

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 5, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

It was great to see so many of you at last week's [Teacher Leader Summit](#). I had a great three days in New Orleans. I hope you did as well.

Later this week I will also see many of you at the Superintendent Advisory Council. Please note that at 1:00 p.m., following the Advisory Council meeting, the Governor's Blue Ribbon School Safety Working Group will also be meeting. That meeting will include a particular focus on the perspective of school system administrators. I hope many of you will be able to stay for that event.

This week the Department will announce determinations regarding school redesign plans submitted by public school systems across the state. In two weeks, BESE will also approve financial allocations to those school systems and schools awarded funds to support their plans.

You should know first that the overwhelming majority of plans were both approved and funded. This includes plans that had previously been deferred and were taking a second shot at approval. Every approved plan demonstrated evidence-based plans for curriculum and for teacher preparation and development. In submitting such plans, school systems provided assurances that the basic elements of high-quality schooling will be in place in Louisiana's historically struggling schools, a true step forward for dozens of schools, school systems, and communities.

At the same time, the plans approved this week acknowledge that, beyond the basics, there are unique conditions in certain types of schools and school systems that need to be addressed in unique ways. More than [30 schools](#), for example, have come together to focus intensively on the structure of high schools. Throughout the year, these school teams will reshape the organizational models of their schools, creating teams of educators within schools who maintain strong systems and close relationships with students. Our state's largest school systems have also come together to create zones of school improvement activity within larger systems. These large, urban school systems will appoint specific managers to direct the zones, will employ novel methods to recruit talented educators into the zones, and will establish external advisory bodies to ensure public input and dialogue around the zones. These unique approaches, the high school redesign cohort and the improvement zone model, are exactly what [Louisiana's ESSA plan](#) envisions: creative energy in every community, brought to bear on our education system's greatest challenges.

I'm looking forward very much to the fall, when we can again visit schools to see the initial results of your well-laid plans.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [2018-2019 Carl Perkins Local Application Plan \(LAP\) Training \(New Users\)](#): June 7 at 10:00 a.m.
- [2018-2019 Carl Perkins Local Application Plan \(LAP\) Training \(Current Users\)](#): June 7 at 2:00 p.m.
- [2018-2019 Central Data and eGrant Training \(Baton Rouge\)](#): June 8
- [2018-2019 Central Data and eGrant Training \(Bossier City\)](#): June 12
- [ESSA School Redesign and SRCL Implementation Webinar](#): June 13
- [2018-2019 Central Data and eGrant Training \(Vidalia\)](#): June 14

Important Deadlines

- [2018 Teacher Leader Summit Survey](#) due: June 8

School System Support

Reminder: 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, grades 3 and 5 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.

Reminder: 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.

Family Engagement

New: Updated LEAP 2025 Parent Guide

The [LEAP 2025 Parent Guide](#) has been slightly updated and a new version is available in the [Family Support Toolbox Library](#). **Please send this report home with the student reports later this summer.**

Email assessment@la.gov if you have 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.
- [A District's Guide to LEAP 360](#) serves as support tool for school systems to use when implementing the components of LEAP 360 in schools. School systems should use this guide and its resources to develop a plan for LEAP 360 training, administration, and data analysis and to guide instructional and assessment planning in schools.
- Updates have been made to [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#) to improve LEAP 360 instruction and implementation. The document is posted to the [Assessment Library](#).
- A new LEAP 360 resource that can be used to facilitate communication between educators and parents is now available. [A Parent Guide to LEAP 360](#) answers the following questions for parents:
 - What is LEAP 360?
 - How can I view and use my child's LEAP 360 results?
 - What questions can I ask my child's teacher when discussing LEAP 360 results?
 - Where can I go for more information?
- The Department is preparing for the second year of LEAP 360 implementation. School systems that signed a LEAP 360 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2017-2018 school year may choose to continue using LEAP 360 through June 30, 2019, under the same terms and conditions. To opt-in and amend your school system's existing agreement, each Superintendent must sign an amendment to the original agreement. Please click [here](#) to download the **LEAP 360 MOU Amendment (2018-2019)** form. Complete, sign, and return an electronic copy to assessment@la.gov by **July 7**. School systems wishing to

participate in LEAP 360 during the 2018-2019 school year need to ensure they also have a [non-summative data sharing agreement](#) on file with the Department.

- School systems should review the following Summit presentations on LEAP 360.
 - [LEAP 360 Overview](#)
 - [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#)
 - [A District's Guide to LEAP 360](#)
 - [LEAP 360: ELA Deep Dive](#)
 - [LEAP 360: Math Deep Dive](#)

LEAP 2025

- Summer EOC/LEAP 2025 test setup will open on June 7.
- School systems should review the following summit session materials on LEAP 2025.
 - [Math Assessment Make the Case 3-5](#)
 - [Math Assessment Make the Case 6-8](#)
 - [Math Assessment Make the Case A1-GM](#)
 - [Social Studies Assessment Results Make the Case](#)
 - [Social Studies Assessment Results Make the Case](#)

LEAP Connect and LAA 1

- Interpretive Guides for understanding [LEAP Connect](#) and [LAA1](#) scoring and reporting are posted to the [Assessment Library](#).
- The LEAP Connect Online Tools Training (OTT) is now posted for ELA and math grades 3-8 and 11. The OTT can be accessed through the INSIGHT Portal or through the [LEAP OTT site](#), and the OTT DTAs are posted in [eDIRECT](#) under General Information.
- School Systems should review the Summit presentations [LEAP Connect Grades 3-8 Results](#) and [LEAP Connect High School Overview](#).

