

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 19, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

There is rightly a great amount of dialogue in our country regarding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, and careers that require STEM education. We know that the future of the workplace, the economy, and society are intertwined with the future of technologies, and we desire a workforce and a citizenry that is fluent in these technologies.

Too often, however, the coursework and curricula available to teachers and students do not evolve to suit changing times. STEM experiences, which combine academic disciplines and which call for applied experiences for students, are often thought of as electives or extracurricular work, while core math and science course sequences remain as they have been for decades.

A recent call to action initiated by Louisiana industry, higher education, and the statewide LaSTEM Council focuses on this issue, shining a light on the need for a curriculum relevant to STEM careers, including but not limited to traditional math and science. The need for STEM courses that connect to college and to work, as well as the need for teachers prepared to teach these courses, is evident in our state.

Earlier today BESE committees voted to support two proposals that address these issues. First, the board approved two new [STEM Jump Start pathways](#), one in [environmental protection and sustainability](#) and one in [digital design and emergent media](#). These paths provide multi-disciplinary, four- and eight-course sequences that lead to industry-valued credentials in those fields. The BESE committee also passed a [proposal](#) to count several of these STEM courses as core academic credits for the TOPS University and Jump Start Career Diploma. Tomorrow BESE and the Board of Regents will consider an [additional proposal](#) for courses in these STEM pathways to count for TOPS weighted GPA credit. Under this proposal, students pursuing STEM courses and pathways would be able to apply their STEM credits toward admission to and funding four two- and four-year colleges.

BESE committees also approved funding today for a new STEM Fellows initiative, which will allow teachers in mathematics, science, and engineering to pursue graduate school credit in their fields with no tuition costs. The Board of Regents will also consider tomorrow a related initiative called the [Louisiana Classroom Teacher Enrollment Program \(CTEP\)](#), which will allow all teachers to take graduate-level courses without tuition costs when there are available slots in such courses. More information on both programs will follow in weeks to come.

Making STEM options available to students in Louisiana is an essential step, and it can be done without sacrificing essential mathematics and science coursework. But it necessitates fully prepared teachers with every opportunity to further their own education. This week marks two important steps in both directions.

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

John

In This Issue

- [School System Support](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability](#)
- [High School Pathways](#)
- [Educator Preparation](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Grants Management](#)
- [Statewide Monitoring](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Equitable Services Regional Meeting \(Alexandria\)](#): June 21 at 8:30 a.m.
- [2018 Homeless Liaison Summer Training \(New Orleans\)](#): June 26
- [2018-2019 K-2 Performance Tools Pilots Webinar](#): June 27 at 11:00 a.m.
- [Equitable Services Regional Meeting \(New Orleans\)](#): June 28 at 8:30 a.m.
- [2018 Homeless Liaison Summer Training \(West Monroe\)](#): June 28
- [Fix the FAFSA Event](#): June 30 at 10:00 a.m.

Important Deadlines

- [SIS End of Year Reporting](#) deadline: June 22
- Deadline for [EEF Recipients to Obligate EEF Funds](#): June 30
- [2018-2019 Pupil Progression Election Form](#) deadline: June 30

School System Support

New: Registration Opens for Biology Teacher Training

Inquiry Hub contains open sourced resources for biology teachers. They have released several high quality biology units, which are linked in the Department's [Biology Sample Scope and Sequence document](#). The units are anchored in phenomena and aligned to Louisiana Student Standards for Science.

In order to support teachers in the use of these units, the Department is hosting two training opportunities, July 9-12 in Baton Rouge and Alexandria. To ensure every school system has the opportunity to send a Biology teacher, only one Biology teacher from each school system will have an opportunity to [register in SolutionWhere](#) using the registration code **BioSci2**. If more than one teacher from a school system registers for the session, the last person that registers will be removed from the training session. On June 25, any remaining open seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

New: Education Laws and Resolutions from the Legislative Session

The Louisiana Legislature adjourned the 2018 Regular Session on May 18, and adjourned the Second Extraordinary Session on June 4. Please review this [brief summary of legislation](#) enacted that is most pertinent to the day-to-day work of local school systems.

The Governor has called a Third Extraordinary Session that convened Monday, June 18, and will adjourn no later than Wednesday, June 27, in order to further address the state's budget. In the coming weeks, the Department will advise on any significant budgetary changes that might impact local school systems.

Please contact erin.bendily@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: STOP School Violence Federal Grant Announced

The U.S. Department of Justice is seeking applications for funding under the Students, 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.

