

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



**June 12, 2018**

Dear Colleagues,

As we head into the summer and into the June BESE meeting, I wanted to update you on three areas of collaboration between the Department and superintendents that will yield policies BESE will be considering next week.

Superintendent Kelli Joseph urged BESE and the Department to create a less burdensome and more thorough process for determining appropriate test score voids. Under [policy](#) BESE will consider next week, school systems and charter schools will now have a choice as to whether they wish to investigate voids, reducing unnecessary investigations. If investigations yield a desire to appeal voids, LEAs may do so to an independent body appointed by BESE. This body will meet once annually and will consider whether to reverse decisions to void test scores, making recommendations to the state superintendent. If the state superintendent does not accept the recommendation, the appealing LEA may appeal finally to BESE. This process provides several steps of due process, objective inquiry, and reduced bureaucracy. My thanks to the many of you who worked on it with our team.

Several of you also contacted the Department in recent weeks about the timing of a policy that would only count WorkKeys scores in a school performance score when students take the assessment no more frequently than once in 30 days. Too often students are being asked to take this test repeatedly in short periods of time, and this policy seeks to reduce testing time for students. However, the concerns about the timing of this policy's implementation are legitimate, and I have asked BESE to defer the implementation of this policy to 2018-2019, so that schools may adjust to the new requirement. My thanks to those of you who made us aware of this concern.

Finally, personnel directors and superintendents have voiced concern in recent months about the need for teachers working on gaining full certification to be able to continue their work in classrooms. In response to this advocacy, the Department is proposing to BESE that the [temporary authority to teach \(TAT\) policy](#) be extended from one year to three years, contingent on effective evaluations and continued effort to meet full certification requirements. We will continue to work with you on other related issues, especially math-specific certification issues. I look forward to ongoing discussion.

In each case above, school system leaders brought forth legitimate concerns based on their experiences in schools. I appreciate your taking the time to do this, just as I appreciate our staff's efforts to work through the issues and arrive at responsive and responsible solutions. This is, after all, the manner in which government is supposed to work. Thank you for your important role in that process.

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 13 at 1:00 p.m.
- [ESSA School Redesign and SRCL Implementation Webinar](#): June 13 at 10:30 a.m.
- [2018-2019 Central Data and eGrant Training \(Vidalia\)](#): June 14
- [2018-2019 Central Data and eGrant Training Follow-Up Webinar](#): June 18 at 10:00 a.m.
- [2018 Homeless Liaison Summer Training \(Baton Rouge\)](#): June 18
- [Equitable Services Regional Meetings \(Alexandria\)](#): June 21 at 8:30 a.m.
- [2018 Homeless Liaison Summer Training \(New Orleans\)](#): June 26
- [Fix the FAFSA Event](#): June 30 at 10:00 a.m.

### Important Deadlines

- [2018 Teacher Leader Summit Survey](#) due: June 15
- [STS End of Year Reporting](#) deadline: June 15
- [SIS and SER End of Year Reporting](#) deadline: June 22

## School System Support

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

The [June School System Planning Call](#) will take place on tomorrow, June 13 at 1:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Compass contacts
- Curriculum supervisors
- Data coordinators
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Personnel directors
- Special education supervisors
- Talent 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: Teacher Leader Summit Follow-Up**

Thank you to those that attended the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit! If you attended the Summit, please complete this brief [survey](#) by **June 15** so the Department can improve future events.

Educators can find materials from most sessions in the [Teacher Leader library](#). In case you missed it, check out the [video](#) from the plenary highlighting the outstanding work that educators at Sallie Humble Elementary in Monroe City have done to ensure meaningful growth for every student, every day.

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

### **New: STOP School Violence Federal Grant Announced**

The U.S. Department of Justice is seeking applications for funding under the Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act Program. Two grant solicitations have been released:

- [This solicitation](#) specifically seeks applications that address the development and operation of school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams and the development of technology for local or regional anonymous reporting systems.
- [This solicitation](#) specifically seeks applications that address training school personnel and educating students to prevent student violence and training school officials in responding to related mental health crises.

Units of local governments are eligible to apply and may issue subawards to local education agencies. Applications under both solicitations are due on July 23.