ELPT and ELPS

- The ELPT District Data File Layout is posted to the [ELPT Portal](#) under General Information in Test Coordinator Resources.
- Beginning 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](#). The [Summit ELPS presentation](#) and [ELPS Guidance](#) document are posted in the Assessment Library.
- School systems should review the Summit presentation [ELPT Results: Next Steps](#).

High School Pathways

New: Correctly Coding Courses in Student Transcript System (STS)

Please share with school leaders, and counselors.

As processing begins for the graduating class of 2018, it has been observed that courses qualifying for the TOPS weighted GPA are being coded incorrectly in the Student Transcript System (STS). This error could affect students' TOPS GPA, possibly resulting in students being found ineligible or awarded the incorrect level of TOPS.

For example, if the course is English IV: Honors, the course code that should be used is 120342. If it is entered as 120334 English IV and typed in as a 5.00 scale course, the system will not recognize the course as a 5.00 course. The course will only be counted as a 4.00 course.

For a complete list of courses and course codes eligible for the TOPS weighted GPA, click [here](#). Please validate that courses are being entered correctly in STS.

For questions, please contact tristen.guillory@la.gov.

New: 2018-2019 Carl Perkins Local Application Plan (LAP) Training

Please share with Career and Technical Education (CTE) supervisors and staff who administer this grant.

The Department will host two webinars specific to the Carl Perkins grant: one for new users and an update for current users.

The **first webinar** will introduce new users to the grant and provide pertinent reminders about the Carl D. Perkins grant. It will be offered on **June 7 at 10:00 a.m.**

To join the **first** webinar:

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

The **second webinar**, for current users, will focus on updates and pertinent reminders about the grant and will be offered on **June 7 at 2:00 p.m.**

To join the **second** webinar:

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

For further assistance, please contact martha.moore@la.gov.

Educator Preparation

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

On May 30, the Department announced the [2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists](#) LIVE from the Teacher Leader Summit in New Orleans. All 48 of the 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists and semi-finalists were recognized at the summit.

These outstanding educators will be celebrated and honored at the [12th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala](#) on July 27, at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#). Congratulations to these educators!

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

Special Education

Reminder: 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

New: End of Year Submissions and Validation Reports

Please share with data coordinators.

To assist with data submissions and error correction for SIS, SER and STS, Validation Reports and Validation Rosters are available on the data management FTP in the Data Validation folder.

Data managers for SIS, SER, and STS should download the validation reports, analyze the data and make any necessary corrections in the source systems. This will help identify any issues before the systems close.

Please refer to the [2017-2018 Benchmark Calendar](#) for upcoming deadlines for SPC, SIS, SER, and STS.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Sponsor Site (SPS) Changes for the 2018-2019 school year

Please forward to SPS data coordinators.

School systems are now able to access [electronic forms](#) to request updates/changes to their system and school information that must be reviewed/approved by the Department. **SPS rolled over to the 2018-2019 school year on June 1**, and school systems are able to update certain information in SPS (administrator's name, website links, clubs/sports).

Please refer to the [2017-2018 Benchmark Calendar](#) for upcoming SPS deadlines for identifying new schools and other types of updates (e.g. grade configuration, address changes, administrator changes, Alternative Schools, Alternative Programs, etc.).

As an early reminder, **school systems should access SPS and certify the 2018-2019 information for their school systems and schools, no later than September 30**. This is necessary to ensure data reported to the source systems is accurate and complete, as it will be displayed properly in School Finder.

Please contact kaylie.loupe@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

New: ESSA School Redesign and SRCL Implementation Webinar

Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any school system with a school on the comprehensive support list is required to submit a plan for improvement. Last week school systems were notified of School Redesign plan approvals as well as funding being awarded to support high quality plans and/or ELA Content Leaders.

The Department is committed to supporting the implementation of approved plans and is funding them from multiple sources. On **June 13 from 10:30 a.m. to noon**, the Department will host a webinar to review next steps of plan implementation and each available funding source in greater detail. Grants managers should participate. No pre-registration is required.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/rcra1kxlucht/>;
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; and
- dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter participant PIN # 80736353.

New: Equitable Services Regional Meetings

The Department will conduct two regional meetings on implementing effective and compliant equitable services programs to service nonpublic schools. All federal program directors, private school officials, and nonpublic support staff are encouraged to attend one of the regional meetings below.

Participants must register at [WisdomWhere](#). Registration opens June 6.

Date	Region and Location	Time
Thursday, June 21	<u>Northern Region</u> St. Joseph Catholic Center 4400 Coliseum Blvd. Alexandria, LA 71303	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - Sign-in 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Meeting
Thursday, June 28	<u>Southern Region</u> St. Rita School 65 Fontainebleau Dr. New Orleans, LA 70125	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - Sign-in 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Meeting

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

Reminder: 2018-2019 Central Data and eGrant Training

The Department will provide 2018-2019 eGrant trainings for school systems, and 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
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 p.m. 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](#). If any additional information is required, please contact your point of contact.

Reminder: 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.

Schedule

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

Participants must register via [Wisdomwhere](#). If any additional information is required, please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov.

Statewide Monitoring

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

The Department will provide four opportunities for Federal Program Directors to receive an update 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.