Reminder: 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 for information regarding adoption or contact louisianastandards@la.gov with additional questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: 2018-2019 K-2 Performance Tools Pilots

In response to feedback from school and school system leaders, and informed by the recommendations from a K-2 educator working group, the Department plans to pilot a system of age-appropriate, standards-aligned tools to evaluate K-2 classroom experience and student mastery

of fundamental skills. These pilots will build on schools' experience with CLASS™ and reinforce the priorities outlined in the state's ESSA plan for school redesign.

The Department estimates it will award 40-48 subgrants to LEAs to pilot grade K-2 performance tools in the 2018-2019 school year. A brief application will be included in next week's newsletter. Additionally, interested LEAs are invited to join a webinar on **June 27 at 11:00 a.m.** for more information.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/academiccontent> 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 jill.slack@la.gov with any 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). Districts will need to update to this latest version to complete any LEAP 2025 or LEAP 360 testing after June 28. If LEAs configured devices to auto-update when INSIGHT was installed, the software will automatically download and install this update upon launch. If LEAs did not configure INSIGHT to auto-update, LEAs will need to manually install INSIGHT before completing any testing.
- The Department released [State Placement Test Guidance](#) in the Assessment Library. This test is for school systems to use for students seeking to **transfer to a public school in grades 5 or 9 from any in-state nonpublic school, approved home study program, or out-of-state school.**

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 closed 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](#).
- [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 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 eDIRECT 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: 2017-2018 Jump Start Career Development Fund (CDF) End of Year Report

Please share with supervisors and administrators.

School systems, charter schools, and special schools receive a six percent MFP adder (\$238) for each student enrolled in a CDF-qualifying course and must complete a yearly **Jump Start Career Development Fund (CDF) End of Year (EOY) Report**. Please submit the completed [2017-2018 CDF EOY Report template](#) to jumpstart@la.gov by July 15.

This CDF adder is in addition to the current six percent MFP adder for any student enrolled in a CTE course. There is a minimum CDF allocation of \$25,000 per school system or \$10,000 per charter/special school.

For more information about CDF, please email jumpstart@la.gov.

New: 2018-2019 Pupil Progression Plan

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 (or skipped) to higher grades. The Pupil Progression Plans also outline the criteria for high school graduation.

Each school system is required to develop a Pupil Progression Plan for review. Each system may have slightly different procedures related to retention, advancement, promotion, and graduation.

As a result of the delayed release of the 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan template and related promotion policy updates, school systems may elect:

- **Option 1:** Retain the locally approved 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan through the 2018-2019 school year.
- **Option 2:** Submit an addendum outlining any plan updates for the 2018-2019 school year. Addendums must be submitted no later than **August 31**.

The [2018-2019 Pupil Progression Election Form](#) is available on the Department's website. School systems must submit notification of election to ppp@la.gov no later than **June 30**.

For more information, please email your request to ppp@la.gov.

Reminder: 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 for more information about Fix the FAFSA, or see the [LDOE Regional Financial Aid Calendar](#) for other events being held throughout the state.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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: Lafayette- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- September 27: New Orleans - University of New Orleans
- 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 with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Educator Preparation

Reminder: Praxis Support Guide Released

Recently, 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.

Reminder: 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.

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. Exit interview

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

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

Reminder: 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.

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 with questions.

Special Education

New: FY2018-2019 IDEA Consolidated Application

The FY2018-2019 IDEA Consolidated Application will remain the same as last year's application, with a few minor updates. Please note that this is a change from what was previously communicated. Allocations are being finalized and the application will be released as soon as possible.

For more information, please email ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Reminder: Final 2016-2017 LEA Determinations

Please share with 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.

Data

Reminder: 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 were made 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.

The SIS End of Year reporting deadline is June 22. Please refer to the [2017-2018 Benchmark Calendar](#) for additional information.

Please email sherry.randall@la.gov with questions.

Grants Management

New: Submit Final Expense Report for Education Excellence Fund

If your school or school system received a payment from the 2017-2018 [Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) this year, please be advised of the following important dates:

- June 30: Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds
- July 15: Deadline for EEF recipients to submit Final 6/30 Periodic Expense Reports (PERs)

Please note: 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 2018-2019.

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 your PER will not be reported as Final and it will have to be corrected and resubmitted.

For further information, see [eGMS Payment Quick Reference](#), the [Periodic Expense Report Instructions](#) or contact tameca.jeanpierre@la.gov.

Statewide Monitoring

Reminder: 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, or chauncey.carr-mcelwee@la.gov for monitoring related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).