

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 4, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

As the legislative session comes to a close, I write today to provide a final update on what has transpired. The headline, and the good news, is that the legislature appears to have heeded the strong voices of educators across our state. As has been much reported, Monday the House of Representatives issued a final vote on this year's Minimum Foundation Program formula. The formula approved by the legislature includes both the pay raises and the increase in the base per pupil rate of funding prescribed by the Governor and by the state board. As such, the formula provides badly needed support for both employees and ongoing operations of public schools in Louisiana.

At the same time, the legislature also took important steps toward increasing support for early learners. This year's state budget includes roughly \$20 million in state funding above and beyond past commitments to early childhood education. This funding prevents a decrease in pre-kindergarten services due to loss of federal funds and increases the number of slots available for childcare for low income, working families. While our state has a long way to go to eradicate cruel and unfortunate waitlists, these are important steps in the right direction.

Finally, the Senate restored more than half of the cut it made to Department of Education operating funds. There remain nearly \$1 million reduced from the Department's budget, however, which will result in reductions in service if not addressed by the end of the session this Thursday. We will keep you informed on this development as well.

It is a good legislative session when our state invests in our schools and when our schools announce such exceptional academic returns on that investment. Congratulations to all of you.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [June School System Planning Call](#): June 5 at 1:00 p.m.

- [Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar](#): June 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Regional Summer Foster Care Meeting \(Alexandria\)](#): June 11 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Regional Summer Foster Care Meeting \(Harvey\)](#): June 17 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): June 18 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Regional Summer Foster Care Meeting \(Baton Rouge\)](#): June 19 at 1:00 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- Optional Super App submission for review by July 1: June 7
- [2019-2020 Child Nutrition Program Community Eligibility Provision Election](#) deadline: June 28
- Deadline for [EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds](#): June 30
- [2019-2020 Pupil Progression Plan](#) submission deadline: July 1
- Deadline for [EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs](#): July 15

School System Support

Reminder: June School System Planning Call

The [June School System Planning Call](#) will take place **tomorrow, June 5 at 1:00 p.m.** The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Curriculum and instruction supervisors
 - District test coordinators and accountability contacts
 - Early childhood supervisors
 - Federal program supervisors
 - High school and career and technical supervisors
 - Personnel directors
 - Talent (Mentors, Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders) supervisors
- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 5 at 1:00 p.m.
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
 - **Meeting ID#:** 398875849

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2019-2020 Pupil Progression Plan

Please share with Pupil Progression Plan Coordinators.

Pupil progression plans are the policies and guidelines local school systems use to determine whether students will be promoted to the next grade, retained in the current grade, or advanced to higher grades. The plans also outline the criteria for high school graduation.

For 2019-2020, School Systems will have the following options as it relates to the Pupil Progression Plan (PPP):

- Retain the locally approved Pupil Progression Plan for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Submit a locally approved addendum outlining Pupil Progression Plan updates for the 2019-2020 school year no later than July 1.
- Submit a [new locally approved Pupil Progression Plan](#) for the 2019-2020 school year no later than July 1.

By July 1, school systems should either submit the [selection form](#) indicating they will retain the previously approved Pupil Progression Plan, submit an addendum, or submit a new plan. All submissions should be sent to ppp@la.gov.

Please contact ppp@la.gov for more information.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators

General:

- The [2018-2019 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) is located in the [Assessment Library](#).
- All changes to secure shipping addresses, DTCs, or Accountability Contacts must be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the [Assessment Library](#).
- The updated Central Office Testing Site Manager (TSM) is now available for download in [eDIRECT](#) under the Downloads tab. Central Office will replace the TSM for the 2019-2020 school year and must be installed prior to August. TSM 9.2 will no longer work on June 30.

LEAP 2025

- Spring high school LEAP 2025 scores for non-seniors are now posting in [eDIRECT](#).
- **June 17-21**
 - June 17: Summer high school LEAP 2025/EOC test setup and additional materials window opens
 - DTCs should train STCs on test security and administration.

LEAP 360

- School systems that use LEAP 360 during the 2019-2020 school year will not be required to pay an annual fee; however, they will be required to sign a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) to protect the item and test content. Submit the signed MOU to assessment@la.gov.

ELPS

- Beginning August 1, ELPS will be Louisiana's required standardized entrance screener. All guidance and trainings are available in the [Assessment Library](#).
- ELPS will be unavailable from July 13-31.

ACT and WorkKeys

- School Test Coordinators can now access student score reports in the [Validus](#) Online Reports Portal for students taking the WorkKeys assessments online. Score reports for WorkKeys assessments taken on paper are now available in the portal.
- [The ACT Score Report Schedule](#) and the [WorkKeys Score Report Schedule](#) can be found on the [ACT State Testing](#) site. Please refer to this schedule for estimated access and delivery dates.
- Students should begin checking their myworkkeys.com accounts for scores and NCRs if earned. Students may contact the WorkKeys customer service helpdesk at 800-WorkKey (967-5539) for help accessing their accounts.
- **No later than June 10:** WorkKeys Summary Score Reports and Roster Score Reports will be available in the Online Reports Portal in [Validus](#). The [WorkKeys Online Reports Portal User Guide](#) has descriptions of each report and instruction for running the reports.
- **No later than July 2:** ACT school and district level reports will be available through [PANext](#).
 - Reports must be downloaded before [PANext](#) is activated for the 2019-2020 school year, which is usually the beginning to mid-August.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next monthly Assessment and Accountability call will be June 18 at 1:00 p.m. There are not any Office Hours in June or July. Regularly scheduled Office Hours will resume in August.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2018-2019 SPS Calculator Updates

Please share with accountability contacts.

