from January through April

If there are any questions regarding the report, please contact sue.millican@la.gov.

Federal Programs

New: 2018-2019 Central Data and eGrant Training

The Department will provide 2018-2019 eGrant trainings for LEAs. All federal program directors are encouraged to attend the most convenient training location. The 2018-2019 eGMS update session topics are specific to:

- Central Data
- ESSA Consolidated Application
- ESSA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Verification
- IDEA Consolidated Application
- Carl Perkins
- Fiscal Budgeting Protocols

Schedule

Date/ Time	Audience		Locations
Tuesday, June 5	All District LEA Directors	8:30-9:00 a.m. sign-in 9:00-12:00 noon training	Jefferson Parish Public School System Paul Emenes Building 822 S. Clearview Parkway Harahan, LA 70123
	All Charter LEA Directors	12:30-1:00 p.m. sign-in 1:00-4:00 p.m. training	
Friday, June 8	All District LEA Directors	8:30-9:00 a.m. sign in 9:00-12:00 noon training	Claiborne Bldg. 1201 North Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802 Room 1-150 (lab)
	All Charter LEA Directors	12:30-1:00 sign-in 1:00-4:00 p.m. training	
Tuesday, June 12	New Directors only (3yrs or less in position)	8:30-9:00 a.m. sign-in 9:00-12:00 noon training	Bossier Instructional Center 2719 Airline Drive Bossier City, LA Computer Lab
	Veteran Directors	12:30-1:00 p.m. sign-in 1:00-4:00 p.m. training	
Thursday, June 14	New Directors only (3yrs or less in position)	8:30-9:00 a.m. sign-in 9:00-12:00 noon training	Concordia Parish Schools 508 John Dale Drive, Suite B Vidalia, LA 71373 Computer Lab
	Veteran Directors	12:30-1:00 p.m. sign in 1:00-4:00 p.m. training	
Monday, June 18	Follow Up Webinar All LEAS	10:00-11:00 a.m.	Meeting Name: eGrants Training for LEAs and Charters Participant Pin Code: 89147656 Toll free access number: 1-855-240-2575 To join the meeting: https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/e grants/

Participants must register via [Wisdomwhere](#). Registration opens today, May 22. If any additional information is required, please contact your point of contact.

New: 2018 Homeless Liaison Summer Training

The Department homeless state coordinator and staff will offer “Preparing for the New School Year” trainings. The trainings will include empathy activities and in-depth reviews of the McKinney Vento law, guidance documents, the homeless tracking system, and hands-on planning for the upcoming school year. All homeless liaisons and coordinators are encouraged to attend the most convenient training location.

Participants must register via [Wisdomwhere](#). Registration opens today, May 22.

Date/ Time	Locations
Monday, June 18	Claiborne Bldg. 1201 North Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802 Thomas Jefferson Room 136
Tuesday, June 26	Orleans Parish School Board 3520 General DeGaulle Dr. New Orleans, LA 70114 Multipurpose Room 1050
Thursday, June 28	Ouachita Parish Student Support Services Building 800 Claiborne Street West Monroe, LA 71291

If any additional information is required, please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov.

Reminder: ESSA and IDEA Amendments

The U.S. Department of Education recently notified the Department that slight cuts made by Congress to federal funding in Title I, Title II, IDEA 611, and IDEA 619 last fall have been restored. This means that school systems will receive small supplements to their existing FY2017-2018 allocations in eGMS later this spring.

School systems are not required to do a budget amendment unless there is a need to obligate all or a portion of the supplements before June 30. Unexpended funds will automatically roll over into next year’s application once the 6/30 Periodic Expense Report (PER) is submitted and approved by the Department.

The final date to submit FY2017-2018 amendments is June 1. Additionally, any school system has an existing amendment returned for changes, please resubmit by June 1.

For further information, contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Statewide Monitoring

New: 2018-2019 Summer Update Meeting: Web-Based Program Monitoring and ESSA Monitoring Updates

The Department will provide four update opportunities for Federal Program Directors on the 2018-2019 Web-Based Program Monitoring. The new Web-Based Program Monitoring will serve as a data collection tool for all self-assessments, desk reviews, and on-site monitoring beginning in October. The Department will also provide updates on the ESSA monitoring tools.

Please see the [schedule](#) for times and locations. Participants must register for one face-to-face session through Wisdomwhere, as appropriate.

If any additional information is required, please contact tasha.anthony@la.gov.