### **New: Additional Training Dates for Great Minds Tier 1 Science Curriculum**

Great Minds has 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, though grade 4 teachers should be prioritized.

- July 25-26 in Baton Rouge
- July 30-31 in Baton Rouge (added due to high demand)
- August 1-2 in Alexandria (added due to high demand)

All educators who attend a 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](mailto:margaret.goodner@greatminds.org) for information regarding adoption or contact [louisianastandards@la.gov](mailto:louisianastandards@la.gov) with additional questions.

## Family Engagement

### **Reminder: 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](mailto:assessment@la.gov) if you have questions.

## Assessment and Accountability

### **New: ACT/WorkKeys MOU**

#### **Please share with Accountability Contacts**

The Department has executed and posted a [new data sharing agreement](#) with ACT for other realms in the [Data Sharing Agreement Library](#). This agreement allows ACT to deliver WorkKeys data from non-LDOE realms directly to the Department, eliminating the need to submit individual WorkKeys documentation for students during the August data certification period.

**School systems wishing to participate should download the [addendum](#), sign, scan, and email the signed copy to [LDEData@la.gov](mailto:LDEData@la.gov) no later than Friday, June 29** in order for the WorkKeys data to be applied to the ACT rosters delivered to school systems in August.

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

### **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.
- On June 28, DRC will release an updated version of its DRC INSIGHT secure browser software. **This is a required update, and it applies to all operating systems** (Windows, MacOS, ChromeOS, and iOS). You will need to update to this latest version to complete any LEAP 2025 or LEAP 360 testing after June 28. If you configured your devices to auto-update when you installed INSIGHT, the software will automatically download and install this update upon launch. If you did not configure INSIGHT to auto-update, you will need to manually install INSIGHT before completing any testing.

#### **LEAP 360**

- LEAP 360 will close for the 2017-2018 school year on June 18. Diagnostic and Interim test setup for 2018-2019 will be available on July 16 in [eDIRECT](#).
- 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 posting will be 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](#).
- The new [Parent Guide to LEAP 360](#) can be used to facilitate communication between educators and parents is now available. Translated versions in Arabic, Spanish, and Vietnamese are also available.
- 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 and return an electronic copy to [assessment@la.gov](mailto: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

- **LEAP 2025 school system and school-level results will be available in the FTP by June 30.** The public release of state, school system and school-level data will occur in early July.
- Summer EOC/LEAP 2025 test setup is open. Schools should ensure all accommodations and test sessions are created prior to summer \LEAP 2025 HS/EOC administration. DTCs can use the [eDIRECT User Guide](#) for step by step directions.
- 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

- 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: Fix the FAFSA Event**

**Please share with professional school counselors and staff responsible for financial aid planning.**

Graduation has passed, but it's not too late for students to fix the FAFSA. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will be holding their **Fix the FAFSA** event for recent high school graduates and parents who need assistance with correcting errors and completing the FAFSA before the Louisiana July 1 priority deadline. This event is open to anyone who needs assistance with the financial aid application process.

**Where:** Goodwood Library, 7711 Goodwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, 70806

**When:** June 30 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Please email [brittani.williams@la.gov](mailto:brittani.williams@la.gov) for more information about Fix the FAFSA, or see the [LDOE Regional Financial Aid Calendar](#) for other events being held throughout the state.

## **New: LELA FAFSA Support**

**Please share with professional school counselors and staff responsible for financial aid planning.**

The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA) is available via phone to help any recent high school graduate in need of completing or correcting the FAFSA this summer. Call 1-844-463-2372 for live assistance with any FAFSA related question or to receive assistance working through the form. LELA also has scholarships available for recent graduates. Online [registration](#) is now available.

For more information please contact [carmichael@lpfa.com](mailto:carmichael@lpfa.com).

## **New: 2018 ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop**

**Please share with administrators, counselors, and teachers.**

The 2018 ACT College and Career Readiness [Workshop](#) will be offered in multiple locations in Louisiana this fall.

- September 25: Baton Rouge- Lod Cook Alumni Center
- September 26: New Orleans- University of New Orleans
- September 27: Lafayette- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- October 3: Shreveport- Centenary College of Louisiana

During this free, half-day workshop participants will:

- get answers to the questions you have about your data and the tools you use,
- get advice on educational measurement, and
- be introduced to free personalized instructional resources.