The 2018-2019 SPS calculator has been updated in [Accountability Resources](#), and school systems now have two calculator options.

- **2018-2019 SPS Calculator:** For 2018-2019, the high school progress index will include points earned from growth demonstrated in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 in ELA (LEAP 2025 English I and II scores) and math (LEAP 2025 Algebra I and Geometry scores).
- **2018-2019 SPS Calculator with ELPT Simulation:** ELPT results are now included in a separate calculator which enables schools and systems to estimate a simulated SPS for 2019 that includes the ELP progress measure. This calculator should only be used to inform planning since the SPS will not include ELP progress until 2020.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

Reminder: Financial Aid Planning Events

Please share with school counselors or other personnel responsible for financial aid planning.

The Department has staff available to assist with FAFSA submission and general financial aid information until the July 1 state priority deadline. Financial aid specialists can come to schools, senior events, libraries, community centers, or any regional location, and are also available on Saturdays. The Department has regional events scheduled and will advertise any events school systems are hosting via the [Regional Financial Aid Calendar of Events](#).

If school systems need assistance for seniors submitting a FAFSA, correcting applications with errors, or want to advertise an event, please contact ldefinancialaid@la.gov.

Educator Preparation

Reminder: Department Announces the 2020 Teacher and Principal of the Year Finalists

On May 23, the 48 Teacher and Principal of the Year semi-finalists participated in a brunch reception hosted by First Lady Donna Edwards and [Dream Teachers, LLC](#), at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion. During this event, the [2020 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists](#) were announced.

All 2020 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists and semi-finalists will be honored, and the overall state-level winners will be announced at the [13th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Symposium and Celebration](#) on July 19 at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge.

Congratulations to these educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Teacher Certification Renewal Process

For many teaching certificates, it is time to renew. Most certificates are renewable for **calendar years**. However, the following certificates are issued for a **school session**:

- Practitioner Licenses (1, 2, and 3)
- Extended Endorsement Licenses
- Temporary Employment Permits
- Resident Teacher Certificates
- Out-of-Field Authority to Teach

These certificates are **not renewed** until **July 1** of each calendar year. For this reason, the Certification team will not begin processing issuance or renewal of these certificates until **July 1**.

Please note that any renewal applications for these certificate types submitted prior to July will be held until the July 1 date. Due to processing time, some certificates may show as lapsed or **expired** until they are processed by the Certification team. Once processed, they will show a retroactive **start date** of **July 1** and no lapse of certification.

Practitioner License (PL) Renewals:

- The **program provider** applies for PL renewal only if the teacher is enrolled in the Practitioner Teacher Program (PTP) on a PL1.
- The **employer** applies for the PL renewal when the teacher candidate is enrolled in the Certification-Only Program (PL2) or the Master's Alternative Program (PL3).

As mentioned previously, these certificates are renewed after **July 1** each school year.

Please email certification@la.gov with certification questions, or submit a question in our online portal at [TeachLALive!](#)

Reminder: Compass Information System (CIS) Customer Service Line

The Department is offering a customer service line to assist with questions regarding evaluation uploads in the CIS system.

The call line will be available June 10 – June 21 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. to assist with non-VAM rated teacher uploads, and again on August 5 – August 16 between 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. to assist with all remaining teacher uploads.

Customer Service Line: (225) 342-3664

For more information, please contact the Compass helpdesk at compass@la.gov.

Data

New: Data Coordinator Webinar

Please share with data coordinators and data managers.

The Department will hold a webinar for data managers and data coordinators on June 6 at 1:00 p.m. During this webinar, there will be a high-level overview and implementation timeline for the state's new EdLink Data Warehouse.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
(for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 976397929

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Grants Management

Reminder: Submit Final PER for Education Excellence Fund (EEF)

Schools or agencies that received a payment from the 2018-2019 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) this year should take note of the following important dates:

- June 30: Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds
- July 15: Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs

Please note that Final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the following year, so EEF recipients that do not submit a Final PER by **July 15** may experience delays in accessing their EEF funds for 2019-2020.

An important reminder: when completing the PER, notice on the first tab, labeled "Expenditure Obligation Summary," that there is a box at the bottom with a checkbox for Final Expenditure. Check that; otherwise the PER will not be reported as final and it will have to be corrected and resubmitted.

For assistance in preparing Final 6/30 PER for EEF, see the Training section on the [eGMS](#) login page under "Tips & Reminders: Preparing the Periodic Expense Report (PER)."

Please contact tonya.johnson@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

New: Regional Summer Foster Care Meetings

The Department is hosting joint regional summer foster care meetings with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Topics to be covered include notification and communication protocols, transportation plan updates, new resources, and strengthening the relationship between DCFS and local school systems. For convenience, repeat meetings will be held at three locations around the state. All local Foster Care points of contact should register to attend one of the following meetings by clicking the link below.

Date	Location/Registration	Time
June 11	Rapides Parish School Board Media Center 619 6th Street Alexandria, LA	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
June 17	Jefferson Parish School Systems 601 Manhattan Harvey, LA	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
June 19	Department Of Children & Family Services 160 South Ardenwood Drive Baton Rouge, LA	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact melanie.mayeux@la.gov.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: Deadline for 2019-2020 Child Nutrition Program Community Eligibility Provision Election

Please share this information with child nutrition program supervisors.

Per program regulations, school systems that intend to elect Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2019-2020 school year must notify the Department, via the [Child Nutrition Program website](#), by June 30. However, since June 30 falls on a Sunday, **the election deadline is June 28.**

Please email childnutritionprograms@la.gov for more information.