[Registration](#) is now open and will close two weeks before each event.

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

## **New: ACT Workforce Summit 2018**

The [2018 ACT Workforce Summit](#) will take place in New Orleans October 8-10. At the 2018 ACT Workforce Summit, educators, workforce and economic developers, Work Ready Community leaders, employers, and industry partners will unveil collaborative and innovative approaches, best

practices and success stories that help students and job seekers achieve career and workplace success and employers find the talent they need to be competitive.

For more information, please email [elizabeth.conlon@act.org](mailto:elizabeth.conlon@act.org).

## **Reminder: 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](mailto:tristen.guillory@la.gov).

## **Educator Preparation**

### **New: Praxis Support Guide Released**

Today the Department released the [Praxis Support Guide](#). This guide is designed to assist aspiring teachers with test preparation for the Praxis exams necessary for teacher certification.

The guide includes information about required Praxis exams for each certification area. In addition, it includes directions for creating an individualized study plan, recommendations for how to provide follow up support to someone on a study plan, and a list of test preparation resources.

If you have questions or would like to suggest additional resources to add to the guide please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

### **New: Exit Interview Data Due August 3**

City, parish, and other local school boards are required by [state law](#) to report information about teachers who leave their roles. Charter schools are not required to submit this data.

Exit interview data for the 2017-2018 school year must be entered in the data collection portal by August 3.

The Teacher Exit Interview data portal will open soon. Once open, the portal link will be sent to all personnel directors. For now, school systems should prepare this data for submission.

For questions about the exit interview process, please email [certification@la.gov](mailto:certification@la.gov). To request login credentials for the portal, please contact [cindy.millard@la.gov](mailto:cindy.millard@la.gov).

## **New: 2017-2018 Educator Workforce Reports**

Starting this spring, the Department released sections of 2017-2018 educator workforce data. **All sections of the educator workforce data are now released in the [secure reporting site](#).**

In addition, an updated appendix that contains information regarding classes taught by out-of-field and uncertified teachers has been added to each school system's FTP. Please contact your data manager to access this file.

If additional users need access to the secure portal, please contact [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov).

The Department also released the [Regional Workforce Reports](#), which contain workforce data around recruiting and hiring, teacher effectiveness, retention, promotion, granting tenure, and compensation for each of the geographic regions and for the state.

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

## **Reminder: 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](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov).

## **Special Education**

### **New: Final 2016-2017 LEA Determinations**

**Please share with Superintendents and Special Education Directors.**

Each year, the Department is required to assess the performance of school systems on the provision of special education and related services. These are called LEA Determinations. The Department will issue final results to school systems by the end of the week. The 2016-2017 LEA Determinations will be available on the FTP site with the name: LEA Code\_LEA Name\_2016-2017 LEA Determinations.

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

## **Data**

### **New: End of Year Submissions and Validation Reports**

**Please share with SIS, SER, and STS data managers.**

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 site on June 13 in the Data Validation subfolder. Data managers 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.

SIS Data Managers should work with their Food and Nutrition Supervisor to verify their DirectMatch (DC free) and other lunch category counts (DC extended, etc.) and make any necessary corrections in SIS EOY.

End of Year reporting deadlines are June 22 for SIS and SER, and June 15 for STS. Please refer to the [2017-2018 Benchmark Calendar](#) for additional information.

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

## **Reminder: 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](mailto:kaylie.loupe@la.gov) with questions.

## **Federal Programs**

### **Reminder: 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.

## **Reminder: 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 opened June 6.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Region and Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Thursday, June 21</b>	<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
<b>Thursday, June 28</b>	<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](mailto:ldagrant@la.gov).

## **Statewide Monitoring**

### **New: Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for SY 2017-2018**

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department has released the [consolidated monitoring schedule](#) for the 2017-2018 school year.

Additionally, the assigned Statewide Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to Superintendents and Federal Program Directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule. The [fourth quarter monitoring schedule](#) is also available.

If there are any questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), please contact [tasha.anthony@la.gov](mailto:tasha.anthony@la.gov), or [chauncey.carr-mcelwee@la.gov](mailto:chauncey.carr-mcelwee@la.gov) for monitoring related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).